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CHEROKEE NATION®
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948
918-453-5000 • www.cherokee.org

Office of the Principal Chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief
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Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief
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June 26, 2024

TO: Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet
FR: Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief
CC: Bryan Warner, Deputy Principal Chief
Members of the Mapping Work Group

ADMINISTRATION MEMORANDUM ON MAPPING WORK GROUP

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide direction on the establishment of a standard schedule (regarding both type and frequency) of Cherokee Nation population maps.

Background

Cherokee Nation generates maps under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources' Geographic Information System program. Maps are housed on our official website, Cherokee.org. GIS is periodically asked to generate a variety of maps and has, on occasion, produced maps depicting the population of various geographic units, such as zip codes, counties or states.

Population maps are particularly useful for a variety of government policy analyses and development and are of general public interest. We maintain some maps for public access, maintain some maps for internal use, but the production, electronic storage and access of these maps is not consistent. For example, In 2013 GIS produced a map in 2013 titled "Cherokee Citizens by County for Top 10 Largest Cherokee States," but it is not maintained on our website. Indeed, other than the recent redistricting website, Cherokee Nation does not ordinarily maintain maps on its website depicting population figures. Public and internal access to a variety of maps, updated on at least a biennial basis, serves self-evident public and governmental interests.

Executive Leadership has an interest in accessing mapping tools for a variety of reasons, including policy analysis and public outreach. Access to such tools, and the tools themselves, appears limited. Direct access to a variety of mapping tools would assist executive leadership in the performance of our work.

There also appears to be a variety of ways, both within and outside of GIS, to generate population maps for various purposes. This raises concerns relating to redundancy and data consistency.

All of these issues warrant some organized internal focus.

Directive

An executive branch work group consisting of the official listed below will convene and take steps to enhance the accessibility of maps and map generating tools to meet governmental interests and the public interest.

Mapping Work Group

- COS Corey Bunch
- SOS Shella Bowlin
- SONR Christina Justice
- DSOS Canaan Duncan
- CIO Paula Starr

As there is no formal designation of this group as a task force the work group can add members or otherwise engage staff.

Suggested Map Schedule: To be published for public access on a single web page within Cherokee Nation's website **no later than December 31, 2024, and thereafter updated and published every odd numbered fiscal year.**

- Map substantially replicating the 2013 "Cherokee Citizens by County for Top 10 Largest Cherokee States" but expanding county (or other geographic unit) depiction to the top 12 most populous states.
- Map depicting the Cherokee Nation reservation and contiguous county population by the smallest possible geographic unit (eg, zip code) to be published no later than 8/31/24 and thereafter updated and published every other fiscal year.
- Map depicting Cherokee Nation citizen population density within the following geographic areas, perhaps by relative population of the smallest geographic unit, "heat map," or other such illustration.
 - Cherokee Nation reservation
 - Cherokee Nation reservation plus contiguous counties.
 - Top 12 most populous states (including the State of Oklahoma)
- Map depicting Cherokee Nation assets (eg, facilities as well as parks and areas protected by the Cherokee Nation Parks and Wildlands Act.)

- Map depicting the population density, or perhaps a pinpoint map, of first language fluent Cherokee Speakers per the Language Department roster.
- *Such other maps or alternatives to the aforementioned maps as the work group seems appropriate, other than Council district maps.*

To the extent possible, the Mapping Work Group should generate a map illustrating reservation and at-large populations in time for Cherokee National Holiday 2024.

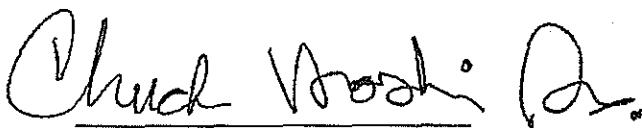
Suggested mapping tools: Based on Cherokee Nation population updated no less than biennially, The Principal Chief, the Deputy Principal Chief, all cabinet members as well as the Deputy Secretaries of State should have access to mapping tools to accomplish the following by December 31, 2024.

- Cherokee Nation population within any arbitrarily drawn radius anywhere within the Cherokee Nation reservation and within the top 12 most populous states or said population within the smallest geographic unit that roughly aligns with said radius.
- Cherokee Nation households, as evidenced by de-duplicated physical addresses, with any aforementioned geographic radius.

Recommendations as to Mapping Production, Oversight: The Mapping Work Group should additionally, by December 31, 2024:

- Identify the various departments within Cherokee Nation that generate.
- Identify any concerns as to data consistency or redundancy as a result of generating maps across various departments.
- Make recommendations as to centralizing mapping, ensuring data consistency and/or utilizing GIS as at least a clearinghouse of official maps used for internal and public uses without unduly interfering with department level day to day work.
- Identify a process for the approval, placement and maintenance of maps for public access, including Cherokee Nation's website.

Deadline: As noted, maps and mapping tools should be made available by December 31, 2024, with a map depicted reservation and at-large populations by Cherokee National Holiday 2024. A request for deadline extension should be made in writing.



Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief