



THLOPTHLOCCO TRIBAL TOWN

**Federal Charter 1938 – Creek Tribe
109009 N3830 Rd.
Okemah, Oklahoma 74859-0188
(918) 560-6198**

FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

**Issued by authority of the Office of Mekko Brent Smith
and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Business Committee**

May 20, 2026

The Thlopthlocco Tribal Town acknowledges the recent position of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma opinion that the District Court of Okfuskee County lacks subject matter jurisdiction to decide the threshold issues involving the internal governance of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

This recognition reinforces a foundational principle of federal Indian law: tribal nations possess inherent sovereignty and retain the exclusive authority to govern their own internal affairs, leadership disputes, elections, governmental operations, and constitutional processes without interference from state courts.

On April 2, 2026, the duly elected government of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town formally notified the Okfuskee County District Court that the Tribe does not recognize state jurisdiction over internal tribal governmental matters. That notice made clear that the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town has not waived sovereign immunity, has not consented to state court jurisdiction, and remains committed to protecting its constitutional right of self-government.

The Thlopthlocco Tribal Town reiterates that the October 18, 2025 tribal election resulted in the lawful election of Mekko Brent Smith and the current Business Committee pursuant to the Tribe's governing procedures and constitutional authority. Since October 23, 2025, the duly elected government has remained in sole possession and control of tribal governmental facilities, operations, assets, and official functions.

This matter has never been about personalities or politics. It concerns the protection of tribal sovereignty, the integrity of tribal governance, and the federally recognized right of Indian nations to determine their own leadership free from outside interference.

The Thlopthlocco Tribal Town remains steadfast in:

- Protecting tribal sovereignty and self-determination

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- Preserving the integrity of tribal constitutional governance
- Safeguarding tribal assets and governmental operations
- Ensuring continuity of services to tribal citizens
- Defending the Tribe's inherent rights under federal law

We call upon all parties, institutions, agencies, vendors, and governmental bodies to respect the sovereign authority of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and to recognize communications only from the duly elected government led by Mekko Brent Smith and the Business Committee elected on October 18, 2025.

The Thlopthlocco Tribal Town will continue to pursue lawful and peaceful measures to protect the Nation's sovereignty, governmental integrity, and the rights of its citizens.



Mekko Brent Smith
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town King
mekkosmith@ttown.org

