



Ogahpah Constitution

WHY?

What's wrong with the Governing Resolution?

A Resolution by principle is meant to be temporary.

- Established in 1956
- Modified or clarified 10 Times on 5 occasions
- Does it still work the way it was intended?
- A Constitution includes the rights of Everyone



RESOLUTION DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE
QUAPAW TRIBAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TO SPEAK AND ACT ON BEHALF OF THE QUAPAW TRIBE OF INDIANS

WHEREAS. it is expensive and inconvenient for the individual members of the Quapaw Tribe to meet in general council when it is necessary to transact tribal business; and

WHEREAS, it is not the intention or desire of the individual members of the Quapaw Tribe to establish an organization for the purpose of governing the activities of the Tribe, but that it is the desire of the individual males members, 18 years of age and over and female members 18 years of age and over, to establish a responsible administrative body to represent, speak and act for the individual members of the Quapaw Tribe on matters affecting the properties and general business of the Tribe.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1:

- (a) A Quapaw Tribal Business Committee is hereby established to consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, a Secretary-Treasurer, and four members who shall be elected by secret ballot and who shall serve for a term of two years.
- (b) Four members of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee shall constitute a quorum for the official transaction to conduct business.

Section 2:

No person shall be a candidate for membership in the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee unless he shall be a member of the Quapaw Tribe by blood and on the approved rolls, and shall be at least 25 years of age.

Section 3:

- (a) The first election of a Tribal Business Committee under this resolution shall be called and supervised by the Area Director of the Muskogee Area Office or his representative in accordance with election procedures outlined by him. Thereafter, elections shall be held every two years in July prior to the expiration of the terms of office of the members of the Tribal Business Committee. The date and place shall be designated by the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee; and thirty (30) days prior to the election, public notice shall be given. The terms of office of members of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee shall be for two years, or until their successors are elected, qualified and installed.
- (b) Regular elections shall be held in even-numbered years. Nominations shall be from the floor. Election shall be by secret ballot, a plurality vote being necessary to elect. The newly elected officer shall be installed immediately upon their election.
- (c) If the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee shall fail to give appropriate notice of the election, or in case a regular election has not been held as provided in Section 3 of this resolution, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or his authorized representative shall call such an election and shall give thirty (30) days notice, setting the time and place of the election.

Section 4:

Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled at any regular or special meeting of the Quapaw Indian Council.

Section 5:

The Quapaw Tribal Business Committee is hereby empowered to appoint subordinate committee and representatives; to transact business of the Quapaw Tribe, including the management or disposition of tribal property and the expenditure of tribal funds, except such funds as may be due the members of the Quapaw Tribe as a result of the Quapaw Judgement Award against the United States, (May 7, 1954), and any future claims, and such additional business the Tribe as the Quapaw Indian Council may see fit to delegate to the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee from time to time by appropriate resolution; provided however, that any ordinances passed by the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee governing membership, future membership or the loss of membership shall be subject to the approval of the Quapaw Indian Council and, so long as the affairs of the Quapaw Tribe are under the general supervision of the Federal Government, of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or his authorized representative.

Section 6:

(a) A Grievance Committee, consisting of three persons of Quapaw Indian blood, shall be elected by the general council, and shall not include any members of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee.

The term of office of the Grievance Committee shall be for two years and the members shall be elected at the same time and in the same manner as that provided for the election of the members of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee.

(b) The Grievance Committee shall investigate complaints of misconduct or other acts of the members of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee and upon a proper showing shall request the Chairman to call a special meeting of the Quapaw Indian Council to act upon such complaints. In the event the Chairman refuses or fails to call such a meeting, the Grievance Committee shall advise the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or his authorized representative, who shall call the special meeting of the Quapaw Indian Council for the purpose of hearing and acting upon such complaints. Such Council shall have power, by a majority vote, after giving the accused hearing, to clear him of the charges; or to remove him from office, if guilty, and proceed to elect a successor, except if a member of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee fails or refuses to attend two regular meetings in succession unless excused due to illness or other causes for which he cannot be held responsible, or shall be convicted of a felony, or a misdemeanor involving moral integrity, his office shall be forfeited automatically, and a special election shall be called by the Chairman of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee for his replacement in accordance with Section 4 of this Resolution.

