

CONSTITUTION OF THE WHITETOP NATION Preamble

We, the citizens of the Whitetop Nation, in order to form our sovereignty, enrich our culture, maintain the blessings of freedom, and promote our general welfare, do acknowledge the guidance and aid of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, allowing us to establish and adopt this Constitution that supersedes all other governing documents.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the Tribe upon adoption of this Constitution shall be the Whitetop Nation, recognizing, however, that we are the same people and Tribe who have been called, variously, "The Tribe of the Whitetop Band of Native Indians"; the "Whitetop Tribe of Native Indians"; the "Whitetop Laurel Band of Cherokee"; the "White Top Band of Cherokee Indians"; the "Stick People"; the "Sizemore Tribe"; the "Sixmore Tribe"; the "Sixmore Tribe"; the "Sixmore Tribe"; the "Sixmore Tribe"; the "One the United States of the

ARTICLE II – TERRITORY AND JURISDICTION

Section 1. Territory.

- 1.1 The Territory of the Whitetop Nation shall include all lands, previous to and after federal recognition, currently owned by the Whitetop Nation as an entity or non-profit, and including but not limited to: lands currently or in the future held by the State of Kentucky, the State of Virginia, the State of West Virginia, the United States, any country or any other state or commonwealth, for the benefit of the Whitetop Nation, the United States or any of the constituent states for the benefit of the Whitetop Nation. The lands within the territory shall include all water, property, airspace, surface rights, subsurface rights, natural resources, and any interests therein, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent or right-of-way in fee or otherwise, by the governments of the United States or the Whitetop Nation, now existing or in the future.
- 1.2 The sovereign authority and jurisdiction of the Whitetop Nation shall extend to all territory now or ever known as WHITETOP LANDS, which includes lands within the boundaries of the State of Kentucky, the State of West Virginia, the State of Virginia, and the State of North Carolina not within the boundaries of any other Tribal nation; all Indian lands beneficially owned by the current and future members of the Whitetop Nation; all lands which the Whitetop Nation may acquire for its land base shall be called Indian Country of the Whitetop Nation and its members as now or hereafter defined by Federal Law.
- 1.3 The Seat of Government of the Whitetop Nation shall be designated by Law with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Tribal Council. The seat shall reside in the lands where our ancestors have hunted, settled, and farmed. This area includes land within Eastern Kentucky and the tributaries of Woods River, also known as the New River. The Whitetop Nation continues to claim its ancestral homelands from the Headwaters of the Woods River to where it joins the Gauley River. Our capital, by tradition, is Whitetop Mountain; Council retains the authority to designate by Law the official Seat of Government of the Whitetop Nation to house all official governmental buildings.

Section 2. Jurisdiction

2.1 The Whitetop Nation may exercise its sovereign authority and jurisdiction within or outside the territory above described to the fullest extent not prohibited by Federal Law. Unless otherwise modified by Tribal Resolution or Law, the Whitetop Nation shall exercise all inherent attributes of sovereignty, exclusive

civil jurisdiction, criminal jurisdiction where applicable, and governmental powers over the lands identified in this ARTICLE II.

- 2.2 The jurisdiction and governmental powers shall, consistent with applicable Federal Law, extend to all persons, activities, and property, including lands, natural resources, and to all water and air space within the Indian country, based upon the inherent sovereignty of the Whitetop Nation.
- 2.3 Any person who enters the Territory shall, by entering, be deemed to have consented to the Jurisdiction of the Whitetop Nation or within the Territory shall include a provision submitting all parties and their assigns to the Jurisdiction of the Whitetop Nation.

ARTICLE III - CITIZENSHIP

- **Section 1.** All Tribal citizens of the Whitetop Tribe must be original enrollees or descendants of original tribal lineage defined as follows:
- 1.1 Persons listed on the Guion Miller Roll of 1906 (overturned) Sizemore descendants and the #417 denied Eastern Cherokee Nation applications (ECA), compiled as the WTN Base Enrollment Index with a valid date of December 31, 1910.
- 1.2 Persons not listed under Section 1.1, but demonstrate a direct descent from William Ephraim Sizemore and Margery Owen of the Piedmont and Tributary Indians of Virginia.
- **Section 2.** A Department of Culture and Heritage under the Executive Branch shall be established to keep citizenship rolls current and maintain the history of the citizenship rolls.
- 2.1 A Whitetop Register shall be established and kept by the Elder of Culture and Heritage for the inclusion of any Whitetop citizenship purposes necessary for evidence of eligibility in the registration process. The Council may empower the Elder to keep and maintain other required vital records related to citizenship.
- 2.2 An Enrollment Committee shall be established under the Department of Culture and Heritage to consider qualifications and determine the eligibility of applicants to be entered into the Whitetop Register.
- 2.3 Upon eligibility, a number shall be assigned and the name approved and entered into the Whitetop Register. This number shall be preceded by the letters WTN.
- 2.4 The Department of Culture and Heritage may levy a reasonable fee on new applications to cover processing and supplies for verification. Said levy is subject to the approval of the Tribal Council before it may be changed.
- 2.5 All enrollment decisions shall be subject to de novo review through the judicial department under Article VIII.
- **Section 3.** The Whitetop Nation shall recognize the following categories of Citizens as deemed appropriate under guidelines set forth by the Department of Culture and Heritage.
 - 3.1 Citizen as defined under Article III Section 1
- 3.2 Associate Citizen significant other, partner, spouse, or adopted children not qualifying under Article III Section 1
 - 3.3 Honorary- given by Council or executive action for special occasions to non-tribal members.
- **Section 4.** The burden of proof as to eligibility for membership in the Whitetop Nation will be on the claimant for membership in each case.
- **Section 5.** Future membership Future membership in the Tribe shall be determined under the eligibility requirements in Section 1 of this Article or under such future membership ordinance as the Tribal Council may adopt.
- **Section 6.** Whitetop Tribal Council has the authority to close new enrollments for any specific length of time. Said closure cannot be closed to minor children of a direct descendant of any living enrolled Tribal Citizen within the Whitetop Register.
- **Section 7.** Registration referenced in this Article is for acknowledging enrollment as a citizen of the Whitetop Nation.

