



Modoc
Nation

**ANNUAL
MEETING
2026**

**Saturday, May 2
10:00 am**

**ELECTED COUNCIL
CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**AM
2026**



CHIEF CANDIDATE - ROB BURKYBILE



My name is Rob Burkybile, and I would be honored to serve again as your Chief.

My experience as both an Elected Council member and employee has given me the tools needed to serve our Nation effectively. A good leader listens, values the voices of others, and anticipates the needs of the community. Over the past several years, your Elected Council has worked hard to turn ideas into action—and I'm proud of what we've accomplished together.

We launched programs like the Work Shoe reimbursement program, a community clothes closet, and a backpack program to ensure children have food over the weekends. We expanded our bison herd to provide quality food for our members while also creating a sustainable revenue stream through sales. We've also set aside funds to assist members with rent and emergencies, helping meet real, immediate needs.

When I ran four years ago, I focused on expanding member services, increasing member participation, continuing language revitalization, and building inter-tribal relationships. Since then, we've made meaningful progress. Member services have grown, and we've invested in tribally owned businesses to diversify revenue and create job opportunities for members. These efforts are helping us build a stronger, more self-sufficient Nation.

We've also made strides in cultural preservation, with increased language classes, cultural trips, returned artifacts, and the revival of a powwow. Our inter-tribal partnerships have grown as well—from agreements to sell bison products in neighboring casinos and stores, to collaborative housing grant applications and working with neighboring tribes to define our respective reservation boundaries.

The past four years have been about moving forward, removing barriers and sharing a positive vision for the Modoc Nation.

I believe we have made real progress.

Looking ahead, one area of focus will be building the infrastructure needed for future housing and economic developments on our reservation. I am committed to sustaining and strengthening member benefits such as scholarships, home improvement programs, and family support services. And we will continue to grow our businesses and build on our strengths—our name, our people, and our reputation.

Your Elected Council is dedicated to serving you. With your support, we will continue working to meet the needs of our members and provide the consistent, meaningful services you deserve.

CHIEF CANDIDATE - SYD COLOMBE



Greetings relatives,

Let me introduce myself. I am Syd Colombe, descendant of Shacknasty Jim. I currently reside in Northeast Oklahoma in the little town of Fairland. I am the daughter of Charlie Colombe, deceased, (Rosebud Sioux) and Viola James Colombe (Modoc). I have 2 amazing kids, Shane (27) and Joely (16). I would like to state that it would be an honor to represent the people of the Modoc Nation.

I am running for the position of Chief for the Modoc Nation Elected Council. I am qualified for this position, as I have over 30 years of working with Tribes, for Tribes and on behalf of Tribes.

I understand Tribes: politics, Constitutions, Ordinances, Policies and Sovereignty. The Constitution of the Modoc Nation is what establishes what we can do, when we can do it and how we do it.

Within this Constitution there are Ordinances that further define actions. It is imperative that we, the Modoc citizens, elect individuals that understand these documents and will uphold them. I am that type of individual.

If elected to lead our people, I envision a Tribe where our office doors are open — to ALL citizens, to ALL questions.

There are policies, there are procedures — I am familiar with them, but I am also aware that ALL Modoc people matter and ALL their voices need to be heard.

A tribal Nation is a sovereign Nation, I have knowledge and experience of how that works. I am local to the area and know the politics and the dynamics. I am familiar with the structure of our local community, the other leaders within it and the issues relative to our community. In addition, I have worked on a regional level — I know this and also understand these dynamics. Finally, I have worked with Tribes and elected officials at a national level.

I bring the whole package to the table, if I was elected Chief. I have spent a lifetime gaining this knowledge and living it. I have the future of our children's children in my vision. It is important what we do now, but the future is what we leave to our children. Our ancestors, who rode those cattle cars to Kansas endured so we would have a future. We must vote for the future. We must vote for the best candidate — the one with the knowledge, passion, love and understanding of being native. I am your candidate. I am a candidate for the people, I have lived through the history of this great nation. I understand our hardships and I am here to work for our future.

In closing, as we potentially begin a new era of leadership, we need leadership that is experienced and knowledgeable about all things "tribal." If I am elected, I will bring change: transparency and accountability. I will work with and for our people. I am realistic about what I can accomplish and not idealistic. A vote for me will bring change and my door will always be open.

