Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin Legislative Reference Office

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Memorandum

TO: Legislative Operating Committee FROM: Lynn A. Franzmeier, Staff Attorney

DATE: June 19, 2013

RE: Election Law and Comprehensive Policy Amendments Re: Boards, Committees

and Commissions Members

Proposed changes to the Election Law and the Comprehensive Policy Governing Boards Committees and Commissions would prohibit Tribal members from (1) running for more than one elective seat per election; (2) serving on more than one Board, Committee or Commission; or (3) serving as a member on any Board, Committee or Commission while employed by the Tribe.

Running for More than One Elective Seat per Election

During the 2002 General Election, fourteen candidates ran for more than one elective seat on the ballot. Twelve candidates ran for 2 seats; one candidate ran for 3 seats and one candidate ran for 4 seats. Only two of those candidates won more than one seat. One candidate won a seat on the Oneida Gaming Commission and won the Tribal Chair seat – the candidate declined the Oneida Gaming Commission seat. The other candidate won a seat on the Trust/Enrollment Committee and on the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging. That candidate did not decline either seat.

In 2005, twelve candidates ran for more than one seat during the General Election – eleven candidates ran for 2 seats and one candidate ran for 3 seats. Only 1 candidate won more than 1 seat. That individual won a seat on both the Trust/Enrollment Committee and on the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging. Neither seat was declined.

In 2008, fourteen people ran for more than one seat - twelve candidates ran for 2 seats and 2 candidates ran for 3 seats. Three people won 2 seats and no candidate declined any seat that he or she won. The multiple winning candidates won seats on the Oneida Gaming Commission and Land Claims Commission; Trust/Enrollment Committee and Oneida Nation School Board; and the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging and Land Claims Commission.

In 2010, the Election Law was amended to prohibit individuals who run for a seat on either the Oneida Business Committee or a judicial court or commission from running for more than one seat in an election. During the 2011 General Election, only 2 people ran for more than one seat on entities other than the Oneida Business Committee or the Oneida Appeals Commission. Each candidate ran for two seats and neither candidate won more than one seat.

Limiting Tribal Members from Serving on More than One Board, Committee or Commission or on Any Board, Committee or Commission while Employed by the Tribe

There are currently 155 available seats on twenty-one different boards, committees and commissions. From the information provided, it has been determined that there are 19 individuals who serve on more than one Board, Committee or Commission. Thirteen of those individuals serve on 2 Boards, Committees or Commissions and six individuals serve on 3 Boards, Committees or Commissions.

In July 2012, GTC voted down a referendum question to prohibit Tribal employees from serving on Boards, Committees or Commissions. Currently, there are approximately 55 Tribal employees² who serve on a Board, Committee or Commission. Seven of those Tribal employees serve on 2 Boards, Committees or Commissions; and two Tribal employees serve on 3 Boards, Committees or Commissions.

The proposed amendments would prohibit individuals from serving in multiple seats, whether appointed or elected, and would prohibit employees from serving in any elected or appointed seat. It is unclear what impact these amendments will have on the Tribe's Boards, Committees and Commissions.

Conclusion

Since the 2010 amendments to the Election Law, there has only been one General Election, however, there was a significant reduction in the number of Tribal members who ran for more than one seat during that election. The proposed amendments would prohibit all individuals from running for more than one seat during an election; prohibit all individuals from holding more than one election or appointed seat at the same time; and prohibit Tribal employees from holding an elected or appointed seat.

¹ This does not include individuals who serve on a Tribal Corporate Board and on another Tribal Board, Committee or Commission or on more than one Tribal Corporate Board.

^{2 &}quot;Tribal employee" includes those individuals who are employed by a Board, Committee or Commission, such as ONCOA and/or individuals who are serving as political appointees for the OBC. There are currently 6 Tribal employees who fall into this category. "Tribal employee" does not include those individuals who are required to serve on a Board, Committee or Commission as part of their job requirements or who serve on a Tribal Corporate Board.

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin - Legislative Operating Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

Topic: Amendments to the Oneida

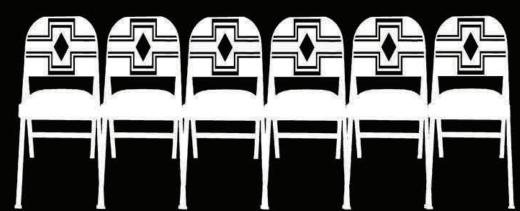
Election Law

When & Where:

Thursday, July 18, 2013 at 12:15 p.m.

OBC Conference Room

Second Floor, Norbert Hill Center—Oneida, WI



Summary of the Proposal

The Amendments limit Tribal members to serving 2 consecutive terms per position; limit Tribal members to run for 1 elective seat per election; prohibit any Tribal member from serving in more than 1 any elected or appointed position at any given time; prohibit Tribal members from being Tribal employees while serving on an elected board, committee or commission; and include enforcement provisions for campaign violations. The Amendments also:

- Update the duties of the Election Board.
- Streamline the caucus process by making the Election Board, instead of the Business Committee responsible for calling a caucus and decreasing the time frame for when a caucus can be held.
- Clarify where campaign activities can occur.
- Require a polling site be located on the Reservation and in Milwaukee.
- Require video surveillance of all ballots and voting devices when the polls are open.
- Allow voters to have one person of their choice assist them with marking their ballots.
- Allow election observers and set out requirements regarding the observers' actions.
- Require the Election Board to document election day incidents and other irregularities and include them in a report to the Business Committee.
- Increase the time frame for filing a challenge of the election results from 10 to 30 days. Amends the section on "Referendums" to clarify the parameters and process for referendum questions to be placed on a ballot

The Public Meeting materials, including the draft proposal, legislative analysis and any other relevant documents, will be made available at the Public Meeting, or can be obtained in advance through the Legislative Reference Office. The Public Meeting materials are also available on the Tribal Website at:

https://oneida-nsn.gov/PublicHearings.aspx

Public Comment Period:

June 27, 2013 to July 25, 2013

Those who cannot attend the Public Meeting may submit written comments regarding this legislative proposal. Those who attend the Public Meeting may also submit written comments and/or a written transcript of their testimony from the meeting. All written submissions must be received by the last day of the Public Comment Period.

To submit written comments, obtain a copy of the Public Meeting documents, or learn more about the public meeting process, please visit or contact the Legislative Reference Office, located on the second floor of the Norbert Hill Center, Oneida WI.

Mail:

Legislative Reference Office PO Box 365, Oneida, WI 54155

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Chapter 2 1 2 ONEIDA ELECTION LAW 3 On<yote>a=k@= Tho Ni= Y%t Tsi> <yethiyatal@ko Tsi> Kayanl^hsla People of the Standing Stone how it is we will appoint them the kind of laws we have 4 2.1. Purpose and Policy 2.7. Election Date Determination and Polling Locations 2.8. Registration of Voters 2.2. Adoption, Amendment, Repeal 15 16 17 2.3. Definitions 2.9. Election Process 2.4. Election Board 2.10. Closing Polls and Securing Ballots 10 2.5. Candidates Eligibility 18 2.10. Tabulating and Securing Ballots 11 2.11. Election Outcome and Ties 2.7. Notice of Polling Places 2.12. Elections Referendums 2.6. Campaigning

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Analysis by the Legislative Reference Office

Amendments to the Election Law (Law) were requested by Oneida Business Committee (OBC) Member Vince DelaRosa. The Election Law was first adopted by General Tribal Council (GTC) through Resolution #07-06-98-A and amended through GTC Resolution #01-04-10-A.

Overview

The purpose of this Law is to establish and govern all the procedures for the conduct of orderly Tribal elections, including caucuses, nominations and challenges. The Policy of the

Oneida Tribe that write-in candidates are not allowed in Oneida elections. *See 2.1-1*. This is consistent with the current Law.

Policy Considerations

The following are policy decisions made by this draft proposal:

- Limiting Tribal members to serving two terms per position, with a one-term waiting period before the Tribal member could reassume that position.
- Limiting Tribal members to run for only one elective seat per election.
- Prohibiting any Tribal member from serving in more than any one elected or appointed position at any given time.
- Prohibiting any Tribal member from being a Tribal employee while serving on an elected BCC position.
- Unclear enforcement provisions

Two Term Limit

Summary of Law				
Purpose	To govern all procedures used in			
	the election process. Creation			
	law for Election Board.			
Authorized	Election Board, Enrollment			
Entities	Dept., Oneida Police, Tribal			
	Secretary, Zoning			
	Administrator, Judiciary			
Policy	Candidate Caucus/petition			
Mechanism	application process, Eligibility			
	determination, Registration of voters, Restricting of actions by			
	procedural rules			
Enforcement	Tribal employees disciplined			
Mechanism	under Personnel Policy, removal			
	of Election Board members,			
	none for voter fraud			
Due Process	Hearing for candidate eligibility,			
	voter eligibility, Can appeal			
	election results to Judicial			
	System			

Amendments will limit a Tribal member to serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms in any one elected position, and a one-term waiting period is required before that person may seek to be re-elected to that specific position, but in the meantime the Tribal member may run for any other seat. In the adopting resolution, there will be a grandfather clause to allow all elected persons serving in an office on the effective date of this amendment shall have their current term counted as their first term regardless of the number of terms previously elected to that office. See 2.5-3.

Alternates for the Election Board, who are appointed by the OBC, do not appear to be affected by this new provision. However, the new Boards, Committees and Commissions Law (BCC Law) does prohibit appointment to the same seat for more than two consecutive terms, so alternates may be affected by that provision. *See* 2.4-2(c) and the BCC Law.

One Position Limit

The amendments add a new rule which states that a person shall not be eligible to run for more than one elective office or seat per election. *See* 2.5-4.

No Tribal member can serve in more than one position

Amendments will also limit a Tribal member's ability to serve in other offices. In order to become a candidate, a Tribal member cannot be serving on any other Tribal board, committee or commission or Tribal corporate board as an elected or appointed official, unless the applicant agrees that, if elected, he or she will resign from any other Tribal board, committee or commission or Tribal corporate board, prior to taking the oath of office. *See* 2.5-2(d).

No Tribal Employees can hold Elected Office

Amendments will also limit a Tribal member to serve the Tribe either in elected office or as a Tribal employee, but not both. Candidates elected to any position must resign from any position with the Tribe effective prior to taking an oath of office. This provision includes any full-time, part-time, seasonal, temporary or other employment position with the Tribe. See 2.5-2(e) and 2.11-9.

Unclear Enforcement Provisions

The proposed Law includes enforcement provisions for campaign violations for candidates and employees. There are unclear enforcement provisions for Election Board members and no provisions for voter fraud.

Amendments will require Election Board members to report and document any irregularities to the Election Board Chair. The Election Board Chair is required to create a report based on that information and immediately forward the report to the OBC, Oneida Law Office, and the entire Election Board. See 2.4-1(a)(7) and 2.11-6.

Election Board members may be removed from the Election Board for violations of this law. The proposed law will require the Removal Law process for violations by elected members. There is no clear process for the termination of appointed alternates who are accused of violating this Law, other than the termination of appointment provisions in the Comprehensive Policy that states that a two-thirds vote of the entire OBC is required. *See 2.4-4 and the Comprehensive Policy 6-5*.

Summary of Law

Election Board

The amendments include a statement of authority giving the Board the duty and power to implement the Law. *See 2.4-1*.

Duties for members include candidate eligibility, voter registration, implement and report on elections, attend Board meetings, promulgate rules and regulations, and report election irregularities, suspicious conduct and violations. Although duties are specifically listed for the members, there are other duties listed throughout the Law. See 2.4-1(a).

Specific duties are listed for Board officers and roles during elections. See 2.4-1(b).

The amendments retain the composition of the Board at nine members with the terms remaining three years. The Board Bylaws currently state there are twelve members and need to

be updated to reflect the change that was made in current Law¹.

Members are prohibited from serving more than two consecutive terms. This is consistent with the current Law and with the proposed two-term limit for all Boards, Committees and Commissions. An unspecified number of additional Members can be appointed by the OBC as recommended by the Board. Changes will allow Tribal members in the Milwaukee area to be considered to serve as alternates for the Milwaukee polling site. *See* 2.4-2(c).

Members will be required to recuse themselves from the Board activities when running for any elective office or an actual or perceived conflict of interest exists. *See 2.4-3*.

The elected Members will be subject to the removal provisions in the Removal Law. An Alternate Member will be subject to termination of appointment in accordance with the Comprehensive Policy. The proposed Law retains the provision if a Board member is removed he or she will be ineligible to serve on the Board for three years from the date of removal. *See* 2.4-4 and 2.4-6.

The OBC will be responsible for filling any vacancy based on the need for another Board member at the time and the balance of an unexpired term. See 2.4-5.

For meetings, Members will be compensated by a \$50 stipend in accordance with the Comprehensive Policy, Article 11-3. During elections, Members will be compensated at an hourly rate of \$10 in accordance with the Election Board Bylaws, section 2.8. Enrollment Department personnel and Oneida Police Officers will be required to be compensated at their regular rate of pay from their respective budgets. *See* 2.4-7 and 2.4-8.

Candidate Eligibility

The proposed Law will prohibit Tribal members from seeking more than one elective office per election. Amendments will also prohibit Tribal members from serving on more than one elected or appointed position of a Tribal board, committee, commission or Tribal corporate board. This Law allows Candidates to be eligible to run for office if holding a position but must resign from that office prior to taking the oath of office for another position. The current law allows Tribal members to run and be elected to multiple elected offices on the same ballot, except for the OBC member and judicial officer positions. *See* 2.5-4 and 2.5-2(d).

Amendments will prohibit Tribal members from serving more than two consecutive terms in any one seat. After a one-term waiting period, a Tribal member can seek and hold elected office for a previously held position. Nothing prohibits a Tribal member from running for a different elected office after terming out of another elected position. *See* 2.5-3.

Amendments will add a disclosure requirement regarding conflict of interests as defined in the Comprehensive Policy. The provisions state that a conflict can exist up to 30 calendar days of the election, at which time the conflict must be eliminated. *See* 2.5-5.

