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2		CERTIFIED COPY
3	BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	
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6	********	
7	TRANSCRIPT OF	
8	DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO	
9	SECRETARIAL ELECTIONS (25 CFR 81)	
10	HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2014	
11	AT EMBASSY SUITES	
12	1815 S. MERIDIAN	
13	IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA	
14	*******	
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24	REPORTED BY: MICHELE WATSON, CSR	
25		

everybody here. We appreciate those of you who braved the slick weather and cold weather to come out. The purpose of today's consultation is to look at the 25 CFR currently Part 81 and Part 82. And we've provided everybody with a copy of the proposed rule which is compiled in Part 81.

And, ultimately, we would like to hear from you all what your thoughts are, what your input is with regard to the changes. The current rule kind of compiles 81 and 82 in a more comprehensive version, provides some structure to the procedures and some clarity. And we'll go over several of the changes. Danny will do a little breakdown of the history of how we got to where we are now. We're all -- all three of us are able to answer questions, but we really want it to be interactive. We want any questions that you might have to be brought forward. Any insight you have, any objections to any of the parts of the rule as proposed to be put on the record.

Michele Watson is here as our court reporter. We're making a full record of this

1 consultation. So if you would, please identify 2 yourself when you're speaking. So at this point I would like everybody to go around the room and 3 4 have you introduce yourselves and let us know 5 who we're speaking to and with. Thank you. MS. BEAREAGLE: Good morning, my 6 7 name is Jennifer Beareagle. I'm from 8 Fredericks, Peebles and Morgan and I'm here on 9 behalf of the Santee Sioux Nation. 10 MS. LOWE: Good morning, my name is Debra Lowe. I'm general legal counsel for the 11 12 Chickasa Nation in Ada, Oklahoma. 13 MS. WORK: Good morning, my name is 14 Susan Work. I'm an attorney with Hobbs, Straus, 15 Dean & Walker who represent various tribes here 16 in Oklahoma. 17 MS. PHILLIPS: Good morning, I'm Andrea Phillips from the Southern Plains 18 Regional Office, Tribal Government Specialist. 19 20 MS. BRINER: Good morning, I'm Dawn 21 Briner. I'm the Election Board Secretary for 22 the Otoe Missouri Tribe. 23 MR. BANKS: Wesley Banks for the 24 Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. MR. MILLER: Good morning. Wallace 25

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     Miller from Stockbridge-Munsee.
                  MR. BRUNER: Terry Bruner, Deputy
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     Regional Director of Southern Plains.
 4
                  MR. DEERINWATER: Dan Deerinwater,
 5
     Regional Director, Southern Plains.
 6
                  MS. ALEXANDER: Brena Alexander
 7
     from Southern Plains Regional Office.
                  MR. EMHOOLA: Lonnie Emhoola from
 8
     the Anadarko Agency, Tribal Government
 9
10
     Specialist.
11
                  MS. IRONCLOUD: Did we get
12
     everybody?
13
                  MS. LOVIN: Sharon Lovin, Southern
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     Plains Region Tribal Government.
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                  MS. IRONCLOUD: Thank you. And
     before we move forward, I would like to give a
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     special thanks to the Tribal Government Services
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18
     office here at Southern Plains. You did a
     wonderful job setting this up. We really,
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     really appreciate it. Thank you.
21
                  So at this point I will hand the
22
     mic over to Danny and she will provide a little
23
     bit of the background as to how we got here, and
     then at the end we'll talk a little bit more
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     about the process.
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MS. DAUGHERTY: Good morning, everybody. I am here from the Great Plains Region, which is in Aberdeen, South Dakota. And my involvement -- I first became employed with the Bureau in 2007 and I moved to the title Government Division for our region in 2008. And one of the things we do in our region -- it varies from year to year, but we do see a lot of activity on secretarial elections. And so when it was proposed that we would do some amendments to the regulations, I was involved with the team that started drafting those documents. It also included Dee Springer, who has a long history of working for the bureau, probably 30 years, and probably the person I know that has the most extensive background in secretarial elections, conducting them and awareness of the regulations. And then also Karen Catcher and Suzanne Chaney, who are now retired. So when it came time to do the consultations, they called myself and Dee because we were involved with some of the drafting. There's been a lot of

There's also a number of other people that have

people involved with the drafting process.

helped us walk through. People who have helped us along the way.

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And these regulations have not been updated since 1981. Prior to that there were a couple periods of activities back in the '30s and, I believe, the '60s to do some work in this area, but these regulations themselves have not been updated since 1981.

Initially there was an effort in the '90s, early '90s, '91, '92 and Dee Springer was involved in that effort that predated my tenure with the BIA. And there were some public meetings held. That was prior to the time when there was an order for consultation with tribes. So they were called public meetings at that time, where some drafting and discussion occurred and then just like a lot of projects in general, it sort of fell by the wayside. And so that effort was reinitiated back in 2009 and 2010 with a very active effort to rewrite the regulations. And what we found during that time period is there were a lot of times that situations had occurred that the regulations didn't exactly explain. And so there were people around the country -- either case law or

specific instances of descriptions of what we chose to do in certain areas where there was a gap in the regulations. And it was felt by a lot of people that the time had come to really articulate those things and put them in the regulations more expressly.

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So in 2009 and 2010 there was a lot of drafting and also a series of consultations. As a result of those consultations, a new draft emerged. It was, I think, more concise than what those series of consultations reflected. It definitely was more compact and more simplified. It actually ended up being a much better document. But because there was another, yeah, definitely a lot of responsiveness to what the comments were and then just things that we noticed during the review process. However, because it had changed so much from that round of consultations, that we felt it was necessary to come around and discuss with tribes again what the drafts look like today. So that's why we're coming around.