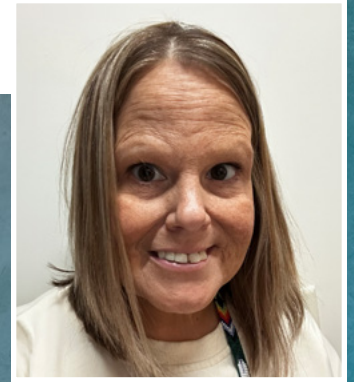
SECOND CHIEF CANDIDATE - STEPHANIE HAILEY

My name is Stephanie Hailey. I am a proud Modoc citizen and ancestor of US Grant. I am a native of southeast Kansas and northeast Oklahoma. I graduated from Baxter Springs High School in 1993 and earned my degree from Kansas State University in 1997. I am the proud mother of one adult son. I have dedicated 29 years to the social services field, including the past six years working for a tribal nation in northeast Oklahoma. I have been working with tribal nations since 2005 and have been employed directly by a tribal nation since 2020. Throughout my career, I have gained valuable insight into the importance of strong policies and procedures and the critical role they play in advancing a tribe's success.

I believe my experience positions me well to identify opportunities for growth and progress within the Modoc Nation. My vision for the future includes a commitment to transparency, including providing citizens with an annual financial report. I also believe in investing in our future with a long-term perspective that considers the impact on the next seven generations.

Additionally, I would like to see increased engagement from all citizens, rather than a limited few, as well as an expansion of cultural events and language programs. Enhancing services to better meet the needs of citizens is also a priority. Finally, I support more accessible and open Business Council meetings, allowing citizens to attend, ask questions, and remain informed, while still preserving the ability for executive sessions when necessary. It would be my pleasure to serve the Modoc people.

Thank you.



SECOND CHIEF CANDIDATE - GINA McGAUGHEY

wak' lis' aad modokni,

My name is Gina McGaughey, and I am asking for your vote to continue serving you as the Second Chief of the Modoc Nation.

I have been an employee of the Modoc Nation since 2012. My roles have included General Manager of the IT Division, followed by General Manager of the Construction Division.

The past few years of serving as Second Chief have given me the opportunity to represent you in many different scenarios. A few of these include:

- Repatriation efforts for remains and artifacts with a variety of museums and federal agencies. In October of 2025, I was part of representing our tribe at the long-awaited repatriation of our Four Warriors – Captain Jack, Boston Charley, Black Jim and Schonchin John.
- Building relationships in Oklahoma and California with federal agencies, neighboring tribes and the community.
- Participation in the development of our Modokni Language program and the Modoc Nation ye'ga (Pow Wow).
- Travel to be "in the room" when decisions are made about our businesses and our homelands. While virtual is an option, there are times when being in the room is the game changer.

My Skills and responsibilities have included:

- Develop and facilitate business plans.
- Supervision of staff and front-line managers.
- Budget and fiscal responsibility.
- Overseeing the day-to-day operational management at a National Level. Contributing to the development and implementation of organizational strategies, policies, and practices. Reviewing and improving the operational systems, processes, and policies in support of the organization's mission.

Our story is one of survival, resilience, reconnection and contribution. We have survived genocide, more than once. We are resilient in spirit, and our success is shown by our ability to remain on the Earth as an Indigenous People. We are not just present. The Modoc people are active in our culture, community and homelands.

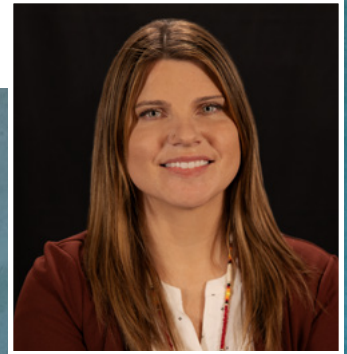
I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the spirit and needs of the Modoc people.

Sepk' eec' a,

Gina McGaughey



SECRETARY/TREASURER CANDIDATE - JESSICA MULLIN



My name is Jessica Mullin, and I would be honored to serve the Modoc People as your Elected Council Secretary/Treasurer. The Modoc Nation is deeply important to me, and I am committed to serving with integrity, accountability, and transparency.