Caucus

The Board will be responsible for calling a caucus instead of the OBC. See 2.5-6(a).

The general election caucus, which includes the OBC offices and any other needed boards, committees, and commissions positions, will be required to be held at least 60 days prior to the election date. This is decreased from 90 days in the current law. During non-general election years, the boards, committees, and commissions caucus will be required to be held at least 45 days prior to the election date. See 2.5-6(a).

¹ Oneida Election Board Bylaws, February 25,2009

145 Petition process

 Amendments will change the deadline for the Tribal Secretaries office from the next business day following the close of petition submissions to six business days to forward the petition to the Board Chairperson. See current law 2.6-3 and 2.5-6(c)(1).

All names of candidates and positions sought will be public record after submitting a completed application or petition form to the Tribal Secretary's Office. *See* 2.5-7.

Eligibility Determination

The Election Board determines if an applicant is eligible to be a candidate. The Board provides written notification to the applicant of their eligibility. The Election Board is required to notify each applicant of his or her eligibility for a position by certified mail, return receipt requested. If an applicant is not eligible, the amendments provide two business days from the receipt of certified mail for the applicant to appeal to an Election Board hearing body. *See* 2.5-9.

Campaigning

This Law allows campaign contributions be accepted from enrolled Tribal members, or individuals related by blood or marriage to the candidate. Candidates will be prohibited from accepting contributions from any type of business entity, including corporations. Tribal members are prohibited from soliciting or accepting contributions in or on any Tribal office, business or facility, with specific exceptions:

- A lot of land not owned by the Tribe
- Any residential dwelling
- A privately-owned business
- A Tribal office, business, or facility or any portion of one, which is reserved for the specific purpose of holding a campaign fund raiser. This provision would enable soliciting and accepting contributions at locations where people gather and community events are regularly held, such as the Parish Hall, Library and Tribal businesses of the Thornberry Creek at Oneida and the Radisson Hotel. See 2.6-1.

Campaign Signs

The current and proposed law specifically prohibited campaign signs from being posted or erected on any Tribal property, unless the owner/tenant has given the Candidate permission. Signs may be posted on private property, and all signs are required to be removed within five business days of the primary or regular election. The Zoning and Shoreland Protection Ordinance 69.11-7(a) states that on private property "the person responsible for erection or distribution" of a sign or the property owner shall remove the signs. In addition, no more than seven campaign signs can be placed on a building or lot. The proposed amendments require the Zoning Administrator to cause non-complying signs to be removed. See 2.6-2

All persons are prohibited from campaigning at any Tribal office, business, or facility and within 280 feet of the voting area. Amendments will provide for campaigning to occur at a Tribal facility during a campaign event after normal Tribal business hours that all candidates were given equal notice and opportunity to participate. Campaigning can also occur on land not owned by the Tribe, a privately owned business and any residential dwelling on Tribal land. See 2.6-3(a) and (b).

The provisions for violations of campaign restrictions will be subject to a fine in accordance with 2.6-4, as in the current law.

Election Date Determination and Polling Locations

The GTC will be required to set elections in July on a date determined at the GTC annual

meeting or the first GTC meeting that occurs in January. The OBC is authorized to set special election dates as recommended by the Board or as ordered by the Appeals Commission. Amendments specify that special elections, including those for all boards, committees and commissions, must follow this Law. See 2.7-1 and 2.7-3.

The proposed Law will establish the primary election date as 30 calendar days, instead of 45 days, prior to the election. *See* 2.7-2.

Amendments require that one polling site is located on the Reservation and that one polling site is located in Milwaukee in a Tribal facility. *See* 2.7-4.

The Election Board will be required to provide notice no less than 10 calendar days before the election in three ways: posted in public locations; published in Tribal newspaper; and mailed to all qualified voters. *See* 2.7-5.

Registration of Voters

Amendments will require voters to physically register to vote at a polling location by presenting a picture identification to the Oneida Enrollment Department personnel. Enrollment staff will be responsible for verifying Tribal enrollment. If there is a question about the eligibility of a Tribal member being able to vote, the Election Board Judge will make a decision based on the facts available. If a person is not determined to be ineligible to vote, they will be allowed to vote and their ballot will be secured in an envelope, and not counted until the Election Board makes a final decision on the eligibility. The person will be required to submit a written appeal to the Election Board within two business days of the election to challenge their ineligibility. The Election Board will have five days to make a final decision. Amendments clarify that if the person is found to be a qualified voter, his or her ballot will be included in the final ballot count. *See* 2.8-4.

Election Process

All elections will be required to begin at 7:00 a.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. and any voters in line at 7:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote. *See* 2.9-1.

Video surveillance will be required for ballot counting machines from the time the polls open until the votes are tabulated. A chain of custody record is required to be maintained for every memory card or device that stores the voting record, as well as for any video surveillance footage of the election. Ballots, devices which store the voting record, and any video surveillance footage of the election are required to be placed in a secured location until the election has been declared finalized. Any person failing to properly document chain of custody will be subject to a fine or disciplinary action. See 2.9-1(b) and (c).

Police Officers will be required at all polling sites. Amendments specify that Tribal members serving as police officers in Milwaukee will be considered first for the Milwaukee polling site. Amendments will require the Election Board budget to pay expenses for non-Tribal Police Officers that work the election. *See* 2.9-2 and 2.4-8.

Amendments will allow one additional person to assist any voter with marking their ballot in the voting booth. See 2.9-4.

Election Observers

Any Tribal member, except a candidate, will be able to observe all or part of the election. The Election Board may restrict the number and access of the observers within the polling site and/ or vote count/recount location. The Election Board will be required to designate the area for observers so they can see all the public aspects of the voting process, including the vote count or recount. Observers may be removed if that Tribal member disrupts the operation of the polling

site, vote count or recount. Activities that will be prohibited include talking about candidates or referendum questions to other people or on the phone; wearing clothing or buttons about candidates or referendum questions; recording video or taking pictures inside the polling area during voting hours; or any action that could be considered interacting with voters. *See* 2.9-5 and 2.11-4.

Amendments include the requirement for a poll list that records the number of voters at each polling location. Each ballot will be required to be counted and initialed by two Members just before voter enters the voting booth. The tally of the voters on the poll list must match the number of votes cast with any discrepancies immediately reported to the OBC in the final report. See 2.9-5 and 2.9-6.

The Ballot box must be locked and properly sealed with ballots placed in the counting machine as the ballots are received. All voters will be allowed a certain amount of privacy while putting a ballot in the counting machine but their ballot may be observed by a Member or Police Officer. *See* 2.9-8.

A ballot will be spoiled if there are not two initials from Members. A voter must be given a new ballot if he spoils his/her ballot. Once spoiled, a ballot will be marked "VOID," initialed by two Members, put into an envelope and stored for 15 calendar days following the final decision of a challenged election. *See* 2.9-10.

Ballots rejected by the computer-counting machine will be reviewed by Members for authenticity. If the rejected ballot is due to mutilation, it may be add to the final computer total, as long as the voter did not receive a new ballot. If the rejected ballot is an illegal or not an official ballot, it will be marked "VOID," and place in a sealed container labeled "Rejected Ballots." See 2.9-11.

Tabulating and Securing Ballots

Amendments will require that all votes be tabulated at the polling location and that the vote tallying be recorded by videotaping. If there are unforeseen circumstances, tabulation may occur at a location other than the polling site, with the ballots being transported in a sealed container accompanied by a Police Officer and at least three members. The Election Board will be responsible for the secure transportation of the ballots from the Milwaukee polling site. See 2.10-1(b).

On the election day, a Police Officer will be required to move locked and sealed ballots to a predetermined location for storage, rather than the Records Management Department for retention. *See* 2.10-4.

Election Outcome

The tentative results of an election shall be announced and posted by the Election Board within 24 hours after the closing of the polls. *See* 2.11-1.

Ties

If an election results in a tie, an automatic recount of the ballots will be required. Except for any OBC positions, if the recount tally still results in a tie a winner, then the winner will be determined through a lot drawing. Any ties within OBC positions, whether officers or council members, will result in a run-off election to be held within 21 calendar days after the recount. This section was revised in format only and the content remains the same as the current Law. *See* 2.11-3.

Recounts

Formatting and additional details were added to the section regarding recounts. This

section was revised in format only and the content remains the same as the current Law. See 2.11-4.

Challenges

Amendments change the period for a challenge of the results of an election from 10 calendar days to 30 days after the election. A qualified voter must file a complaint with the Tribe's judicial system to challenge election results. The Tribe's judicial system will be required to hear and make a decision on the challenge within two business days. An appeal may be made within one business day of the lower body's decision and the Tribe's judicial system will have two business days to make a final decision. If the election is invalidated, the Tribe's judicial system is authorized to order a special election to be held for those offices affected. See 2.11-6.

Final Report on the Election

The Board will send the Final Report on the election to the OBC immediately after the period for recounts and challenges has elapsed. The amendments add that the accounting of all ballots - including the number of spoiled, rejected and valid ballots, and any reports generated which document any irregularities, suspicious conduct or violations of the Election Law which occurred during the election - are required information within the final report. The OBC will be required to declare the official election results within 10 business days after receiving the final report from the Board. A new provision adds that the final report and statement are required to be kept by Records Management as the official election file. See 2.11-7 and 2.11-8.

Referendum

Provisions were added to clarify the parameters and process for advisory referendum questions to be placed before GTC during elections. Parameters include wording the referendum question as one single question regarding a proposal to amend, create or repeal all or any portion of an existing or proposed law or policy. Amendments will require the referendum question to be submitted to the Election Board at the caucus with signatures of ten endorsees. The referendum question will be placed on the next available ballot once determined to meet requirements. *See* 2.12-2, 2.12-3, and 2.12-5(a).

After the election, the Board will forward the results of the advisory referendum to the OBC who must report the determination to act or not act on the question to the GTC. After reporting to the results to GTC, no further action will be required. See 2.12-5.

Definitions

Amendments to the definition of "Election" specify the types of elections including primaries, general, special and other elections to elect Tribal members to the OBC, Tribe's judicial system, a board, committee or commission and/or to vote on a referendum question. A definition was added for "petition form" and "Tribal member." "Oneida Market" replaced the Tsyunhehkwa retail store in the definition of "prominent locations." *See* 2.3-1(i) and (o).

Effective Date

The Law does not specify an effective date so the provisions of the Legislative Procedures Act would apply and the effective date would be 10 days after the date of adoption of the resolution. *See 16.9-3*.

Public Hearing

A public meeting has not been held.

Submitted by: Taniquelle J Thurner, Legislative Analyst Legislative Reference Office 325326

ONEIDA ELECTION LAW

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2.1. Purpose and Policy

- 2.1-1. It is the <u>policypurpose</u> of <u>the Tribe that</u> this law <u>shallto</u> govern the procedures for the conduct of orderly Tribal elections, including pre-election activities such as caucuses and nominations. Because of the desire for orderly and easily understood elections, there has not been an allowance made for write-in candidates on ballots.
- 2.1-2. This law defines the duties and responsibilities of the candidates and potential candidates for elected office, Election Board members and other persons employed by the Oneida Tribe in the conduct of elections. It is intended to govern all procedures used in the election process.

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2.2. Adoption, Amendment, Repeal

- 2.2-1. This law was adopted by the Oneida General Tribal Council by resolution #GTC 7-06-98A and amended by resolution #GTC-01-04-10-A- and ... The amendments
 adopted by resolution #GTC-01-04-10-A- shall be effective January 4,
 341 2010.
- 2.2-2. This law may be amended or repealed by the Oneida General Tribal Council pursuant to the procedures set out in the Oneida Administrative Legislative Procedures Act by the Business Committee or the Oneida General Tribal Council. Actions of the Election Board regarding amendments to this law and policies adopted regarding implementation of this law are to be presented to the Business Committee who shall then adopt or forward action(s) to the General Tribal Council for adoption.
- 2.2-3. Should a provision of this law or the application thereof to any person or circumstances be held as invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this law which are considered to have legal force without the invalid portions.
 - 2.2-4. Any law, policy, regulation, rule, resolution or motion, or portion thereof, which directly conflicts with the provisions of this law is hereby repealed to the extent that it is inconsistent with or is contrary to this law. In the event of a conflict between a provision of this law and a provision of another law, the provisions of this law shall control.
 - 2.2-5. This law is adopted under authority of the Constitution of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

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2.3. Definitions

- 2.3-1. This section shall govern the definitions of words and phrases used within this law. All words not defined herein shall be used in their ordinary and everyday sense.
- 361 2.3-2.(a) "Alternate" shall mean an individual appointed by the Business Committee to serve on the Election Board during an election and until election results have been certified.
 - 2.3-3.(b) "Applicant" shall mean a potential candidate who has not yet been officially approved for acceptance on a ballot.
- 366 2.3-4.(c) "Business day" shall mean Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. -to 4:30 p.m., excluding Tribal holidays.
- 368 2.3 5.(d) "Campaigning" shall mean all efforts designed to influence Tribal members to support or reject a particular Tribal candidate including, without limitation, advertising,

rallying, public speaking, or other communications with Tribal members.