We did already have one consultation session in Atlanta, Georgia during the NCAI meeting and that occurred on October

1 26th, 2014, and then, of course, we're having this meeting here today. And then we also have 2 later this week in California, in Rockland, 3 California, a consultation session on November 4 5 20th, 2014. Those are all that are planned at 6 this present time. You know, it is possible 7 that that might change, but I know for the time 8 being that is all that is planned for now. 9 So what we wanted to do today is 10 really just go over some of the more significant changes that, as Laural mentioned, to have this 11 12 discussion regarding what the highlights were of 13 the changes. Substantively a lot hasn't changed. The old regulations that you're 14 15 familiar with will be very familiar to you as 16 you read through this proposed rule. But one of the things that we did in part 81 and 82 -- Part 17 82 used to be the section that was about 18 petitioning and Part 81 was regarding conducting 19 20 secretarial elections, but there was some 21 information in Part 82 that sort of overlapped 22 Part 81. 23 So one of the changes that was 24 made, and you'll see this in the subparts in the

proposed rule, is that there's a very clean

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election. Because there's a certain set of steps that happens in the petitioning process. And once you get to the end of that petitioning process, then the election is conducted exactly the same way as if the election were conducted as a result of a tribal governing body's request for secretarial elections. So we felt it was important to have just one set of rules about how you conduct a secretarial election because it does really happen the same way. And we know that there was some overlapping language between the old Part 81 and Part 82.

So in the new section there's just one section regarding how a secretarial election is conducted and then there's a separate and distinct section about just the components of how to do the petitioning process. So that's one specific change.

But how do you know if this rule applies to you? Well, you know right away it applies to you if you are a tribe that has conducted changes to your governing documents using the secretarial election process. But you'll see the process right there. A federal

law requires a secretarial election to take an action.

often is in a case of if you have a federal law, for example, establishing or reestablishing. A tribal governing document requires a secretarial election to take action. So if you look, for example, in the constitution in the amendment section, you'll see in there that it says to make changes to this document, you have to conduct a secretarial election or involve the the commissioner of Indian Affairs, you know, using some of the older language that you see in some of the earlier constitution drafts.

A Federal Corporate Charter requires secretarial approval, or the tribe is adopting or amending a Federal Charter of Incorporation. And there's certain rules that applies to this, obviously, the OIWA, the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act, requires a secretarial election to ratify a document that's been approved by the secretary and then there's some fun and quirky rules about 1990 that if your document was approved before 1990, it's typically required. If it's after '90, it's not

required unless the document says so. And I'll tell you right now, you're not going to remember all of that. The best answer for this is if you have any concerns or questions about whether you think one is required, definitely let us look at your documents with you and we can provide that technical assistance on a case-by-case basis.

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One of the fun things I've seen in this process just in working for the BIA and that also just on the last consultation -- I think it's so fascinating -- is that in the amendment section of tribal constitution, in particular, and certainly in charters as well, they aren't all cookie-cutter, a lot of times they look very similar, but then I've seen slight variations in language and slight variations in interpretation or even real specific requirements for conducting a secretarial election for that tribe that are different from tribe to tribe. So that the most important thing is that on a tribe-by-tribe basis, if you have any questions, we need to actually look at the language with you and what your interpretation is of that language and you can see specifics that might not be in other

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     constitutions. But really it is a
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     tribe-by-tribe analysis, which I always think is
     amazing because it's really just an expression
 3
     of the tribe deciding how those things are going
 4
 5
     to happen, how they are going to make decisions
 6
     about their governing documents.
 7
                  Does anybody have any questions
 8
     about that section regarding if this rule
     applies to you?
 9
10
                  (No response.)
11
                  And then the next section is:
                                                 What
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     does this proposed rule do? I'd like to -- I
13
     described it was just to make the steps clear
14
     about how to conduct a secretarial election.
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     The proposed revisions lists what a tribal
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     request must include and I will go over that in
     more detail here in a second. You know, what a
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     petition has to include. You'll notice if you
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     look at old Parts 81 and 82, and this new
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     proposed revision is that the petition section
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     is almost identical. It's there are no
22
     substantive changes of major significance other
23
     than the one I'm going to go over here in a
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              It more explicitly sets out the exact
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steps in the process. And including --we talk a

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little more specifically about technical assistance and this is just going to be my personal pointers just from my years of experience on a technical assistance process.

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In the Great Plains region we've gotten to the point where a lot of times now tribes will give us their documents to review before they even go to the tribal council or the tribal governing body to get approval. And a lot of times we will provide technical assistance even in advance. And it's not required at all. The regulations don't require it. You can, you know, do what you need to do before you submit a request for secretarial election, but some tribes have started to give those documents to us earlier and then we kind of give a heads up on oh, did you watch out for this, or did you notice this? And just another set of eyes I think is always good and we like to view ourselves as your partners in getting the best quality document out there. A lot of times, and this is just human nature, we get caught up in drafting a section that we want to modify in the constitution, and then a step I see missed a lot is that we don't take those

1 changes and then study the whole constitution and make sure we change everywhere that needs to 2 be changed as a result of that one proposed 3 amendment. So it's just those sorts of things 4 5 that we can work together, but it talks 6 precisely about getting that technical 7 assistance, that if you submit your final request, that will get you technical assistance 8 in writing, so you can know exactly what the 9 10 concerns are regarding the document, if any. 11 12 And a lot of times now, I'm so 13 impressed with the quality of attorneys that we get a lot of really clean documents coming in 14 15 the door. It's really amazing. I'm always

impressed with the quality of attorneys that we get a lot of really clean documents coming in the door. It's really amazing. I'm always fascinated in working on this process, but it describes more specifically what that technical assistance exactly will look like. You'd be confident that you'll get a response in writing, and what the timing of that response will be.

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It talks about establishing a secretarial election board, providing the notice of the secretarial election, registering, challenging the registered voters list. All these things are very -- they're just as they

were in the old document and there might be some slight clarification, including things like the definition of days and excluding weekends and holidays and things like that very specifically.