Over the past eight years working for Modoc Nation, I have engaged with members through programs and services, strengthening my understanding of community priorities. I am committed to ensuring member voices are clearly represented and acted upon in council decisions.

Strengths & Leadership Approach

I bring strong attention to detail and an organized approach to governance. My strengths include:

- Preparing clear, intentional meeting agendas
- Accurately documenting member concerns and priorities
- Advocating for transparency in decisions and finances
- Strengthening communication between leadership and members
- Supporting accountability through financial oversight and audits

Accomplishments for Modoc Nation

- Created 70+ jobs through the development of four outpatient behavioral health programs
- Oversee programs that serve 400+ individuals and families annually
- Secured and implemented over 20 federal grants (DOJ, IHS, HRSA, SAMHSA)
- Managed over \$20 million in grant funding over the past seven years
- Focused efforts towards long-term program sustainability

Commitment to Members

As Secretary/Treasurer, I will:

- Promote transparency and clear communication
- Ensure accurate recordkeeping and accountability
- Advocate for responsible financial stewardship
- Elevate member voices in decision-making
- Improve communication between the Elected Council and Tribal Council

I appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to connect.

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATE - BRAXTON GRAHAM

My name is Braxton Graham, and I hope to continue serving the Modoc Nation as an elected council member. The past 4 years of service to the Modoc Nation as a council member has been a rewarding process as we have worked tirelessly to improve member benefits, reconnect with Modoc homelands and culture, and build businesses and jobs to support the tribe's bright future. Through all of these efforts, we have a renewed focus on communication and transparency with tribal members that I am committed to improve even further over the next 4 years.

Who I am

- Humble servant of the Lord Jesus - I am a man of God, and this guides my servant leadership approach and why I care deeply for all of you!
- Husband and dad - I have an amazing wife of 10 years (Megan), a 6 year old (Lincoln) and 4 year old (Lucy). We live a simple, peaceful life. I advocate for you and your loved ones in all decision making because I understand what really matters!

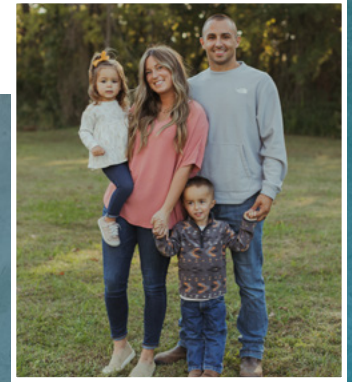
What I do

My professional background is in engineering and construction. I love to build for the future and solve problems that make a difference.

- Logical and innovative approach to problem solving and decision-making.
- Teamwork - I love to be part of a great team and contribute where I am needed.
- Continuous improvement - adapt and learn from past mistakes and make the next right decision as we face new challenges and obstacles every day.

The 2022-2026 Elected Council has fought for you behind closed doors in ways that you will never know. We have worked as a team to implement practical solutions that will impact generations of Modoc families. I pray that whoever sits on the next Elected Council takes this responsibility seriously and serves our tribal members well.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to answering any questions.



ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATE - JAY SHADWICK



As a proud member of the Modoc Nation I am asking for your trust in electing me to serve on the Modoc Elected Council.

I was born in Miami Oklahoma, the son of Jack Shadwick and Drenna (Bjork) Shadwick. My family moved back and forth from Oklahoma to Oregon several times when I was very young although I have spent most of my life in Oregon. I graduated from the University of Oregon in 1982, and began my career working in law enforcement, serving first as a Juvenile Counselor and then a Police Officer until I semi-retired. I am currently employed half time as an instructor for the State of Oregon's only Police Academy.

Through these roles, I have learned to work with a diverse group of people who might have different opinions or goals and how to work through issues to reach a positive resolution. I know that honesty and transparency are critical to gaining and maintaining the trust of the people I serve.

I am married and have two teenage stepchildren as well as two adult children that I raised on my own. As a parent, I am very aware of the needs of Modoc families, and grateful for the numerous resources the Nation has assisted my family with. In appreciation for all that I have been blessed with, I am even more driven to do what I can to give back to the Modoc Nation.