- 371 Candidate" shall mean a petitioner or nominee for an elected position whose name is placed on the ballot by the Election Board after successful application.
- 373 Clerk" shall mean the election official an Election Board member who identifies proper registration for the purpose of determining voter eligibility.
 - 2.3-8.(g) "Close of business" shall mean 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
 - 2.3-9.(h) "Conflict of Finterest" shall mean any interest, whether it be personal, financial, political or otherwise, in which a Tribal elected official, employee, consultant, appointed or elected, member of any board, committee or commission, or their immediate relatives, friends or associates, or any other person with whom they have contact, that conflicts with any right of the Tribe to property, information, or any other right to own and operate its enterprises, free from undisclosed competition or other violation of such rights of the Oneida Tribe, or as defined in any law or policy of the Tribe.
 - 2.3 10.(i) "Election" shall mean every primary and, general election, special election and other election held to elect Tribal members to the Business Committee, Tribe's judicial system, a board, committee or commission and/or to vote on a referendum question.
 - 2.3-11.(j) "General election" shall mean the election held every three (3) years in July to elect the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and the five Council Mmembers of the Business Committee and may include contests for elected boards, committees and commissions positions on a board, committee or commission and/or the Tribe's judicial system.
 - 2.3-12.(k) "Judge" shall mean the election official Election Board member who informs and advises the Chairperson of makes determinations when discrepancies, complaints and controversy regarding voter eligibility arise.
 - 2.3 13.(1) "Lot drawing" shall mean the equal chance method used to select a candidate as the winner of an elected position, in the case of a tie between two (2) or more candidates.
 - 2.3-14. "Oneida (m) "Petition form" shall mean the form approved by the Business Committee or General Tribal Council to enable a Tribal member who was not nominated at a caucus to become a candidate in an upcoming election.
 - (n) "Police Officer" shall mean an enrolled Tribal member of the Oneida Tribe of Indians who is a police officer on any police force.
 - 2.3 15. "Private property" shall mean any lot of land not owned by the Tribe, a residential dwelling or a privately owned business within the boundaries of the Reservation.
 - 2.3-16.(o) "Prominent locations" shall mean the <u>main doors of: the polling places</u>, <u>main doors of the Norbert Hill Center</u>, <u>main doors of the Oneida Community Library</u>, <u>Tsyunhehkwa Retail Store</u>, <u>the Oneida Market</u>, Oneida Community Health Center, <u>the Southeastern Wisconsin Oneida Tribal Services</u> (SEOTS) building and all One-<u>Stop locationsStops</u>.
 - 2.3-17.(p) "Qualified voter" shall mean an enrolleda Tribal member who is 21 years of age or olderqualified to vote in accordance with the Oneida Tribal Constitution Article III, Section 2.
- 413 | 2.3 18.(q) "Rejected Bballots" shall mean those a ballots which are is rejected by the vote tabulating machine.

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l	contains	a	voter		 _

- 415 2.3-19.(r) "Spoiled Bballot" shall mean a ballot which contains a voter error of otherwise marred and is not tabulated.
- 417 2.3-20.(s) "Teller" shall mean the election official Election Board member in charge of collecting and storing of all ballots.
- 419 2.3 21.(t) "Tribal" or "Tribe" shall mean the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.
- 420 (u) "Tribal member" shall mean any person whose name appears on the official rolls of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.
 - (v) "Tribal newspaper" shall mean the Kalihwisaks, or any other newspaper operated by the Tribe for the benefit of transmitting news to Tribal members which is designated by the Election Board as a source for election related news.
 - 2.3-22. "Tribe" means the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

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2.4. Election Board

- Section A2.4-1. Establishment, Composition and Election
- 429 2.4 1 <u>Authority</u>. An Election Board is hereby created for the purpose of carrying and shall have the duty and power to carry out the provisions of this law and Article III, Sections 2 and 3 of the Oneida Constitution.
- 432 Section B. Duties of the Election Board
 - 2.4-9. The Election Board shall have the following duties, along with other responsibilities listed throughout this law.
 - (a) In addition to other duties and responsibilities listed throughout this law, Election Board members shall:
 - (a1) The Election Board shall bBe in charge of all registration and election procedures; and
 - 2.4 6. The Election Board shall (2) Review the qualifications of each applicant to verify eligibility to be placed on a ballot;
 - (3) iIdentify tellers, judges and clerks in advance of an election:
 - (4) Be present at all Election Board meetings;
 - (b<u>5</u>) Upon completion of an election, the Election Board shall m<u>M</u>ake a final report on the election results as set out in this law upon completion of an election.
 - (6) Promulgate rules and regulations governing all elections, not in conflict with the provisions of this law, in accordance with Tribal law; and
 - (7) Immediately document any irregularities, suspicious conduct, or violations of this law and report them to the Election Board Chairperson, The Election Board Chairperson shall create a report based on this information and immediately forward said report to the Business Committee, Oneida Law Office and the entire Election Board.

Section C. Specific Duties of Officers and Election Board Members

- 2.4 10.(b) Specific duties of the <u>Election Board</u> Chairperson and other Election Board members, in addition to being present at all Election Board meetings and assisting the handicapped through the voting process, are as set out herein:
 - (a1) Chairperson: Shall preside over meetings of the Election Board; shall select polling place judges, shall select the an Election Board hearing body for applicants found to be ineligible in accordance with 2.5-6 in the event of an appeal; in accordance with 2.5-10 as needed; shall oversee the conduct of the

election; shall dismiss the alternates and Oneida Enrollment Department personnel when their election day duties are complete; and shall post and report election results.

- (b2) Vice-Chairperson: Shall preside over all meetings iIn the absence of the Chairperson, shall conduct all Chairperson duties.
- (e3) Secretary: Shall keep a record of <u>all the Board</u> meetings and make them available to the Tribal Secretary, other Election Board members and the public as required in the Open Records and Open Meetings Law.
- (d4) Clerks: Shall implement the requirements of identifying and registering all voters and determining voter eligibility. Clerks shall work in conjunction with the Oneida Enrollment Department personnel in the registration process, and assist the Chairperson as directed in conducting the election. Clerks cannot be currently employed by the Oneida Enrollment Department.
- (e5) Tellers: Shall collect and keep safe all ballots, until the election is complete, as determined by this law. Shall assist the Chairperson in conducting the election. (f6) Judges: Shall inform and advise the Chairperson of all aspects of the election conducted under this law. In case of disputes among Election Board members, or
- between Tribal members and Election Board members, or any controversy regarding voter eligibility, the Judge(s) shall assist the Chairperson in making make a determination as to the voter's eligibility. The Judge(s) shall also ensure that all ballots of voters whose eligibility may be in question, remain confidential.
- 2.4-2. *Composition.* The Election Board shall consist of nine (9) elected members.
- (a) All Election Board members shall be elected to terms of three (3) years, not to exceed two (2) consecutive terms.
 - 2.4 8.(b) Officers. The Election Board shall choose a Chairperson from amongst themselves as set out in the By lawsbylaws of the Election Board, to preside over the meetings. This selection shall be carried out at the first meeting of the Election Board following an election. The Chairperson shall then ask the Election Board to select a Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.
 - 2.4-7(c) Alternates. The Business Committee may appoint or reappoint a sufficient number of alternates to the Election Board, as recommended by the Election Board, to assist with election day and pre-election activities provided that Tribal members in the Milwaukee area shall be considered to serve as alternates for the purpose of serving at the Milwaukee polling site.
- 2.4-3. *Recusal*. An Election Board member shall recuse himself/herself from participating as an Election Board member in any pre-election, election day, or post-election activities while he or she is a petitioner, applicant or candidate <u>infor</u> any <u>electionelected position</u> or <u>where</u> there is otherwise <u>aan actual or perceived</u> conflict of interest.
- 2.4-4. Removal-and Termination of Appointment. Violation of this law may result in an elected Election Board member being removed from the Election Board. Removal of elected Election Board members shall be pursuant to the Oneida Removal Law. Tribe's removal law. A member or alternate who was appointed by the Business Committee shall be subject to a termination of appointment in accordance with the Tribe's law governing boards, committees and commissions.
- 503 2.4-5. *Vacancies*. Any vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the Business Committee for the balance of the unexpired term. The filling of a vacancy may be

- 505 timed to correspond with the pre-election activities and the needs of the Election Board.
- 506 Section D. Compensation Rates
- 507 2.4-11. Election Board members are to
- 508 <u>2.4-6 Any Election Board member or alternate</u> who is removed from the Election Board or has his or her appointment terminated shall be ineligible to serve on the <u>Election Board for three</u> (3)
- years from the time he or she is removed from the Election Boardor has his or her appointment
- 511 terminated [LF1].
- 512 2.4-67. Election Board members shall be compensated at an hourly rate when conducting elections as provided for in the Election Board's bylaws as approved by the Business Committee.
- The Election Board shall have a budget, approved through the budgeting process of the Tribe.
- 515 2.4-128. The Oneida Enrollment Department personnel and Police Officers from the Oneida
- Police Officer(s) Department shall be compensated at their regular rate of pay out of their
- respective budgets. Police Officers from departments other than the Oneida Police Department
- shall be compensated out of the Election Board's budget.

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2.5. Candidates Eligibility

- Section A. Requirements
- 2.5-1. In addition to any specific requirements and/or exceptions set out in duly adopted by-laws or other documents, all applicants shall meet the minimum requirements set out in this section in order to become a candidate.
 - 2.5-2. *Minimum Requirements*. In order to be eligible to be a candidate, <u>an</u> applicants shall:
 - (a) be an enrolleda Tribal member, as verified by membership rolls of the Tribe.
 - (b) be a qualified voter on the day of the election.
 - (c) provide proof of physical residency as required for the position for which they have been nominated or for which they have petitioned. Proof of residency may be through one (1) or more of the following:
 - (1) a valid Wisconsin driver's license;
 - (2) a bill-or, pay-check stub-, or other form of proof showing name and physical address of the candidate from the prior or current month;
 - (3) another form of proof that identifies the candidate and that the candidate has physically resided at the address and which identifies that address as the candidate's primary residence.
 - (d) not be serving on any other Tribal board, committee or commission or Tribal corporate board whether elected or appointed. Provided that said applicant may be allowed to run for an elected seat but shall be required to agree to resign from any other seat he or she holds on a Tribal board, committee or commission or Tribal corporate board prior to taking the oath of office.
 - (e) not be employed by the Tribe. Provided that said applicant may be allowed to run for an elected seat but shall be required to agree to resign from his or her position with the Tribe prior to taking the oath of office.
 - 2.5-3. A person may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive full terms in any one (1) seat. A minimum period equivalent to one (1) term shall lapse in order for a prior member to be eligible for another term in the same seat for the same office. Nothing shall bar a person from seeking

election for a different seat or office.² 548 549 2.65-4. A person who runs for a position on the Oneida Business Committee, or a position on a judicial court or commission, shall not shall not be eligible to run for more than one (1) elective 550 office or seat per election. 551 552 2.5-5. An applicant shall disclose any and all possible conflicts of interests in accordance with the Comprehensive Policy Governing Boards, Committees and Commissions. An applicant shall 553 not 2.5-3. No applicant may have a conflict of interest with the position for which they arehe or 554 she is being considered, provided that any conflict of interest which may be eliminated within 555 556 thirty (30) calendar days of being elected shall not be considered as a bar to nomination or election. 557 558 2.5-4. Applications and petitions where the applicant was not nominated during caucus shall be filed by presenting the information to the Tribal Secretary, or designated agent, during normal 559 business hours, 8:00 to 4:30 Monday through Friday, within five (5) business days after the 560 caucus. No mailed internal Tribal mail delivery, faxed or other delivery method shall be 561 562 accepted. 2.6. Selection of Candidates 563 Section A. Setting of Caucus 564 565 2.5-6. Becoming a Candidate. 2.6-1.(a) The Election Board shall be responsible for calling notice and call a caucus 566 before any election is held to nominate candidates to be placed on the ballot for an 567 upcoming election. In a general election year, caucuses shall be combined so that 568 candidates for the Business Committee, Tribe's judicial system and elected boards, 569 committees and commissions are nominated at the same caucus. 570 571 (1) The caucus for the general election shall be held at least ninetysixty (960) calendar days prior to the election date. 572 (2) Caucuses for other elections shall be held at least forty-five (45) calendar 573 574 days prior to the election date. $\frac{2.6-2.(3)}{2.6}$ The procedures for the caucus shall be as follows: 575 (aA) Candidates shall be nominated from the floor. 576 (bB) Candidates present at the caucus will-shall accept or decline their 577 nomination at the caucus. Candidates nominated at the caucus, but not 578 579 present to accept the nomination or declining a nomination, shall be required to follow the petition process. 580 (c) Nominations shall consist of the following positions: Chairperson, 581 Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Council Member and other 582 elected positions as required by by-laws or creating documents of a board, 583 committee, or commission. 584 (4) A Tribal member who accepts a nomination at a caucus shall file a completed 585 application in accordance with 2.5-6(c) within five (5) business days after the 586

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caucus.

Section B. Petition

² In accordance with Resolution X, all elected persons serving in an office on the effective date of this amendment shall have their current term counted as their first term regardless of the number of terms previously elected to that office.

- 589 2.6-3.(b) Any eligible Tribal member, who did not accept a nomination at a caucus, may petition to be placed on the ballot according to the following procedures: for an upcoming election.

 592 (a) Each petitioner, not nominated at caucus, shall file a petition containing endorsee's
 - (a) Each petitioner, not nominated at caucus, shall file a petition containing endorsee's original signatures; photocopies shall not be accepted.
 - (b) Petitioners shall use an official petition form as designated by this law which may be obtained in the Tribal Secretary's Office or from the mailing for that caucus.
 - (c) The petition form shall consist of each endorsee's:
 - (1) A completed petition form shall be filed in accordance with 2.5-6(c), within five (5) business days after the caucus and shall have no less than ten (10) signatures which shall consist of each endorsee's:
 - (1A) printed name and address;
 - (2B) date of birth;
 - (3C) Oneida Tribal Enrollment Number; and
 - (4<u>D</u>) <u>original signature by the endorsee; a photocopied or faxed signature shall not be accepted.</u>
 - (d) Petitioners shall obtain not less than ten (10) signatures of qualified voters as defined under this law.
 - (e) Petitions shall be presented to the Tribal Secretary, or designated agent, during normal business hours, 8:00 to 4:30 Monday through Friday, but no later than prior to close of business five (5) business days after the caucus. The location to drop off petitions shall be identified in the mailing identifying the caucus date.
 - (c) A completed application and petition form, if required, shall be filed in person with the Tribal Secretary, or designated agent, during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. An application and petition form shall not be accepted as filed if it was mailed, sent by internal Tribal mail delivery, faxed or delivered by any other method.
 - (£1) The Tribal Secretary shall forward all petitions forms to the Election Board Chairperson the next business day following the close of petition submissions no later than six (6) business days after the caucus.
 - (g2) The Election Board shall have the Oneida Enrollment Department verify all signatures contained on the petition forms.
 - 2.5-57. The names of the candidates an applicant and the positions sought shall be a public record and made available to the public upon the determination of eligibility by the Election Board or the Board's designated agentfiling of an application and petition form, where applicable, in accordance with 2.5-6(c).
 - Section B. Eligibility Review

- 2.5-8. The Election Board shall be responsible for reviewing the qualifications of each applicant to verify eligibility.
- 2.5-79. The Election Board shall notify each applicant of his or her eligibility for a position by certified mail return receipt requested.
 - (a) Any applicant found to be ineligible for a nominated or petitioned for positionshall be notified by certified mail return receipt requested. An applicant shall have two (2) business days from receipt of notification to appeal to a hearing body created in accordance with 2.5-10. An appeal shall be filed by hand delivery at the location

designated on the notice. The location designated shall be on the Reservation. No mailed, internal Tribal mail, faxed or other delivery method will be accepted.

