



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



# HOCAK WORAK

Vol. XXXIX, Issue 1

Waxoc wira | Corn Tasseling Moon

July 18, 2025

## SPECIAL EDITION From the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board

### New Election Process Brings Greater Access and Transparency to Upcoming General Election

Kaili Berg

The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board is rolling out a new voting process this year, designed to increase participation and transparency in a key constitutional amendment vote during the annual General Council meeting in September.

This special edition of the *Hocak Worak* is meant to ensure that all tribal members are aware of the upcoming vote, which focuses on an amendment that would allow individuals who were enrolled in other tribes as minors, but who meet Ho-Chunk descendency requirements, to enroll in the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The vote will take place at General Council, and for the first time, members will also have the option to vote by mail.

William Gardner, Attorney General, said the board wanted to get this information out as widely as possible.

“The main point of the special edition is to give as much notice as possible,” Gardner said. “We want everyone to know about this new opportunity to vote and how the

process will work.”

The push to create this hybrid voting process came after a resolution passed at last year’s General Council, which called for constitutional amendments to be voted on at the following year’s General Council meeting.

That resolution set the wheels in motion for the Legislature and Election Board to develop a system that allows members to cast their votes either in person or through the mail, making it easier for more members to take part in the Nation’s decision-making.

In addition to the constitutional vote, the special edition also includes information about a District 1 special election. This election reflects recent redistricting changes, which now include the Minneapolis–St. Paul area as part of District 1.

Attorney Erik Shircel, who advises the Election Board, explained that the new process is possible because of an amendment to Section 21 of the election code.

Under the revised code, every eligible tribal member will automatically receive a ballot in the mail at least 30 days before General

Council. These ballots no longer require notarization but must be witnessed by a U.S. citizen at least 18 years old.

For those attending General Council in person, polling stations will be set up at the site. Voting hours will run from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., or two hours after adjournment if the meeting ends earlier.

Shircel also reassured members that election integrity remains a priority. If a member votes by mail but later decides to attend General Council and vote in person, only the in-person vote will be counted. The mailed ballot would be set aside, ensuring no one votes twice.

“This new process gives tribal members who can’t make it to General Council an opportunity to still have their voices heard,” Shircel said. “At the same time, it maintains election integrity and ensures no one votes twice.”

The change is especially important because amending the Constitution requires approval from at least 30 percent of eligible voters, while quorum at General Council requires just 20 percent.

The hybrid system is designed

to close that gap by allowing more members to participate, even if they cannot attend in person.

Looking ahead, this hybrid approach is expected to become the standard for future constitutional amendment votes.

While other pending resolutions, including those on procedural rules, transparency, and governance, are also being discussed, Gardner emphasized that the main focus this year is ensuring the proposed enrollment amendment remains clear and at the forefront.

Tribal members are encouraged to watch their mailboxes in the coming weeks for ballots. Those who plan to attend General Council in person may vote at the meeting if they prefer.

Leadership hopes this new process will make it easier for everyone to have a say in shaping the Nation’s future.

For questions about the election process or ballots, members are encouraged to contact the Election Board office via telephone at 715-284-8900 or via email at Election.Board@ho-chunk.com.

### Background to Amendment to Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation and Contents of Election Board’s Special Edition

Ardith Van Riper  
Editor

The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board is publishing this Special Edition of the *Hocak Worak* to disclose information regarding the adopted Ho-Chunk Nation General Council Resolution titled ‘A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to allow Descendant Enrollment with Ho-Chunk Nation after Relinquishment from another tribe,’ share current information regarding the 2025 Annual Meeting of the General Council, share current Election Board meeting minutes, and provide

