



Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

Chairman – Bobby Gonzalez
Vice Chairman – Kelly Factor
Secretary – Jennifer Reeder
Treasurer – Verna Castillo

OKC Representative – Jennifer Wilson
Anadarko Representative – Tracey Martine
Ft. Cobb Representative – Arlene O'Neal
Binger Representative – Travis

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Office of the Chairman Caddo Nation of Oklahoma



Caddo Nation Achieves Historic Milestone with Acceptance into Federal Tribal Self-Governance Program

Binger, Oklahoma – The Caddo Nation of Oklahoma has been officially accepted into the Tribal Self-Governance Program by the U.S. Department of the Interior, marking a transformative milestone in the Nation's journey toward enhanced sovereignty and self-determination.

Chairman Gonzalez was notified by the Department of the Interior Secretary's office in Washington D.C. that the Caddo Nation's application for self-governance was approved on June 30, 2025. The notification represents the culmination of four years of strategic planning and institutional strengthening and marks the first time in generations that the Caddo Nation has achieved the financial stability and governmental capacity required for this prestigious designation.

"This is a defining moment in our Nation's modern history," said Chairman Bobby Gonzalez. "Achieving self-governance status empowers us to chart our own course, make decisions that truly reflect Caddo values and priorities, and deliver enhanced services directly to our people. This represents a return to true self-determination for our people. This accomplishment belongs to every member of the Caddo Nation."

Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
PO Box 487, Binger, OK 73009
T: (405)656-2344 | W: www.mycaddonation.com



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The Tribal Self-Governance Program, established under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, allows eligible tribes to assume direct control over federal programs and services traditionally administered by federal agencies. This transition provides the Caddo Nation with unprecedented autonomy in planning, conducting, and administering key governmental functions while maintaining access to federal funding and expanded contracting opportunities.

To qualify for self-governance status, tribes must demonstrate exceptional financial management capabilities, complete comprehensive planning phases, and maintain clean audit records. The Caddo Nation has achieved three consecutive clean audits since 2021—the first time in living memory the Nation has reached this standard of fiscal excellence.

"The past four years have been transformative for our Nation," Chairman Gonzalez noted. "We've rebuilt our financial infrastructure from the ground up, established new enterprises, expanded member services, and proven our capacity for responsible self-governance. This achievement reflects the dedication of our entire Tribal Council, our professional staff, and the unwavering support of our tribal members."

Under self-governance, the Caddo Nation will have enhanced authority to design and implement programs that align with traditional Caddo values while addressing contemporary challenges facing the community. This includes greater flexibility in resource allocation, program development, and service delivery methods. The Nation's journey to self-governance has been supported by officials at the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern Plains Region, and the Anadarko Agency. Chairman Gonzalez expressed gratitude to Regional Director Robert "Gabe" Morgan and team for their partnership during this period of institutional growth.

"Four years ago, we made a commitment to rebuild our Nation's institutional capacity," Gonzalez explained. "Today's announcement proves that with vision, hard work, and unity, we can achieve extraordinary things for our people. While our relationship with federal partners will evolve under self-governance, we look forward to continuing our collaborative work as we enter this new chapter of enhanced tribal sovereignty."

The Caddo Nation's acceptance into the self-governance program becomes effective in Fiscal Year 2026, positioning the Nation among a select group of tribes nationwide that have achieved this level of administrative autonomy and governmental capacity.

Media Contact: Leslie Halfmoon lhalfmoon@mycaddonation.com