



The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

March 27, 2020

Administration
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Home Loan
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Fax: 218-335-6925
Economic Development
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Fax: 218-335-2029
Human Services
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Reservations
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Boards

FROM: Gary S. Frazer, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Election Calendar

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe President Cathy Chavers issued a memo dated March 26, 2020 postponing the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Election for a couple of months.

The Primary Election will now be held on June 9, 2020 and the General Election will be held on August 18, 2020 (See Attached Calendar). The Notice and Posting of the June 9, 2020 Primary will be prepared prior to the April 15, 2020 deadline and the ballots will get revised and forwarded to the Election Boards no later than April 15, 2020.

As stated in the Tribal Executive Committee Resolution amending the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Ordinance to postpone the March 31, 2020 Primary Election, absentee ballots cast prior to the enactment of this amendment or ballots cast between the date of enactment of this amendment and the Primary Election shall be counted in the Primary Election on June 9, 2020.

The Election Boards should not send out any more absentee Ballots with the March 31, 2020 Primary date. They shall hold the request until the new ballots are printed with the correct primary date of June 9, 2020. This will help eliminate the confusion of voters getting a ballot with the March 31, 2020 Primary date after March 31, 2020.

The Reservation Election Boards shall take reasonable steps to ensure that all election material, including but not limited to absentee ballots, are at all times kept in a secure location.

If the Election Boards have any questions please call me at 218-766-0713.

Thank you.

**Change Primary to June 9th
General Election to August 18th**

**REVISED
ELECTION CALENDAR
2020 Regular Election**

April 15:	Notice of Primary Election and Posting.
April 15:	TEC provides ballots for Primary Election.
June 4:	Notify MCT on choice of appellate forum.
June 9:	Primary (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)
June 10:	General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results. (Prior to 8:00 p.m.)
June 11:	General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.
June 12:	Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)
June 16:	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).
June 17: <i>(Results, if Allowed or 15th or 16th If earlier request)</i>	Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
June 26:	Deadline for Decision on Contest
June 29 <i>(or within 3 days of decision on Contest)</i>	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).
July 2 <i>(or within 3 days upon receipt of Notice to Appeal):</i>	Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
July 6 <i>(hearing within 7 days notice of appeal).</i>	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal
July 16 <i>(10 days from hearing on appeal).</i>	Last Day for Decision on Appeal

**Change Primary to June 9th
General Election to August 18th**

July 17:	Notice of General Election
July 17:	TEC provides ballots for General Election.
August 18:	General Election (Polling Places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)
August 19:	General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election. Prior to 8:00 p.m.
August 20:	General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results.
August 21:	Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)
August 25:	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Notice of Contest. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.)
August 26 (<i>or 24,25, if request for Recount is filed before deadline</i>):	Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
September 4th:	Deadline for Decision on Contest for General Election.
September 8th (<i>or within 3 days of decision on Contest</i>):	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).
September 11th (<i>or within 3 days upon receipt of Notice to Appeal</i>):	Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
September 15 (<i>hearing within 7 days notice of appeal</i>).	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal.
September 25th (<i>or Ten days from Hearing on Appeal</i>):	Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal.
Day following Decision of Appeal:	Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office.

CATHERINE J. CHAVERS, PRESIDENT
FARON JACKSON, SR. VICE PRESIDENT

GARY S. FRAZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APRIL MCCORMICK, SECRETARY
DAVID C. MORRISON, SR., TREASURER



The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

March 26, 2020

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Membership

FROM: Catherine J. Chavers, President

Catherine J. Chavers

SUBJECT: Primary 2020 Tribal Elections

The Corvid-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge to our National, State, Local and Tribal Governments. This has called for drastic actions to help stop the spread throughout the country.

The Tribal Executive Committee met on Tuesday, March 24th and adopted Resolution 65-20 (attached) amending the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Ordinance postponing the 2020 elections due to the coronavirus pandemic to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tribal members.

The primary election for the 2020 election shall now occur on June 9, 2020 and the general election shall occur on August 18, 2020. Absentee ballots cast prior to the enactment of this amendment or ballots cast between the date of enactment of this amendment and the primary election shall be counted in the primary election on June 9, 2020.