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Here's -- this one I think is a really good addition, and I know this was talked about in the comments before, and certainly it's been a lot of discussion. The old regulations didn't say anything about them -- in them specifically about removing us from -- actually removing the Bureau from the constitutional amendment process. These new regulations do. So if you look at the old regulation, you could speculate and speculate and say, can we remove the Bureau from our amendment process; can we take them completely out and move forward without having Bureau approval of the document and having a secretarial election every time we want to amend our constitution? regulations are specific about that. You can take us out of the process. I know there's a lot of reasons why people debate whether that's a good or bad idea. I mean I'm just always with the mindset that a nation making its decisions for itself is a good thing. I'm not going to

1 complain either because it will mean less work for me and the agencies, but I think it's 2 important that a nation be able to make their 3 4 decisions that they want to make about what 5 their governing documents look like. So that that's now very explicit in here that that is --6 7 that is something that can occur and it wasn't in the prior draft. 8 9 This clarifies that the BIA will 10 give deference to tribal interpretation of their own documents, but I think anybody who can read 11 12 Internal Board of Appeals, BIA decisions, 13 regarding Bureau decisions, knowing that that's 14 the case that we have to give deference to 15 tribal interpretation of their documents, but 16 we've made it explicit in the regulations now. And then this is an issue that I know comes up a 17 18 lot because sometimes a tribal governing 19 document will say in their tribal leadership 20 elections that only 21-year-olds can vote or 21 something to that effect. Because these are 22 federal elections we have to comply with the 23 26th amendment. So all of these elections when they 24

occur, that secretarial elections will require

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     that the voters be allowed to vote at 18 years
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     of age or older. And I know that's a challenge,
     but it's one of those things that if the tribe
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     is interested in not having that be a
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     requirement for their amendment process, then
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     the next move would be to remove us from that
 7
     amendment process and then you can have any sort
 8
     of decision about the age you want for those
     elections, but because these are federal
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10
     elections, we're tied by that Federal law.
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                  And then the last section that's
12
     highlighted I guess is to clarify that when
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     elections occur, we pay those costs, the agency,
     the region, however we figure how to pay for it,
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     we pay the costs of the election as it moves
16
     forward.
17
                  I know some people consider that a
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     benefit. I know some tribes in weighing what
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     their resources are, keep us involved in the
20
     process for that reason. But it's just a
21
     tribe-by-tribe decision on whether you want to
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     move forward in removing us from a future
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     election or not.
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                  I am going to highlight this here
     just because it is here, but the proposed
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1
     revision comments are due by December 17th. And
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     you can submit those a number of ways. I know
     Laural -- if you have any questions, you can
 3
 4
     even just call her outright. I think her number
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     is on the second page on the back of this
     document. The www.regulations.gov, you can
 6
 7
     submit there or you can just e-mail them
 8
     directly to Laurel, you can deliver her a copy
     in writing, you can mail her a copy; there's any
 9
     number of ways that you can submit comments.
10
11
     Your comments today, we'll take all of your
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     comments that you have to make right now as we
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     go through this presentation, if questions
     occur, or things that you want to be considered
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     as we're looking at the final draft, you can
16
     make those today and the court reporter will
17
     take those down. So there's a lot of different
     ways that you can make comments in this process.
18
19
                  Or if you brought comments on
20
     behalf of your tribes -- if you brought any
21
     comments on behalf of your tribe, we can make
     them a part of this actual record for today,
22
23
     too. So just let me know.
24
                  MS. DAUGHERTY: Okay.
                                         So then on
25
     the back half you have kind of this grid of your
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flier. We thought that we would highlight the most significant changes, the major changes to the proposed rule. So when you come away from here, you can go back and say, well, what were the most significant changes. These are definitely the big changes. Most of the other work is really just clarifying and reorganizing and simplification, but these were the things that changed.

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And once again that's the beauty of the consultation process. Just because we propose these changes, doesn't mean they're a done deal. I mean, if you look at each of these items as we go over them, and you think it should be different and you have a reason, hey this should be in a different way and here's why. Even if we don't cover it here as one of the highlighted changes and it's something that's always been in place or hasn't changed, once again, part of the consultation process, you can say, hey, we know that the regulations stated this previously, but you're proposing that they state this now, and they've always read that way for decades, but we want to change both sections, too. So if there's any proposed

changes, even if they aren't changes between the last draft and the current draft, you're invited to comment on any section at all. But the only reason we're highlighting these ones is they are specific changes that are being proposed from the prior draft.

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The first changes, if you look at currently, that voting is done either at a polling place or by absentee ballot. In the proposal it establishes that voting is done by mail unless the amendment sections require polling sites. And there are a number of reasons to do that, the one that I guess comes to the surface, is sometimes -- and you guys all know this if you've done secretarial election processes, I mean it's a very important process. It is the process to change the governing document that dictates the supreme law of the land for your nation. And sometimes we don't always have the best voter turnout. And I know that is -- there's probably a lot of reasons why I know voter education is always that occurs. an important issue to go around and make sure people know and understand the significance of these changes. But one of those main reasons is

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to hopefully increase voter turnout by allowing the voting process to occur during a mail out versus during on-site polling. But if a tribe itself determines that they think polling is still a good mechanism and they want to stay with that mechanism, if it's not already in the documents, you can propose a secretarial election to put it back in there and remain with the polling sites. So that is one of the changes and hopefully to increase voter turnout, you know, overall to save costs in the current budget environment, all sorts of different things, but that was the hope, was that mainly that would increase voter turnout because the voter turnout isn't always very high percentagewise and I know that's always been a concern for tribes. So that's why that was proposed as part of the changes. At this point, as we go down the list of changes, we invite and we encourage discussion from those of you from tribes and tribal members, an any come in as attorneys representing tribes. So does anybody have any commentary, any objection, anything to say

specifically about this current change in

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     Section 81.18?
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                  MS. IRONCLOUD: If you have your
     hand up and if you don't have any comments,
 3
     that's twice as well.
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                  MS. DAUGHERTY: If you want to say
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 6
     that's an awesome idea.
 7
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a
 8
     question.
 9
                  MS. IRONCLOUD: Sure.
10
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                         On the
11
     Bureau funding secretarial elections --
12
                  MS. IRONCLOUD:
                                  There you go.
13
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On the
14
     bureau of funding secretarial elections has
15
     there been any movement to get in the budget
16
     cycle fundings to do that because taking it out
     of an agency or region may reduce the services
17
     provided to other tribes?
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                  MS. IRONCLOUD: At this point,
20
     there is no change to the process currently that
21
     is in place for the secretarial elections, for
22
     the funding of it. Tribes are not -- will not
23
     be on the hook to pay. The Bureau of Indian
24
     Affairs will pay for these. So that's, I guess,
     an internal discussion, but at this point that
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1
     discussion has not come about. We're doing it
 2
     as we had paid for them previously.
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. If
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 4
     the tribe removes the Bureau from the process,
     secretarial elections, is the Bureau then still
 5
     responsible for funding that secretarial
 6
 7
     election?
 8
                  MS. IRONCLOUD: At that point it
     will not be a secretarial election.
 9
10
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.
11
                  MS. DAUGHERTY: Any other comments
12
     before I move on to the next section?
13
                  And the next section: Voids an
14
     authorization for a secretarial election any
15
     time the election is not acted on within 90 days
16
     from the date the BIA authorizes the election.
17
     In the new section, that is removed.
     typically what is occurring is that when we have
18
     the documents in hand, I have not seen any
19
     problems with getting the election done in a
20
21
     timely manner. In our region what we see most
22
     commonly is every once in a while a tribal
     request and that's why we added this section --
23
24
     or removed this section technically. We will
25
     get tribes to approach us and request to extend
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the date. And this mechanism allows that to occur more easily. But what they'll do is they'll say, well, we just don't think there's enough voter education, so we were wondering if we could extend the date 30 or 60 days. And have been really good in working with us on extending those dates if there's a tribal request to do so. So that's one of the reasons for this section.