Section 7:

It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at all meetings and perform all duties appertaining to the office. He shall exercise all authorities delegated to him and he shall be entitled to a vote on all questions.

Section 8:

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman, assuming all the privileges, duties and responsibilities of the Chairman.

Section 9:

The Secretary-Treasurer shall correctly record all proceedings of all meetings and shall forward copies of the minutes of meetings to the Area Director and to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He shall be responsible for the prompt and efficient handling of all correspondence pertaining to the business of the Council. He shall make out the order of business for the Chairman, shall notify all committee of their appointment; shall have custody of the records and all papers of the Council which records and papers shall be open to inspection at any time, in his presence, by any members of the Council desiring to review them. He shall keep a correct list of all members of the Council, shall authenticate all accounts or orders of the Council, and in the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, shall call the meetings to order until a chairman pro-tern is selected. He shall render a written report at the annual meeting and at the expiration of his term of office, records and all papers in his possession shall be turned over to his successor. He shall issue notices of all meetings and conduct all general correspondence, as directed by the general council of the Tribal Business Committee.

He shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements of all monies belonging to the Tribe which may come into his hands and make appropriate reports to the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee and the Quapaw Indian Council at its annual meetings. The accounts and records of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee and the general council shall be open at all times for inspection and audit by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or his authorized representative .

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep all tribal monies entrusted to his care in a special account and all disbursements therefore should be made by check. He shall file a surety bond satisfactory to the Tribal Business Committee and to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or his authorized representative. The cost of such bond shall be paid from tribal funds.

Section 10:

Special meetings of the Quapaw Indian Council may be called at the discretion of the Chairman, and shall be called by him, at the request, in writing of the majority of the Tribal Business Committee, or by written request of thirty percent of the members of the general council.

Section 11:

The regular meetings of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee shall be held at a place and time to be determined by the Chairman, with proper notice to the members of the Committee during the months of January, April, July, and October unless otherwise provided by resolution.

Section 12:

Special meetings of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee may be called by the Chairman at his discretion and shall be called by him upon the written request of a majority of the Business Committee.

Section 13:

All meetings of the Quapaw Indian Council and the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 14:

This resolution may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Quapaw Tribe of Indian of Quapaw blood and on the approved Quapaw rolls voting at an election called for that purpose by the Chairman of the Tribal Business Committee. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee to call such an election for referendum at the request of a majority of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee, or upon presentation of a petition signed by at least thirty percent of the qualified voters, members of the Quapaw Tribe; provided not less than thirty (30) days notice of such meeting and proposed amendment shall be given to the members of the Tribe directly by mail, if feasible, and by appropriate publicity through-out the communities in which the tribal members reside .