- **Section 8** Termination of Citizenship.
- 8.1 Any citizen may submit a letter in writing to the Department of Culture and Heritage to terminate their citizenship within the Whitetop Nation.
- 8.2 Upon termination of a citizen from the Whitetop Nation, all records shall be sealed. The only record available for a search of a sealed record shall be the citizen's termination letter.
- 8.3 Any terminated citizen may reapply for citizen under current guidelines established in the Department of Culture and Heritage with a simple majority of a closed session of the Tribal Council.
- 8.4 Involuntary termination of Citizenship may be terminated through the Sovereign Court proceedings only.

ARTICLE IV – DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS

The Whitetop Nation shall vest the government into three (3) separate branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial, in which all powers shall be separate and distinct, residing within each Branch of government. No branch shall exercise the powers expressly belonging to either of the others.

ARTICLE V – LEGISLATIVE

- **Section 1.** The legislature shall consist of a unicameral legislative body called the "Whitetop Tribal Council" or "Tribal Council".
- **Section 2.** Legislative Powers. All Legislative powers shall be vested in the Council, which shall establish rules for its credentials, decorum, and procedure. The Council shall also enact all actions, laws, or resolutions that shall remain in force and effect until amended or repealed by subsequent action of the Tribal Council, except as may expire by their own terms. Laws cannot be enacted retroactively nor permit ex post facto laws.
- 2.1 The Tribal Council shall elect, from its own membership, positions required to fulfill the functions of government not limited but include:
 - 2.1.1 Secretary
 - 2.1.2 Master-at-Arms
- 2.1.3 Chair of Special Committees to determine issues that the Citizenry raises. The Special Committee shall consist of elected and appointed Elders.
- 2.1.4 Chair of Select Committees to consist of one (1) elected Elder, one (1) appointed Elder, and three (3) members determined by Council either appointed or volunteered from the citizenry with knowledge of the subject matter. Select Committees shall be standing for two (2) years from creation.
- 2.2 All actions by the Council shall be embodied in a written law or resolution accessible to the enrolled citizens of the Whitetop Nation.
- 2.3 All actions by the Tribe Council shall be made by a majority vote of the Council members present unless otherwise indicated by this Constitution.
 - 2.4 The Vice-Chief shall decide Tie Votes in the Tribal Council.
- **Section 3.** Composition. The Tribal Council shall consist of the following: one (1) general-elected Elder Chair; one (1) general-elected Vice-Chair; minimum of five (5) and a maximum of thirteen (13) elected Elders to be divided into no less than five (5), and no more than thirteen (13) districts; and appointed Elders to coincide with Tribal Department Elders. Appointed Elders are Department Elders and follow the process of selection laid out in ARTICLE VI Section 7 unless otherwise stated within this Constitution.
- **Section 4. Qualifications.** In order to run for and/or serve as a Tribal Council Elder, a candidate must be an active citizen of the Whitetop Nation for one (1) year; must be at least twenty-five (25) years of age by the date of the upcoming General Election or upon entering into service; and must have legally resided within the District preceding the date of filing for election.
- **Section 5.** Election for Tribal Council. Council Elders shall be elected to their respective offices by registered citizens of the Whitetop Nation who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and are constituent citizens of their respective districts.

- 5.1. **Time of Election.** The general election for Tribal Elder Representatives shall be held on the Third Thursday two months following the adoption of this Constitution and every two years thereafter under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Board of Elections, consistent with this Constitution.
- 5.2. **Districts.** Each established district shall be representative in nature. Council shall maintain a minimum of five Districts based on the Tribal Census and upon the recommendation of the Department of Tribal Affairs.
- 5.2.1 **Initial Districts.** The Tribal Council shall set districts at the February Tribal Council Meeting following the Tribal Census. Upon adoption of this Constitution, the following initial Districts shall be established until the next Tribal Census and shall consist of the following:
 - 5.2.1.1 District One (1). Boundaries shall consist of the State of Kentucky.
- 5.2.1.2 District Two (2). Boundaries shall consist of the following States or territories: Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Labrador, and Quebec.
- 5.2.1.3 District Three (3). Boundaries shall consist of the following States or territories: District of Columbia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Bermuda, and the United Kingdom.
- 5.2.1.4 District Four (4). Boundaries shall consist of the following States or territories: California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Hawaii, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Midway Atoll, Palmyra Atoll, Australia, and New Zealand.
- 5.2.1.5 District Five (5). Boundaries shall consist of the following States or territories: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, and the Canadian Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories.
- 5.2.2 **Expansion of the Districts.** Initial Districts shall be geographically based as described above. Upon the next Tribal Census and each thereafter, Districts shall be apportioned based on population. Districts shall expand based upon one (1) district per hundred (100) citizenries. Once the maximum of thirteen (13) Districts has been reached, the apportionment shall stay within thirteen (13) Districts. Districts, upon reaching thirteen (13), shall be apportioned as evenly as possible until the population reaches thirteen thousand (13,000), upon which time the apportionment will be one (1) Elder per thousand (1000) citizenries. Once the population exceeds 1000 citizenry Council shall direct, upon recommendation of the Department of Tribal Affairs, fair apportionment upon complete assessment of each Tribal census.
- 5.3 **Selection.** The successful candidate elected as a Tribal Council Elder shall be the candidate who receives a simple majority of votes cast by registered voters of each respective District.
- 5.3.1 **First Election after Adoption.** In the first election after this Constitution is adopted, one Council Representative from each District shall be selected as follows. The candidates from odd districts shall serve the full four (4) year term, while the candidates from even districts shall only serve a one-half term of two (2) years for the purpose of staggering terms of Elders of the Districts until reapportionment can be attained.
- 5.4 **Vacancy in Office.** In case of death, resignation, removal, or any cause that a Tribal Council Elder becomes unable or unfit to perform the duties to the end of his/her current Term of office, he/she shall be replaced as follows within sixty (60) days.
- 5.4.1 **Initial appointments.** In accordance with section 5.4.3, Appointed members to vacant districts immediately after the Constitution is in effect shall be considered elected to a full term.
- 5.4.2 **Replacement.** If more than twelve (12) months remain in the vacant Term of office from the date of the vacancy, the replacement shall be on an interim basis until the Board of Elections can hold a special election within ninety (90) days. If twelve (12) months or less remain in the vacant Term of office from

the date of the vacancy, the interim replacement shall finish out the vacant Term. Whosoever completes the vacated Term shall be deemed to have served a full term of office.

