

## Osage Nation 25-Year Visioning Session

November 27, 2006  
Osage Nation Congress

**DRAFT**

### A 200-Year History of the Osage Nation

The early 1800s were a difficult time for the Osage Nation. It was the time of “removal” from Tribal lands. At the same time the Tribe was being decimated by disease. 1810 marked the removal from Missouri. By 1817 the tribe was still losing land and began a forty year stay in Kansas. In 1830 the Trail of Tears moved the Tribe into the current Osage country. The first treaty with Lewis and Clark, when white men crossed the Mississippi acquiring land, began the end of a cycle as Indians found themselves unable to protect, defend, and keep their land, thus initiating the end of sovereignty. Nonetheless, the Tribe firmly held onto the Osage form of governance (see chart and explanation) until the removal from Kansas into Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

The first adoption of a written constitution, based on one from the Cherokees, happened in 1856, though the formal adoption didn’t come until 1881, following the purchase of land from the Cherokees in 1872, establishing the Osage Nation Reservation. Shortly afterwards, in 1887, the infamous Dawes Act, repealed in 1934, claimed other land originally allotted to Indians.

1906 marked the beginning of a new history for the Osage Tribe. The 1906 allotment act set mineral rights for Osages for initially a 25 year period. This was extended in 1931. 1910-1920 saw the mass production of the automobile and the opening of the Burbank Field. Thus began a period of unearned wealth marked by oil, murders, and greed, slowed only by the Depression of 1929. On the political side, the Constitution was suspended in 1921. Ten years later, in 1931, the provisions of the 1906 act were extended.

By the 1960s, when AIM was active in Indian country, among Osages, a change of government structure was predicted, envisioned, and talk about. In the late 1970s and early ’80s, the oil boom created an imprint on the fickle nature of wealth. It was during the 1980s that the Tribe began to recognize they were losing their language. More issues arose in the 1990s, with the Fletcher I lawsuit in 1992 (final decision didn’t come until 1997) paving the way for the first re-constitution in 1994 that allowed an election of officials by all voting eligible Osages. By 2002, there had been a complete overhaul of the Tribal Council, initiating, in July of that year, a determination to have their own form of government and membership.

2006 is thus the *second* re-constitution setting up a three-part form of government. The first officials for the new government were elected that year, a bittersweet victory given that in this same year, the last fluent speaker of the Osage language died.

## **A 25-Year Vision for the Osage Nation**

The Osage Nation Congress envisioned the future in six major areas:

1. A Restored Reservation
2. Choosing Health
3. Our Culture Perpetuated
4. PIMA KO<sup>^</sup>BRA (I Want to Learn)
5. A Strong Osage Economy: many eggs, many baskets (a fully diversified income stream), and
6. Disproving the Oxymoron: Smart(er) Government

Congressional members see increased land acquisition on the Reservation, new buildings for things like a health center and administration, and becoming a major player/owner of regional water all pointing to **A Restored Reservation**.

In seeing Osage Tribal members **Choosing Health**, Congressional representatives saw a new hospital with lower diabetes and substance abuse rates, Tribal dominance in health, education and social services on the Reservation, as well as providing these things for Osages outside of the Reservation.

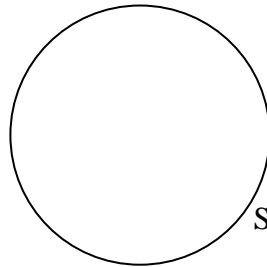
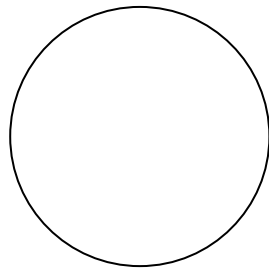
Higher village populations and an Osage cultural renaissance both point to seeing **Our Culture Perpetuated**. This vision arena resulted a serious discussion of what the future of the culture could be.

In, having not only higher education facilities but a Tribal University or College with merit-based full tuition will increase Tribal education levels, an area claimed as **PIMA KO<sup>^</sup>BRA** or “I want to learn!” in the Osage language.

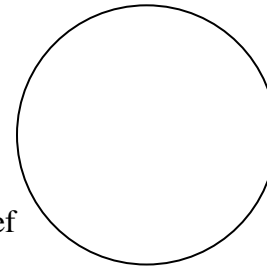
**A Strong Osage Economy**, described as having “**many eggs in man baskets**, with a fully diversified income stream, will require remaining in energy, but with a new focus on wind and solar, as oil continues to move beyond its peak. The future will see economic prosperity through divers business planning and implementation and more Osage Nation businesses as gaming bottoms out in Oklahoma. Poverty levels will go down along with the redevelopment of both Pawhuska and Osage County.

