

## Official Decision of the Election Committee Regarding the Election Held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

According to the Election Ordinance, which pertains to all elections of the Nation, the Election Committee is the elected body governing the general and special elections of the Catawba Nation.

Given this authority, the Election Committee has voted to void the election results from the election held during the Special General Council meeting on October 5, 2024.

This decision was made by the Election Committee in response to challenges to the online verification and voting process. During our research of these challenges, the Committee discovered that 45 individuals registered for the virtual option to attend the General Council meeting but did not receive the voting link for the General Council meeting due to not completing the verification process. It is the opinion of the Election Committee that this discrepancy was due in part to the lack of timely notice by the Election Committee of the verification process, which was not included on the initial mailout outlining the Special General Council meeting details.

Pursuant to Section 12.03 of the Election Ordinance, an election may only be declared void if the Election Committee determines that irregularities in the election process were so grave that they affected which candidate prevailed in the vote. According to the Election Ordinance, another election shall be called within 90 days of the declaration. Because the Election Committee has determined that 45 votes could have impacted the outcome of the election, the Committee has voted to void the October 5, 2024 election results and move forward with holding another election within 90 days of this announcement.