

WAGANAKISING ODAWAK STATUTE 1997006

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Election Ordinance

1.0 Purpose

This election ordinance is to establish the procedures and regulations to govern elections for Tribal Council under the Interim Constitution of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians recognized as the Interim Governing Document for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians under the provisions of PL 103-324.

2.0 Definitions

2.1 The titles "Board of Directors" and "Tribal Council" are used interchangeably and denote the same governing body.

2.2 The titles "President" and "Tribal Chairperson" are used interchangeably and denote the same tribal official.

2.3 The titles "Board Member" and "Council Member" are used interchangeably and denote the same tribal officials.

2.4 The "Tribe" shall mean the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

2.5 PL 103-324 shall mean "The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Act and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Act" as signed into law on September 21, 1994.

3.0 Duration

All provisions of this ordinance will remain in effect until such time as this ordinance is superseded by a subsequent action of the Tribal Council or by the initiative of members of the Tribe as prescribed in 25 C.F.R. Part 82. In any case, however, the provisions of this ordinance will only be in effect until the ratification of a constitution according to the provisions contained in PL 103-324 by the LTBB membership.

4.0 Election Board

4.1 To supervise the election on June 30, 1995 an Election Board consisting of 3 tribal

members, who are prohibited from being candidates in that election, will be appointed by the Tribal Council on April 23, 1995. This Election Board will supervise the election and shall issue such rules and regulations consistent with this election ordinance as it deems necessary to properly conduct the election. The terms of the Election Board members will expire after they certify and post the final election results, and swear in the newly elected members. The Election Board shall organize itself with a chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer. One Election Board member may serve as secretary and treasurer at the same time.

4.2 At least 60 days but not longer than 120 days prior to each subsequent regular or special election the Tribal Council will appoint an Election Board to fulfill duties as described within this ordinance.

4.3 The Election Board shall arrange for two impartial outside observers to monitor the election.

4.4 Election results will be considered final ten days after the preliminary election results are posted unless the results are protested. A person wishing to protest the results of an election must file their written protest with the Election Board within ten calendar days after the preliminary results are posted. The Election Board must act in a speedy and expedient manner on any protest received, in all cases reaching a decision within 30 days of the date of the filing of a protest.

4.5 If the election results are protested, stating a reasonable cause for the protest, they will be considered final only after the Election Board has considered the protest and reached a judgment on the protest.

4.6 Election Board members are to be sworn in under an oath prepared and administered by the Tribal Council.

5.0 Voting

Voting will be by secret ballot. All ballots will be counted and the preliminary results will be posted as soon as possible after the date of the election in a visible and publicly accessible manner at the tribal offices. The ballots will be counted by the Election Board in an open meeting.

6.0 Terms and Eligibility

6.1 To be eligible to run for Tribal Chairperson a person must be a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and be at least 18 years of age.

6.2 To be eligible to run for Tribal Council a person must be a member of the Little

Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and be at least 18 years of age.

6.3 In the June 1995 election the three Tribal Council candidates receiving the most votes will serve four year terms and the three candidates receiving the next most votes will serve two year terms. The candidate for Tribal Chairperson who receives the highest number of votes will serve a four year term. In subsequent elections all terms will be for four years.

6.4 The terms of office start on the day of the first regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting after the election results are declared final and end at the first Tribal Council meeting after the results of the next election for that office are declared final. In no case is the duration of the interval between the final declaration of election results and the next Tribal Council meeting to be longer than 30 days.

6.5 No person convicted of a criminal charge comparable to a felony in a court of competent jurisdiction within the seven years preceding an election will be eligible to run for elected office on the Tribal Council in that election, provided this section shall not apply to changes resulting from treaty protected activity. If any member of the Tribal Council is convicted of a criminal charge comparable to felony, with the previously stated exception, during their term on the Tribal Council their position on the Tribal Council will be considered vacant.

6.6 If a person holding office ceases to meet the eligibility requirements for that office the position held by that person will be declared vacant by the Tribal Council at the next regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting.

6.7 In the case of vacancies in any position the Tribal Council may appoint a tribal member to fill the vacancy after providing reasonable notice of the vacancy to the Tribal membership. A special election must be called within 60 days to fill further vacancies if two of the sitting Tribal Council members are sitting by appointment. An appointee must meet the eligibility requirements for the vacant position and the appointee's term will be the remainder of the term of the person being replaced.

6.8 A tribal member may not run for the offices of Chairperson and Tribal Council member in the same election.

6.9 The Election Board will conduct the swearing in ceremony at the meeting when the newly elected members take office.

7.0 Nominations

Nominations for candidates will be by petition. To become a candidate a tribal member must file a petition for candidacy signed by at least 25 people eligible to vote in the

election. A tribal member may sign more than one nominating petition. These petitions will be prepared by the Election Board and will be mailed to each adult enrolled member of the tribe at least 60 days prior to the June 30, 1995 election. In all subsequent elections the petitions will be prepared by the Election Board and will be available at the tribal offices at least 60 days prior to an election. The petitions must be submitted to the tribal offices at least 40 days prior to the date of the June 30, 1995 election and at least 40 days prior to all subsequent elections. Candidates shall have the opportunity to submit a written statement with their petitions on a form prepared by the Election Board. The Election Board shall obtain, and inform the Tribal membership of, the official address for election purposes.

8.0 General Tribal Election.

8.1 Balloting for this election will be by mail.

8.2 All members of the tribe 18 years of age or older by the date of the election will be eligible to vote provided they meet the qualification to vote as contained within the Interim Constitution. A person who has a membership card approved ninety (90) days prior to an election will be considered to have met the criteria of registering to vote three months before the election as required under the provisions of the Interim Constitution.

8.3 Ballots will be mailed 30 days before the election to the address on file in the tribal office for each adult member of the tribe. All ballots will be sent with a stamped self addressed envelope and must be returned to the tribal office by 7:00 pm on the day of the election. Ballots will be kept under the supervision of the Election Board in sealed containers from the time of their receipt until the beginning of the meetings at which they are to be counted.

8.4 Counting of ballots will be done by the Election Board and will be conducted in a meeting open for observation to all tribal members who wish to attend. The Election Board shall provide the Tribal membership notification of the time and location of this meeting.

9.0 Subsequent Elections.

Regular elections will be held every two years after the date of the 1995 election. Special elections may be called by the Tribal Council to fill vacancies pursuant to Section 6.7 of this ordinance.

10.0 Severability

If any part of this ordinance shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid the remaining portions of this ordinance will remain in full effect notwithstanding such declaration.

Certification

As Tribal Chairman and Tribal Secretary, the undersigned certify that this Election Ordinance was duly enacted by the Tribal Council of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians at a regular meeting of the Tribal Council held on May 18, 1997, at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions as recorded by this roll call.

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
George Anthony	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Patricia Dyer-Deckrow	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Frank Ettawageshik	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Barry Laughlin	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Shirley Oldman	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Janet Shomin	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Alice Yellowbank	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____

Date: 5-18-97

Frank Ettawageshik, Tribal Chairman

Barry Laughlin, Tribal Secretary