- (b) The notice shall provide the following information:
 - (a1) Position for which they were the applicant was considered.
 - (b2) Qualification of the position and citation of the source. (Copies of source may be attached.)
 - (e3) A bBrief summary explaining whywhether the applicant was found to be incligible and, if not, why.
 - (d4) That the applicant has two (2) business days from notification to make an appeal. Appeals must be filed at the location designated on the notice by hand delivery. The location designated shall be on the Reservation. No mailed, internal Tribal mail, faxed or other delivery method will be accepted. Instructions and deadlines on appealing the decision in accordance with (a).
- 2.5-610. *Hearing Body*. Applicants found to be ineligible shall have two (2) business days to request an appeal. At least four (4) Election Board members, selected by the Chairperson, shall constitute a hearing body. The Chairperson shall select the hearing body. The hearing shall be held within two (2) business days of receipt of the appeal. The applicant shall be notified by phone of the time and place of the hearing. The decision of the hearing body shall be sent to the applicant via certified mail or hand delivery within two (2) business days of the hearing. Any appeal from a decision of the Election Board hearing body shall be to the Oneida Appeals Commission Tribe's judicial system on an accelerated schedule and in compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act.
- Section D. Candidate Withdrawal

- 2.5-10 Any candidate may withdraw his or her name from a ballot if submitted in writing by the candidate prior to submission of the ballot for printing to any Election Board member, excluding alternates.
- 2.5-11 After printing of the ballot, any candidate may withdraw his or her name from the election by submitting in writing a statement indicating they are withdrawing from the election prior to the opening of the polls to any Election Board member, excluding alternates. This statement shall be posted alongside any sample ballot printed prior to the election in the newspaper or any posting at the polling places.
- 2.5-11. Request to be Removed from the Ballot. A candidate may request to be removed from the ballot by submitting a written statement to any Election Board member, excluding alternates. If the written statement requesting to be removed from the ballot is received:
 - (a) Prior to the submission of the ballot for printing, the candidate's name shall be excluded from the ballot;
 - (b) After ballots have been printed but prior to the opening of the polls, the candidate's written statement shall be posted alongside any sample ballot printed prior to the election in the Tribal newspaper and alongside any sample ballot posted at the polling locations; or
 - (c) 2.5-12. Candidates withdrawing after opening of the polls shall request, in writing to the Election Board members in charge of the polling place, to be removed from the ballot. The After the polls are open, the candidate's written statement shall be posted next to any posted sample ballot posted at the polling locations.
- 2.5-132. Candidates withdrawing A candidate who withdrew by any method listed herein shall

be denied any position from which they have he or she has withdrawn regardless of the number of votes cast for that candidate. A written statement shall be considered the only necessary evidence of withdrawal and acceptance of denial of any position withdrawn from.

Section C2.6. Campaigning

- 2.6-1. Campaign Financing
- 2.5-8. Contributions:

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- (a) Solicitation of Contributions by Candidates. (1) Candidates (a) A candidate shall only accept contributions from individuals who are members of the Tribe or individuals related by blood or marriage to the candidate.
- (b) Candidates may not accept contributions from any business, whether sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or other business entity.-
- (2) Candidates shall not solicit or acceptc) All persons, including candidates and employees of the Tribe, shall be prohibited from soliciting or accepting contributions for a candidate in or on the property of any Tribal office-or, business, or facility, excluding the following:-
- (b) Fines. Violation of the contribution restrictions shall result in a fine imposed by the Election Board in an amount specified in a resolution adopted by the Business Committee.
 - (1) a lot of land not owned by the Tribe;
 - (2) any residential dwelling;
 - (3) a privately owned business; or
 - (4) a Tribal office, business or facility or any portion thereof which is reserved for the specific purpose of holding a campaign fund raiser.
- 2.6-2.5-9. Campaign Signs and Campaigning:.
 - (a) Placement of A campaign signs shall not:
 - (1) Campaign signs shall not be posted or erected on any Tribal property except for private property with the owner/tenant's permission.
 - (2) No campaign sign shall exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area. A maximum of seven (7) such signs may be placed on a building or on a lot.
 - (3) No campaign sign shall pProject beyond the property line into the public right of way.
 - (b) Removal of campaign signs. All campaign signs shall be removed within five (5) business days after an election. <u>Candidates not advancing after a primary shall cause</u> their campaign signs to be removed within five (5) business days after the primary.
 - (dc) Enforcement. The Zoning Administrator shall cause to be removed any campaign signs that are not in compliance with this law, in accordance with the Zoning and Shoreland Protection Law.
- 2.6-3. Where Campaigning may Occur.
 - (a) All persons, including candidates and employees of the Tribe, are prohibited from engaging in campaigning for a candidate at any Tribal office, business, or facility, except that persons may campaign in a Tribal facility during a campaign event occurring after normal Tribal business hours in which all candidates were given an equal notice and opportunity to participate.
 - 2.9-6.(b) No campaigning of any type shall be conducted within two hundred eighty

(280) feet of the voting area, excluding private property any lot of land not owned by the Tribe, any residential dwelling or a privately owned business.

2.6-4. *Violations*.

- (ea) Fines. Violation of the campaign sign restrictions shall result in Any person who is in violation of 2.6 shall be subject to a fine imposed by the Election Board in an amount specified in a resolution adopted by the Business Committee.
- (eb) Employees of the Tribe shall not engage in campaigning for Tribal offices during work hours. A Tribal employees shallmay be subject to disciplinary action under the personnel policies and procedures for political campaigning during work hoursif campaigning in violation of this section during Tribal business hours or during a work shift in which a salary or wage is received.

2.7. Election Date Determination and Polling Locations

2.97-1. In accordance with Article III, Section 4 of the Tribal Constitution, elections shall be held in the month of July on a date set by the General Tribal Council. The General Tribal Council shall set the election date at the January annual meeting, or at the first GTCGeneral Tribal Council meeting held during a given year. Special Elections shall be set in accordance with 2.12-6.

Section A. Primary Elections; Business Committee

2.12 1.2.7-2. *Primary Election*. When a primary is required under 2.12 2(a), it shall be held on a Saturday at least sixty thirty (630) calendar days prior to the election.

- 2.12-2.(a) There shall be a primary election for Business Committee positions whenever there are three (3) or more candidates for any officer position or sixteeneleven (161) or more candidates for the at large council member positions. $\frac{3}{2}$
- 2.12 3.(b) The Election Board shall cancel the primary election if <u>none of</u> the Business Committee positions <u>did not draw drew</u> the requisite number of candidates for a primary by the <u>petitioning</u> deadline set for the primary.
- (ac) The two (2) <u>primary</u> candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for each officer position shall be placed on the <u>general election</u> ballot.
- (bd) The <u>fifteenten</u> (150) candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for the <u>at-large Business Committee</u> council member positions shall be placed on the <u>general election</u> ballot.
- (ee) Any position where a tie exists to determine the candidates to be placed on the ballot shall include all candidates where the tie exists.

Section B. Special Elections

2.12 62.7-3. Special Election. Dates of all Special Eelections dates shall be set, as provided for in this law, by the Business Committee as recommended by the Election Board or as ordered by the Oneida Appeals Commission Tribe's judicial court or commission, shall not runsystem in connection with an election challenge. All special elections shall follow this Law and

³ October 11, 2008 GTC motion: Motion by Ed Delgado to amend the main motion that we adopt today the primary election portion of the proposal Section 2.12.b, seconded by Yvonne Metivier. Motion carried. Motion by Madelyn Genskow to defer the Election Law amendments to the GTC meeting on Saturday July 11, 2009, seconded by Linda Dallas. Motion carried.

procedures established for all other elections. This includes positions for all boards, committees and commissions.

Section D. Initiation of Special Elections

2.12 10.(a) Special Eelections may be initiated by a request or directive of the General Tribal Council or the Oneida Business Committee or may be submitted by a Tribal member to the Business Committee or General Tribal Council for consideration.

2.12-11. Special Election may be requested by a Tribal member to the Business Committee or General Tribal Council.

2.12-5.(b) Matters subject to a Sspecial Eelection, i.e., referendum, vacancies, petitions, etc., as defined in this law, may be placed on the same ballot as the subject matter of an election.

2.9-27-4. <u>Polling Location</u>. <u>Elections shall be held in Each polling site shall be located in an Oneida</u> Tribal facility(s) as determined by the Election Board; <u>provided that at least one (1) polling site shall be located within the Reservation boundaries and one (1) polling site shall be located in Milwaukee⁴.</u>

2.7. Notice of Polling Places 2.7-15. Notice. The Election Board shall post aprovide notice in of an election, which shall include the prominent locations, stating the location of the polling places and the time the polls will be open. This notice shall also be posted in an easily visible position, close to the entrance of Tribal businesses/facilities.date, all polling locations, and the polling times; said notices shall be:

2.7-2. (a) Posted in prominent locations. Polling information shall be posted no less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the election, and shall remain posted until the polls closes on the day of the election.

2.7 3. Except for a Special Election, notice for the election shall be mailed to all Tribal members, stating the time and place of the election and a sample of the ballot, no(b) Published in the Tribal newspaper.

(c) Sent to all qualified voters not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the an election, through a mass mailing. The Oneida Enrollment Department shall be notified, by the Election Board Chairperson, no less than twenty (20) calendar days prior to the requested mailing. Notices sent to qualified voters shall also include a sample ballot.

2.7-4. Notice of the election shall be placed in the Tribal newspaper.

2.12-4. In the event a candidate withdraws or is unable to run for office after being declared a winner in the primary, the Election Board shall declare the next highest primary vote recipient the primary winner. This procedure shall be repeated as necessary until the ballot is full or until there are no available candidates. If the ballot has already been printed, the procedures for notifying the Oneida public in section 2.5-11 and 2.5-12 shall be followed, including the requirement to print a notice in the Tribal newspaper if time lines allow.

2.12-82.7-6. In the event of an emergency, the Election Board may reschedule an election, provided that no less than a twenty-four (24) hours notice of the rescheduled election date is given to the voters, by posting notices in the prominent locations.

2.12-7. Notice of said Special Election shall be posted by the Election Board in the prominent locations, and placed in the Tribal newspaper not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the

⁴ BC Resolution 03-13-02-O established a Milwaukee Polling Site, provided for a police presence, appropriated funds for personnel costs, and provided for transmission of Milwaukee results.

805 | Special Election.

2.12-12. All Special Elections shall follow rules established for all other elections. This includes positions for all Boards, Committees and Commissions.

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2.8. Registration of Voters

- 810 | Section A. Requirements
- 811 2.8-1. Registration of Voters. All enrolled members of the Tribe, who are twenty-one (21) years
- of age or over, are qualified voters of such election(s) as defined in Article III, Section 2 of the
- 813 Oneida Tribal Constitution.
- 2.8-41. Oneida Enrollment Department personnel shall be responsible for verifying Tribal enrollment. Conduct of Oneida Enrollment Department personnel is governed by the Election Officials-Board members during the voting period.
- 817 Section B. Identification of Voters
- 2.8-52. Every person who intends Voters shall physically register to vote must signat a polling location by:
 - 2.8-2.(a) All voters must present: Presenting one of the following picture identifications in order to be able to vote to the Oneida Enrollment Department personnel:
 - (al) Tribal I.D;
 - (b2) Drivers License; or
 - (e3) Other government issued I.D. which contains a with name and photo.
 - (b) Signing histor her name on an official Voter Registration Form containing the voter's following information:, as approved by the Election Board.
 - (a) name and maiden name (if any);
 - (b) current address;
 - (c) date of birth; and
 - (d) enrollment number.
 - Section C. Registration Procedures
 - 2.8-3. Voters shall physically register, on the day of the election, at the polls.
- 833 Section D. Qualification/Verification of Voter Eligibility
 - 2.8 6. Should a question or dispute arise as to the eligibility of a voter being qualified to vote, the Judges of the Election Officials appointed by the Election Board Chairperson shall meet with the Enrollment Department personnel who are registering voters, to decide the voting member's eligibility currently being questioned and Judge(s) shall make such a decisions from the facts available, and determine whether the applicant is, in fact, a qualified/verifiable voter under the Oneida Tribal Constitution, Article III Section 2, to vote in tribal elections.
 - 2.8-74. Any voter denied eligibility individual deemed ineligible to vote shall be allowed to vote, provided that the ballot shall be placed in an envelope, initialed by two (2) Election Officials, Board members, appropriately sealed and numbered.
 - (a) The name of the voterindividual shall be written next to a numbered list which corresponds to the numbered and sealed envelope. The voter shall be required to mail a written appeal to the Election Board at P.O. Box 413, Oneida, Wisconsin, 54155, postmarked within two (2) business days of the election if they desire to challenge the decision made by the Election Officials. The Election Board shall make a final decision, within five (5) business days of receiving the appeal and shall report this decision to the individual and in the final report sent to the Oneida Business Committee.

(b) If the individual is deemed a qualified voter, his or her ballot shall be included in the final ballot count.

2.9. Election Process

Section A. Polling Places and Times

2.9-3.2.9-1. Voting for elections shall begin at 7:00 a.m. and shall end at 7:00 p.m. All voters in line to vote at 7:00 p.m. shall be allowed to vote.

