

OKLAHOMA WOMEN TRIBAL LEADER FIRSTS

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A number of the 39 Native American tribes and nations with headquarters in Oklahoma have elected women to positions of top leadership. The following list indicates the first woman to be elected to this position within a tribe or nation and the year in which that election occurred.

- Caddo*: Chairwoman, LaRue Parker, 1999
Cherokee: Principal Chief, Wilma Mankiller, 1985
Citizen Potawatomi: Chairperson, Wanita Clifford, 1979
Delaware: President, Myrtle Holder, 1940s
Fort Sill Apache: Chairperson, Mildred Cleghorn, 1977
Iowa: Chairwoman, Phoebe O'Dell, 2003
Kaw: Chair, Lucy Taylah-Eades, 1924
Kialegee Tribal Town: Micco-Town King, June Fixico, 1999
Miami: Chief, Judy Davis, 1989
Otoe-Missouria: Chairperson, Della Warrior, 1990
Pawnee: President, Elizabeth Blackowl, 1995
Peoria: Chief, Robbie Hedges, 2000
Ponca: Chairperson, Genevieve Pollack, 1990s
Quapaw: Chairperson, Grace Goodeagle, 1994
Sac & Fox: Chief, Dora Young, 1973
Seminole: Principal Chief, Alice Brown Davis, 1922
Shawnee (Loyal Band): Chair, Pamela Chibitty, 1982
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town: Micco-Town King, Grace Bunner, 1994
Tonkawa: President, Virginia Combrink Swanson, 1994
Wichita: President, Margaret Bell, 1978



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2000, the Oklahoma counties with the highest number of Native American women residents are Tulsa, Oklahoma, Cherokee, Muskogee, and Adair. Counties with the lowest number are Cimarron, Harper, Harmon, Beaver, and Major.

Unidentified native American woman living in Payne County, ca. 1900.



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