- 5.4.3 **Order of Succession.** The order of succession for interim replacement shall be as follows unless the individual is unable to meet eligibility requirements for Tribal Council Elder as prescribed by this Constitution and the Board of Elections or is unwilling to serve. The Chief shall appoint a citizen from within the vacant District with the concurrence of the Vice-Chief, Chair, and Vice-Chair to fulfill the vacant Term.
- 5.5. **Ratification of Votes.** Votes in all elections shall be ratified within 72 hours. If votes are within 2.5% an automated recount shall be completed within 144 hours from the end of the election.
- 5.6 **Swearing in.** Elders duly elected during the regular election cycle shall be sworn in on the third Thursday of the month after the election, except for runoffs to be on the Third Thursday of the month thereafter. Elders fulfilling an open term shall be sworn in the next Council meeting after the appointment or election.
- **Section 6.** Term of Office. The Elders elected to the Tribal Council shall be appointed to office for a term of four (4) years, not to exceed two (2) consecutive terms. The Elder that serves the first two (2) year term is limited to a total of six (6) consecutive years. Elders who have reached these limitations shall be allowed to run again for office in the election cycle two (2) years following their departure from office.
 - 6.1 Half of the Tribal Council shall be elected every two (2) years.
 - 6.2 Tribal Council Elders shall have the following election cycles.
- 6.2.1 The Chair shall be up for election the odd year after general mid-term elections of the United States. Ex. 2023, 2027, 2031, into perpetuity.
- 6.2.2 The Vice-Chair shall be up for election the odd year after the Presidential election of the United States. Ex. 2025, 2029, 2033, into perpetuity.
- 6.2.3 Odd Districts shall have the same voting cycle as the Chair. Even Districts shall have the same voting cycle as the Vice-Chair.
- 6.3 Elected Elders shall wear a badge of office when executing their official duties in accordance with Article VIII Section 3.
- **Section 7. Duties.** The Tribal Council is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt laws and regulations for the general government of the Tribe;
 - 7.1 govern the management of real or personal property held by the Tribe;
- 7.2 initially assign among its citizens thereof possessory holdings in land held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe or any possessory holdings that by operation of Law revert back to the Tribe;
 - 7.3 appropriate the use of tribal funds in accordance with an annual budget;
- 7.4 Direct the Executive Branch to encourage and foster the Whitetop Tribal language, culture, and traditions:
- 7.5 Direct the Executive to acquire Tribal lands for the purposes designated by the Tribal Council, including but not limited to the establishment of a reservation, cultural center, museum, permanent gathering place, and assigned governmental buildings;
 - 7.6 Investigate, restore, and preserve our ancestors' sacred burial grounds and heritage;
 - 7.7 To conduct themselves in official capacities in representing the Tribe within their District;
 - 7.8 Represent their constituents in all manners pertaining to the Tribe, and;
 - 7.9 is hereby vested with full power to enforce obedience to such legislations as may be enacted.
- **Section 8.** The Council shall, from time-to-time receive for their service just compensation not inconsistent with Article IX Section 11.
- **Section 9. Council Meeting.** There shall be a minimum of four (4) Council meetings held on the Third (3) Thursday beginning in January.

- **Section 10.** Council Actions. All Council Elders, including the Chairman, shall be entitled to vote on all issues. All acts of the Council shall be signed by the Council Chairman and the appropriate Council clerk(s). All acts neither ratified nor vetoed by the Executive Branch within thirty (30) calendar days of signing by the Council Chairman shall be deemed enacted.
- **Section 11.** Weighted Vote. To provide equal representation to all citizens of the Whitetop Nation, Each appointed Elder will only have one (1) vote, and Each duly elected Tribal Elder shall have two (2) votes.
- **Section 12. Enactment and Veto.** Every proposed Law or amendment, approved by a majority of the Council shall, be presented to the Principal Chief before it becomes effective. The Principal Chief may approve the enactment by signing in, or if not approving, shall return it with objections to the Council. If, after reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) unweighted vote of the Council shall agree to pass the enactment, it shall become fully effective. In all cases, the vote of the Council shall be determined by yeas and nays, with the voting members' names being entered into the Council's Journal. If any enactment is not returned by the Principal Chief within fourteen (14) days (Sundays and holidays excepted) after it has been presented, the same shall be Law as if approved by the Principal Chief.
- **Section 13.** Special Sessions. Special meetings of the Council may be called: (A) by the Principal Chief, (B) by the Vice-Chief when he or she has the full powers of the Principal Chief as elsewhere defined, (C) upon written request of one-third percent (33.3%) of the members of the Council, or (D) upon the written request of ten percent (10%) of the number of registered voters of the Whitetop Nation. The purposes of said meeting shall be stated in a notice published not less than three (3) days or 72 hours before the meeting, and the Council may not consider any other subject not within such purposes.

Section 14. Council Meetings.

- 14.1 All meetings of the Council and its committees shall be open to the public except:
 - 14.1.1 When the discussion shall concern employment, retention, or discharge of personnel;
 - 14.1.2 When the question of the moral turpitude of any citizen is discussed;
 - 14.1.3 When decorum of the audience shall prejudice orderly administration of business.
- 14.2 **Meeting time.** The Office of the Council shall set the meeting times to conduct general business for drafting and reviewing of laws. The Council shall be required to meet at a minimum of one day per month to conduct the monthly Tribal Council meeting for the public.
- **Section 15**. Council shall have the power to establish laws that are necessary and proper for the good of the Nation, and not be contrary to the provisions of this Constitution. The style of all bills shall be: "Be It Enacted By The Whitetop Nation". The style of all resolutions shall be "Be It Resolved By the Whitetop Nation".
- **Section 16**. The Council shall have the power to remove elected and appointed officials in the Whitetop Nation, and said removal must be conducted in accordance with Article XIII of this Constitution.
- **Section 17.** The Council shall establish a permanent publication that shall be of public record at all times and be styled the "New River." This publication shall provide for the regular updating, indexing, and digesting of all laws, resolutions, judicial opinions, and orders except otherwise protected by Law of the Whitetop Nation. All other governmental publications, except those Nation-owned entities, shall be public domain and free from encumbrances against use by the Citizens. This shall not constrain the Nation from copyrighting or classifying other aspects of governmental publications, except that citizens shall always have the license for the personal use of the copyrighted work without notice or fee.
- **Section 18.** Elders of the Council and all Executive Officers shall be bound by oath, provided in Article X, to support the Constitutions of the Whitetop Nation and the United States of America, do everything within the individual's power to promote the culture, heritage, and traditions of the Whitetop Nation and to perform the duties of their respective offices.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE

The Executive Power shall be vested in a Principal Chief, who shall be styled "The Principal Chief of the Whitetop Nation" and shall constitute the Executive Branch of government for the Whitetop Nation.