And it really ties into the next section. So if you don't mind, I'll cover both of them simultaneously. The old regulations do not define a tribal request. And so I think the challenge has been there and sometimes we'll get a request from a tribe, we'll get a resolution that says we want to have a secretarial election to change our -- the most common one I see is:

We want to change our membership criteria from -- either up or down, from a quarter to an eighth, from an eighth to a quarter. Just different variations just as an example. And we want to change our blood quantum requirement from a quarter to an eighth and that will be just one small sentence in the resolution.

in and the tribe will say, well, we want the election to occur within 90 days from today's date. But the challenge with that is, is we -- not just the bureau, but the voters, the membership out there, they need to know exactly what they're voting on. That as a concept is so they'll know that they're voting to reduce the blood quantum just from that resolution, but what we also need from the tribe, and sometimes we get with that resolution and sometimes we do not. And that's why we created a clarification for tribal requests.

What we also need to see is, we know what your membership article in your constitution or whatever your governing document is, as an example. Let's say it says, oh, here is the exact language, here is what is exactly the constitution now. This definition change for tribal request asks -- that a tribal request is not complete until you provide the exact language that you want to be replaced in the constitution. Because it is really hard, it's impossible to get out a notice packet to people to tell them what they're going to be voting on if they can't see the exact language that will

be going into their constitution.

So if a resolution comes in without that, this language defines that's not a complete tribal request yet. There is no way the bureau can hold an election in 90 days because we don't have a good way to notify the people what their constitution is going to look like when they vote on it if the exact language is not present in that request.

So that's one change in it and I guess from both angles so that you know and the membership knows exactly what they're going on, that the request has to come in with that exact language or sometimes it's a removal issue. So that becomes much simpler. I guess they're going to remove an entire article, which does happen from time to time.

And then the other portion of a tribal request -- there's three requirements for a tribal request. One is that exact language and then the first one, of course, is that resolution or other document we describe as having the authorizing, I guess, the authority of the tribal governing body. Most commonly, I see resolutions, but I know there are sometimes

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that operate by tribal -- by general council and they just have a voice vote, or other mechanisms that express the authority of their nation. So we just need whatever that is and the most common version we see of that is a resolution.
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Do any of your nations do anything different than a resolution? I'm just curious. Anybody do anything different than a resolution from your governing body? Okay. And that's most common for sure, but there are some exceptions to that rule. So we'll have to have that resolution, plus the exact language and then the last thing that we'll have to have to complete an official tribal request is a list of all tribal members who will be 18 years of age or older within 180 days of date of this request. And that allows us to notify all the people who could potentially vote in that election. And this is just my two cents on this issue, and I don't -- Southern Plains, maybe you can articulate what you see down here is from tribal government, Lonnie, but sometimes when we have secretarial elections up in Great Plains, we get a lot of returned mail. I know it's a challenge. People move a lot and that's just

the nature of the beast.

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When I first went to work for the bureau, or actually when I first went to work at a federal agency, I had to list all my prior addresses for like seven to ten years and it was like a traumatic endeavor and how many places did I live in the prior seven to ten years. And even places where -- I lived in this town, but I couldn't tell you exactly where I lived. And I know you move a lot. That's just the nature of how we do things sometimes. And so I know that's a challenge, but I would really encourage just as a side note for tribes that are getting ready to conduct secretarial election is to maybe conduct, if you know you're going to do it and you're starting to work on the language, you're starting to have public meetings to educate the community about, hey, we want to make some changes, we want your input, at the same time to be updating that mailing list. You know, most commonly it's with the enrollment office that we get those lists from. that's the case, I mean, have your enrollment office encourage people to update those lists. Just so you, once again, maximize voter

1 participation. Because if we're doing it by 2 mail-out -- even if you're doing it at a polling 3 site, that's how you get people notice is by 4 mailing them the information packet about what 5 that election is going to look like. Just these 6 major drives and try to get the voter list 7 updated so you have fewer returned packages 8 because every one of those returned packages is somebody that might not get to participate in 9 the process because you can't find them. 10 that's just my little stump for the day. 11 12 So that's what creates a tribal 13 request, is that mailing list provided by the 14 tribe, the exact language to be voted on and 15 then the resolution or other voice of the 16

request, is that mailing list provided by the tribe, the exact language to be voted on and then the resolution or other voice of the governing body, indicating that they want to have that secretarial election. And then, of course, the other component, which, if your constitution allows for a partitioning concept because not all of them do in their amendment section, is if we receive an appropriately formatted petition requesting a secretarial election. That's the other option and alternative to a resolution from the governing body. And once again, you have to go back to

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your governing document or your charter, if you would, if it doesn't allow any processes.

Does anybody have any questions about tribal request, why we articulated that those three things need to trigger a secretarial election process? And the thing -- I mean I think it works for both angles too, because then the tribe knows if I turn these three things in and get the technical assistance back on them and respond to that technical assistance, we're off to the races.

MS. IRONCLOUD: Or any ideas of how the department can make the process clear, we tried as hard as we could to make the process clear, but if anybody has ideas on taking it a step even further to have a document that's even more useful for tribes, we're open to that. So at this point, we've put it out to the tribes and do you have any input, questions, or anything like that?