- (a) If a ballot counting machine is used, the ballot counting machine shall be prepared prior to 7:00 a.m. on the day of the election. The Judges shall open the polls only after four (4) Tribal members and a Police Officer verify, through signature on the tape, the ballot box is empty and the ballot counting machine printer tape has a zero (0) total count. for every candidate and referendum. The zero count shall not be separated or removed from the ballot counting machine printer tape.
- (b) Video surveillance of the ballot counting machine shall be conducted from the time the polls open until the votes are tabulated.
- 2.9-4. (c) A chain-of-custody record shall be maintained for every memory card or device which stores the voting record and any video surveillance footage of the election. Further, all ballots, any device which stores the voting record and any video surveillance footage of the election shall be placed in a secured location until the election has been declared finalized in accordance with 2.11-8. All ballots, election equipment, and election specific supplies shall be appropriately inventoried, accounted for and stored at a Tribal facility with appropriate chain of custody documentation. Any person failing to properly document chain of custody shall be subject to a fine or disciplinary action.
- 2.9-2. At least one (1) Oneida Police Officer shall be present within each polling location during the time the polls are open, and until the counting of ballots is completed, and tentative results have been posted. Tribal members serving as local police in the Milwaukee area shall be considered first for offering their services at a Milwaukee polling site.
- 2.9-53. The Election Board shall provide a voting booth area sufficiently isolated for each voter such that there is an area with at least two (2) sides and a back enclosure.
- 879 2.9 7. No one causing a disturbance shall be allowed in the voting area.
 - 2.9-84. The Election Board members may restrict the voting booth and ballot machine area to qualified voters only. This restriction is in the interest of maintaining security and one (1) person of the ballots and each voter's choosing to provide assistance to the voter in marking the voter's ballot.
 - 2.9-5. A poll list shall be maintained by the Election Board which indicates the number of voters who vote at a particular polling location. At the close of the election, the number of votes on the poll list shall be compared to the number of votes cast. Discrepancies shall be immediately documented, resolved and reported to the Business Committee in the final report.
 - 2.9-6. Each ballot shall be initialed by two (2) Election Board members prior to the voter entering the voting booth. Ballots shall not be initialed in advance and shall be properly stored as to not allow the public access to uncast ballots. If a voter receives a ballot which has not been properly counted and initialed, the ballot shall be returned and the voter shall be provided a properly validated ballot.
 - 2.9-7. Election Observers.
 - (a) Any Tribal member of voting age, may be present at any polling place for the

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895	purpose of observing all or part of an election, except that:
896	(1) A candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall not be allowed to be an
897	election observer while the polls are open.
898	(2) A candidate shall be allowed to be present during any vote count or recount
899	occurring after the polls have closed.
900	(b) The Election Board may restrict the location of election observers to certain areas
901	within a polling place or vote count or recount location. The Election Board shall clearly
902	designate such an area as an observation area. Designated observation areas shall be so
903	positioned to permit an eligible election observer to readily observe all public aspects of
904	the voting process, including any vote count or recount.
905	(1) The Election Board may reasonably limit the number of election observers
906	who are permitted at a single polling place in order to ensure the safety of all
907	voters. Any limitations shall be applied on a first come first serve basis and
908	<u>uniformly.</u>
909	(c) The Election Board may order the removal of any election observer if that individual
910	commits an overt act which disrupts the operation of the polling place, vote count or
911	recount location. Specifically, an election observer is prohibited from the following:
912	(1) Having conversations about candidates or referendum questions.
913	(2) Making phone calls or using cell phones for voice calls inside the polling
914	<u>area.</u>
915	(3) Wearing clothing or buttons related to candidates or referendum questions.
916	(4) Recording video or taking pictures inside the polling area during the voting
917	<u>hours.</u>
918	(5) Interacting with voters.
919	Section B. Ballot Box
920	2.9-98. All ballots being votes, shall be placed in a receptacle clearly marked "Ballot Box" and
921	shall be locked and properly sealed until counting at the close of polls. Provided that, with
922	electronic ballot counting, the ballots may be placed within the ballot counting machine as
923	theythe ballots are received.
924	(a) All voters shall be allowed sufficient privacy of their ballot vote when placing a
925	ballot in a ballot machine, provided that the placement of the ballot in a ballot machine
926	may be observed by an Election Board member or Police Officer at a sufficient distance
927	in order to ensure the voting process is not being compromised.
928	2.9-9. The Election Board shall create a standardized form or log for documenting any election
929	day incidents, including but not limited to spoiled and rejected ballots, challenges, disturbances
930	and any other election irregularities.
931	Section C. 2.9-10. Spoiled Ballots
932	2.9-10. If a voter spoils his/her ballot, he/she shall be given a new ballot-upon return of the
933	spoiled ballot.
934	2.9 11.(a) If a ballot has not been initialed by two (2) Election Board members, it shall
935	be deemed spoiled.
936	(b) The A spoiled ballot shall be marked "VOID" and initialed by two (2) Election
937	Officials Board members and placed in an envelope marked as "Spoiled Ballots."
938	2.9 12.(c) The Spoiled Ballot envelope(s) containing the spoiled ballots shall be retained
939	and secured at the predetermined location for storage for no less than fifteen (15)

calendar days following finalization of any challenge of the election, at the Records Management Department.

Section D.2.9-11. Rejected Ballots

- 2.9 13. Rejected **Bb**allots are toshall be placed in a specially marked container and sealed.
 - (a) Computer rejected ballots shall be reviewed by the Election Officials Board members to verify the authenticity of the ballot. Ballots rejected because of mutilation shall be added to the final computer total, provided that, the voter was not given a new ballot was not received as set out in sections 2.9-10 through 2.9-12 upon return of the rejected ballot.
 - (b) Ballots rejected, either during the computer process or during a manual counting, shall be reviewed by the Election OfficialsBoard members to verify that they are authentic. If the Election OfficialsBoard members determine that the ballot is not an official ballot, or that it is an illegal ballot, the ballot shall be designated 'void,' VOID," and placed in a sealed container marked "VoidRejected Ballots."

2.10. Tabulating and Securing Ballots

Section A. Machine Counted Ballots

- 2.10-1. All votes shall be tabulated at the location where the votes were cast. The Election Board shall arrange for the video taping of the vote tallying at each polling location.
 - 2.10 4.(a) If the ballots need are required to be counted at a location other than the polling site due to unforeseen circumstances, the ballots shall be secured in a sealed container for transportation to the ballot counting location. The sealed ballots shall be transported by an Oneida Police Officer with at least three (3) of the Election OfficialsBoard members for counting/tallying of ballots.
 - (b) The Election Board Chairman and the Election Board members designated to serve at the Milwaukee polling site shall arrange for the secured transmission of the Milwaukee preliminary election results to the Oneida Reservation polling site.
- 2.10-12. When ballots are counted by machine, at the close of polls the Judges shall generate from the ballot counting machine copies of the election totals from the votes cast.
- 2.10 2. At least six (6) Election Board members shall sign the election totals, which shall include the tape signed by the Tribal members before the polls were opened perin accordance with section 2.9-31(a).

Section B. Manually Counted Ballots

- 2.10-3. When ballots are manually counted, at the close of polls the Judges shall unlock the ballot box and remove the ballots.
 - 2.10-5.(a) The sealed ballots shall be opened at the time of counting by the Election Officials Board members and witnessed/monitored by an Oneidaa Police Officer.
 - 2.10-6.(b) Ballots mustshall be counted by two (2) different Election Officials Board members until two (2) final tallies are equal in back to back counting. Final tallies shall be verified by the Election Judges. Judge(s).

Section C. 2.10-4. Securing Ballots

2.10-7. The Judges shall place together all ballots counted and secure them together so that they cannot be untied or tampered with without breaking the seal. The secured ballots, and the election totals with the signed tape, if applicable, shall then be secured by the Judges in a sealed container in such a manner that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seals or locks, or destroying the container. The Oneida Police Officer shall then deliver, on the day of

the election, the sealed container to the Records Management Departmenta predetermined location for retaining storage.

2.11. Election Outcome and Ties

Section A. Election Results Announcement

2.11-1. The tentative results of an election shall be announced and posted by the Election Board within twenty-four (24) hours after the closing of the polls. Notices of election results shall contain the following statement:

"The election results posted here are tentative results. Final election results are forwarded by the Oneida Election Board to the Oneida Business Committee via a Final Report after time has lapsed for recount requests, or challenges or after all recounts or challenges have been completed, whichever is longer"

2.11-2. The Election Board shall post, in the prominent locations, and publish in the Tribal newspaper, the tentative results of an election.

Section B. Tie

2.11-3. <u>Ties.</u> In the event of a tie for any office, and where the breaking of a tie is necessary to determine the outcome of an election, the Election Board shall conduct an automatic recount of the votes for each candidate receiving the same number of votes. Any recount conducted shall be the only recount allowed for the tied candidates.

2.11 4. For Business Committee positions, a run off election between(a) In the candidates with the same number of votes shall be held if event there remains a tie after the recount. Said run-off election shall be held within twenty one (21) calendar days after the recount. For all other positions, if there remains for any position except a tie after the recount Business Committee position, the Election Board shall decide the winner of the tied positions at least two (2) business days after, but no more than five (5) business days after the recount through a lot drawing, which shall be open to the public.

- (al) The Election Board shall notify each of the tied candidates and the public of the date, time, and place of the drawing at least one (1) business day before the drawing. Notice to the tied candidates shall be in writing. -Notice to the public shall be posted by the Election Board in the prominent locations.
- (b2) On the date and at the time and place the drawing was noticed, the Election Board Chairperson shall clearly write the name of each tied candidate on separate pieces of paper in front of any witnesses present. The pieces of paper shall be the same, or approximately the same, color, size, and type. The papers shall be folded in half and placed in a container selected by the Election Board Chairperson.
- (e3) The Election Board Chairperson shall designate an uninterested party to draw a name from the container. The candidate whose name is drawn from the container first shall be declared the winner. An Election Board member other than the Chairperson shall remove the remaining pieces of paper from the container and show them to the witnesses present.
- (b) In the event there remains a tie after the recount for a Business Committee position, a run-off election between the candidates with the same number of votes shall be held within twenty one (21) calendar days after the recount.

Section C. Recount Procedures

2.11-54. *Recounts*. A candidate may make one (1) request to the Election Board to complete for a recount, provided the margin between the requesting candidate's vote total and vote total for the unofficial winner was within two percent (2%) of the total votes for the office being sought or twenty (20) votes, whichever is greater. A candidate requests a recount by hand delivering a written request shall be in writing and shall be hand delivered to the Tribal Secretary's Office, or noticed designated agent, within five (5) business days after the election. Requests shall be limited to one (1) request per candidate. The Tribal Secretary shall contact the Election Board Chairperson by the next business day after the request for recounts a recount is received.

- 2.11 8.(a) The Oneida Police Officer shall be responsible for picking up the locked, sealed containers with the ballots from the Records Management Departmentstorage location and transporting it to the ballot recounting locations.
 - 2.11-9. The locked, sealed ballots shall be opened by the Election Board Chairperson, or designee and an Oneidaa Police Officer shall witness the recount.
 - (b) A recount shall be conducted by a quorum of the Election Board, including at least three (3) of the original Election Officials Board members who conducted the election.
 - 2.11-7.(c) All recounts shall be conducted manually with, if possible, the original Election Officials and Oncida Police Officer present, regardless of the original type of counting process. Manual recounts A recount may, at the discretion of the Election Officials Board members, be of the total election results, or of the challenged sub-section of the election results. A recount request need not be completed where two (2) recounts have already been completed of the whole election results, or of that sub-section.
 - 2.11-10. (d) Recounting of ballots may be performed manually or by computer regardless of the original type of counting process. All ballots shall be counted until two (2) final tallies are equal in back to back counting and the total count of ballots reconciles with the total count from the ballot counting machine. Sub-sections of candidates may be recounted in lieu of a full recount provided that, at a minimum, the recount shall include a recount of the requesting candidate's vote total and the applicable unofficial winner's vote total.
 - (a1) Manually counted ballots shall be recounted by the Election Board. Ballots shall be counted twice by different persons and certified by the Judges.
 - (b2) Computer counted ballots shall be recounted twice and certified by the Judges. Prior to using an electronic ballot counting device, it shall be certified as correct either by the maker, lessor of the machine, or Election Board.
 - (e) Any Tribal member of voting age, including any candidates, may be present at a ballot recounting location for the purpose of observing all or part of a recount in accordance with section 2.9-7.
 - 2.11-6 (f) The Election Board shall respond to the requesting candidate by the close of business on the fifth (5th) business day after thea request is received regarding the results of the recount. Provided that, no recount request need be honored where there have been two (2) recounts completed as a result of a request either as a recount of the whole election results, or of that sub-section.
- 2.11-5-14. Candidate Withdrawal After Winning an Election.
 - (a) In the event a candidate declines an office after winning an election, the Election Board shall declare the next highest vote recipient the winner. This procedure shall be repeated as necessary until a winner is declared.

1075 (b) If all vote recipients decline or are otherwise unable to be declared the winner, then a Sepecial Eelection shall be held.

Section D. Challenges and Declaration of Results

2.11—11.—2.11-6. Challenges. Any qualified voter may challenge the results of an election by filing a complaint with the Oneida Appeals CommissionTribe's judicial system within ten (10thirty (30)) calendar days after the election. The Oneida Appeals CommissionTribe's judicial system shall hear and decide a challenge to any election within two (2) business days after the challenge is filed. Any appeal to the appellate body of the Oneida Appeals CommissionTribe's judicial system shall be filed within one (1) business day after the issuance of the lower body's decision and decided within two (2) business days after the appeal is filed.