- **Section 1. Composition.** The Executive Officers of the Tribe shall consist of a Principal Chief, a Vice-Chief, and Appointed Elders, ratified by Council, to head created department positions necessary for the effective operations of the Tribe.
- **Section 2. Qualifications.** In order to run for and/or serve as Principal Chief or Vice-Chief a candidate must be a citizen of the Whitetop Nation; must be at least thirty (30) years of age either by the date of the upcoming General Election or upon entering into service; and must have faithfully served the Whitetop Nation continuously for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the date of filing for election.
- **Section 3. Election for Executive office.** The Principal Chief and Vice-Chief shall be elected to their respective offices by the registered citizens of the Whitetop Nation, who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years.
- 3.1. Time for Election. The election for Principal Chief and Vice-Chief shall be held on the third Thursday of the second month after the adoption of this Constitution in the year 2025, following the adoption of this Constitution, and every four years thereafter under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Board of Elections.
- 3.2. Selection. Election for Principal Chief and Vice-Chief shall be the candidates whom each receives a majority of votes cast by the registered voters of the Whitetop Nation.
- 3.3. Vacancy of Chief. In case of death, resignation, removal, or any cause that the Principal Chief becomes unable or unfit to perform the duties of the current Term of office, the Chief shall be replaced immediately by the Vice-Chief.
- 3.4. Vacancy of Vice-Chief. In case of death, resignation, removal, or any cause that the Vice-Chief becomes unable or unfit to perform the duties of the current Term of office, the Vice-Chief shall be replaced immediately by an elected member of the Tribal Council, chosen by the Tribal Council.
- 3.5. Vacancy of Executive Branch. In the event that both Principal Chief and Vice-Chief simultaneously are unable or unfit to perform their duties, the Chair of the Tribal Council shall replace the Principal Chief immediately; the Vice-Chief shall be replaced immediately by any remaining elected member of the Tribal Council, chosen by the Tribal Council.
- 3.6. Interim Term. If more than twenty-four (24) months remain in the vacant Term of the office identified in the above Clauses 3, 4, or 5; the replacement shall be on an interim basis until the Board of Elections can hold a special election. If twenty-four (24) months or less remain in the vacant Term of office identified in the above Clauses 3, 4, or 5, the replacement shall finish the vacant Term.
- 3.7 Chief and Vice-Chief shall wear the Badge of office in accordance with Article VIII Section 2.
- **Section 4. Term.** The elected Principal Chief and Vice-Chief each shall hold office for a term of four (4) years, not to exceed two (2) terms or ten (10) consecutive years.
- **Section 5.** The Chief shall give to the Tribal Council Information on the State of the Tribe, and recommend to their consideration such measures as shall be judged necessary and expedient.
 - 5.1 Shall be held the first Tribal Council meeting in January.
- 5.2 Shall provide address concerning matters of the Tribe at the consent of the Elder Chair **Section 6. Powers and Duties**. It shall be the duty of the Principal Chief to oversee the Executive Committee, execute and carry out Tribal legislation, and oversee the following:
 - 6.1 Shall faithfully execute all Laws and duties of the Whitetop Nation;
 - 6.2 Shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers;
 - 6.3 Oversee the day-to-day operations of the Tribe;

- 6.4 Oversee the operations of federally funded contracts;
- 6.5 Execute other Executive functions as may be delegated to the Principal Chief by the Tribal Council;
- 6.6 May require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Elder in each of the executive Departments, upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective offices;
- 6.7 Shall have the power to make Treaties and negotiate with federal, state, and local governments on behalf of the Tribe; advise and consult with representatives of the United States Government on all activities of the United States Government that may affect the Tribe. Any Treaty or agreement negotiated by the Executive Branch must be confirmed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Council;
- 6.8 Shall nominate, and by advice and consent of Council, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Sovereign Court, and all other Elders of the Whitetop Nation, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law
- 6.9 Council may by Law vest the Appointment of such subordinate Officers, as they think proper, in the Courts of Law or in the Heads of Departments
- 6.10 Legislation. The Principal Chief, or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chief shall ratify or veto any legislation passed by Tribal Council. Ratification or veto must occur within fourteen (14) days (Sundays and holidays excepted) of the passage of legislation.
- 6.11 Budgets. The Executive Committee shall present a proposed budget based on projected annual revenues to the Tribal Council no later than July 1 of each year.
- Section 7. Cabinet. The Principal Chief shall have a cabinet of no more than seven (7) Department Elders. Said cabinet shall be composed of appointed citizens of the Whitetop Nation. The seven (7) Departments elders are: (1) Elder of State, (2) Elder of Treasury, (3) Elder of Heritage and Culture, (4) Elder of Communications, (5) Elder of Natural Resources, (6) Elder of Events and Activities, (7) Elder of Health. These persons shall be appointed, at the pleasure of the Principal Chief and Confirmed by Council.
- 7.1 The Cabinet Elders shall have one (1) vote each on the Tribal Council in accordance with Article V Section 3 and Article V Section 11.
- 7.2 The Cabinet Elders shall serve a minimum of a six (6) year term and no more than eighteen (18) years of service as the Cabinet Elder.
- 7.3 The Council, on the recommendation of the Principal Chief only, may create additional departments, offices, and agencies.
 - 7.4 The Principal Chief shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of cabinet members.
- 7.5 Cabinet members shall be authorized to appoint such staff and other assistants as they deem necessary in accordance with Tribal Law.
- 7.6 Council may, with the recommendation of the Principal Chief only, abolish established department position or function or revise the title or responsibilities of any department or function.
 - 7.7 The Elder of Treasury, amongst other assigned duties, shall oversee and appoint:
 - 7.7.1 The Board of Directors for the Tribal business
 - 7.7.1.a shall consist of 6 members;
 - 7.7.1.b shall not serve more than eight (8) consecutive years.
 - 7.7.1.c Shall be able to be removed from office in conformance with Article XIII Section
 - 7.7.2 Nominate the CEO of the Tribal industries

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- 7.7.2.a shall be a tribal citizen
- 7.7.2.b shall consist of a term of no less than six (6) years and no more than twelve (12) years, which;
 - 7.7.2.c shall be approved by the Board of Directors, which;

7.7.2.d shall be ratified by a two-third (2/3) vote of Council.