*Continued on Page 2*

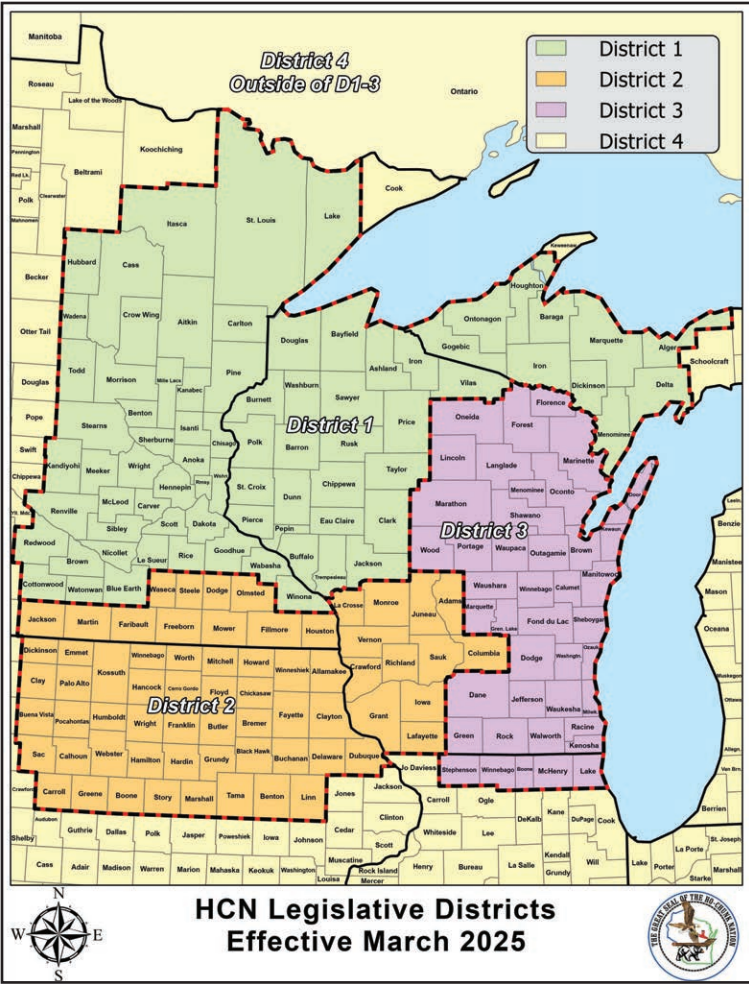



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**HO-CHUNK NATION**  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To: HCN Office of General Council  
From: President Jon Greendeer  
Date: November 6, 2024  
Re: 2025 General Council Date


Under Article IV, Section 5 Annual Meeting. *"The People shall meet in General Council at least one time each year, which shall be called by the President, and at other times as provided in Section 6 of this Article. Notice shall be provided by the President for all Annual Meeting of the General Council."*

Therefore, I, President Jon Greendeer, under my constitutional delegated authority as President, do hereby officially call the 2025 Annual Meeting of the General Council on September 20, 2025.

Thank you,

  
Jon Greendeer  
Maąšusga  
Ho-Chunk Nation President

P.O. BOX 667 • BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615  
(715) 284-9343 • FAX (715) 284-9805 • (800) 232-2180 • (800) 294-9343



**Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board**

**ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board Office  
W8801 Mission Road  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
715/284-8900  
Email: [election.board@ho-chunk.com](mailto:election.board@ho-chunk.com)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting an absentee ballot for the upcoming Special Election on Monday, August 11, 2025. Mail to:


\_\_\_\_\_  
(Full Legal Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip)

Thank you,

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number to be reached at \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline to request ballot is Wednesday, August 6, 2025 by 4:00 pm.



## Office of the General Council Official General Council Resolution Submission Deadline Announcement

### General Council Resolution 09.21.2024N

#### HO-CHUNK NATION GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION A RESOLUTION TO SET TIME PARAMETERS ON GENERAL COUNCIL WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS

Within this resolution it states the following:


WHEREAS, the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council hereby requires that members of the General Council submit all future General Council Resolutions 60 calendar days prior to the duly called annual meeting with the following exceptions:

1. That the duly called annual meeting date allows for at least a 90 calendar day grace period which would allow General Council Members with at least 30 calendar days to draft resolutions, and if a 90 calendar day grace period is not provided then all Resolutions will be accepted up to the start of the meeting.
2. Resolutions for the purposes of removing elected officials shall be accepted up to the start of the meeting. ; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council hereby authorizes the Office of the General Council through the General Council Advocate to declare and announce the resolution submission date deadline/time parameters within five (5) business days after the President calls for any future Annual General Council Meetings; and

Now, pursuant to General Council Resolution 09.21.2024N the official deadline date to submit General Council Resolutions for the 2025 Annual General Council Meeting is **JULY 22, 2025** 60 calendar days prior to the duly called annual meeting.

Submit General Council Resolutions to [Henry.WhiteThunder@ho-chunk.com](mailto:Henry.WhiteThunder@ho-chunk.com)



*Continued from Page 1*

Notice and Rules of Special Election for District 1.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney General provided an Opinion Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation. According to the Opinion, the amendment is procedurally lawful and is also constitutionally sound. The Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney General Opinion appears in this Special Edition.

