

***Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin  
Office of the Tribal Secretary***

***Location:***

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
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## **Internal Memorandum**

To: Business Committee Direct Reports  
Boards, Committees and Commissions

From: Lisa Summers, Tribal Secretary 

Date: August 21, 2015

Re: *Secretarial Election – Constitutional Amendment Implementation on Hold*

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This memorandum serves as notice to you that implementation of Oneida's approved Constitutional amendments shall be placed on hold until further notice.

At the July 22, 2015, Oneida Business Committee (OBC) meeting, the OBC officially received notice of the appeal to the results of a challenge to the Secretarial Election by Tribal member, Madelyn Genskow. The appeal was properly filed with the Interior Board of Indian Appeals. In light of this appeal, the implementation of the constitutional amendments has been placed on hold until a final decision is made by the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.

### **Background**

Oneida's Secretarial Election results, which adopted five Constitutional Amendments, were certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Regional Director and official was received on June 24, 2015. This certification came after seven years of work including: referendum question voting, community outreach, presentations at General Tribal Council (GTC) meetings, and most importantly, your involvement.

In order to comply with the amended constitution, OBC consulted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then took action to begin implementing the amendments. First, emergency action was taken to amend the Election Law. These changes reflected the constitutional rights and notice requirements to members age 18, 19 and 20 who were able exercise their new constitutional rights to participate in the July 6 Semi-Annual GTC Meeting and the July 11 Special Election.

On July 22, 2015, the OBC was officially notified that an appeal of the BIA's certification decision was made to the IBIA by Tribal member, Madelyn Genskow. This appeal is in the beginning stages. We have not yet received a schedule for this appeal. Our research shows the whole appeal process generally takes two to three years.

On August 17, 2015, OBC took action to place a hold on the implementation of the constitutional amendments until such time as this appeal is concluded. This hold is effective immediately and means that, due to the appeal, only members age 21 and over will be eligible to attend General Tribal Council (GTC) meetings and vote in Tribal Elections until the appeal of the challenge to the Secretarial Election has been concluded.

**Requested Action**

Please put a hold on all activity which implements Oneida's approved constitutional amendments. Once the IBIA process is complete, a notice will be provided to you on when to resume implementation.

We appreciate your patience on this matter as we begin the IBIA appeal process. If you have any questions about the approved amendments, please feel free to contact me or the Vice-Chairwoman, Melinda J. Danforth. I can be reached at 869-4478 or via email at [lsummer2@oneidanation.org](mailto:lsummer2@oneidanation.org). Vice-Chairwoman Danforth can be reached at 869-4461 or via email at [mdanforj@oneidanation.org](mailto:mdanforj@oneidanation.org).

cc: Oneida Business Committee  
G:\BC\_Melinda\LOC\Constitution Amendments\Secretarial Election