7.7.2.e CEO of the Tribal Industries may be removed from office in accordance with Article XIII Section 1.

- 7.8 Department Elders shall wear the Badge of office in accordance with Article VIII Section 4. **Section 8.** Upon nomination by the Principal Chief, an Office of the Attorney General shall be created. Said Attorney General shall be a citizen who is admitted to practice law before the highest court within the United States.
 - 8.1 The Attorney General shall:
 - 8.1.1 Be nominated by the Principal Chief;
 - 8.1.2 Be confirmed by the Council
 - 8.2 The Attorney General shall represent the Whitetop Nation in:
 - 8.2.1 All criminal cases in the courts of the Nation;
 - 8.2.2 All civil actions wherein the Whitetop Nation is named as a party
 - 8.3 Shall have such other duties as the Council may prescribe by Law.
 - 8.4 The Attorney General shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years.
- 8.5 The Attorney General shall be authorized to designate such prosecutors and other assistants as necessary to carry out the office duties
 - 8.6 May be removed from office in conformance with Article XIII.
- **Section 9.** There shall be created an office of Marshal. The Marshal shall be a citizen of the Whitetop Nation and possess such training and experience in law enforcement as prescribed by Law.
 - 9.1 Duties and authority of the Marshal shall be prescribed by Law.
- 9.2 Shall be authorized to deputize such officers as necessary to carry out the law enforcement needs of the Whitetop Nation.
- 9.3 Shall be appointed by the Principal Chief and be confirmed by the Council for a term of five (5) years not to be concurrent with the Attorney General.
 - 9.4 May be removed from office in conformance with Article XIII.
- **Section 10. Fiscal Duty.** No money shall be paid to any public servant, Elder, elected official, tribal citizen, or employee except upon the direction of the Principal Chief as authorized by an act of the Tribal Council. Tribal public servants shall, from time-to-time receive for their service just compensation not inconsistent with Article IX.
- **Section 11.** All government employees within the Executive Branch shall be bound by oath, provided in Article X, to support the Constitutions of the Whitetop Nation and the United States of America, do everything within the individual's power to promote the culture, heritage, and traditions of the Whitetop Nation and to perform the duties of their respective offices.

ARTICLE VII – JUDICIAL

The Judicial powers shall be vested in the Justices and Judges of the Whitetop Courts as herein provided, constituting the Judicial Branch of government for the Whitetop Nation. The Judicial Branch shall have the sole power to interpret the Constitution, laws, treaties, customs, and traditions of the Whitetop Nation, and issue all legal and equitable orders, writs, and decrees in aid of its jurisdiction.

Section 1. The Judicial power of the Whitetop Nation shall be vested in a Sovereign Court, and such inferior courts as the Council shall from time-to-time ordain and establish by Tribal Law.

Section 2. The official name of the Whitetop Nation's highest court shall be known as the Sovereign Court of the Whitetop Nation. The Sovereign Court shall be composed of one (1) member until the tribal census reaches one thousand (1000) citizens, upon which time the Court will maintain a minimum of three (3) members. Any

increase in Sovereign Court members requires the Council to set the odd number of, no more than nine (9), judges.

- **Section 3.** The Courts of the Whitetop Nation shall be courts of general jurisdiction and shall have further jurisdiction in all cases arising under the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the Whitetop Nation. The Sovereign Court shall have original jurisdiction in such cases as may be provided by Law and shall have appellate jurisdiction in all cases.
- **Section 4.** The Tribal Courts, in any action brought before them, shall have the power of judicial review, in appropriate cases, to declare that legislative enactments of the Legislature or the Council are unconstitutional under this Constitution or prohibited by Federal statutes and void. In such cases, the Court shall have the authority to declare such act void and issue injunctive relief.
- **Section 5.** The Sovereign Court Justices and Tribal Court Judges shall be appointed by the Principal Chief and confirmed by the Tribal Council. Shall be admitted to practice law before the Highest Court within the jurisdiction of the United States. They shall serve six (6) year terms, upon which they shall be put before the citizenry for a vote of confidence. A majority vote in favor of the Judge will retain the Judge in their position for another six (6) years. A negative vote of confidence and the Judge will step down upon selection and confirmation of their replacement.
- **Section 6.** Vacancies in Tribal Judicial Offices may be filled by the Principal Chief nominating and the Tribal Council confirming a new Judge.
- **Section 7.** The tribal judiciary shall receive for their services compensation not inconsistent with Article IX.

ARTICLE VIII - BADGES OF OFFICE

Guidance for the wear of all badges of office shall rest within the Department of Tribal Affairs.

Section 1. General Information.

- 1.1 All badges, crests, seals, and flags of the Whitetop Nation shall be maintained by the Department of Tribal Affairs.
- 1.2 Upon creation of any initial item for official use utilizing Section 1.1 of this Article, a duplicate item must be procured and submitted to the Department of Culture and Heritage for inclusion within the Whitetop Nation's heritage preservation.

