

Carney Earns CPN Legislative Seat

Dave Carney, a business owner from Washington state, has earned a narrow win in a run-off election for the remaining 10 months on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation legislative district #8 term. Carney outpolled 24-year-old Patrick Shannon 62-to-59.

Carney will succeed the late Jacqueline Taylor, who walked on on July 15, 2008 – just a few weeks after she was sworn in for a term that concludes in late June 2010. Shannon is Taylor's grandson. Carney's sister, Eva Marie Carney, is a member of the CPN legislature, representing members in District #2.

In a six-way General election race in District #8, Carney led the field with 37 votes. Shannon was two behind, with 35. The third-place vote-getter, Clyde Slavin, had 32. William E. Anderson was fourth, with 30. Ginger Blackmon had 21, and Kelli Jo Willard drew nine votes.

The run-off voting period in District #8 began in February, with the Election Committee mailing Absentee Ballot Request forms to all eligible voters in the district. Voted Absentee Ballots were required to be received at the Tecumseh post office no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2009. There was in-person voting in the District #8 run-off election in the Tribal Courtroom at the CPN Administration Building, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. on August 25.

The vote total in the District #8 run-off is final and unofficial, awaiting certification by the Election Commission at a meeting on Thursday, August 27.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has a 16-member legislature, with tribal members having approved a switch in form of its governing body in a constitutional election in August 2007. Eight of the legislators represent a district each, with members in each district selecting their representative.

Five legislators are elected by all members who live in Oklahoma. And, the three executive officers – the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer – are part of the legislature, being elected by all eligible CPN members.