- (a) The person challenging the election results shall prove by clear and convincing evidence that the Election Law was violated or an unfair election was conducted, and that the outcome of the election would have been different but for the violation.
- (b) If the Oneida Appeals Commission Tribe's judicial system invalidates the election results, a Sspecial Eelection shall be ordered by the Commission Tribe's judicial system for the office(s) affected to be held on a date set by the Commission Tribe's judicial system for as soon as the Election Law allows for a Sspecial Eelection.
- 2.11-12. 7. The Final Report. The Election Board shall immediately forward a Ffinal Report and any statements that recorded the adding or counting of ballots to the Tribal Secretary after time has lapsed for recount requests, or challenges or after all recounts or challenges have been completed, whichever is longer. The Ffinal Report and the statement shall be kept by Records Management as the official election file, is an open record and shall consist of the following information:
 - (a) Total number of persons voting.
 - (b) Total votes cast for each candidate by subsection of the ballot.
 - (c) List of any ties and final results of those ties, including the method of resolution.
 - (d) List of candidates elected and position elected to.
 - (e) Number An accounting of all ballots, including the number of spoiled ballots, rejected ballots and validated ballots.
 - (f) Cost of the election, including the compensation paid to each Election Board member.
 - (g) Any reports generated which document any irregularities, suspicious conduct, or violations of this law that occurred during the election process.
- 2.11-138. Declaration of Results. The Within ten (10) business days after receipt of the final report, the Business Committee shall declare the official results of the election and send notices regarding when the swearing in of newly elected officials shall take place within ten (10) business days after receipt of the Final Report.
 - 2.11-15.(a) Except in the event of an emergency, as determined by the Business Committee, newly elected officials shall be sworn into office no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the official results of an election are declared by the Business Committee.
 - (a1) If a newly elected official is not sworn in within thirty (30) calendar days, the seat shall be considered vacant and the Election Board shall declare the next highest vote recipient the winner. This procedure shall be repeated as necessary until a winner is declared.
 - (b2) If all vote recipients decline or are otherwise unable to be declared the

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winner, then a Sspecial Eelection shall be held.

2.11-149. Candidates elected to the Business Committee shall resign from any salaried position outside of the Tribe or any full-time, part-time, seasonal, temporary or other employment position with the Tribe effective prior to taking a Business Committee oath of office. Candidates elected to any other position shall resign from any position with the Tribe effective prior to taking an oath of office.

2.11-160. The Election Board shall send a notice to the Records Management Department individual in charge of each storage location when to destroy the ballots, which shall be thirty (30) calendar days after the election or after the final declaration of official election results occurs, whichever is longer.

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2.12. Elections Referendums

Section C. Referendums

- 2.12 9. Registered voters may indicate opinions on any development, law or resolution, proposed, enacted, or directed by the Business Committee, or General Tribal Council, in a special referendum election.
 - (a) Referendum elections in which a majority of the qualified voters who cast votes shall be binding on the Business Committee to present the issue for action/decision at General Tribal Council.
 - (b) Referendum requests may appear on the next called for election.
 - (c) Referendum questions are to be presented to the Tribal Secretary, in writing, at the caucus prior to election, regarding issues directly affecting the Tribe or general membership.
- 2.12-1. Any Tribal member may submit an advisory referendum question seeking to accept or reject a proposal to amend, create or repeal all or any portion of an existing or proposed law of policy.
- 2.12-2. A referendum question shall be worded as one (1) single question so as an affirmative response indicates a desire for a change to an existing or proposed law or policy. The Legislative Operating Committee shall designate and notice a Tribal office or position that will assist Tribal members with the correct wording of a referendum question.
- 2.12-3. A referendum question shall be submitted to the Election Board at the caucus on a referendum form made available through the Tribal Secretary's Office. Each referendum question shall contain no less than ten (10) signatures from the endorsees and contain the following for each endorsee:
 - (a) printed name and address;
 - (b) date of birth;
 - (c) Oneida Tribal Enrollment Number; and
 - (d) original signature by the endorsee; a photocopied or faxed signature shall not be accepted.
- 1159 2.12-4. The Election Board shall have the Oneida Enrollment Department verify all signatures.
- 2.12-5. Advisory Referendum Question. An advisory referendum question shall be non-binding.
 (a) The Election Board shall place the advisory referendum question on the next available
- 1161 (a) The Election Board shall place the advisory referendum question on the next available ballot provided that the question meets the requirements for an advisory referendum question in accordance with this section.
 - (b) The Election Board shall forward the results of an advisory referendum to the

1165 Business Committee who shall fully consider the results and report the determination to act or not act on the question to the Oneida General Tribal Council. No further action is 1166 1167 1168 required. 1169 End. 1179 1173 Adopted - June 19, 1993 1174 Amended - June 28, 1995 (Adopted by BC on Behalf of GTC, Completion of Agenda) 1175 Presented for Adoption of 1997 Revisions - GTC-7-6-98-A 1176 Amended- October 11, 2008 (General Tribal Council Meeting) Amended-GTC-01-04-10-A 1177 1178

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6	2.1. Purpose and Policy	12	2.7. Election Date Determination and Polling Locations			
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2.1. Purpose and Policy

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- 2.1-1. It is the purpose of this law to govern the procedures for the conduct of orderly Tribal elections, including pre-election activities such as caucuses and nominations. Because of the desire for orderly and easily understood elections, there has not been an allowance made for write-in candidates on ballots.
- 2.1-2. This law defines the duties and responsibilities of candidates and potential candidates for elected office, Election Board members and other persons employed by the Oneida Tribe in the conduct of elections. It is intended to govern all procedures used in the election process.

2.2. Adoption, Amendment, Repeal

- 2.2-1. This law was adopted by the Oneida General Tribal Council by resolution GTC 7-06-98-A and amended by resolution GTC-01-04-10-A and ______. The amendments adopted by resolution GTC-_____ shall be effective _____.
- 2.2-2. This law may be amended or repealed by the Oneida General Tribal Council pursuant to the procedures set out in the Legislative Procedures Act.
- 2.2-3. Should a provision of this law or the application thereof to any person or circumstances be held as invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this law which are considered to have legal force without the invalid portions.
- 2.2-4. In the event of a conflict between a provision of this law and a provision of another law, the provisions of this law shall control.
- 2.2-5. This law is adopted under authority of the Constitution of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

2.3. Definitions

- 2.3-1. This section shall govern the definitions of words and phrases used within this law. All words not defined herein shall be used in their ordinary and everyday sense.
 - (a) "Alternate" shall mean an individual appointed by the Business Committee to serve on the Election Board during an election and until election results have been certified.
 - (b) "Applicant" shall mean a potential candidate who has not yet been officially approved for acceptance on a ballot.
 - (c) "Business day" shall mean Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Tribal holidays.
 - (d) "Campaigning" shall mean all efforts designed to influence Tribal members to support or reject a particular Tribal candidate including, without limitation, advertising, rallying, public speaking, or other communications with Tribal members.

- (e) "Candidate" shall mean a petitioner or nominee for an elected position whose name is placed on the ballot by the Election Board after successful application.
- (f) "Clerk" shall mean an Election Board member who identifies proper registration for the purpose of determining voter eligibility.
- (g) "Close of business" shall mean 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- (h) "Conflict of interest" shall mean any interest, whether it be personal, financial, political or otherwise, in which a Tribal elected official, employee, consultant, appointed or elected, member of any board, committee or commission, or their immediate relatives, friends or associates, or any other person with whom they have contact, that conflicts with any right of the Tribe to property, information, or any other right to own and operate its enterprises, free from undisclosed competition or other violation of such rights of the Tribe, or as defined in any law or policy of the Tribe.
- (i) "Election" shall mean every primary, general election, special election and other election held to elect Tribal members to the Business Committee, Tribe's judicial system, a board, committee or commission and/or to vote on a referendum question.
- (j) "General election" shall mean the election held every three (3) years in July to elect the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and the five council members of the Business Committee and may include contests for positions on a board, committee or commission and/or the Tribe's judicial system.
- (k) "Judge" shall mean the Election Board member who makes determinations when discrepancies, complaints and controversy regarding voter eligibility arise.
- (l) "Lot drawing" shall mean the equal chance method used to select a candidate as the winner of an elected position, in the case of a tie between two (2) or more candidates.
- (m) "Petition form" shall mean the form approved by the Business Committee or General Tribal Council to enable a Tribal member who was not nominated at a caucus to become a candidate in an upcoming election.
- (n) "Police Officer" shall mean a Tribal member who is a police officer on any police force.
- (o) "Prominent locations" shall mean the main doors of: the polling places, Norbert Hill Center, Oneida Community Library, Oneida Market, Oneida Community Health Center, Southeastern Wisconsin Oneida Tribal Services (SEOTS) building and all One-Stops.
- (p) "Qualified voter" shall mean a Tribal member who is qualified to vote in accordance with the Oneida Tribal Constitution Article III, Section 2.
- (q) "Rejected ballot" shall mean a ballot which is rejected by the vote tabulating machine.
- (r) "Spoiled ballot" shall mean a ballot which contains a voter error or is otherwise marred and is not tabulated.
- (s) "Teller" shall mean the Election Board member in charge of collecting and storing all ballots.
- (t) "Tribal" or "Tribe" shall mean the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.
- (u) "Tribal member" shall mean any person whose name appears on the official rolls of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.
- (v) "Tribal newspaper" shall mean the Kalihwisaks, or any other newspaper operated by the Tribe for the benefit of transmitting news to Tribal members which is designated by the Election Board as a source for election related news.

2.4. Election Board

- 2.4-1. *Establishment and Authority*. An Election Board is hereby created and shall have the duty and power to carry out the provisions of this law and Article III, Sections 2 and 3 of the Oneida Constitution.
 - (a) In addition to other duties and responsibilities listed throughout this law, Election Board members shall:
 - (1) Be in charge of all registration and election procedures;
 - (2) Review the qualifications of each applicant to verify eligibility to be placed on a ballot;
 - (3) Identify tellers, judges and clerks in advance of an election;
 - (4) Be present at all Election Board meetings;
 - (5) Make a final report on the election results as set out in this law upon completion of an election;
 - (6) Promulgate rules and regulations governing all elections, not in conflict with the provisions of this law, in accordance with Tribal law; and
 - (7) Immediately document any irregularities, suspicious conduct, or violations of this law and report them to the Election Board Chairperson. The Election Board Chairperson shall create a report based on this information and immediately forward said report to the Business Committee, Oneida Law Office and the entire Election Board.
 - (b) Specific duties of the Election Board Chairperson and other Election Board members are as set out herein:
 - (1) Chairperson: Shall preside over meetings of the Election Board; shall select polling place judges, shall select an Election Board hearing body in accordance with 2.5-10 as needed; shall oversee the conduct of the election; shall dismiss the alternates and Oneida Enrollment Department personnel when their election day duties are complete; and shall post and report election results.
 - (2) Vice-Chairperson: In the absence of the Chairperson, shall conduct all Chairperson duties.
 - (3) Secretary: Shall keep a record of all Board meetings and make them available to the Tribal Secretary, other Election Board members and the public as required in the Open Records and Open Meetings Law.
 - (4) Clerks: Shall implement the requirements of identifying and registering all voters and determining voter eligibility. Clerks shall work in conjunction with the Oneida Enrollment Department personnel in the registration process, and assist the Chairperson as directed in conducting the election.
 - (5) Tellers: Shall collect and keep safe all ballots, until the election is complete, as determined by this law. Shall assist the Chairperson in conducting the election.
 - (6) Judges: Shall inform and advise the Chairperson of all aspects of the election conducted under this law. In case of disputes among Election Board members, or between Tribal members and Election Board members, or any controversy regarding voter eligibility, the Judge(s) shall make a determination as to the voter's eligibility. The Judge(s) shall also ensure that all ballots of voters whose eligibility may be in question, remain confidential.

- 145 2.4-2. *Composition*. The Election Board shall consist of nine (9) elected members.
- 146 (a) Election Board members shall be elected to terms of three (3) years, not to exceed two (2) consecutive terms.
 - (b) Officers. The Election Board shall choose a Chairperson from amongst themselves as set out in the bylaws of the Election Board, to preside over the meetings. This selection shall be carried out at the first meeting of the Election Board following an election. The Chairperson shall then ask the Election Board to select a Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.
 - (c) Alternates. The Business Committee may appoint or reappoint a sufficient number of alternates to the Election Board, as recommended by the Election Board provided that Tribal members in the Milwaukee area shall be considered to serve as alternates for the purpose of serving at the Milwaukee polling site.
- 2.4-3. *Recusal*. An Election Board member shall recuse himself/herself from participating as an Election Board member in any pre-election, election day, or post-election activities while he or she is a petitioner, applicant or candidate for any elected position or where there is otherwise an actual or perceived conflict of interest.
- 2.4-4. Removal and Termination of Appointment. Violation of this law may result in an elected
- 162 Election Board member being removed from the Election Board. Removal of elected Election
- Board members shall be pursuant to the Tribe's removal law. A member or alternate who was
- appointed by the Business Committee shall be subject to a termination of appointment in
- accordance with the Tribe's law governing boards, committees and commissions.
- 2.4-5. Vacancies. Any vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the
- Business Committee for the balance of the unexpired term. The filling of a vacancy may be
- timed to correspond with the pre-election activities and the needs of the Election Board.
- 2.4-6. Any Election Board member or alternate who is removed or has his or her appointment
- terminated shall be ineligible to serve on the Election Board for three (3) years from the time he
- or she is removed or has his or her appointment terminated.
- 172 2.4-7. Election Board members shall be compensated at an hourly rate when conducting
- elections as provided for in the Election Board's bylaws as approved by the Business Committee.
- The Election Board shall have a budget, approved through the budgeting process of the Tribe.
- 2.4-8. The Oneida Enrollment Department personnel and Police Officers from the Oneida Police
- Department shall be compensated at their regular rate of pay out of their respective budgets.
- Police Officers from departments other than the Oneida Police Department shall be compensated out of the Election Board's budget.

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2.5. Candidates

- 2.5-1. In addition to any specific requirements and/or exceptions set out in duly adopted bylaws, all applicants shall meet the minimum requirements set out in this section in order to become a candidate.
- 184 2.5-2. *Minimum Requirements*. In order to be eligible to be a candidate, an applicant shall:
 - (a) be a Tribal member, as verified by membership rolls of the Tribe.
 - (b) be a qualified voter on the day of the election.
 - (c) provide proof of physical residency as required for the position. Proof of residency may be through one (1) or more of the following:
 - (1) a valid Wisconsin driver's license.