Section 2. Office of the Chief

- 2.1 Duly elected Chief shall wear the Badge of office that shall be passed down to each successive Chief. Said Badge of office shall be a bear claw necklace with otter fur. The necklace shall have thirty-six (36) replica claws with a four-and-one-half-inch (4-1/2") length claw. Separating each center claw shall be three (3) blue corundum 8mm Crow beads. The necklace shall have seven beaded rosettes and applique beaded Whitetop style panels on the blue broadcloth trailer.
- 2.2 All former Chiefs shall have a bear claw necklace made similar to the one worn by the Chief. Each bear claw necklace created for the former Chiefs shall be constructed as follows: The necklace shall have thirty-six (36) replica claws with a four-and-one-half inch (4-1/2") length claw. Separating each center claw shall be two (2) blue glass Crow beads encompassing an 8mm French Brass Bead. The necklace shall have seven beaded rosettes and applique beaded Whitetop style panels on the blue broadcloth trailer.
- 2.3 Duly elected Vice-Chief shall wear the Badge of office that shall be passed down to each successive Vice-Chief. Said Badge of office shall be a bear claw necklace with otter fur. The necklace shall have thirty-six (36) replica claws with a four-and-one-half-inch (4-1/2") length claw. Separating each claw shall be three (3) red corundum 8mm Crow beads. The necklace shall have three beaded rosettes.
- 2.4 All former Vice-Chiefs shall have a bear claw necklace made similar to the one worn by the ViceChief. Each bear claw necklace created for the former Vice-Chiefs shall be constructed as follows: The necklace shall have thirty-six (36) replica claws with a four-and-one-half inch (4-1/2") length claw. Separating

each claw shall be two (2) red glass Crow beads encompassing an 8mm French Brass Bead. The necklace shall have three beaded rosettes.

2.5 The Office of the Chief may designate or allow Tribal offices, agencies, and departments under the purview of the Office of the Chief not covered within this Article to create an official badge of office.

Section 3. Council

- 3.1 Duly elected Elders shall wear the Badge of office consisting of five columns of 2" fluted bone hair pipe bordered by blue glass pony beads. The column of five joins at the bottom to create three rows of ten (10). The bottom row of ten (10) is loose, ending in Badger front claws. The center of the rows will be a 4" rosette of their office. Each District rosette will be different and created by the first Elder to hold that District office.
- 3.1.1 Former Elders badge of office shall consist of three columns of 2" black buffalo hair pipe bordered by 8mm French brass beads. The column of three joins at the bottom to create three rows of six. The bottom row is loose, ending in lynx claws. Center rosette shall name the District and years of service.
- 3.2 Chair shall wear the Badge of office consisting of a medallion on a necklace band. Said necklace band shall be a loom bead tribal band attached to leather. The medallion shall hang by clasps from the neck. Said medallion shall be the replica of the Peace Medal that Chief 'Old Ned' Sizemore wore cast in silver.
- 3.2.1 Two replica medals shall be made. One with the years of elected service engraved and given to the Chair for wear during the official execution of duties. The second shall be engraved with the elected Chair's name and the beginning date of service. The ending date shall be omitted until the Chair has left office. The second medallion is for Tribal heritage and is to be maintained by the Department of Culture and Heritage.
- 3.3 Vice-Chair shall wear the Badge of office consisting of a medallion on a necklace band. Said necklace band shall be a loom bead tribal band attached to leather. The medallion shall hang by clasps from the neck. Said medallion shall be the replica of the Peace Medal that Chief 'Old Ned' Sizemore wore and cast in Cooper.
- 3.3.1 Two medals shall be made. One with the years of service engraved and given to the Vice-Chair for wear during the official execution of duties. The second shall be engraved with the elected Vice-Chair's name and years of service. The ending date is to be omitted until the Vice-Chair has left office. This medallion is for Tribal heritage and is to be maintained by the Department of Culture and Heritage.
- 3.4 Upon completion of service, all former Chair and Vice-Chair shall be authorized to wear a brass replica of their medallion on a single band of fluted bone separated by blue glass pony beads in the form of a necklace.
- 3.5 Council may designate additional articles of recognition based upon the position of an Elder within the Council.

Section 4. Department

- 4.1 Appointed Department Elders shall wear the Badge of office consisting of four columns of 2" fluted bone hair pipe bordered by blue glass pony beads. The column of four joins at the bottom to create three rows of eight (8). The bottom row is loose, ending in dew claws. The center of the rows will be a 4" rosette of their office.
- 4.2 Former Department Elders badge of office shall consist of two columns of 2" black buffalo hair pipe bordered by blue glass pony beads. The column of two joins at the bottom to create three rows of four. The bottom row is loose, ending in lynx claws.
- 4.3 Department Elders may designate specific articles of recognition for specific individuals to represent the Department within official duties.

ARTICLE IX – FISCAL

- **Section 1.** The fiscal year shall commence on the thirty-first (31st) day of December in each year unless otherwise provided by Law.
- **Section 2.** By Law, the Office of the Chief shall prepare and propose an annual budget to the Tribal Council no later than the last business day in August. The Council shall review, draft, and approve the proposed budget by the third (3) Friday in November. If a budget is not agreed upon by the third (3) Friday in November, the Tribal budget shall operate on the previous fiscal year budget.
- **Section 3.** The Council shall provide by Law for the annual expenditure of funds and the source from which funds are to be derived to defray the estimated expenses of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches and the departments of the government of the Whitetop Nation for each fiscal year. The budget shall not exceed estimated revenues.
- **Section 4.** The Council shall require that records be maintained and provided to the Council of all funds, monies, accounts, and indebtedness and all other accounts bearing upon the fiscal interests, including but not limited to any and all outside business interests, both for-profit and not-for-profit, of the Whitetop Nation by the use of an accounting system adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The annual financial statement shall be audited by a Certified Public Accountant and presented to the Council within six months following the end of each fiscal year. Unaudited reports will be submitted as required by the Council. **Section 5.** The Treasurer shall be authorized to accept all grants, donations of money, the interest of funds of the Whitetop Nation, judgments, and any and all other sources of monies available to the Whitetop Nation, for uses and purposes upon the conditions and limitations for which the same are granted and donated. The faith of the Whitetop Nation is hereby pledged to preserve such grants and donations as a sacred trust.
- **Section 6.** The Council shall authorize the Elder of Treasury to invest funds or money of the Whitetop Nation and determine the preference to be given to the security for such investments. Elder of Treasury shall ensure upon investing that no less than 25% of investments shall be in precious metal to stabilize the Tribal securities. Additionally, the Elder shall oversee the manner of selecting the securities, prescribing the rules, regulations, restrictions, and conditions upon which the funds shall be loaned or invested, provided that no investment shall be in mortgages other than first mortgages only, and do all things necessary for the safety of the funds and permanence of the investments. If required by Law, such investments would be subject to the approval of the Elder of Tribal Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior.
- **Section 7.** The credit of the Whitetop Nation shall not be given, pledged, or loaned to any individual, firm, company, corporation, or association without the approval of the Council. The Whitetop Nation shall not make any donations by gift, bonus, or otherwise to any individual, firm, company, corporation, or association without the approval of the Council.
- **Section 8.** All laws authorizing money expenditures by or on behalf of the Whitetop Nation shall specify the express purpose for which the money is to be used. Money designated shall be used for no other purpose. No monies or resources of the Whitetop Nation or any of its entities shall be used to pay for the representation of a defendant in a criminal matter, except where a public defender is authorized under Whitetop law. Annual expenditures shall not exceed the available funds.
- **Section 9.** General laws shall be enacted by the Council providing for the deposit of funds of the Whitetop Nation and the depository thereof, and such funds shall be under the control of the Elder of Treasury, under such terms and conditions as shall be designated by the Council and under such laws which shall provide for the protection of said funds.
- **Section 10.** No official, Elder or officer of the Council, Cabinet Member, an employee of any official, Council, Cabinet, or subdivisions thereof, or any person employed in any capacity by the Whitetop Nation shall receive from any individual, partnership, corporation, or entity doing business with the Whitetop Nation directly or indirectly, any interest, profit, benefits or gratuity, other than wages, salary, per diem, or expenses expressly provided by Law.

