

SANTA CLARA

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INDIAN PUEBLO

ESPANOLA, NEW MEXICO
87532
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

TO: All Santa Clara Pueblo Members
FROM: J. Michael Chavarria, Governor *MC*
DATE: July 30, 2024
RE: Rescheduled Community Meeting – Secretarial Election

The Community meeting that was scheduled for this Friday August 2, 2024 will now be rescheduled for Friday August 23, 2024 at 6:00 pm on the gym floor. The rescheduling is due to preparation for our upcoming Feast Day activities.

The purpose of the Community meeting is to provide information regarding a process for any future proposed amendments to our Constitution.

The foundation of our Pueblo's Government is our Constitution which was written and approved back in 1935. Yet, currently the only way to amend the Constitution is through a process known as a "Secretarial Election".

A Secretarial Election is a very involved process that is governed by federal government regulations and overseen by the Department of Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Tribal Council has discussed and determined there is a need to implement a process for future amendments to the Constitution, so that is the reason why we must engage in a Secretarial Election.

It is important to understand that if this process is approved by majority Tribal Member vote, by those over the age of 18, there will be safeguards created to ensure that any future proposed amendments reflect the will of the Community.

So, for this reason the Tribal Council has determined a Community meeting be called to provide information and identify the process to be followed for any and all future amendments to the Pueblo's Constitution.

The proposed amendment would only remove the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) from the process to amend our Constitution. It would not affect the BIA's trust responsibilities to the Pueblo nor impact the BIA's inherent federal functions. This would allow the Tribal Council as the Legislative Branch of our Government to consider any future Constitutional amendments which again would need to be approved by a majority vote of Santa Clara Tribal members before being considered as approved.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the Governor's Office at (505) 753-7330.