



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Enacting Public Health Safeguards for the Tribal Election)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Constitution”) requires, at Article VI that regular elections to be held for Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, As mandated by the Constitution, the 2020 General Election is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, at a time when the coronavirus’ spread in Arizona is uncontrolled; and

WHEREAS, There are no reported cases of coronavirus so far within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, but the Tribal Council (“Council”) has determined that additional measures are needed to safeguard the community during the voting process; and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Election Commission has developed a plan to conduct voting by drive-in voting at each of the polling places, for those voters who arrive for voting by vehicle; and

WHEREAS, The Council has discussed the needed safety precautions with the Election Commission and finds that implementing the recommended measures will help protect voters while permitting the General Election to proceed as mandated by the Constitution, and is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby declares that the Tribal Election will proceed as scheduled on April 1, 2020, with voting to occur during the established hours of 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., subject to the following conditions:

1. Voting shall occur by drive-through voting at all voting locations, so that voters shall remain in their vehicles for the entire voting process. Persons who do not arrive in a vehicle will still be allowed to vote.
2. The Election Commission will implement and enforce regulations for an orderly voting process in a manner which limits the potential for contagion.
3. No public gathering will be permitted before or after voting on election day. This includes a prohibition on any gathering at a candidate’s campaign headquarters. Voters are directed to vote and then return home.
4. To eliminate the risks from public gatherings, the Council meeting scheduled for April 2nd to canvass the election results will be conducted by teleconference.

Resolution No. 03-2020-70

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it directs the Tribal Election Commission to notify the public and the candidates of these necessary changes to the voting procedures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on MARCH 30, 2020 duly adopted by a vote of NINE for, ONE against, and ONE abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

 03/31/2020  3/31/2020
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date