- **Section 11. Compensation.** Upon funding, the Principal Chief shall direct the Elder of Treasury and the Department of Treasury to ensure funding is provided to pay Tribal debts, compensation, and services.
- 11.1 Upon creation of statute submitted by the Elder of Treasury and approved by two-thirds (2/3) Council, just compensation shall be provided to any Elder, officer, or any person employed in any capacity or Department of the Whitetop Nation. No such statute shall take effect for any elected or appointed official until the Tribe can remain solvent.
- 11.2 No increase or decrease in compensation for any elected or appointed positions shall take effect until after the next General Election after adoption.
- 11.3 Increases. The calculation for merit pay increase shall occur immediately following the determination of the new base pay rate. If re-elected to their respective offices, the incumbent officials shall receive an increase in their compensation equal to the maximum merit increase according to the full-time Tribal government employees, rounded up to the nearest hundred dollars (\$100).

ARTICLE X – OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1. All elected, appointed, or government officials of the Whitetop Nation, before taking their oath of office, shall agree by signature, to conform their conduct to the Standards of Ethical Conduct as promulgated by the Department of Tribal Affairs.

Section 2. All officers	s elected or appointed shall, before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, take
and subscribe to the fe	ollowing oath or affirmation: "In the presence of the Citizens of the Whitetop Nation here
assembled; I,	, do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will faithfully execute the duties and
position of	of the Whitetop Nation, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and
defend the Constitutions of the Whitetop Nation, and the United States of America. I swear or affirm further,	
that I will do everythi	ng within my power to promote the culture, heritage, and traditions of the Whitetop
Nation."	

Section 3. The foregoing oath shall be administered by either the Chief, Chair of the Council, or the Chief Justice of the Sovereign Court of the Whitetop Nation.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENT

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of the Council, or by a petition signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the registered voters of the Nation, and shall be submitted to a vote of the adult members of the Tribe;

Section 2. Any proposed amendment to the Constitution must be read twice, in separate regular meetings, within Tribal Council before a vote may occur; and then,

Section 3. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote scheduled during a special election.

ARTICLE XII – ELECTION

Section 1. There is hereby created a Whitetop Nation Election Commission under the Department of Tribal Affairs. The Commission shall be a permanent entity charged with administrating all Whitetop Nation elections in accordance with election laws. The Council shall enact an appropriate law not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution that will govern the conduct of all elections.

Section 2. No person who shall:

2.1 Having been convicted of a felony charge under the laws of the United States, or of any State, Territory, or Possession thereof, or a crime under the laws of the Whitetop Nation that, if committed in some other jurisdiction would be a felony, shall be ineligible to hold any office or appointment of honor, profit or trust within this Nation unless such person has received a pardon from the appropriate jurisdiction.

2.2 Any person who holds or within the last ten (10) years held any office of honor, profit, or trust in any other tribe or Nation of American Indians, either elective or appointive, shall be ineligible to hold any office of honor, profit or trust of the Whitetop Nation unless approved by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council. **Section 3.** All elections shall be determined by secret balloting.

ARTICLE XIII - REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- **Section 1.** The Principal Chief, Vice-Chief, members of Council, CEO of Tribal Industries, Attorney General, Marshal, and appointed Judges shall be subject to removal from office for willful neglect of duty, corruption in office, habitual drunkenness, incompetency, or any conviction of a felony, or a crime under the laws of the Whitetop Nation that if committed in some other jurisdiction would be a felony, or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or offenses against the Whitetop Nation committed while in office.
- **Section 2.** Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, all other appointed officials shall be subject to removal for cause, as prescribed by Law.
- **Section 3.** No official may be removed under Sections 1 or 2 of this Article except after trial before the Council, with the accused having been afforded due process and opportunity to be heard. Provided, removal under Sections 1 or 2 of this Article shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Council.
- **Section 4.** Separate from the Council's removal powers, the People of the Whitetop Nation reserve the exclusive power to recall any elected official through petition and referendum. A petition must be signed by Whitetop citizens registered to vote.
- 4.1 In the case of the Principal Chief or Vice-Chief, signatures must total a number equaling or exceeding fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of registered voters in the previous general election.
- 4.2 In the case of district offices, signatures must total twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of registered voters in that District in the previous general election.
- 4.3 Signed petitions shall be filed with the Election Commission to determine whether the signatures are valid. Said determination shall be made within thirty (30) days after filing the same. Upon verification of the requisite number of signatures, the Election Commission shall certify the petition as valid and notify the Council and the Elder of Tribal Affairs. Upon notification of a valid certified petition, the Council shall immediately call for and approve a special recall election for the office in question within sixty (60) days.
- 4.4 Special recall elections shall be limited in scope to the voting populace for the elected office in question. Votes cast shall be tabulated, and the results certified in the same manner as in general elections. A majority vote to affirm the official shall retain the official in office. A majority vote to recall shall immediately remove the official from office. In the event of a tie-vote, the Council shall call a special meeting to conduct a tie-breaking vote.
- 4.5 Elected offices vacated under this section shall be filled as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIV - CLANS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit the right of any Whitetop citizenry to belong to a duly recognized clan or organization registered with the Department of Tribal Affairs within the Whitetop Nation.