MS. DAUGHERTY: Okay. The next one, I'd be interested if you have any comments, particularly on this one, because this one got incorporated from an action from our region, and we had no guidance. So we thought that the

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regulations should say something. So if you think that our proposed solution isn't the correct way to go, we would really be interested in comments on this one, but the old regulations didn't address whether a tribe may withdraw a request for a secretarial election. And what we had happen in our region was a secretarial election process had occurred, and it was far into the process, literally the election was set to occur. We already had a large number of members registered to vote, the election was within a week or so and then the tribal council came forward and said, we want to withdraw the secretarial election. We don't want to have the secretarial election anymore. So we were left with no guidance, and then we had all these members who had expressed an interest in voting, that they wanted to vote in that election process, so that the rule we proposed was that you can't withdraw a request for an election after the deadline for registration to vote. Now, I know here's the competing factors in my mind, and you can tell me if you think of others, but at what point does the process get far enough along that you have the

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     intent of the tribe and the intent of the
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     membership? I mean our government relationship
     is with the tribes individually, but what do you
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 4
     want this to say in regards to where the members
 5
     who have now registered to vote get that
 6
     opportunity to vote. And so this is the one I'm
 7
     very interested in, if you have any comments, or
 8
     if you want to submit something in writing
     later, you know, think it over and submit the
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     comments in writing, but if you have a large
11
     number of your membership that are ready to
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     vote, they've registered to vote, they want to
13
     vote, they want a chance to weigh in on those
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     documents, does the regulations -- do the
15
     regulations currently proposed at 81.17 at some
16
     point can the tribe still withdraw, and this
17
     says, no, at the point after they're registered
     to vote. If you think it should be otherwise,
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19
     at that point we want to hear -- I've got a
20
     question over there.
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                  MS. IRONCLAD: If you could
22
     identify yourself again for the court reporter
23
     also.
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                                Wallace Miller from
                  MR. MILLER:
25
     Stockbridge-Munsee. Our last secretarial
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election, the day before election, the tribal government was fighting us for probably 40 days, a third of the members did not get registered. Of that third, they lived in the same address for 20 years. There was nobody verified. had a three-step process, enrollment, mailing list, sent it to the bureau, which came back to our election committee and nobody verified, a husband would get a registration, the wife wouldn't, been married 20, 25 years. Now you could probably name 10 families that way. The day before the secretarial election was going to happen, the bureau finally stepped up and said we need to cancel this because about a third of the voters never got the registration. How do we verify that everybody gets registered? MS. DAUGHERTY: And there is a possibility that not everybody will not get registered. There are people who just decline to register. As a matter of fact, you'll see in this language that there is a requirement that we put in there to advise people it's voluntary, that the bureau is not forcing you to register for anything, but you can't vote unless you do register. But one of the process areas where

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you can check to make sure that the mailing list is what it should be is we do have a criteria where there is posted the registered voters list. And so if somebody can come forward and say, hey, I should have been on that list, I am a member, I'm here, whatever, you know, if that is a requirement, but usually it's not. And then we would go back and look at our original mailing list, if that person had a claim that they didn't get a packet, that's the time to tell them when you see that registered voter list posted and in the materials we send out and right in the regulations themselves, that list will be posted both at the local agency and then at the tribal headquarters. And so that's the time for voters to check and make sure they're on the list and then it's also time for them to check whether they're not on the list, is the other alternative. And so then throughout that process, even at the end of the election, there is a mechanism, let's say today, we were on the registered voter list and then if somebody says there's some sort of election irregularity, there is a time to challenge also after the election. But the key for what you're

1 describing for registration is that posted 2 registered voters' list to say I should have been on this list, I should have gotten on the 3 4 list. 5 MR. MILLER: The list was right 6 outside of my office door. I started calling 7 people as soon as I registered them. A third of 8 my family didn't get registered. Like I say, husband, wife, whoever it may be. 9 10 Well, my question to vote is: How 11 do we verify? I mean I can't put all the blame 12 on our enrollment office. The way I look at it, 13 it was a three-step process, the enrollment office made the list, shipped it to the bureau, 14 15 who shipped it back to the election committee. 16 Who do you blame? I couldn't blame anybody. 17 It's a three-step process. I looked at it that 18 way. 19 MR. PORTER: Do you know where the 20 failure was? 21 MR. MILLER: No, they never figured 22 out where it came from. 23 MR. PORTER: Did your tribe 24 committee send a list that was incomplete to the 25 BIA, or did the BIA get a complete list and then have their names drop off when they sent it out?

MR. MILLER: I couldn't answer that right now.

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MR. PORTER: I mean to me this is a huge problem underlying this process is that the quality of the list provided by the tribe to the BIA is a hugely problematic thing. And if that list is inaccurate, where does a tribal member challenge that if the election board only sends out notice to the people on the list provided by the government and that list does not include people, we've got all of the disenrollments of it, you know, more out in California than elsewhere, when does a tribal member have the opportunity to say that list provided by the tribe was wrong in the three days available to challenge the elections board's registered voters list or after the election has been approved?

MS. DAUGHERTY: I would like to point out, too, that part of the secretarial election process, if you look at it, and this is where it becomes really important who you pick to become part of that process. If you look at -- let's see if I can get to the right

1 spot -- so the secretarial election board, that 2 starts under 81.22, but the secretarial election 3 board is part of this process every time. 4 one important thing to remember and you can 5 remember this from your nation, the safeguard for this issue is typically a secretarial 6 7 election board chair will be the superintendent 8 in most cases. The language of the regulation says the local bureau official, but many, many 9 times that's the superintendent. And it's part 10 of the regulations and it's still part of the 11 12 regulations now and it was part of the 13 regulations before. The tribe has 10 days once that election is authorized. Let's say we have 14 15 all the things turned in, the voters' list, the 16 language, the resolution and the regional 17 director says, all right, local bureau official, typiclly isuperintendent, you can call that 18 19 election. From when they get that letter saying 20 hey, you can call that election, the secretarial 21 election board has to be formed. It starts with 22 the local bureau official and then a local 23 bureau official notifies the tribe, you need to 24 let us know if you want to add two people to the 25 board, you have that right to add two tribal