= Adopted August 19 1956 =

Results of Survey

1,547 registered voters and we have 3,746 tribal members 18 or older

2020- Special Election 340 Votes

2020 – 873 Votes

2019 - 433 Votes

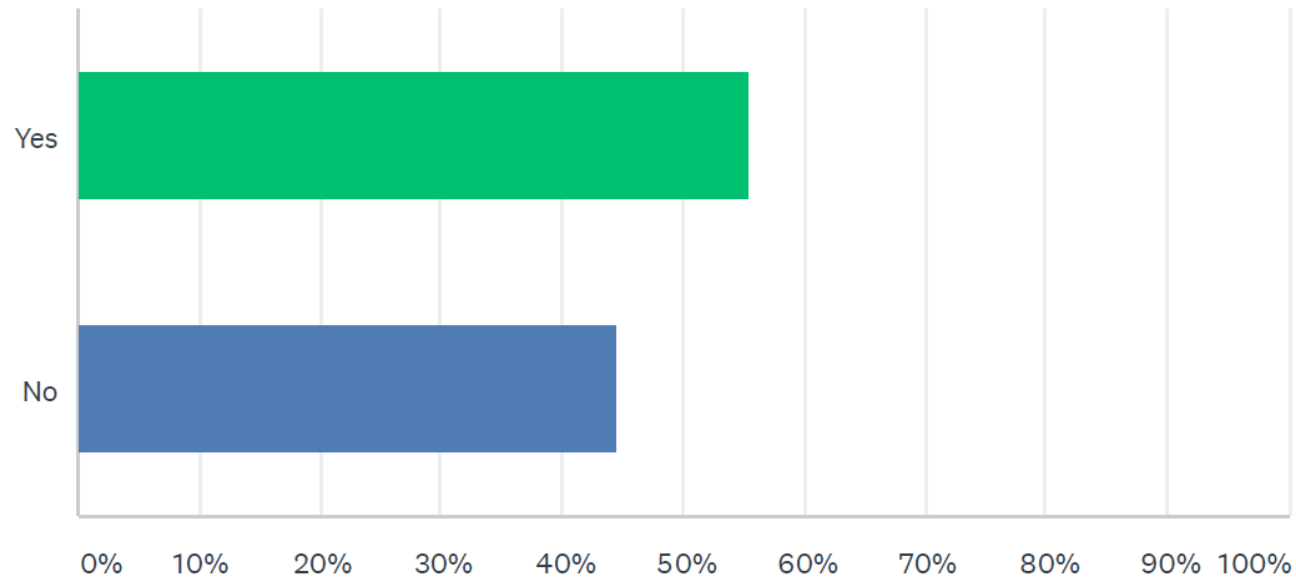
2018 – 803 Votes

2018 – Special Election 404 Votes

2017 – 324 Votes

Constitution Survey – 448 Responses

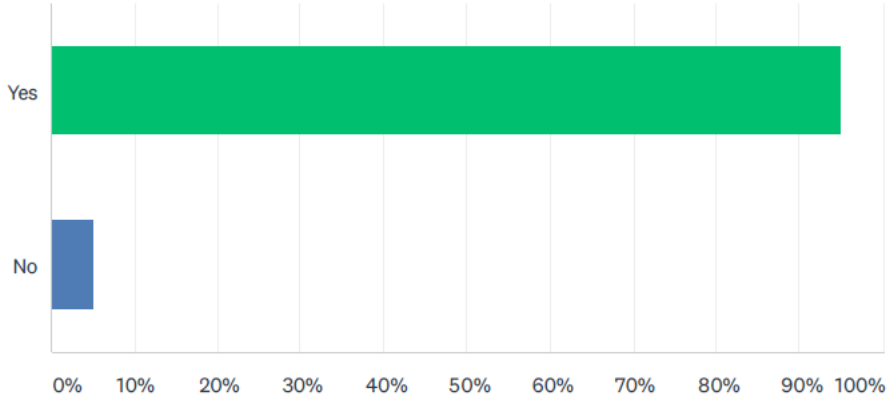
Do you believe you are adequately represented by our governing body?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	55.49%	197
No	44.51%	158
TOTAL		355

With regard to Elected Officials and Administrators, What does them being Transparent look like to you?

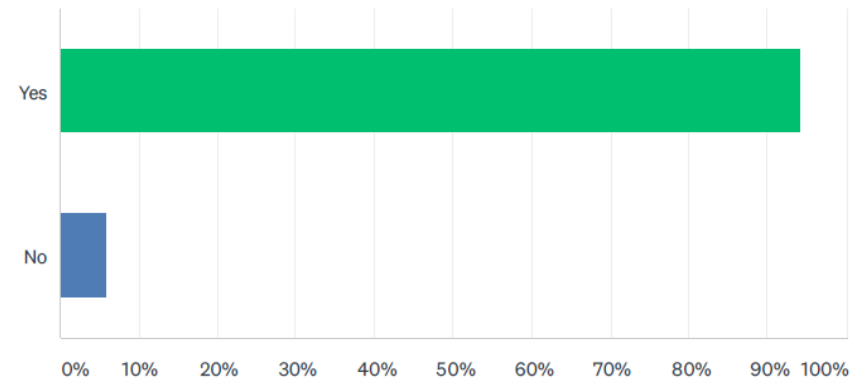
CAN our Culture and Traditional ways be incorporated into our Governance?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.96%	339
No	5.04%	18
TOTAL		357