I am extremely proud of the advances and accomplishments the Modoc Nation has made over the last decade. My vision for the Nation is to continue strengthening, growing, and expanding our business opportunities. I believe it is important to create jobs and educational benefits for members. I also hope we can continue generating additional revenue in order to continue to improve services and benefits for our members.

Living in Oregon allowed me the opportunity to participate in several events involving our Homelands to include the re-interment of Captain Jack, Schochin John, Boston Charley and Black Jim. I was also honored to attend the ceremonies recognizing the 150 year anniversary of the Modoc War, as well as several events involving the removal of the dams blocking the Klamath river and restoration of those lands. If elected to the Council, I will continue to represent the Modoc Nation in matters related to our Homelands and to foster relationships with neighboring tribes.

I understand that these are only some of the many needs of our Nations members and that serving on the Council means a commitment to all of our members, regardless of where they live. My goals would be to maintain open and honest communication, and to ensure fair and equal benefits for all members. I believe we as a Nation have done an amazing job restoring and sharing our history and culture and continuing that work is extremely important to me.

Thank you for your consideration. Jay Shadwick

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATE - ALISHA SHOEMAKER

My name is Alisha Shoemaker and I am applying for the position of an Elected Council member. What I believe makes me a suitable candidate for this position is my passion for the culture and unity of the tribe. I have always been interested in being involved as much as possible. I know that I could offer honesty and my genuine self in my ability to serve the Tribe and our people. What I hope for the future of Modoc Nation is a sense of culture and where we came from. To not operate as a business, but to operate as a Tribe that cares about our people. Since our removal, we have lost our culture and sense of community. I hope to see our children learning and practicing the things we did not get to learn so that our Tribe can make an even longer lasting impression on our community rather than disappearing like it was intended. I applied for this position simply out of the love for the Tribe and being proud to be Modoc. I am grateful for this opportunity.



TRIBAL JUDGE CANDIDATE - LEVI YEAKEY

I would like to thank the Modoc Nation Elected Council for the opportunity to be considered for the role of Tribal Judge again. As a Modoc, growing up I was always very proud of my heritage. I would spend hours doing research into our history and asking questions from the elders of my family. Over the last year as Tribal Judge it has added to that honor of being a Modoc. As Tribal Judge, I will continue to dedicate as much time as possible to researching and studying our Tribes constitution. As well as Local, State and Federal law as it pertains to us as Native Americans. I would be ethical, respectful and strong as a Judge. I am always seeking wisdom and I was raised to be kind and respectful and to know when to take charge. All of these traits are what I believe would make me a good Judge.



It has always been a goal and a dream of mine to be as involved with my tribe as possible and to make a difference where needed. I am excited to see what the future of our tribe has in store. As for my own desires, I would like to see more community engagement, such as being involved in pow wows, parades, or other events where we could represent our heritage in a respectful and fun manner. Creating more opportunities and engagement with the youth and young adults of our tribe I feel is something that needs to be sought after. Over the last few years our tribe has continued to grow and we have discovered more of our history but in order for it to continue to live on we must invest in the younger generations through teaching them and creating ways to involve them.

I also feel that expanding our relationship with other tribes in the surrounding area is of interest to me. Whether it be partnerships or investment opportunities, I see a lot of potential for growth culturally and financially by getting our foot in every door possible. We are already doing such amazing things and I believe we are not done yet and the best is yet to come!

My name is Levi Yeakey. I'm a descendant of Long Jim and Great Grandson of Chief Walker. I am proud of who I am, who I come from and who I want to be. I will work very hard for our people and for the future of our Nation. I know I have a lot to learn but I will do everything I can to be the best Judge possible.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the elected council as well as to the tribe for considering me for this position again. I hope this has provided clarity as to my interest in the position of Tribal Judge. Thank you and God bless!

- Must have an up-to-date Modoc Nation tribal card for admission.
- Voting for Elected Council positions will take place during the annual meeting.



**Modoc
Nation**

ANNUAL MEETING 2026

Saturday, May 2nd 10:00am

**The Gathering Place
74025 E 103 Rd
Wyandotte, OK 74370**

Supervised children's activities for ages 5 and up, available next door at the Wellness Center during the meeting.

**AM
26**



FREE GROUND BISON MEAT TO ALL CITIZENS

Bison meat distribution to all Modoc Nation citizens following the meeting.