

Chapter 1. Election Board

3.101 PURPOSE

The Election Board conducts all general and special elections and adopts rules and regulations governing elections. This Statute repeals and replaces Waganakising Odawak Statute 2010-019 and previous Statutes WOS 2004-06 and 2006-026 and any and all previous Statutes.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section I)

3.102 AUTHORITY

- A.** The Election Board is an independent entity created by the Constitution and shall be adequately funded to fulfill its purposes.
- B.** The Election Board shall have the authority to employ their own staff to fulfill their duties.
- C.** The Election Board shall prepare and present an annual budget directly to the Tribal Council for funding which will be based on the need to fulfill its duties.
- D.** The Election Board shall conduct all general and special elections.
- E.** The Election Board shall adopt rules and regulations governing elections. These rules may be amended as needed; however, no amendments to such rules and regulations can take effect while an Election is in progress. Such rules and regulations shall be posted on the Tribal website and within the Administrative/Governmental building.
- F.** The Election Board shall adopt rules and regulations governing Regular, Special and Emergency meetings, minutes and phone-polls. These rules may be amended as needed; however, no amendments to such rules and regulations can take effect while an Election is in progress. Such rules and regulations shall be posted on the Tribal website and within the Administrative/ Governmental building.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section II)

3.103 COMPOSITION, APPOINTMENTS, OATH OF OFFICE, VACANCIES, AND REMOVAL OF ELECTION BOARD

A. Composition

1. The Election Board shall be nominated by the Chair and appointed by Tribal Council and shall consist of five (5) enrolled Tribal Citizens, eighteen (18) years of age or older who meet the voting eligibility requirements.
2. Two or more members of the same immediate family, as defined in the Constitution, shall not serve on the same Election Board at the same time. Although not included in the constitutional definition of immediate family, Citizens related as son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and persons who reside within the same household of the member cannot serve on the same Election Board at the same time.
3. Election Board Officers - The Election Board shall organize itself with a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary/Treasurer.
4. Election Board members cannot be candidates for any Tribal elected position while serving on the Election Board.

B. Appointment and Terms

1. The initial appointment of the Election Board will be for staggered terms consisting of two (2) two year terms and three (3) four year terms. The terms thereafter shall be for four (4) years.
2. There shall be no limit on reappointment.
3. Election Board members shall serve on no more than two (2) Tribal Boards or Commissions simultaneously.
4. Members will serve until their successors are appointed and sworn in.

C. Oath of Office

1. Election Board Members are to be sworn in under an oath of office prepared and administered by the Tribal Court within thirty (30) days of their appointment.
2. Election Board members shall be subject to the Constitutionally Mandated Rules of Conduct for Officials of Tribal Government.

D. Vacancies

In the event a vacancy occurs on the Election Board by virtue of death, resignation, or removal, the Chair shall nominate and the Tribal Council shall appoint a Tribal Citizen who meets the eligibility requirements for the remainder of the unexpired term.

E. Removal of Members of Election Board Upon presentation of a petition signed by at least one hundred (100) members alleging neglect of duties or intentional wrongdoing, and a hearing where the accused is afforded proper due process, the Judiciary may remove Election Board members for good cause.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section III)

3.104 OATH OF OFFICE

At the first regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting, at least thirty (30) days following the Election Board's certification of the election results, the Tribal Court shall conduct the swearing in ceremony for the newly elected Officials. Incoming elected Officials terms shall commence, and outgoing Council members' terms shall expire, upon such swearing in.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section IV)

3.105 AUTHORITY TO REQUEST INFORMATION

The Election Board shall have the authority to request from the Tribal Enrollment Department a list of enrolled Tribal Citizens who have or will have attained the age of eighteen by the Election Date. The list of Tribal Citizens organized in alphabetical order or as nearly so as possible, must include their names, enrollment numbers and addresses as current at the time the list is being issued.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section V)

3.106 FRIVOLOUS CLAIMS, FILINGS AND LAW SUITS

All claims, filings and law suits arising out of the Constitutional provisions regarding Election and Election Board, this statute, the Tribal Election Regulations or the Election Board Policies and Procedures, for which has been clearly and convincingly shown that have been prosecuted in bad faith for purposes of harassment only, and that there was no reasonable expectation of success on the part of the affirmatively claiming party, shall be liable for reasonable attorney fees incurred in the defense of said frivolous claim, filing or law suit.