In 2024, the Ho-Chunk Nation Annual General Council convened on September 21 at the Kalahari Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. The General Council retains the power to set policy for the Ho-Chunk Nation. The quorum requirement for this annual meeting was 1,277 tribal members. This total was met and exceeded at 12:15 PM, when registration reached 1,819 voting members. Quorum is twenty percent of the eligible voters of the Nation.

The registered tribal members voted Wilfrid Cleveland to chair the meeting. Mr. Cleveland then requested Pamela Wilber to be the meeting Secretary and Carson Funmaker to be the Sergeant at Arms. Chief Clayton Winneshiek offered an opening prayer.

The agenda was then established with 18 proposed resolutions. The resolution titles, motion-makers, and outcomes are as follows:

1. Removal of President Greendeer, motion by Robert Funmaker, Jr., seconded by Shane Funmaker. Motion by Robert Funmaker, Jr. to approve Resolution 09-21-24A, with second by Shane Funmaker, Voting: Yes – 623, No – 916, Abstain – 107, Total – 1,646. Motion Defeated.
2. To Remove District 4 Representative and Vice President Danielle DeLong for Malfeasance, motion by Miriam WhiteEagle, seconded by Shane Funmaker. Motion by Samantha Skenandore to oppose Resolution 9-21-24B, with second by Rio Greendeer, Voting: Yes – 830, No – 572, Abstain – 216, Total – 1,618. Motion Carried.
3. To Remove District 2 Representative Stephanie Begay for Malfeasance, motion by Christine Funmaker-Romano, seconded by Chelsea Thompson. Motion by Christine Funmaker-Romano to approve Resolution 9-21-24C, seconded by Robert Funmaker, Jr., Voting: Yes – 582, No – 845, Abstain – 176, Total – 1,603. Motion Defeated.
4. To Remove District 3 Legislator Sarah Lemieux-WhiteEagle for Malfeasance, motion by Miriam WhiteEagle, seconded by Chelsea Thompson. Miriam WhiteEagle withdraws Resolution 9-21-24D, supported by Chelsea Thompson.
5. To Reinstate General Council Agency and Reversal of the Office of General Council Establishment Act, motion by Joyce Warner, seconded by Anisha Decorah. Motion by Joyce Warner to approve Resolution 9-21-24E, seconded by Anisha Decorah, Voting: Yes – 421, No – 1,067, Abstain – 132, Total – 1,620. Motion Defeated.
6. To ensure Checks and Balances apply to the Office of General Council

*Continued on Page 3*







HO-CHUNK NATION GENERAL COUNCIL  
*The People of the Ho-Chunk Nation hereby grant all inherent sovereign powers to the General Council*

HO-CHUNK NATION GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
A RESOLUTUION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW  
DESCENDANT ENROLLMENT WITH HO-CHUNK NATION AFTER  
RELINQUISHMENT FROM ANOTHER TRIBE

09.21.2024- *G*

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 1994, the Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation (“Constitution”), formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation (“Nation”) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, the People of the Ho-Chunk Nation hereby grant all inherent sovereign powers to the General Council; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, all eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation are entitled to participate in General Council; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 (c), the General Council retains the power to propose amendments in accordance with Article XIII, including those which reverse decisions of the Judiciary interpreting this Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 (e), the General Council retains the power to call a Special Election; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 (f), action by the General Council shall be binding; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5, and Article VI Section 2 (j), an Annual meeting has been duly called and notice duly given by the President; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7, twenty (20) percent of the eligible voters of the Nation present in General Council shall constitute a quorum; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7, each action of the General Council shall require the presence of a quorum; and

**WHEREAS**, Article XIII, sec. 2 requires the Election Board to have a secretarial election upon a request of the General Council.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Council proposes the following amendment to the Constitution to add Section 1. (e) as follows:

(e) Beginning the date this amendment is approved the Ho-Chunk Nation will permit the enrollment of persons at least 18 years old, who were enrolled in another Tribe as a minor child, to enroll with the Ho-Chunk Nation upon relinquishment of enrollment in that other tribe. The Descendant must meet all other qualifications as identified in Article II, Section 1 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the General Counsel asks the Election Board to call a Secretarial Election pursuant to Article XIII Sec. 2 of the Constitution to be run in accordance to the ELECTION CODE Section 21; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that effective upon affirmative results of a Secretarial Election to amend the Constitution as stated above, the Legislature shall amend the HCN Enrollment & Membership code to be consistent with the Constitution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, pursuant to Article IV Sec.3(a) if action is needed to enforce this resolution, the General Council herby delegates authority to the tribal member proposing this resolution, Rita A. Gardner, to bring all actions on behalf of the General Council.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary for the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council, hereby certify that the General Council of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of *1819* members, of whom *1277* constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held on the 21st day of September, 2024, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of *928* members, *362* opposed, and *135* abstaining, pursuant to the authority of Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.