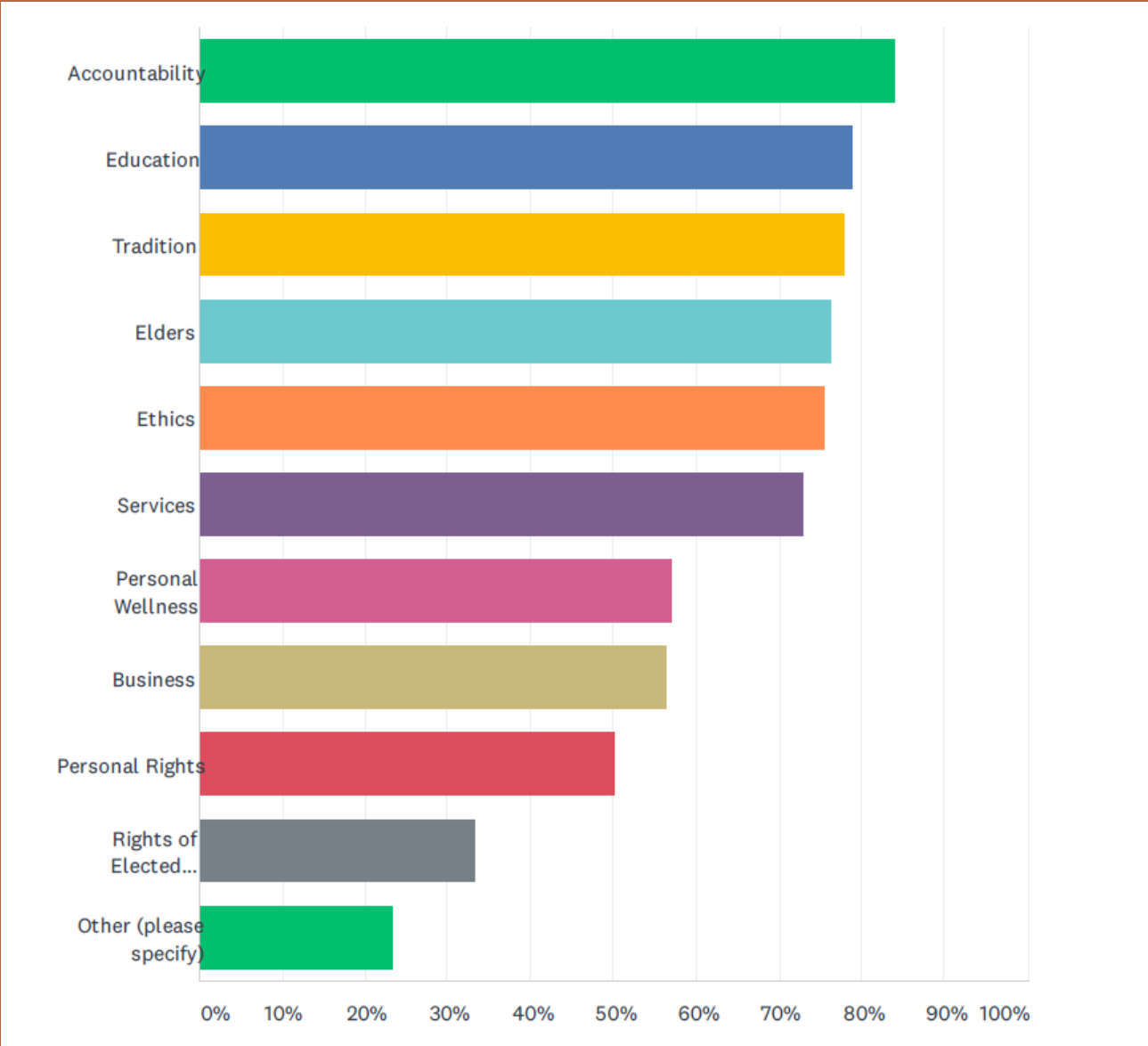


SHOULD our Culture and Traditional ways be incorporated into our Governance?