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     officials to the secretarial election board.
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     It's not the same secretarial election -- or
     it's not typically the same election board as
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     the leadership elections. So people, the tribe
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     then will say, well, we want to make sure this
     list is right, this process happens correctly.
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     So we're going to pick our two best people to
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     bird dog this process, and out of the two, the
     secretarial election board. So two of the three
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     members of the secretarial election board
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     overseeing the process will be tribal people.
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     And so then we just encourage tribes to add
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     those two people as people that you know and
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     believe will safeguard that process to the best
15
     of their ability. Sometimes tribes don't
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     propose anybody to us. They let it lapse and
17
     they let us pick those two people, but most of
     the time, the tribes do. So that would be one
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19
     safeguard to make sure you pick two really good
20
     people to be added to that board.
21
                  MR. MILLER: For the last three
22
     elections that's what we did.
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                  MS. DAUGHERTY: And do those
24
     persons double check those lists?
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                  MR. MILLER: They are supposed to.
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     Our tribal government, when it comes to
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     secretarial elections, we step aside. We'll ask
     the bureau -- the committee comes forward, we'll
 3
     ask the bureau to hold the election and we step
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 5
     aside. We try to keep our fingers as clean as
 6
     we can for something -- but this last time, it
 7
     was a fiasco. I think the election would have
 8
     been Thursday. Wednesday at 4:30, just before I
     walked out of the office is when the Bureau
 9
10
     finally canceled the election.
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                  MS. DAUGHERTY: Okay. And I can't
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     address every single --
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                  MR. MILLER: I know, I know.
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                                  It is part of the
                  MS. DAUGHERTY:
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     record now that you have concerns about how that
16
     played out and so we'll definitely look at what
     those facts were on that and see if there was
17
     some way that the process could have addressed
18
     or prevented any of those sorts of challenges.
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     We have to make sure the integrity of these
21
     elections is at the highest levels because these
22
     are the tribal governing documents. So I guess
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it.

The first one is appoint really good people

my general answer to your first thing that you

raised was that there's a couple ways to protect

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to that secretarial election board that will double check those things on behalf of the nation. And then the second thing is to really get out there and inform voters, to say, look, when that registered list is posted, make sure your name's on it. And if it's not on there and it should be, you have a right to challenge that list. And any -- you could even have like let's say a sister comes in and she's registered to vote and she knows that her other sister is not on that list and they probably should be, you might want to double check with your sister, to say, I mean, that's all part of voter registration, did you get a packet? If you did, why didn't you fill it out? Because if you didn't fill it out you didn't get to vote. If you didn't get one, why didn't you get one. Let's go back and look at the list and see if there's some reason you weren't on that mailing list, or perhaps your package did get lost. know, those sorts of things. So you can kind of come to it from two angles. A good secretarial electric board, plus informed electorates, members that go to check that registered list and make sure you're

1 on it, getting a lot of publicity out there in 2 the community about that issue. Go check the registered voters list, make sure you're on it. 3 4 If you're not, let them know, challenge that 5 list and get your name on it. 6 MS. IRONCLOUD: All right, just as 7 a reminder, that eligible voters list depends 8 hugely on the list that's provided from the tribe. So at the heart of it is the tribal --9 the list coming in from the tribe. 10 MS. BRINER: Dawn Briner with the 11 12 Otoe Missouri Tribe. In reading this section, 13 in 81.17, it says that the tribe cannot withdraw, but it doesn't say whether the bureau 14 15 can withdraw. Listening to his comments over 16 here and they withdrew the petition the day before the actual election. So shouldn't there 17 be some language in here about when the bureau 18 -- what bureau's limits are as far as who's 19 20 withdrawing the petition? 21 MS. DAUGHERTY: You know, and once 22 again, I'm definitely going to make sure as part 23 of this review process that we look at the 24 situation there, but yeah, that's -- your point

is well taken. I think those limitations on the

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bureau as well can be added -- or considered and added definitely. I'm glad you said that because that's all part of what this process is. If you have those questions or considerations to put in the language, we'd be happy to do that too. But I am very curious now to see, you know, what happened in your case to look at particularly the letters and communication that occurred during that process and see what exactly happened. I mean this is like -- I mean we've seen outside of Indian countries, things like Bush versus Gore or Al Franken sitting around for three months waiting to see if he's a senator, or he's not a senator. Elections are not perfect processes. And that's certainly true in Indian county as well, and there are problems with them sometimes. And it can vary based on the qualifications and skills of staff as well. We do our best to try to make sure that everybody is educated in what needs to be done or doesn't need to happen, and so I think your point is well taken, that it would be good to have some guidance from the bureau in those regards, especially if we have a case scenario or specific scenario that showed where that

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     might have been problematic. So we're
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     definitely going to look at that specific
     situation and then consider your
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     recommendations. So thank you for being
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     involved in the process.
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                  Do you have any other questions on
 7
     this section? Even if we move on, please always
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     remember we can revisit as we go along or we
     can, you know, take comments in writing after
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     the fact.
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                  Okay. The next section, the
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     original regulations, or the regulations as they
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     stand right now, they don't address the
     differences between secretarial elections and
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     those conducted under the IRA and Indian
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     Reorganization Act and the Oklahoma Indian
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     Welfare Act. There's also a little typo there
     -- IOWA, I wanted to change it to Iowa.
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                                               I each
19
     asked --
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       (People talking at the same time.)
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                  MS. DAUGHERTY: Every week it seems
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     like when I'm writing things, so, auto correct,
     the curse of auto correct. All this does is
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     that it just specifically clarifies that
     secretarial elections conducted under the OIWA
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1 require the authorizing official to approve the 2 proposed documents, subject to ratification by tribal voters. Just because it's -- it's just a 3 4 difference nuance, it's just because the OIWA 5 has that slightly different language, so just 6 conceptually, here's how it works: We may 7 authorize an election in Great Plains region and 8 the voters vote and those amendments from their proposal might pass. If they do pass, then that 9 10 election packet plus the proposed language, 11 comes back to the region and then we'll approve 12 that document. 13 In the case down here in Oklahoma, because of the Oklahoma Indian welfare Act, it's 14 15 just in a slightly different order. 16 election -- the regional director here would 17 approve the document in advance and then the voters would decide whether to ratify it or not. 18 19 It's just a timing issue. That's the 20 difference, but the old regulations didn't 21 articulate that specifically and that's all we 22 did in here so people would understand that 23 nuance. And so -- yeah, definitely a 24 clarification or just an omission. It was just

not physically in the regulations and now it is.