Unfortunately this postponement will add confusion to our election process but for the safety of our tribal members it was necessary.

Thank you for your understanding and please do everything you can to keep you and your families safe.

If you have any question regarding the 2020 election process, please call the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Executive Director Gary Frazer at 218/766-0713,

RESOLUTION 65-20

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee is the duly elected governing body of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, comprised of six member reservations (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth), and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Executive Committee ("TEC"), comprised of the Chairpersons and Secretary/Treasurers from the six constituent bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, is the duly elected governing body of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe ("MCT") requires that all elections on the six (6) Reservations shall be held in accordance with a uniform election ordinance that is adopted by the Tribal Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the TEC enacted an Election Ordinance, which was recently amended on December 9, 2019, that requires Regular Elections to be held on the second Tuesday in June of even numbered years with the associated Primary Elections to be held on the tenth Tuesday prior to the Regular Election; and

WHEREAS, the TEC adopted an election calendar pursuant to the Election Ordinance for the 2020 MCT Elections and the Primary Election is set to occur on March 31, 2020, and the General Election is set to occur on June 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization ("WHO") recently declared the 2019 novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") a pandemic, as the rates of infection continue to rise in many locations around the world and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and has not yet been adequately contained and it is believed that COVID-19 is most often spread from close person-to-person contact and is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the U.S. President issued a proclamation declaring a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, State of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01, which declared a peacetime emergency and provided measures for coordinating the State's strategy to protect Minnesotans from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") has identified the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high", and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines, which have been amended a number of times, that encourage individuals to limit person-to-person contact, practice social distancing, directing older individuals, those with severe underlying medical conditions, and those with symptoms of respiratory illness, to practice self-isolation; and

WHEREAS, a number of states have postponed primary elections during the COVID-19 pandemic including but not limited to Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, and Alabama to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public; and

WHEREAS, the TEC finds that it is necessary and in the best interest of the MCT to postpone the 2020 election due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the period of time set forth in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the TEC finds that it is necessary and in the best interests of the MCT to amend the Election Ordinance of the MCT in the manner set forth in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the TEC recognizes that each individual Band has taken extreme measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 within their communities including closing gaming establishments and businesses, imposing work from home policies, instituting travel bans, reducing staff, prohibiting individuals from areas affected by COVID-19 from entering the reservation, and taking other actions necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their people; and

WHEREAS, the TEC finds that calling a special meeting and meeting in person to enact this resolution and amendments to the Election Ordinance would put the health, safety, and welfare of the MCT, its members, and the general public at risk, would run counter to the protective measures already instituted by the Bands, and would pose an unacceptable risk to the members of each reservation; and

WHEREAS, the TEC finds that it is necessary and in the best interests of the MCT to waive the notice requirements for a special meeting to address these emergency matters to occur on March 24, 2020 pursuant in the Revised Constitution and Bylaws and to allow the TEC to conduct such Special Meeting by a conference call to conduct necessary business to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee postpones the 2020 election due to the COVID-19 pandemic so that the Primary Election occurs on June 9, 2020, and the General Election occurs on August 18, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee amends the Election Ordinance by adding a new section, Section 1.12, which reads as follows: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Tribal Executive Committee postpones the 2020 elections due to the coronavirus pandemic to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tribal members. The primary election for the 2020 election shall now occur on June 9, 2020 and the general election shall occur on August 18, 2020. Absentee ballots cast prior to the enactment of this amendment or ballots cast between the date of enactment of this amendment and the primary election shall be counted in the primary election on June 9, 2020. The Reservation Election Boards shall take reasonable steps to ensure that all elections materials, including but not limited to absentee ballots, are at all times kept in a secure location.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee waives the notice requirements for a Special Meeting to address emergency matters pursuant to the Revised Constitution and Bylaws and allows business to be conducted during this Special Meeting by a conference call to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 7 For, 4 Against, 0 Silent, at a Special Meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee, a quorum present, held via conference call on March 24, 2020.

	
Catherine J. Chavers, President	April McCormick, Secretary
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE	THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE