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BIA Pulls A Fast One With New Secretarial Election Rule

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The Bureau of Indian Affairs recently announced its final rule regarding Secretarial elections for federally recognized tribes. The final rule purports to clarify how tribes may remove IRA constitutional provisions requiring Secretarial elections for constitutional amendments.

The BIA claims that its new rule furthers tribal self-governance and self-determination. That may be true, at least absent tribal chicanery. The BIA also claims that this rule protects urban Indian voting rights. But in reality, the rule does no such thing.