



KORREE GOMEZ

FOR CADDO CHAIR

DEAR FELLOW TRIBAL MEMBERS,

I, Korree A. Gomez, maiden name Querdibitty, am a direct descendant of original Caddo enrollee Amy Johnson. I am a great-niece of tribal members Diane Sparks; Charlotte Bentley and granddaughter of Hazel Bentley. I am the daughter of enrolled Kiowa tribal member, Jesse A. Querdibitty and unverified native, Kimberly D. Mullican. I am a devoted wife of over ten years, mother to six beautiful children and currently employed with the Chickasaw Nation.

Tribal members, I believe continuation of language and cultural preservation are a must. If we are to let our language and culture die out, our Caddo youngsters will lose the vital parts of what makes us the unique Caddo nation we are today. They will miss out on the appropriate understanding of what exactly our ancestors went through, alongside the sacrifices and struggles they endured to allow for today's survival."

"As a child I can remember my grandmother, Hazel, being so involved with the tribe. She would call upon our tribal members and host Native American church sessions out at her home on Caddo road, outside of Anadarko, Oklahoma. We use to put up the tee pees and have powwows out at her house with her guy friend, Calvin Williams, cook Native American corn, fry bread, all those things. And boy did I love to eat steak. Calvin use to say "you can definitely tell you are a little Indian girl." I was sure to correct him by saying "I'm not an Indian, I am a white Indian." My Aunties Diane and Charlotte, my grandmother Hazel and her guy friend Calvin, are just a few who have all inspired me to run for our tribal chair this election period and future ones to come. To do right by our ancestors and succeeding generations. I know they would all support me in today's decision to run for office. They would be so proud. I can just see grandma, my aunt Diane and Calvin dancing in heaven right now if I were elected."

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Genealogy is one thing I love and enjoy researching. I have encouraged, as well as, have assisted many people locate their original native roots over the past several years. I am an intertribal woman with verifiable lineage with the Absentee – Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma; Comanche Indian Tribe of Oklahoma and the Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma. My blood quantum is 7/16th Native American. Alongside, I feel our tribe needs to focus on tribal cemetery preservation throughout our territory in West-Central Oklahoma. These cemeteries were created as permanent resting places for our ancestors and should be cared for by succeeding generations. Direct preservation helps fight off grave robbers and can also help us to learn more about our native roots, without having to disturb actual burials.

I have previously studied at Oklahoma City University School of business, also known as Meinders School of Business, where I obtained a certification in Native American Enterprise Management. This covered authentic leadership, Native American law and regulations, Human resource management, marketing and patron satisfaction, information technology, data analysis, accounting, finance and strategic decision making. I am currently looking to pursue my master's in business through the same college.

Over the last six years I have completed various courses in different areas, with a precise breakdown of thirteen hours of community service, forty-five and a quarter hours of customer service, fifty and a quarter hours of personal development, fifty-one hours of leadership development, twenty-nine hours' culture/humanities and elder appreciation work, all of which I completed while maintaining my full time job.

I believe our Bison Ridge Casino is also a priority to focus on. The Caddo Nation starting business enterprises of our own, is a move in the right direction, but we as a nation must make sure they continue to thrive. If not, this negatively effects many generations to come. Now is the time for this change in the right direction to transpire. Let's be a nation that focuses on the betterment of our Caddo Nation working together with one common goal in mind. Let's be able to positively change the lives of our Caddo people, let's not let the struggle and sacrifices our ancestors went through, be forgotten.



With an appropriate business plan, we can make change happen. Utilizing the knowledge of tribal members and further educating as many tribal members as possible, are all things we need to focus on as a nation.

As an Oklahoma Caddo native I make the following statement. "I understand our tribal member's voice and opinions should be of utmost importance. I hold dear and recognize the value and trust my tribe will put in me, if elected tribal chair. I will strive every day to exceed each of my fellow tribal member's expectations. I will make financial and end of the year progress reports readily available to enrolled Caddo tribal members to reflect our nation's growth, development and continued success."

Let's unify to have the ability to work together as a nation with one common goal in mind. For the change we need for the betterment for many generations to come.

I want to thank each of you for taking the time to review my biography. I look forward to the 2021 election period and its outcome.

Sincerely,

Korree Gomez