Just to make sure that everybody knows that that exists. You guys don't here know it exists.

You work with it -- work with it all the time, but it's, you know, different in other areas of the country and we just wanted to make sure that people understood that difference that is required by the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act, the

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other section.

And then next section and this is another one that we're definitely looking for input from people. As they exist now, the current regulations state that at least 60 percent of tribal members who petition for a secretarial election to adopt a governing document under a Federal statute for the first time, your trends are already established that wouldn't apply to you, but every once in a while, you'll see a new tribe added to the list of recognized tribes and sometimes those tribes are added as a result of a federal statute. Ιt may say in there, oh, this is how you're going to do your election for the first time. going to establish your governing documents for the first time. As it's written now, it requires 60 percent of those potential tribal

members to petition. Well, supposing that it be reduced to 20 percent. I know this number has been debated quite a bit. I know because the default number for other secretarial elections is 30 percent for participation process that people talk about that number as well.

I know it may not be something that you're worried about because you're in an established nation, but if you have any comments on this as far as new tribes coming -- I mean the other number I saw discussed was 50 percent -- doesn't make sense that -- 51 percent -- 50 percent plus one that at least a majority of the people would agree with a new document. But this really affects adopting a governing document under a federal statute for the first time. It's a pre-specialized situation, but if you have any comments on it, we definitely would welcome them either here right now or in writing at a later date.

MS. BRINER: Dawn Briner. The only thing that I saw that stood out to me was the tribal members versus tribal voters, whether the 20 percent requirement should be attached to those registered voters, people who are eligible

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     to vote in any election versus the entire
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     enrollment, because the way it sits now, you're
     requiring 20 -- whatever the percentage is, of
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     the entire enrollment over who's eligible to
 5
     vote.
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                  MS. DAUGHERTY: Well, in this case
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     it's the petition for the document, the
     organizing document for the first time. So in
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     this case, yeah, its everybody. But it's not to
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     be confused with the other part of these
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     election requirement which talks about the
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     calculation -- that section starts at 81.39.
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     That's a different calculation and that's where
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-- I recognize there is a lot of confusion because, you know, they're represented as well, but the default percentage is 30 percent, and it's 30 percent of the registered voters, not 30 percent of all potential voters. This little section, 81.60 is different because it talks about petitioning to do a governing document for the first time. So like at 81.39, yes, you are correct. That is 30 percent or if the tribal amendment section of their constitution, as an example, is higher, let's say instead of 35 or 40 percent, it would be a higher number, but

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you're right, that calculation is based off registered voters, not the entire possible voting list as provided from the enrollment office.
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Once again, if you have comments on that and think that's not correct, it's not a right number, you know, that it should be based on the entire membership. I don't know what it's like down here but I know voter participation is a challenge. It's a challenge for the entire country generally and particularly for secretarial election processes, it's just something I can't emphasize enough, you know, both from the bureau side, which is why we try to mail out that information to every single person because we want to reach every single person, but just generally the tribe assisting with those processes, to help do voter education that ups those participation numbers because it is a challenge. I don't know if it was of the entire membership what the success rate would be, what that percentage would have to be to ever effectually change the constitution. So we're trying to make it achievable, given the realities of voter

participation that we see. It's higher in some, in some nations and not as high in others, but there's some nations that I think would really struggle to reach that 30 percent for general changes if it was higher than 30 percent, all required to be on the whole list versus just the registered voters list.

But keep in mind this one that I just covered, 81.60 is a separate process, it's a distinct and unique situation, just how many people need to sign, how many members of the membership need to petition to request a secretarial election to adopt a governing document under a Federal statute for the first time. It's just kind of a unique situation. But If you have any comments back about 81.39 and that amendment process or the requirement for secretarial election or whatever, for a charter or for revoking a constitution, whatever actions you might seek, that's a totally separate percentage calculation.

Now, I know it's kind of convoluted. I have a little chart up here if you want to stop up afterwards, I can show it to you, to be precise, but if you have any comments

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about this section, it's one of the ones that we
     did debate the number quite a bit. And it is
     just a very specialized case. We won't see this
     very often, but if you have any comments about
     it, we'd welcome comments.
                  MS. IRONCLOUD: Yeah, we would
     really appreciate any kind of comments you have,
     whether or not it's applicable to your --
     applicable to a tribe that you're either in a
     leadership position for, or you represent, or if
     you have some guidance you would like to provide
     or some input on this, the department would
13
     really appreciate it.
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                  MS. DAUGHERTY: Other than that
     those are definitely the most distinct changes.
     I think as you read through it, you have, you
     know, a copy of the whole proposed set of
     regulations. And if you have a chance,
     obviously compare it to the existing Part 81 and
          I think that this one is much simpler to
     82.
     follow and much simpler to read. The subparts
     are very distinct in separating out the
23
     sections. Particularly, once you get past the
     petitioning process, it leads you right over to
     the back -- the further right back, the subpart
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1 D where that applies and subpart E, which is OIWA, and Part D is IRA. We definitely want all 2 of your comments from any part of these 3 regulations, even ones that have existed prior. 4 5 But those really are, those are the big changes 6 that were made are the ones that I just 7 outlined, probably with tribal request being the 8 biggest, being really specific of what that 9 entails. 10 You can find additional information about this proposed rule. There's a website 11 12 link there. I know it's pretty long. And as I 13 mentioned, Laurel, as the Division Chief for 14 Tribal Government Services special office is 15 available to answer your calls or questions at 16 any time. I have my cards up here if you want to get one afterwards. We definitely can answer 17 any follow-up questions that you might have. 18 19 And I just want to thank you for 20 coming and participating and I will let Laurel 21 quide the discussion after this. 22 MS. IRONCLOUD: Are there any 23 questions or are there any issues having to do 24 with any part of the proposed rule that you all

have at this point?