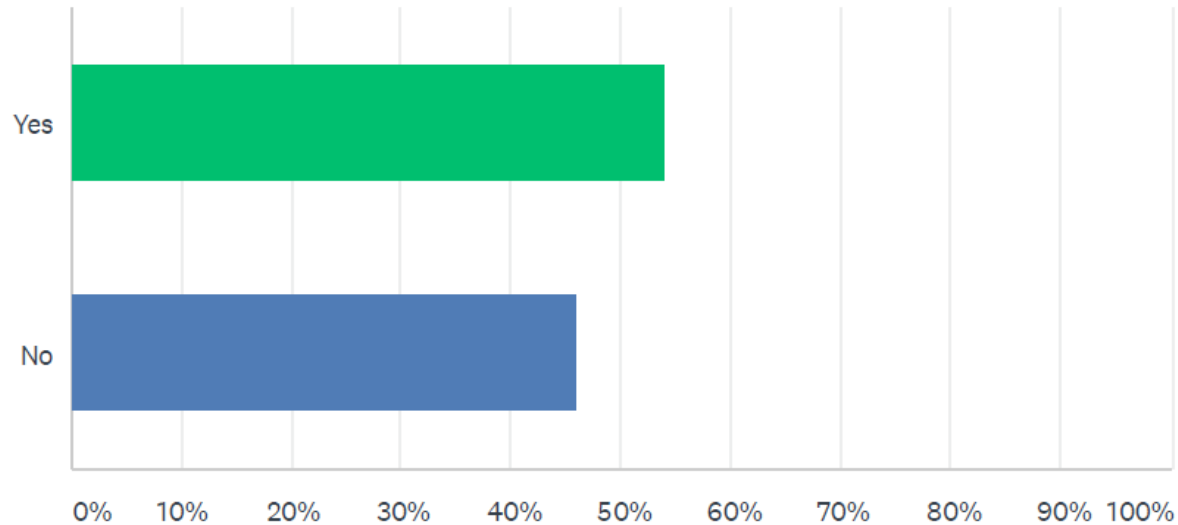
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.12%	336
No	5.88%	21
TOTAL		357

What issues are important to you



Do we adequately protect our Non appointed, Non-elected Tribal employees?

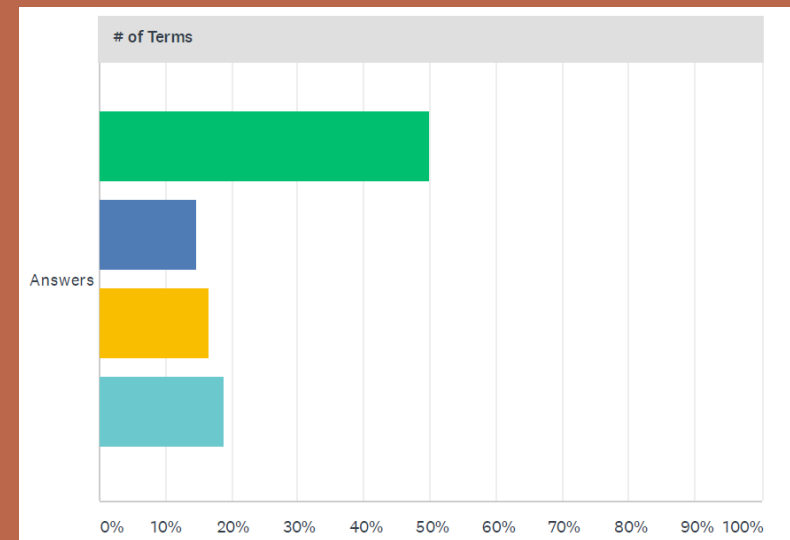
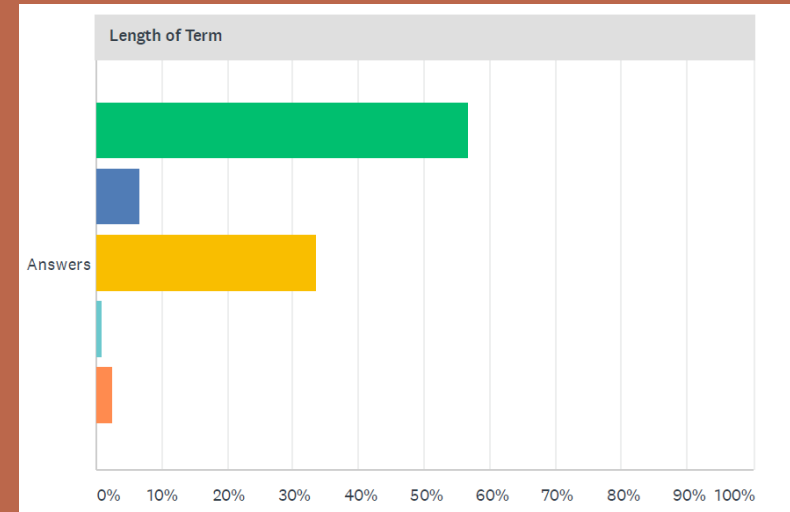
Answered: 278 Skipped: 170