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- (2) a bill, paycheck stub, or other form of proof showing name and physical address of the candidate from the prior or current month which identifies that address as the candidate's primary residence. 192
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(d) not be serving on any other Tribal board, committee or commission or Tribal corporate board whether elected or appointed. Provided that said applicant may be allowed to run for an elected seat but shall be required to agree to resign from any other seat he or she holds on a Tribal board, committee or commission or Tribal corporate

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board prior to taking the oath of office. (e) not be employed by the Tribe. Provided that said applicant may be allowed to run for an elected seat but shall be required to agree to resign from his or her position with the Tribe prior to taking the oath of office.

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2.5-3. A person may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive full terms in any one (1) seat. A minimum period equivalent to one (1) term shall lapse in order for a prior member to be eligible for another term in the same seat for the same office. Nothing shall bar a person from seeking election for a different seat or office.¹

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2.5-4. A person shall not be eligible to run for more than one (1) elective office or seat per election.

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2.5-5. An applicant shall disclose any and all possible conflicts of interests in accordance with the Comprehensive Policy Governing Boards, Committees and Commissions. An applicant shall not have a conflict of interest with the position for which he or she is being considered, provided that any conflict of interest which may be eliminated within thirty (30) calendar days of being elected shall not be considered as a bar to nomination or election.

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2.5-6. Becoming a Candidate.

213 214 215 (a) The Election Board shall notice and call a caucus before any election is held to nominate candidates to be placed on the ballot for an upcoming election. In a general election year, caucuses shall be combined so that candidates for the Business Committee, Tribe's judicial system and elected boards, committees and commissions are nominated at the same caucus.

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(1) The caucus for the general election shall be held at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to the election date.

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(2) Caucuses for other elections shall be held at least forty-five (45) calendar days prior to the election date.

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(3) The procedures for the caucus shall be as follows: (A) Candidates shall be nominated from the floor.

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Candidates present at the caucus shall accept or decline their nomination at the caucus. Candidates nominated at the caucus, but not present to accept the nomination or declining a nomination, shall be required to follow the petition process.

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(4) A Tribal member who accepts a nomination at a caucus shall file a completed application in accordance with 2.5-6(c) within five (5) business days after the caucus.

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(b) Any eligible Tribal member, who did not accept a nomination at a caucus, may

¹ In accordance with Resolution X, all elected persons serving in an office on the effective date of this amendment shall have their current term counted as their first term regardless of the number of terms previously elected to that office.

petition to be placed on the ballot for an upcoming election.

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- (1) A completed petition form shall be filed in accordance with 2.5-6(c), within five (5) business days after the caucus and shall have no less than ten (10) signatures which shall consist of each endorsee's:
 - (A) printed name and address;
 - (B) date of birth;
 - (C) Oneida Tribal Enrollment Number; and
 - (D) original signature by the endorsee; a photocopied or faxed signature shall not be accepted.
- (c) A completed application and petition form, if required, shall be filed in person with the Tribal Secretary, or designated agent, during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. An application and petition form shall not be accepted as filed if it was mailed, sent by internal Tribal mail delivery, faxed or delivered by any other method.
 - (1) The Tribal Secretary shall forward all petition forms to the Election Board Chairperson no later than six (6) business days after the caucus.
 - (2) The Election Board shall have the Oneida Enrollment Department verify all signatures contained on the petition forms.
- 2.5-7. The name of an applicant and the position sought shall be a public record and made available to the public upon filing of an application and petition form, where applicable, in accordance with 2.5-6(c).
- 2.5-8. The Election Board shall be responsible for reviewing the qualifications of each applicant to verify eligibility.
- 2.5-9. The Election Board shall notify each applicant of his or her eligibility for a position by certified mail return receipt requested.
 - (a) An applicant shall have two (2) business days from receipt of notification to appeal to a hearing body created in accordance with 2.5-10. An appeal shall be filed by hand delivery at the location designated on the notice. The location designated shall be on the Reservation. No mailed, internal Tribal mail, faxed or other delivery method will be accepted.
 - (b) The notice shall provide the following information:
 - (1) Position for which the applicant was considered.
 - (2) Qualification of the position and citation of the source.
 - (3) Brief summary explaining whether the applicant was found to be eligible and, if not, why.
 - (4) Instructions and deadlines on appealing the decision in accordance with (a).
- 2.5-10. *Hearing Body*. At least four (4) Election Board members, selected by the Chairperson, shall constitute a hearing body. The hearing shall be held within two (2) business days of receipt of the appeal. The applicant shall be notified by phone of the time and place of the hearing. The decision of the hearing body shall be sent to the applicant via certified mail or hand delivery within two (2) business days of the hearing. Any appeal from a decision of the Election Board hearing body shall be to the Tribe's judicial system on an accelerated schedule.
- 2.74 2.5-11. Request to be Removed from the Ballot. A candidate may request to be removed from
- 275 the ballot by submitting a written statement to any Election Board member, excluding alternates.
- 276 If the written statement requesting to be removed from the ballot is received:

- 277 (a) Prior to the submission of the ballot for printing, the candidate's name shall be excluded from the ballot;
 - (b) After ballots have been printed but prior to the opening of the polls, the candidate's written statement shall be posted alongside any sample ballot printed prior to the election in the Tribal newspaper and alongside any sample ballot posted at the polling locations; or
 - (c) After the polls are open, the candidate's written statement shall be posted next to any sample ballot posted at the polling locations.
 - 2.5-12. A candidate who withdrew by any method listed herein shall be denied any position from which he or she has withdrawn regardless of the number of votes cast for that candidate. A written statement shall be considered the only necessary evidence of withdrawal and acceptance of denial of any position withdrawn from.

2.6. Campaigning

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- 2.6-1. Campaign Contributions.
 - (a) A candidate shall only accept contributions from individuals who are members of the Tribe or individuals related by blood or marriage to the candidate.
 - (b) Candidates may not accept contributions from any business, whether sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation or other business entity.
 - (c) All persons, including candidates and employees of the Tribe, shall be prohibited from soliciting or accepting contributions for a candidate in or on the property of any Tribal office, business, or facility, excluding the following:
 - (1) a lot of land not owned by the Tribe;
 - (2) any residential dwelling;
 - (3) a privately owned business; or
 - (4) a Tribal office, business or facility or any portion thereof which is reserved for the specific purpose of holding a campaign fund raiser.
- 2.6-2. Campaign Signs.
 - (a) A campaign sign shall not:
 - (1) Be posted or erected on any Tribal property except for any residential dwelling owned by the Tribe with the occupant/tenant's permission.
 - (2) Exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area. A maximum of seven (7) such signs may be placed on a building or on a lot.
 - (3) Project beyond the property line into the public right of way.
 - (b) Removal of campaign signs. All campaign signs shall be removed within five (5) business days after an election. Candidates not advancing after a primary shall cause their campaign signs to be removed within five (5) business days after the primary.
 - (c) Enforcement. The Zoning Administrator shall cause to be removed any campaign signs that are not in compliance with this law, in accordance with the Zoning and Shoreland Protection Law.
- 317 2.6-3. Where Campaigning may Occur.
 - (a) All persons, including candidates and employees of the Tribe, are prohibited from engaging in campaigning for a candidate at any Tribal office, business, or facility, except that persons may campaign in a Tribal facility during a campaign event occurring after normal Tribal business hours in which all candidates were given an equal notice and

- 322 opportunity to participate.
- 323 (b) No campaigning of any type shall be conducted within two hundred eighty (280) feet 324 of the voting area, excluding any lot of land not owned by the Tribe, any residential 325 dwelling or a privately owned business.
 - 2.6-4. *Violations*.

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- (a) Any person who is in violation of 2.6 shall be subject to a fine imposed by the Election Board in an amount specified in a resolution adopted by the Business Committee.
- (b) A Tribal employee may be subject to disciplinary action under the personnel policies and procedures if campaigning in violation of this section during Tribal business hours or during a work shift in which a salary or wage is received.

2.7. Election Date Determination and Polling Locations

- 2.7-1. In accordance with Article III, Section 4 of the Tribal Constitution, elections shall be held in the month of July on a date set by the General Tribal Council. The General Tribal Council shall set the election date at the January annual meeting, or at the first General Tribal Council meeting held during a given year.
- 2.7-2. *Primary Election*. When a primary is required under (a), it shall be held on a Saturday at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the election.
 - (a) There shall be a primary election for Business Committee positions whenever there are three (3) or more candidates for any officer position or eleven (11) or more candidates for the council member positions.²
 - (b) The Election Board shall cancel the primary election if none of the Business Committee positions drew the requisite number of candidates for a primary by the deadline set for the primary.
 - (c) The two (2) primary candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for each officer position shall be placed on the general election ballot.
 - (d) The ten (10) candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for the Business Committee council member positions shall be placed on the general election ballot.
 - (e) Any position where a tie exists to determine the candidates to be placed on the ballot shall include all candidates where the tie exists.
- 2.7-3. Special Election. Special election dates shall be set, as provided for in this law, by the Business Committee as recommended by the Election Board or as ordered by the Tribe's judicial system in connection with an election challenge. All special elections shall follow this Law and procedures established for all other elections. This includes positions for all boards, committees and commissions.
 - (a) Special elections may be initiated by a directive of the General Tribal Council or the Business Committee or may be submitted by a Tribal member to the Business Committee or General Tribal Council for consideration.
 - (b) Matters subject to a special election, i.e., referendum, vacancies, petitions, etc., as defined in this law, may be placed on the same ballot as the subject matter of an election.

² October 11, 2008 GTC motion: Motion by Ed Delgado to amend the main motion that we adopt today the primary election portion of the proposal Section 2.12.b, seconded by Yvonne Metivier. Motion carried. Motion by Madelyn Genskow to defer the Election Law amendments to the GTC meeting on Saturday July 11, 2009, seconded by Linda Dallas. Motion carried.

- 2.7-4. *Polling Location*. Each polling site shall be located in a Tribal facility as determined by the Election Board; provided that at least one (1) polling site shall be located within the Reservation boundaries and one (1) polling site shall be located in Milwaukee³.
- 2.7-5. *Notice*. The Election Board shall provide notice of an election, which shall include the date, all polling locations, and the polling times; said notices shall be:
 - (a) Posted in prominent locations. Polling information shall be posted no less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the election, and shall remain posted until the polls close on the day of the election.
 - (b) Published in the Tribal newspaper.
 - (c) Sent to all qualified voters not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to an election. Notices sent to qualified voters shall also include a sample ballot.
 - 2.7-6. In the event of an emergency, the Election Board may reschedule an election, provided that no less than a twenty-four (24) hour notice of the rescheduled election date is given to the voters, by posting notices in the prominent locations.

2.8. Registration of Voters

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- 2.8-1. Oneida Enrollment Department personnel shall be responsible for verifying Tribal enrollment. Conduct of Oneida Enrollment Department personnel is governed by the Election Board members during the voting period.
- 2.8-2. Voters shall physically register to vote at a polling location by:
 - (a) Presenting one of the following picture identifications to the Oneida Enrollment Department personnel:
 - (1) Tribal I.D:
 - (2) Drivers License; or
 - (3) Other government issued I.D. which contains a name and photo.
 - (b) Signing his or her name on an official Voter Registration Form, as approved by the Election Board.
 - 2.8-3. Should a question or dispute arise as to the eligibility of a voter being qualified to vote, the Judge(s) shall make a decision from the facts available and determine whether the applicant is, in fact a qualified voter under the Oneida Tribal Constitution, Article III Section 2.
 - 2.8-4. Any individual deemed ineligible to vote shall be allowed to vote, provided that the ballot shall be placed in an envelope, initialed by two (2) Election Board members, appropriately sealed and numbered.
 - (a) The individual shall mail a written appeal to the Election Board at P.O. Box 413, Oneida, Wisconsin, 54155, postmarked within two (2) business days of the election if they desire to challenge the decision. The Election Board shall make a final decision, within five (5) business days of receiving the appeal and shall report this decision to the individual and in the final report sent to the Oneida Business Committee.
 - (b) If the individual is deemed a qualified voter, his or her ballot shall be included in the final ballot count.

³ BC Resolution 03-13-02-O established a Milwaukee Polling Site, provided for a police presence, appropriated funds for personnel costs, and provided for transmission of Milwaukee results.

2.9. Election Process

- 2.9-1. Voting for elections shall begin at 7:00 a.m. and shall end at 7:00 p.m. All voters in line to vote at 7:00 p.m. shall be allowed to vote.
 - (a) The Judge shall open the polls only after four (4) Tribal members and a Police Officer verify, through signature on the tape, the ballot box is empty and the ballot counting machine printer tape has a zero (0) total count for every candidate and referendum. The zero count shall not be separated or removed from the ballot counting machine printer tape.
 - (b) Video surveillance of the ballot counting machine shall be conducted from the time the polls open until the votes are tabulated.
 - (c) A chain-of-custody record shall be maintained for every memory card or device which stores the voting record and any video surveillance footage of the election. Further, all ballots, any device which stores the voting record and any video surveillance footage of the election shall be placed in a secured location until the election has been declared finalized in accordance with 2.11-8. All ballots, election equipment, and election specific supplies shall be appropriately inventoried, accounted for and stored at a Tribal facility with appropriate chain of custody documentation. Any person failing to properly document chain of custody shall be subject to a fine or disciplinary action.
- 2.9-2. At least one (1) Police Officer shall be present within each polling location during the time the polls are open, and until the counting of ballots is completed and tentative results have been posted. Tribal members serving as local police in the Milwaukee area shall be considered first for offering their services at a Milwaukee polling site.
- 2.9-3. The Election Board shall provide a voting booth area sufficiently isolated for each voter such that there is an area with at least two (2) sides and a back enclosure.
- 2.9-4. The Election Board may restrict the voting booth and ballot machine area to qualified voters and one (1) person of each voter's choosing to provide assistance to the voter in marking the voter's ballot.
- 2.9-5. A poll list shall be maintained by the Election Board which indicates the number of voters who vote at a particular polling location. At the close of the election, the number of votes on the poll list shall be compared to the number of votes cast. Discrepancies shall be immediately documented, resolved and reported to the Business Committee in the final report.
 - 2.9-6. Each ballot shall be initialed by two (2) Election Board members prior to the voter entering the voting booth. Ballots shall not be initialed in advance and shall be properly stored as to not allow the public access to uncast ballots. If a voter receives a ballot which has not been properly counted and initialed, the ballot shall be returned and the voter shall be provided a properly validated ballot.
- 440 2.9-7. Election Observers.
 - (a) Any Tribal member of voting age, may be present at any polling place for the purpose of observing all or part of an election, except that:
 - (1) A candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall not be allowed to be an election observer while the polls are open.
 - (2) A candidate shall be allowed to be present during any vote count or recount occurring after the polls have closed.
 - (b) The Election Board may restrict the location of election observers to certain areas within a polling place or vote count or recount location. The Election Board shall clearly

designate such an area as an observation area. Designated observation areas shall be so positioned to permit an eligible election observer to readily observe all public aspects of 450 the voting process, including any vote count or recount. 451

- (1) The Election Board may reasonably limit the number of election observers who are permitted at a single polling place in order to ensure the safety of all voters. Any limitations shall be applied on a first come first serve basis and uniformly.
- (c) The Election Board may order the removal of any election observer if that individual commits an overt act which disrupts the operation of the polling place, vote count or recount location. Specifically, an election observer is prohibited from the following:
 - (1) Having conversations about candidates or referendum questions.
 - (2) Making phone calls or using cell phones for voice calls inside the polling area.
 - (3) Wearing clothing or buttons related to candidates or referendum questions.
 - (4) Recording video or taking pictures inside the polling area during the voting hours.
 - (5) Interacting with voters.