1 (No response.) 2 MS. IRONCLOUD: So it's perfect as 3 the department is putting it forth according to 4 this group? 5 MS. DAUGHERTY: We're going to get 6 something in writing, I'm sure. 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The rules 8 does not provide that challenges may be made and when they must be filed. What is the method? 9 10 MS. DAUGHERTY: I'm going to have 11 to flip through here, if you'll have patience 12 with me, but there are two times you can 13 challenge. The first one is to the registered voters list, and if you'll bear with me, give me 14 two seconds, I will find it for you. Okay. 15 16 when the registered voters list is -- it's 81.32 17 and 81.33. If somebody is -- either -- if the 18 registered voters list is posted and somebody thinks they should be on it, and they're not, or 19 20 the other situation we see, somebody will come 21 forward and say, hey, why is this person on the 22 registered voters' list. They shouldn't be. 23 They're not an enrolled member here or whatever 24 challenge they might have. So that is the first thing you can challenge is whether somebody is 25

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     on the registered voters' list and they
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     shouldn't be or whether they're not and they
                  So that's covered in those two
 3
     should be.
 4
     sections.
                  Then the election itself -- let me
 5
 6
     go down here -- these are just from my notes --
 7
     okay, at the conclusion, yep, 81.43, any
 8
     registered voter seeking a challenge of the
     results of a secretarial election must -- and
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     that's under 81.43 and it talks about the
     regional director will review and decide those
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12
     challenges. So that describes the process for
13
     challenging and it's three -- no later than
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     three days after the election results are
15
     posted, not excluding weekends or holidays. And
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     the first and last -- some of the challenging
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     writing and articulate, you know, what the
18
     challenge is and attach any substantiating
19
     evidence they have in regards to that challenge.
20
     So those are the two challenge points in the
     election process.
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22
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                          Thank you.
23
                  MS. DAUGHERTY: You're welcome.
24
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                         My second
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     question, the provision on who may request a
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     secretarial election, I believe more clarity
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     should be provided in the rule that petitioner
     -- does it have to be a tribal member?
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 4
    doesn't state.
                             MS. IRONCLOUD:
 5
     Let me go here.
 6
                  What specific section are you
 7
    referring to?
 8
                  MS. DAUGHERTY: It should be 81.51.
 9
                  MS. IRONCLOUD: Hold on here.
    You're testing our analysis on the fly, but
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    we'll get there.
12
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I had
13
    two different lawyers go through this for me.
14
                  MS. IRONCLOUD: There you go.
15
                  MS. DAUGHERTY: Laural and Jim and
16
     I are all lawyers up here. So I can tell you
17
     right now we are nothing but trouble.
18
                  MS. IRONCLOUD: Lawyers are nothing
19
    but trouble, we're evidence of that.
20
                  MR. PORTER: 81.55.
21
                  MS. DAUGHERTY: A member of the
22
     tribe, who is 18 years of age or older.
23
                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.
24
                  MS. DAUGHERTY: You're welcome.
    We're catching on the fly here. We're doing
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okay so far, but, no, this is how this works.
If you bring something that we flip around and
we can't find it, like, oops, then we do need to
add that in. So I love this part of this
process.
             MS. IRONCLOUD: We appreciate it.
             MR. PORTER: Well, I appreciate it
and my first question to you is a really
important issue. In my work, I'm not involved
in helping conduct the secretarial elections.
I'm involved in defending the secretary from
challenges of the secretarial election, so the
things in these regulations that give rise to
litigation are points that are of concern to me.
In challenging the secretarial elections and how
they're done and their outcome is, for my work,
the most important part of what these
regulations say. And so I encourage you people
to look at the sections that we talked about as
far as how and when the process gets challenged.
Just for instance, in a challenge to the outcome
of the election, these regs allow only people
who submitted registration applications to
challenge the outcome. What happens to your
people who never got a registration notice in
```

1 the first place and weren't able to submit one? 2 Should they have a standing to challenge the 3 outcome of the election? According to these 4 regs, they can. I encourage the attorneys, 5 we've got excellent firms represented here 6 today, to take a close look at those provisions 7 and see if there's clarifications and ways to 8 which we can make those provisions more clear and that would, hopefully, prevent litigation 9 10 instead of giving rise to it. 11 MS. IRONCLOUD: Thank you, Jim. 12 Absolutely we need to be able to gauge what is 13 important to the tribes and we want that to be represented, tribes and tribal membership, also 14 15 what we want this document to represent are those issues and add to those issues. 16 17 Any other questions, comments or input? It doesn't have to be over the changes. 18 It could be over anything having to do with this 19 20 document or secretarial elections, the process 21 overall. 22 Seeing none, again, we thank you 23 for coming out, we thank you for providing this input and we thank Southern Plains for putting 24

it together and coming to participate and we

appreciate that.

we're going to have another consultation in California on Thursday. We will be doing this same request for input at that point. Once we are able to finish the consultations and the deadline of December 17th passes, we'll be able to get all the written comments, look at the transcripts, review the transcripts, review the transcripts, review the record, the Department will go through all of this information and input that we receive and at that point, if there's any changes that need to be made, the Department will make those changes and then we'll go into the publication process.

So once we get all approval through the department and go through publication, the new section 81 will be effective 30 days after that publication. So we're looking at about -- I don't want to make any promises as to time, but at least a couple of months, past the December deadline. So I'll say that, at least a couple months. Any questions on the process?

MS. DAUGHERTY: And don't forget

all the different ways you can submit comments.

```
Definitely you have Laural's phone number on
 1
     this document, you have the regulations.com
 2
 3
     website and you have Laural's e-mail. You can
 4
     submit in any of those forms. If you want to
     mail, Laural can provide her mailing address.
 5
 6
                  MS. IRONCLOUD: It's on the rule.
 7
                  MS. DAUGHERTY: Yes, it's on the
     rule itself here. It's in tiny print. But you
 8
     pull it up on your computer and see it a lot
 9
10
     easier and submit those comments by mail as
11
     well.
12
                  Thank you all, and this concludes
13
     the consultation session.
14
                 (Proceedings concluded.)
15
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1	CERTIFICATION
2	STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
3	COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA)
4	I, MICHELE WATSON, Certified Shorthand
5	Reporter within and for the State of Oklahoma,
6	do hereby certify that the proceedings were by
7	me taken in shorthand and thereafter
8	transcribed, and the same was taken on
9	November 18, 2014, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
10	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
11	hand and seal this 1st day of December 2014.
12	$M_0 H_1$
13	1 Minter Son
14	MICHELE WATSON, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER FOR THE
	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
15	Oklahoma CSR No. 1771 My Commission Expires 12/31/14
16	Hy COMMISSION HAPITOS 12/31/11
17	
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