

TABLED

.10

Cherokee Council House
Cherokee, North Carolina
MAR 05 2026

Ordinance No. 136 (2026)

A ordinance to establish the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian's digital sovereignty.

WHEREAS, a digital economy is the future of economic sovereignty, and,

WHEREAS, digital sovereignty, encompasses:

- Tribal governance over network infrastructure (broadband, internet service providers, communications)
- Control and stewardship of tribal data (collection, storage, sharing, privacy)
- Self-determined digital policy frameworks that reflect Indigenous values and community needs
- Using digital infrastructure to support education, healthcare, public safety, economic development, and community services under tribal control,

WHEREAS, As AI, data mining, and big-tech expand into every area of life - from health to education to environment and economy - who controls data matters. For tribes, digital sovereignty means protecting collective rights, cultural knowledge, privacy, tribal financial security and long-term community interests.

WHEREAS, Digital infrastructure and access remain uneven across Indian Country. Developing an Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians digital sovereignty law offers a roadmap to build and govern our own infrastructure - tailored to our needs, not imposed from outside.

WHEREAS, Empowering tribal control of data and tech supports broader sovereignty: economic development, public safety, community health, education, climate resilience, natural resources protection and cultural preservation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Tribal Council assembled at which a quorum is present that Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal digital sovereignty is a continued shift toward self-determination for the 21st century.

42

43

44 BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification
45 of the Principal Chief

46

47

48 Submitted by: Mike Parker, Wofltown/Big-Y Tribal Council Representative