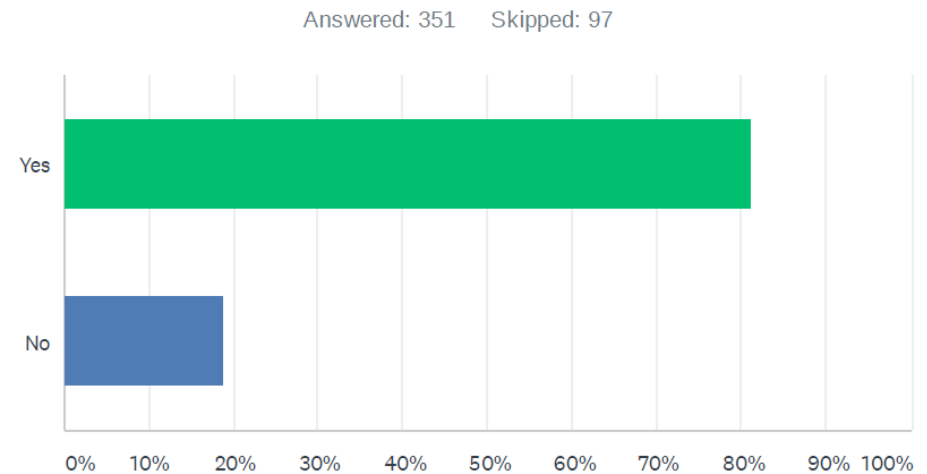
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53.96%	150
No	46.04%	128
TOTAL		278

Should the Quapaw Nation adjust the term length for ELECTED officials?

Should the Quapaw Nation adopt term limits for ELECTED officials?



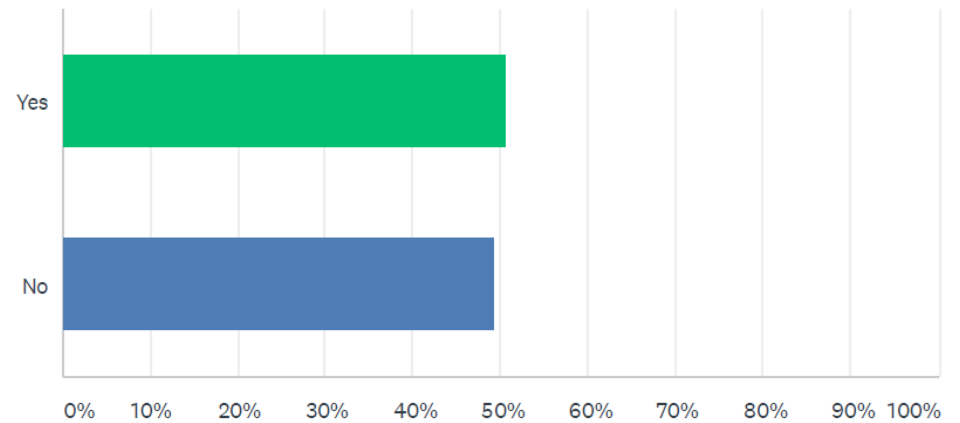
Should the Quapaw Nation adopt term limits for APPOINTED officials?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	81.20%	285
No	18.80%	66
TOTAL		351

