

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date: _____

ORDINANCE NO.: ____ (2026)

An ordinance requiring transparency in EBCI Tribal Election campaign financing.

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is a federally recognized tribe with inherent sovereign powers of self-government and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the EBCI Charter and Governing Document, the officers of the tribe consist of a Principal Chief, Vice-Chief, and twelve members of council; and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations for the conduct of Tribal elections have been codified in ordinance form at Chapter 161 of the Cherokee Code; and

WHEREAS, transparency in the sources of funding for tribal political candidates is not currently contained in Chapter 161 but is central to full transparency and government accountability; and

WHEREAS, voters have a right to know who is funding tribal political candidates and political contributions should be publicly disclosed

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled at which a quorum is present, that Cherokee Code Chapter 161 shall be amended as follows:

ARTICLE V. - MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 161-24. Transparency in Campaign Financing.

- (a) Candidates to become or remain an officer of the Tribe (Principal Chief, Vice-Chief, Tribal Council) are required to file a report to the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics, in accordance with this section, detailing any gift, donation, or contribution received for the purpose of campaign activities and campaign related expenses.
- (b) A report is required for any gift, donation, or contribution in excess of \$50.00 received by the candidate, and/or their agent, campaign organizer, campaign manager, or any other individual or organization acting on the candidate's behalf.
- (c) The following information must be provided in the report:
 - (1) The contributor's name
 - (2) The contributor's city and state of permanent residence
 - (3) The contributor's principal occupation
 - (4) The total amount contributed

- 1 (d) Anonymous gifts, donations, or contributions in excess of \$50.00 must be reported to
2 include the total amount received.
3 (e) The total amount of gifts, donations, or contributions received through crowdfunding
4 sources must be reported.
5 (1) The following information must be provided in the report for funds received
6 through crowd funding sources in excess of \$50.00:
7 a. The contributor's legal name, username, and/or associated email address
8 (f) Campaign Financing Reports are due to the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics within 14
9 business days following the election.
10 (g) Once submitted to the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics, all Campaign Financing reports
11 are public records and are to be made available upon request.
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13 **BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED** that this ordinance shall become effective upon ratification by
14 the Principal Chief.
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16 *Submitted by Shannon Swimmer, Aniwodihi (Painttown) Council Representative; Shennelle*
17 *Feather, Elawodi (Yellowhill) Council Representative; Lavita Hill, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Council*
18 *Representative; and Venita Wolfe, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Council Representative*