Finally, the Congress foresees **Disproving the Oxymoron** or a **Smart(er) Government**. This will mean a stable government that provides opportunities for all Osages, with likely more women on Congress and hopefully a healthy relationship with the Minerals Council and overall fewer lawsuits. This government will provide a stronger, professional, and friendly workforce at the Osage Nation with stronger leadership for a unified nation. Even so, these realists in Congress know they will still be dealing with some of the same issues, plus a number of new ones, but operating in a unified manner by the year 2032 (or sooner).

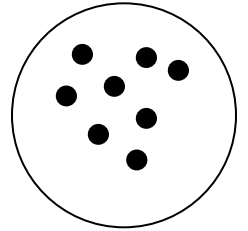
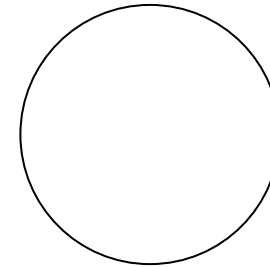
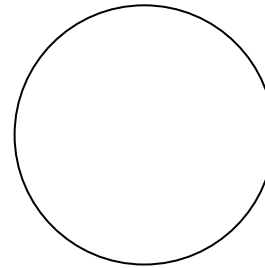
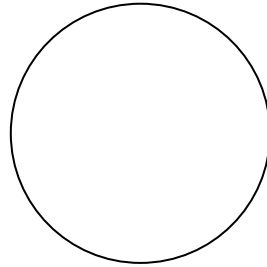
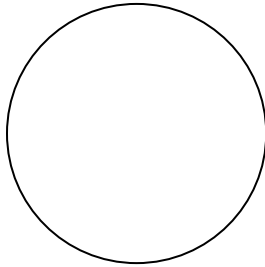
Sky Clans



Sky Clan Chief



Council of "Little Old Men"  
with power of final approval for  
all decisions

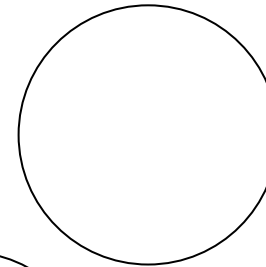
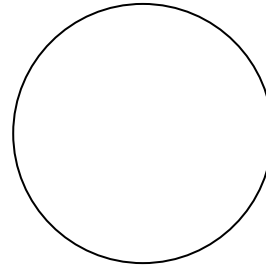
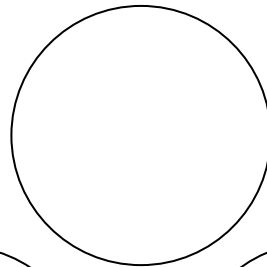
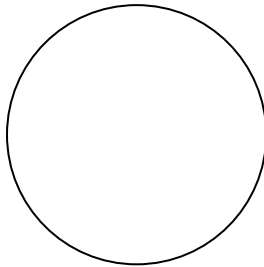


The Road

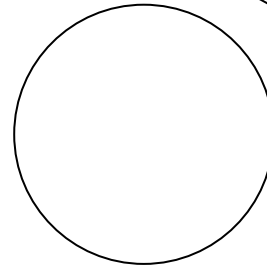
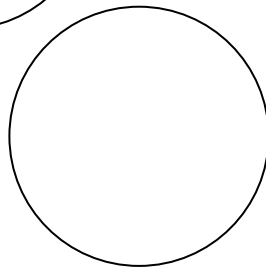
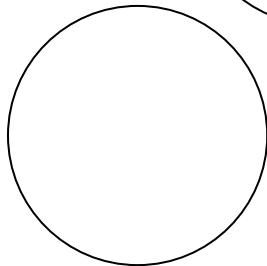
W



E



Earth Clan Chief



Earth Clans

Schematic Representation of the original Osage form of Government

Decisions/Recommendations flowed from Tribal members to the Chiefs and finally to the Council of "Little Old Men"