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- 2.9-8. All ballots being votes, shall be placed in a receptacle clearly marked "Ballot Box" and shall be locked and properly sealed until counting at the close of polls. Provided that, with electronic ballot counting, the ballots may be placed within the ballot counting machine as the ballots are received.
 - (a) All voters shall be allowed sufficient privacy of their ballot vote when placing a ballot in a ballot machine, provided that the placement of the ballot in a ballot machine may be observed by an Election Board member or Police Officer at a sufficient distance in order to ensure the voting process is not being compromised.
- 2.9-9. The Election Board shall create a standardized form or log for documenting any election day incidents, including but not limited to spoiled and rejected ballots, challenges, disturbances and any other election irregularities.
- 2.9-10. Spoiled Ballots. If a voter spoils his/her ballot, he/she shall be given a new ballot upon return of the spoiled ballot.
 - (a) If a ballot has not been initialed by two (2) Election Board members, it shall be deemed spoiled.
 - (b) A spoiled ballot shall be marked "VOID" and initialed by two (2) Election Board members and placed in an envelope marked "Spoiled Ballots."
 - (c) The envelope(s) containing the spoiled ballots shall be retained and secured at the predetermined location for storage for no less than fifteen (15) calendar days following finalization of any challenge of the election.
- 2.9-11. Rejected Ballots. Rejected ballots shall be placed in a specially marked container and sealed.
 - (a) Computer rejected ballots shall be reviewed by the Election Board members to verify the authenticity of the ballot. Ballots rejected because of mutilation shall be added to the final computer total, provided that, the voter was not given a new ballot upon return of the rejected ballot.
 - (b) Ballots rejected, either during the computer process or during a manual counting, shall be reviewed by the Election Board members to verify that they are authentic. If the

Election Board members determine that the ballot is not an official ballot, or that it is an illegal ballot, the ballot shall be designated "VOID," and placed in a sealed container marked "Rejected Ballots."

2.10. Tabulating and Securing Ballots

- 2.10-1. All votes shall be tabulated at the location where the votes were cast. The Election Board shall arrange for the video taping of the vote tallying at each polling location.
 - (a) If the ballots are required to be counted at a location other than the polling site due to unforeseen circumstances, the ballots shall be secured in a sealed container for transportation to the ballot counting location. The sealed ballots shall be transported by a Police Officer with at least three (3) of the Election Board members for counting/tallying of ballots.
 - (b) The Election Board Chairman and the Election Board members designated to serve at the Milwaukee polling site shall arrange for the secured transmission of the Milwaukee preliminary election results to the Oneida Reservation polling site.
- 2.10-2. When ballots are counted by machine, at the close of polls the Judges shall generate from the ballot counting machine copies of the election totals from the votes cast. At least six (6) Election Board members shall sign the election totals, which shall include the tape signed in accordance with section 2.9-1(a).
- 2.10-3. When ballots are manually counted, at the close of polls the Judges shall unlock the ballot box and remove the ballots.
 - (a) The sealed ballots shall be opened at the time of counting by the Election Board members and witnessed/monitored by a Police Officer.
 - (b) Ballots shall be counted by two (2) different Election Board members until two (2) final tallies are equal in back to back counting. Final tallies shall be verified by the Judge(s).
- 2.10-4. Securing Ballots. The Judges shall place together all ballots counted and secure them together so that they cannot be untied or tampered with without breaking the seal. The secured ballots, and the election totals with the signed tape, if applicable, shall then be secured by the Judges in a sealed container in such a manner that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seals or locks, or destroying the container. The Police Officer shall then deliver, on the day of the election, the sealed container to a predetermined location for storage.

2.11. Election Outcome

- 2.11-1. The tentative results of an election shall be announced and posted by the Election Board within twenty-four (24) hours after the closing of the polls. Notices of election results shall contain the following statement:
 - "The election results posted here are tentative results. Final election results are forwarded by the Oneida Election Board to the Oneida Business Committee via a Final Report after time has lapsed for recount requests, or challenges or after all recounts or challenges have been completed, whichever is longer"
- 2.11-2. The Election Board shall post, in the prominent locations, and publish in the Tribal newspaper, the tentative results of an election.
- 537 2.11-3. *Ties*. In the event of a tie for any office, and where the breaking of a tie is necessary to determine the outcome of an election, the Election Board shall conduct an automatic recount of

the votes for each candidate receiving the same number of votes. Any recount conducted shall be the only recount allowed for the tied candidates.

- (a) In the event there remains a tie after the recount for any position except a Business Committee position, the Election Board shall decide the winner of the tied position at least two (2) business days after, but no more than five (5) business days after the recount through a lot drawing, which shall be open to the public.
 - (1) The Election Board shall notify each of the tied candidates and the public of the date, time, and place of the drawing at least one (1) business day before the drawing. Notice to the tied candidates shall be in writing. Notice to the public shall be posted by the Election Board in the prominent locations.
 - (2) On the date and at the time and place the drawing was noticed, the Election Board Chairperson shall clearly write the name of each tied candidate on separate pieces of paper in front of any witnesses present. The pieces of paper shall be the same, or approximately the same, color, size, and type. The papers shall be folded in half and placed in a container selected by the Election Board Chairperson.
 - (3) The Election Board Chairperson shall designate an uninterested party to draw a name from the container. The candidate whose name is drawn from the container first shall be declared the winner. An Election Board member other than the Chairperson shall remove the remaining pieces of paper from the container and show them to the witnesses present.
- (b) In the event there remains a tie after the recount for a Business Committee position, a run-off election between the candidates with the same number of votes shall be held within twenty one (21) calendar days after the recount.
- 2.11-4. *Recounts*. A candidate may make one (1) request to the Election Board for a recount, provided the margin between the requesting candidate's vote total and vote total for the unofficial winner was within two percent (2%) of the total votes for the office being sought or twenty (20) votes, whichever is greater. A recount request shall be in writing and shall be hand delivered to the Tribal Secretary's Office, or noticed designated agent, within five (5) business days after the election. The Tribal Secretary shall contact the Election Board Chairperson by the next business day after the request for a recount is received.
 - (a) The Police Officer shall be responsible for picking up the locked, sealed containers with the ballots from the storage location and transporting it to the ballot recounting locations. The locked, sealed ballots shall be opened by the Election Board Chairperson, or designee and a Police Officer shall witness the recount.
 - (b) A recount shall be conducted by a quorum of the Election Board, including at least three (3) of the original Election Board members who conducted the election.
 - (c) A recount may, at the discretion of the Election Board members, be of the total election results, or of the challenged sub-section of the election results. A recount request need not be completed where two (2) recounts have already been completed of the whole election results, or of that sub-section.
 - (d) Recounting of ballots may be performed manually or by computer regardless of the original type of counting process. All ballots shall be counted until two (2) final tallies are equal in back to back counting and the total count of ballots reconciles with the total count from the ballot counting machine. Sub-sections of candidates may be recounted in

lieu of a full recount provided that, at a minimum, the recount shall include a recount of the requesting candidate's vote total and the applicable unofficial winner's vote total.

- (1) Manually counted ballots shall be recounted by the Election Board. Ballots shall be counted twice by different persons and certified by the Judges.
- (2) Computer counted ballots shall be recounted twice and certified by the Judges. Prior to using an electronic ballot counting device, it shall be certified as correct either by the maker, lessor of the machine or Election Board.
- (e) Any Tribal member of voting age, including any candidates, may be present at a ballot recounting location for the purpose of observing all or part of a recount in accordance with section 2.9-7.
- (f) The Election Board shall respond to the requesting candidate by the close of business on the fifth (5th) business day after a request is received regarding the results of the recount.
- 2.11-5. Candidate Withdrawal After Winning an Election.

- (a) In the event a candidate declines an office after winning an election, the Election Board shall declare the next highest vote recipient the winner. This procedure shall be repeated as necessary until a winner is declared.
- (b) If all vote recipients decline or are otherwise unable to be declared the winner, then a special election shall be held.
- 2.11-6. Challenges. Any qualified voter may challenge the results of an election by filing a complaint with the Tribe's judicial system within thirty (30) calendar days after the election. The Tribe's judicial system shall hear and decide a challenge to any election within two (2) business days after the challenge is filed. Any appeal to the appellate body of the Tribe's judicial system shall be filed within one (1) business day after the issuance of the lower body's decision and decided within two (2) business days after the appeal is filed.
 - (a) The person challenging the election results shall prove by clear and convincing evidence that the Election Law was violated or an unfair election was conducted, and that the outcome of the election would have been different but for the violation.
 - (b) If the Tribe's judicial system invalidates the election results, a special election shall be ordered by the Tribe's judicial system for the office(s) affected to be held on a date set by the Tribe's judicial system for as soon as the Election Law allows for a special election.
- 2.11-7. The Final Report. The Election Board shall immediately forward a final report and any statements that recorded the adding or counting of ballots to the Tribal Secretary after time has lapsed for recount requests, or challenges or after all recounts or challenges have been completed, whichever is longer. The final report and the statement shall be kept by Records Management as the official election file, is an open record and shall consist of the following information:
 - (a) Total number of persons voting.
 - (b) Total votes cast for each candidate by subsection of the ballot.
 - (c) List of any ties and final results of those ties, including the method of resolution.
 - (d) List of candidates elected and position elected to.
 - (e) An accounting of all ballots, including the number of spoiled ballots, rejected ballots and validated ballots.
 - (f) Cost of the election, including the compensation paid to each Election Board member.

- 629 (g) Any reports generated which document any irregularities, suspicious conduct, or violations of this law that occurred during the election process.
 - 2.11-8. *Declaration of Results*. Within ten (10) business days after receipt of the final report, the Business Committee shall declare the official results of the election and send notices regarding when the swearing in of newly elected officials shall take place.
 - (a) Except in the event of an emergency, as determined by the Business Committee, newly elected officials shall be sworn into office no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the official results of an election are declared by the Business Committee.
 - (1) If a newly elected official is not sworn in within thirty (30) calendar days, the seat shall be considered vacant and the Election Board shall declare the next highest vote recipient the winner. This procedure shall be repeated as necessary until a winner is declared.
 - (2) If all vote recipients decline or are otherwise unable to be declared the winner, then a special election shall be held.
 - 2.11-9. Candidates elected to the Business Committee shall resign from any salaried position outside of the Tribe or any full-time, part-time, seasonal, temporary or other employment position with the Tribe effective prior to taking a Business Committee oath of office. Candidates elected to any other position shall resign from any position with the Tribe effective prior to taking an oath of office.
- 648 2.11-10. The Election Board shall send a notice to the individual in charge of each storage location when to destroy the ballots, which shall be thirty (30) calendar days after the election or after the final declaration of official election results occurs, whichever is longer.

2.12. Referendums

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- 653 2.12-1. Any Tribal member may submit an advisory referendum question seeking to accept or reject a proposal to amend, create or repeal all or any portion of an existing or proposed law of policy.
- 656 2.12-2. A referendum question shall be worded as one (1) single question so as an affirmative 657 response indicates a desire for a change to an existing or proposed law or policy. The Legislative 658 Operating Committee shall designate and notice a Tribal office or position that will assist Tribal 659 members with the correct wording of a referendum question.
 - 2.12-3. A referendum question shall be submitted to the Election Board at the caucus on a referendum form made available through the Tribal Secretary's Office. Each referendum question shall contain no less than ten (10) signatures from the endorsees and contain the following for each endorsee:
 - (a) printed name and address;
 - (b) date of birth;
 - (c) Oneida Tribal Enrollment Number; and
 - (d) original signature by the endorsee; a photocopied or faxed signature shall not be accepted.
- 669 2.12-4. The Election Board shall have the Oneida Enrollment Department verify all signatures.
- 670 2.12-5. Advisory Referendum Question. An advisory referendum question shall be non-binding.
 - (a) The Election Board shall place the advisory referendum question on the next available ballot provided that the question meets the requirements for an advisory referendum question in accordance with this section.

(b) The Election Board shall forward the results of an advisory referendum to the Business Committee who shall fully consider the results and report the determination to act or not act on the question to the Oneida General Tribal Council. No further action is required.

679 *End.*

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682 Adopted - June 19, 1993

- Amended June 28, 1995 (Adopted by BC on Behalf of GTC, Completion of Agenda)
- Presented for Adoption of 1997 Revisions GTC-7-6-98-A
- Amended- October 11, 2008 (General Tribal Council Meeting)
- 686 Amended-GTC-01-04-10-A