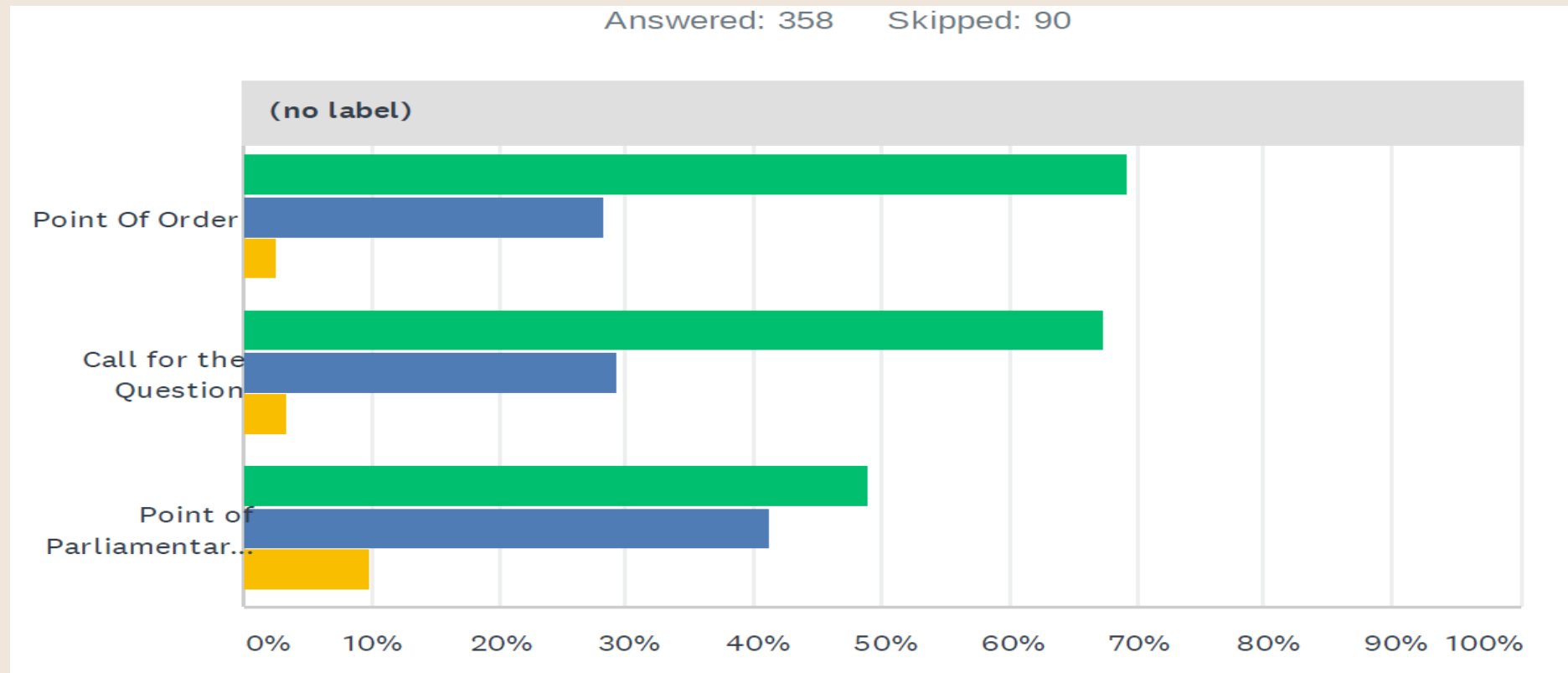
According to Roberts Rules of Order, do you know when an improper motion has been made?

