



Delaware Nation

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SECRETARIAL ELECTION BLOOD QUANTUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Why is it important to the Tribe to consider this change?

As our elders walk on and new citizens are born that meet the current blood quantum guidelines of 1/8 degree blood, the annual citizenship has remained stagnant for several years (approx. 1,462 citizens). Currently, there are approx. 200 tribal citizens that are under the age of 18. If a change is not made, our Tribe will eventually be extinct.

The Delaware Nation Citizenship Ordinance in Section 1 states that no United States government or state agencies, officers or employees shall have any authority, role, or involvement in the process for the enrollment of citizens of the Delaware Nation. So this decision is ours to make as a tribe.

2. When were discussions held concerning changing the blood quantum guidelines?

- a. A Special General Council meeting was held on March 3, 2018 in which 57 citizens were in attendance when the Executive Committee held discussions on the Blood Quantum and Removing BIA from the Delaware Nation Constitution. Copies of the agenda, minutes and attendance sheets are on file.
- b. During the Annual General Council meeting held on June 16, 2018 in which 60 citizens were in attendance, the Executive Committee continued discussions on the Blood Quantum and Removing BIA from the Delaware Nation Constitution. Rose Roberson (BIA Superintendent), Sherry Lovin (BIA Tribal Gov. Officer) and Lonnie Emhoolah (BIA Tribal Gov. Specialist) were in attendance to answer questions about the significance of removing BIA from our Delaware Nation Constitution. Copies of the agenda, minutes and attendance sheets are on file.
- c. Notices were sent out by the Executive Committee in July and August 2018 in the Delaware Nation newspaper and the Delaware Nation Facebook site to request for citizens to serve on the Blood Quantum Committee, Economic Development RAP Committee, and the Constitution Committee. These committees were filled in October 2018.
- d. The Blood Quantum Committee conducted an online survey in November 2018 to gather information concerning proposed options. The following questions were asked and answered by 57 participants:
 1. Are you in favor of lowering the blood quantum? Yes 82.14% No 17.86%
 2. If yes, are you in favor of 1/16 Yes 53.47%
If yes, are you in favor of 1/32 Yes 46.30%
 3. Are you in favor of combining blood quantum from other tribes?
Yes 80.36 % No 19.64%
 4. Are you in favor of basing enrollment eligibility on lineal descendency based off the allottee list? Yes 73.68 % No 26.32 %

3. How was the Blood Quantum Committee selected?

- a. Notices was sent out in July and August 2018 by the Executive Committee in the Delaware Nation newspaper and the Delaware Nation Facebook site to request for citizens to serve on the Blood Quantum Committee, Economic Development RAP Committee, and the Constitution Committee.
- b. In October 2018, the Executive Committee selected citizens who had sent in their request to serve. The Executive Committee made selections to form committees that each had four members who were not closely related.

4. Were other solutions considered by the Blood Quantum Committee before recommending lineal descent?

There were multiple options considered.

1. Lowering the blood quantum to 1/16 or 1/32
2. Combining other Indian blood to add to Delaware blood degree
3. Combining other Indian blood with Delaware blood and lowering to 1/16 or 1/32
4. Going to lineal descendency for those who are tied to a Delaware Nation allottee

5. Will passing this question affect the Per Capita Payment and how many citizens will be added?

Yes, passing this question will affect the amount that each citizen receives for their Per Capita Payment. However it is impossible to know exactly how many citizens will be added.

Please keep in mind that the following will **not** be eligible to enroll should this question pass:

- Those that are tied to a Delaware Nation allottee, but have enrolled in another Indian Tribe and accepted land or money as a member of another tribe (Constitution: Article III).
- Those that have a degree of Delaware blood but do not tie back to one of the 169 allottees or their brothers or sisters. (1st Amendment to the Constitution ratified on March 6, 1976)
- Those that have relinquished their citizenship.
- An enrolled tribal citizen's adoptive children who cannot tie back to one of the 169 allottees or their brothers or sisters and/or possesses no Delaware blood.

Based on the last Per Capita Payment citizens received in 2018 which was \$1,173.47, if the following number of citizens are added to our citizenship list the Per Capita Payment would have been:

- a. Adding 300 new citizens \$976.87 for each citizen
- b. Adding 600 new citizens \$834.75 for each citizen

6. Will this change affect the Tribe's Federal Recognition or the ability to obtain any grants?

Passing this question, will not change the Tribe's Federal Recognition.

As far as grants are concerned, passing this question will increase our citizenship total making us more competitive for grant selection against larger tribes.

7. What if the question doesn't pass?

The Executive Committee believes that allowing every eligible citizen 18 years and older to vote on this question in a Secretarial Election is important. It is a way to assess what is best for the Tribe as a whole and therefore we encourage all eligible citizens to cast a vote.

If the question doesn't pass, the tribal citizens have spoken and the Executive Committee will consider other options to address this important issue.