(Source: 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section VI)

3.107 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL OFFENSES AND PENAL PROVISIONS

A. Conflict of Interest

An Election Board member shall recuse him or herself from any certification involving an immediate family member as defined in the Constitution. An Election Board member shall also recuse him or herself from any certification involving a son-in-law or daughter-in-law, or any members of the same household.

B. Bribery of Electors

It is unlawful to knowingly give, cause to be given, or promise to be given, any money to any person as reimbursement for money, or other thing of value, spent by such person in whole or in part for a benefit at any Tribal election; provided, however, that it shall not be unlawful for any candidate personally or through an agent to provide transportation of any voter to the polls.

C. Coercion of Elector

It is unlawful to make use of force, or to request another person to use or threaten force, in order to influence any person's vote in any election, or to prevent any person from voting in any election.

D. Intimidation of Tribal Citizen Employees by Employer

1. It is unlawful for any employer to threaten a Tribal Citizen employee with dismissal from employment, reduction of pay, loss of seniority, transfer, or less favorable working conditions, for the purpose of influencing such employee to vote or refrain from voting, or to vote for any particular person in any Tribal Election.

2. As used in this section the term “employer” means any entities, or natural persons and their agents, employing Tribal Citizens, including contractual relationships, over which the Tribe may properly exercise criminal jurisdiction.

E. Interference With or Corruption of Election Officer

It is unlawful for any persons to offer or give a bribe, money or any other unduly benefit, to any member of the Election Board, or to influence or attempt to influence any of said officers in the performance of their official duties by means of force, or threats or promise of any nature.

F. Violation of Duty by Election Board

It is unlawful for any member of the Election Board to knowingly and willfully fail or neglect any duty under any part of this statute in the manner prescribed by this statute, or to accept any money or other thing of value from any candidate or from anyone acting or purporting to act on behalf of any candidate. Members of the Election Board shall not endorse any candidate while performing duties under this statute.

G. Tampering With Election Ballots

It is unlawful for persons to tamper with election ballots, tallies, voting materials, or any compilation summaries, or totals of voting results by destroying, defacing, writing on, changing marks or totals, on any such ballots or voting materials or results.

H. Use of Tribal Resources

It is unlawful for any Tribal employee over whom the Tribe may properly exercise criminal jurisdiction to interfere with any Tribal Election campaign by using Tribal resources to actively and overtly encourage and support any candidate, by allowing a candidate access to confidential information, or by providing any candidate any service or thing of value.

I. Penalties

A person convicted of an offense under this section may be sentenced to a jail term not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days or to a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or to both.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section VII)

3.108 AMENDMENTS

A. The Election Board may make recommendations to the Tribal Council regarding future amendments to this Statute.

B. No amendments to this Statute can take effect while an election is in progress.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section VIII)

3.109 SAVINGS CLAUSE

In the event that any phrase, provision, part, paragraph, subsection or section of this Statute is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to violate the Constitution, laws or ordinances of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, such phrase, provision, part, paragraph, subsection or section shall be considered to stand alone and to be deleted from this Statute, the entirety of the balance of the Statute to remain in full and binding force and effect.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section IX)

3.110 EFFECTIVE DATE

Effective upon signature of the Executive or thirty (30) days from Tribal Council approval whichever comes first or if the Executive vetoes the legislation, then upon Tribal Council override of the veto.

(Source: WOS 2012-020, November 15, 2012, Section X)