Answered: 363 Skipped: 85

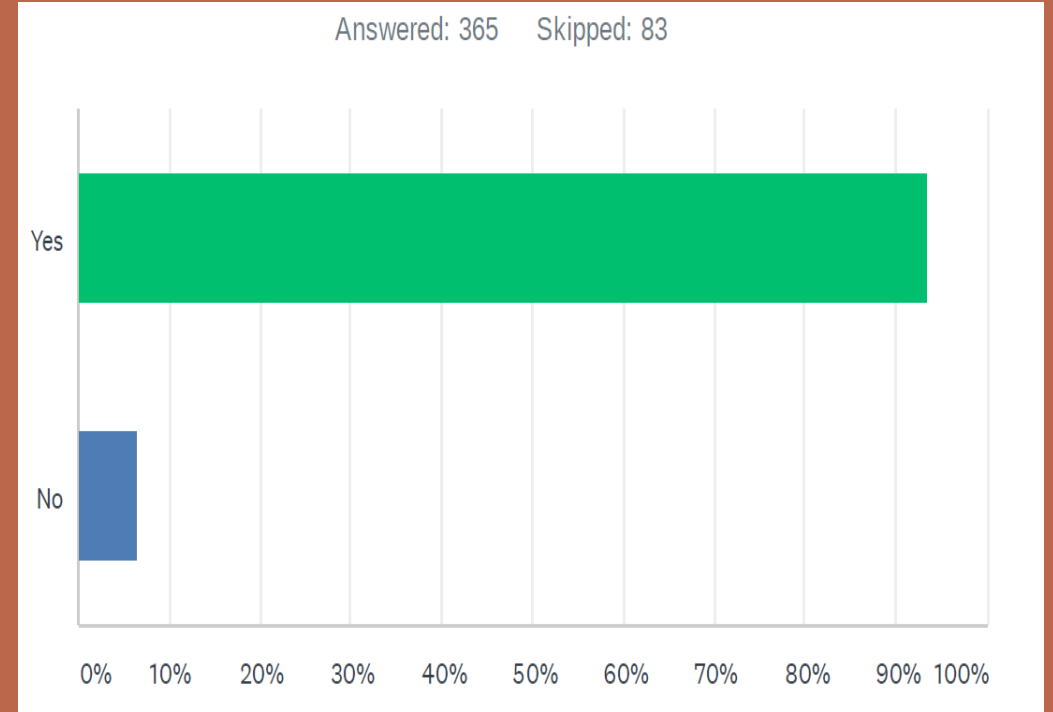


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.69%	184
No	49.31%	179
TOTAL		363

According to Roberts Rules of Order, do you know what the following terms mean and how to use them appropriately?

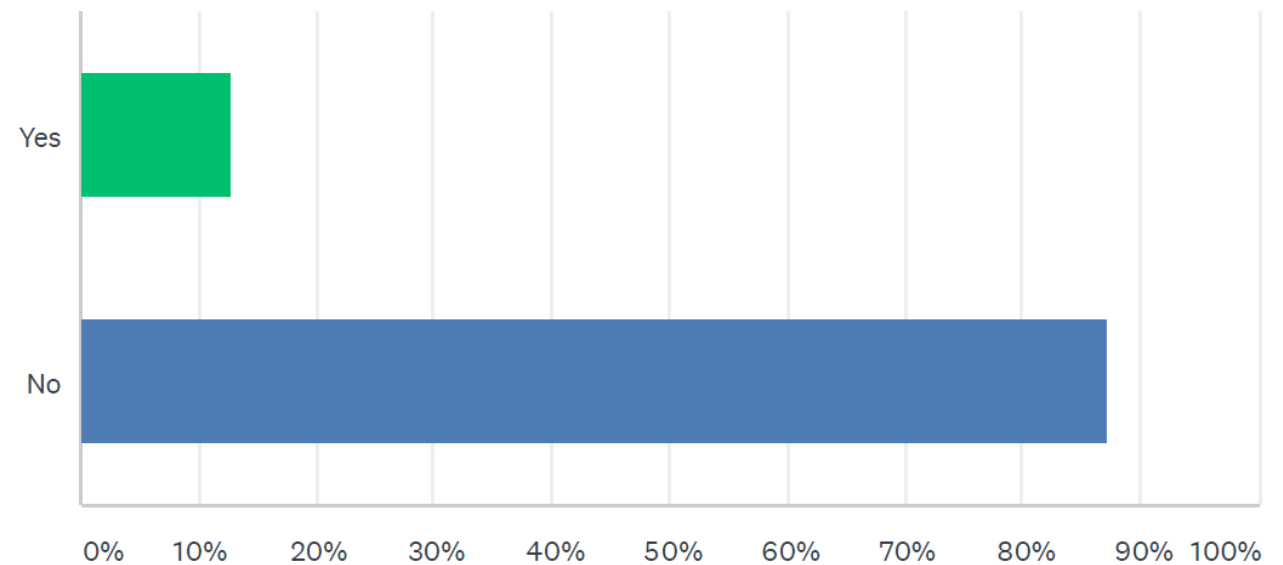


In the United States Government, Congress and the Presidency are designed to work together but hold separate authorities that Check and Balance each others authority and power. Should the governing body of the Quapaw Nation adopt a system of checks and balances also?



The Governing Resolution of the Quapaw Nation has been amended several times since 1956. Do you know what has been amended?

Answered: 366 Skipped: 82



Conclusion

It is evident that our Nation, at a minimum needs reform.
The evidence also suggests that the Governing Resolution is no longer doing the job.

Sovereignty must evolve.
Our leaders 65 years ago have brought us this far.
Its time for us to forge a new standard by which we live where we, the people decide how we
are to be governed

**The Constitution Committee wants and
needs your direction.**

**Please join us upstairs as we continue
this conversation.**