**Osage Nation Strategic Planning: Congressional Vision Session**  
November 27, 2006

*Original Brainstorm Data*

<b>Osage Nation 200-Year History</b>								
1806-	1831-	1856-	1881-	1906-	1931-	1956-	1981-	2006
<p>1800s – decimation from disease</p> <p>1810 removal from Missouri</p> <p>4/30/1803 – Louisiana Purchase; Napoleon and the French Army</p> <p>1830 – Trail of Tears, removal into Osage country</p> <p>Andrew Jackson 1806/1830</p> <p>1806 to present: U.S. movement over Indian country</p>		<p>1872 – purchased Osage Reservation from Cherokees</p>	<p>1881 – First Osage Constitution</p> <p>1885 Dawes Act</p>	<p>1906 – allotment act (for 25 years at first)</p> <p>1910 – 20 – Mass production of autos, Burbank Field opened</p> <p><i>Mark Freeman, Jr. (9/16/20) 1<sup>st</sup> eligible to vote in Council Election – 1994</i></p> <p>1921 – Constitution suspended</p>	<p>1931 – extension of the provisions of the 1906 Act</p> <p><i>Archie Mason (8/22/1944)</i></p> <p><i>Eddy Red Eagle (1/13/1947)</i></p>	<p>1960s – change of government structure was predicted and envisioned, talked about</p> <p>1960s AIM movement</p> <p><i>Shannon Edwards (6/1965)</i></p> <p>1965 – Aunt Lillie’s Day in Ponca/Otoe/Kaw Country</p> <p><i>Jerri Jean, 1974 election</i></p> <p><i>Deb – worked for Tribe 1978</i></p>	<p>1980s – recognizing that we were losing our language</p> <p><i>Raymond Redcorn, 1985</i></p> <p>1992 - Fletcher I lawsuit</p> <p>1992 – 1997, Deb &amp; Jerri Jean – son Pawhuska Drumkeeper, Hominy Drumkeeper</p> <p>1994 – First Reconstitution</p> <p>1994 Election of officials by all voting eligible Osages</p> <p>2002 – complete overhaul of Council</p> <p>July 2002 – Determine own form of government &amp; membership</p>	<p>2006 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reconstitution</p> <p>2006 – Election of officials under 2<sup>nd</sup> reconstitution</p> <p>2006 – last fluent speaker died</p> <hr/> <p>1981 Continues:</p> <p>Mark F. ran for Council &amp; elected 2002 to regain our sovereignty and determine our own membership &amp; form of government</p>

**Osage Nation 200-Year History – The Key Events and Shifts**

Early 1800s	1831-	1856-	1881-	1906-	1931	1956-	1981-	2006
<p>First Treat – Lewis &amp; Clark – with Osages.</p> <p>White men crossed the Mississippi and acquired land</p> <p>End of a Cycle – Unable to protect, defend and keep our land; this the loss of sovereignty</p> <p>1817-1827 continued losing land and began 40 years in Kansas</p>	<p>Held on to the “Osage” form of government until came to Oklahoma</p>	<p>First Adoption of a written government, based on the Cherokees</p>	<p>Formal adoption in 1881</p>	<p>1906 – new history begins</p> <p>1920s – unearned wealth: oil, murders, greed</p> <p>1929 Depression</p>	<p>1931 – extension of the provisions of the 1906 Act</p>	<div data-bbox="1398 451 1724 659" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Late 1970s, early 1980s BOOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an imprint</li> <li>- fickle nature of wealth</li> </ul> </div>	<p>1994 – there was a “blip”</p>	

## Osage Nation 25-Year Vision

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Restored Reservation</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Choosing Health</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our Culture Perpetuated</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PIMA KO<sup>^</sup>BRA</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Strong Osage Economy: many eggs, many baskets</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Disproving the Oxymoron: Smart(er) Government</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased land acquisition on Reservation</li> <li>▪ Major player/owner of regional water</li> <li>▪ New/more buildings – health center, administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hospital: low diabetes and substance abuse rates</li> <li>▪ Tribal dominance in health/education and social services on Reservation</li> <li>▪ Health/education and social services for Osages outside Reservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Osage Cultural Renaissance</li> <li>▪ Higher village populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tribal University/ College</li> <li>▪ Education levels increased</li> <li>▪ Higher Education facilities</li> <li>▪ Higher Ed. Facility</li> <li>▪ Merit-based tuition (full)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fully diversified income stream</li> <li>▪ Redevelop Pawhuska &amp; Osage County</li> <li>▪ No gaming</li> <li>▪ Gaming bottomed-out in Oklahoma</li> <li>▪ Poverty levels down</li> <li>▪ Still in energy, but wind and solar</li> <li>▪ Economic prosperity through diverse business planning and implementation</li> <li>▪ More Osage Nation businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More women on Congress!</li> <li>▪ A stable government that provides opportunities for all Osages</li> <li>▪ Minerals Board figured it out!</li> <li>▪ Hopefully less lawsuits</li> <li>▪ Stronger, professional, friendly workforce @ Osage Nation</li> <li>▪ Congress – same issues plus new ones, operating in a unified manner</li> <li>▪ Stronger leaders</li> <li>▪ Unified nation</li> </ul>

## **Participant List**

Speaker Archie Mason  
Congressman Mark Freeman  
Congressman Raymond Redcorn  
Congressman Eddy Red Eagle  
Congresswoman Deborah Littleton  
Congresswoman Jerri Jean Branstetter  
Congresswoman Shannon Edwards

## **Observers**

Assistant Chief John Red Eagle  
Rex Hackler, Communications  
Sandra Akins  
Lou Compton