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**David Sickey Elected as Chairman of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana**  
*Inauguration Ceremonies to Take Place Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

**ELTON, LOUISIANA (June 3, 2017)** – The Sovereign Nation of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana elected David Sickey as its new Chairman after a run-off election between Sickey and the incumbent Chairman, Lovelin Poncho. Sickey was elected by an overwhelming 55% of the vote. Following the vote count, Sickey gave the following statement:

“I prepared a short speech for the close of this day – and, I should clarify to you all here tonight that I had only one speech to grab – win or lose. It's a small paragraph I labeled: The Victory Speech.

To be honest, I didn't know if I would stand before you tonight as your newly elected Tribal Chairman or if I would be congratulating our current Chairman. What I DID know is that no matter the outcome of this election, tomorrow morning I'd wake up, love my family, and serve our community to the BEST of my ability. That will NEVER change. THAT is the GREATEST victory in my life – the opportunity to work for the strongest community of people, my people.

And because of your trust and your confidence in me, tomorrow I'll wake up and do those things as YOUR Tribal Chairman. There aren't words in ANY language to thank you for this gift you have given me. What there is, though – is

ACTION each and every day that I pray to GOD is a constant show of my gratitude and honor to all of you and your families.

I want to thank all of you, again, and also our current Chairman. I pray God's blessing upon us. ALL of us. We are an US. Many roles, One Community.”

David Sickey is currently serving in his fourth term as a Member of the Tribal Council, presently serving as the Tribe's Vice-Chairman. Sickey will be sworn in and will assume the role of leader of the Coshatta Tribe at the Tribal Inauguration Ceremonies to be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at 10:00am. Also being sworn in that morning will be Jonathan Cernek, who was re-elected last weekend to his second term as a Tribal Council Member, and Loretta Williams, who was elected to her first term as a Tribal Council Member. The newly elected Chairman and Council Members will both serve four-year terms.

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### **About the Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana**

*After many years and hardships, including being illegally “terminated” without legislation during the Eisenhower administration, the Coshatta Tribe was officially re-recognized by the United States Government in 1973 and marked a major turning point in tribal history in 1985 with the election by popular vote of the first Coshatta tribal government.*

*From their earliest days as a proud, hard-working people struggling to maintain long-standing traditions in the face of possible relocation, the Coshatta Indians have endured and overcome every hardship they have faced and have remained on tribal lands in and around Elton, Louisiana, since the 1800s. Despite serious setbacks and some population dispersal, the tribe's character and ideals have not only held fast, but have been strengthened. The Coshatta language, Koasati, is still spoken as a first language in the Coshatta community today.*

*The Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana owns and operates Coshatta Casino Resort, which employs more than 2,700 area residents. For more information about the Tribe, visit [www.koasatiheritage.org](http://www.koasatiheritage.org). For more information about the Coshatta Casino Resort, visit [www.coshattacasinoresort.com](http://www.coshattacasinoresort.com).*