ARTICLE XV - SAVINGS CLAUSE

All enactments of the Whitetop Nation adopted before the effective date of these Amendments shall continue in effect to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE XVI - SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Constitution is held invalid by a Federal Court or determined to be unlawful, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XVII – INHERENT RIGHTS AND POWERS

The enumeration of certain rights and powers in the Constitution shall not be construed to deny or limit other inherent rights and powers retained by the citizens of the Whitetop Nation or the Whitetop Tribal Government. The Indian Civil Rights Act shall provide protection to citizens of the Whitetop Nation.

The citizens of the Whitetop Nation, in exercising the powers of self-government, shall further be protected as follows:

Section 1. Basic Freedoms. The Tribe shall not make or enforce any law which infringes upon religious beliefs or prohibits the free exercise thereof, nor any law which establishes any religion or prefers one over any other, make or enforce any law prohibiting the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition for redress of grievances;

Section 2. Firearms. The Tribe shall not pass any law infringing upon the right of the people to own and use firearms inconsistent with the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution;

Section 3. Personal Protection. The Tribe shall not pass any bill of attainder or ex post facto law;

Section 4. Search & Seizure. The Tribe shall not violate the right of the people to be secure in the privacy of their persons, houses, media, vehicles, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, nor issue warrants but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, signed by a Judge, and particularly describing the place, person, house, media, vehicle, or effects to be searched, the object and scope of such search, and the person or thing to be seized, and to have these rights explained at the time of service;

Section 5. Criminal Trials. The Tribe shall not compel any person in any criminal case to be a witness against him or herself, nor subject any person for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy, nor deny to any such person the right to a speedy and public trial, and due process of Law.

The Tribe shall ensure that any person accused of an offense be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, be confronted with the witnesses against him or her, have a compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his or her favor, and have the assistance of counsel for his or her defense, whose fees may be reimbursed by the defendant as provided by Law if convicted, and to have these rights explained at the time of arrest or accusation;

Section 6. Jury Trial. The Tribe shall not deny to any person accused of an offense punishable by imprisonment the right, upon request, to a trial by jury of not less than six persons, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the Whitetop Nation;

Section 7. Bail and Punishment. The Tribe shall not require excessive bail, impose excessive fines, nor inflict cruel and unusual punishments;

Section 8. Equal Protection. The Tribe shall not deny to any person the equal protection of its laws or deprive any person of life, liberty, personal property, or possessory interest in real property without due process of Law; **Section 9**. Voting. The Tribe shall not deny the right to vote to any citizen of the Tribe who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years or older.

Section 10. Education. The Tribe shall establish, provide for, and perpetuate an educational system that promotes, at a minimum, the preservation of the Whitetop language and culture;

Section 11. Reserved Powers. Powers not granted to the Tribal government shall be reserved to the People.

ARTICLE XVIII - TREATIES AND RESOLUTIONS

- **Section 1. Formal Treaties.** All treaties shall be binding.
 - 1.1 Treaties may be negotiated by the Executive Branch and rest with the following:
 - 1.1.1 Principal Chief

- 1.1.2 Vice-Chief
- 1.1.3 Department of Tribal Affairs
- 1.2 Enforcement of the Treaty shall rest with the Department of Tribal Affairs, which shall keep the Chief and Vice-Chief aware of pertinent issues that may arise in meeting the terms of the treaty.
- 1.3 Treaties must be presented to Council no later than 90 days after adoption for ratification. Ratification requires two-thirds $(2/3^{rd})$ adoption of siting Council.
- Section 2. Formal Resolutions. Non-binding governmental documents and announcements
- 2.1 May be Drafted by the Executive or Legislative Branch for mutual purposes of announcing: celebration, solidarity, condolences, support, or recognition
- 2.2 Must be signed by either Chief, Vice-Chief, Department Elders, Chair, or Vice-Chair. If the resolution is between two parties, the resolution must be signed by the equivalent position or higher.
- 2.3 Original copy of Resolutions must for forwarded to the Department of Tribal Affairs for archival purposes.
- **Section 3. Reaffirmation.** This Constitution does reaffirm all existing treaties in effect at the adoption of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIX - ADOPTION

- Section 1. In accordance with the original Bylaws adopted on January 8, 2015, amended on March 2, 2016, in a vote of 95% in favor, adoption of the government digital resolution dated April 2017, and recently amended Bylaws of January 30, 2022, in a vote of 90% in favor; this Constitution proposes that the Tribal Government operate as a sovereign Tribal Nation following the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and under this Constitution maintain Bylaws within the primary States we are located until federally recognized. All future Bylaws will reference jurisdictional and operational conduct to the adopted sovereign Tribal Constitution.

 Section 2. Adoption. This Constitution shall become the supreme Law of the Whitetop Nation when adopted by a majority vote of the registered voters of the Whitetop Nation voting in a constitutional election. Said election will be held per the adoption clauses of the Bylaws of 2015, 2016, and 2020 and follow the digital government resolution of 2017 on voting.
 - 2.1 The Constitution will be read per parliamentary procedure and the Bylaw adoption process.
- 2.2 Ballots will be sent per the government digital resolution of April 2017 to all eligible member's email files. Those members who have chosen not to remain in contact will be attempted to be reached via known electronic means of the Tribal website and Citizens page.
- 2.3 Citizens will be able to vote by ballot from the moment the Constitution is read in accordance with this section 2.1 until the Sunday before the next Tribal Council meeting. Any citizen who shall not have voted by the Constitutional adoption meeting shall be eligible to vote at that time.
- 2.4 Tribal elders are only able to vote for or against during the Constitutional adoption meeting. **Section 3. Supreme Law of the Tribe.** Upon adoption, this Constitution shall repeal and supersede the Governing Documents of the Whitetop Band of Native Indians and any law or precedent dependent thereon that is inconsistent with this Constitution.