*Amela M. Spiker* *September 21, 2024*  
Secretary Date

Ho-Chunk Nation General Council P.O. Box 667, Black River Falls, WI 54615 • Office of General Council  
27374 State Highway 21, Suite 2 Tomah, WI 54660•Phone 715.284.7891 ext-11070, or 11075

*Continued from Page 2*  
through Establishment of an Office of General Council Board of Directors, motion by Rita Gardner, seconded by Robert Funmaker, Jr. Motion by Rita Gardner to approve Resolution 9-21-24F, seconded by Robert Funmaker, Jr.. Voting: Yes – 711, No – 773, Abstain – 164, Total – 1,648. Motion Defeated.

7. To Amend the Constitution to allow Descendant Enrollment with Ho-Chunk Nation after Relinquishment from another tribe, motion by Rita Gardner, seconded by Kathy DeCamp. Motion by Rita Gardner to adopt Resolution 9-21-24G, seconded by Nathaniel Longtail, Voting: Yes – 927, No – 562, Abstain – 135, Total – 1,625. Motion Carried.

8. To Allow Secretarial Elections to be held at General Council Meetings, motion by Rita Gardner, seconded by Rose Walker. Motion by Rita Gardner to adopt Resolution 9-21-24H, seconded by Adrienne Thunder, Voting: Yes – 693, No – 668, Abstain – 196, Total – 1,557. Motion Carried.

9. Defining Supervisory Authority of the Vice President, motion by Rita Gardner, seconded by Rose Walker. Motion by Rita Gardner to approve Resolution 9-21-24I, seconded by Shane Funmaker, Voting: Yes – 588, No – 720, Abstain – 221, Total – 1,529. Motion Defeated.

10. Reversal of Legislative Resolution to Remove District 2 Legislator Robert Funmaker, Jr., motion by Rose Walker, seconded by Chelsea Thompson. Rose Walker withdraws Resolution 9-21-24J, supported by Chelsea Thompson.

11. For Freedom of Speech with Open and Transparent Governance, motion by Cindy Tack, seconded by Chelsea Thompson. Motion by Cindy Tack to approve Resolution 9-21-24K, seconded by Jesse Decorah, Voting: Yes – 840, No – 550, Abstain – 180, Total – 1,570. Motion Carried.

12. To Resolve the General Council to Abolish the Organization/Entity known as “12 Clans” forthwith, motion by Marlys WhiteEagle, seconded by

Miriam WhiteEagle. Motion by Marlys WhiteEagle to approve Resolution 9-21-24L, seconded by Miriam WhiteEagle, Voting: Yes – 677, No – 503, Abstain – 229, Total – 1,409. Motion Carried.

13. To Reverse the Actions that were made in regard to Rental Agreements and the Terminating of Rental Agreements towards Tribal Members, motion by Vanverd Dick III, seconded by Rose Walker. Motion by Vanverd Dick III to adopt Resolution 9-21-24M, seconded by Nathaniel Longtail, Voting: Yes – 535, No – 727, Abstain – 216, Total – 1,478. Motion Defeated.

14. To Set Time Parameters on General Council Resolutions with Limited Exceptions, motion by Nathaniel Longtail, seconded by Bridgette Schulz. Motion by Nathaniel Longtail to adopt Resolution 9-21-24N, seconded by Bridgette Schulz, Voting: Yes – 761, No – 589, Abstain – 158, Total – 1,508. Motion Carried.

15. To Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice Establishment and Organization Act (1 HCC 8) Limited to Include any Legislatively Created Independent Agencies whom are funded within the Branches Budgeted Bills and share the Ho-Chunk Nation Employee Identification Number as Governmental Employees within Section 4. Functions (b) and Adding an Exclusive Office of the General Council Attorney within Section 5. Internal Organization (e), motion by Nathaniel Longtail, seconded by Bridgette Schulz. Motion by Nathaniel Longtail to adopt Resolution 9-21-24O, seconded by Bridgette Schulz, Voting: Yes – 586, No – 660, Abstain – 330, Total – 1,576. Motion Defeated.

16. For Declaration of Deficiency and Vote of No Confidence for the current Attorney General William Gardner with Legal Representation, motion by Nathaniel Longtail, seconded by Bridgette Schulz. Motion by Nathaniel Longtail to adopt Resolution 9-21-24P, seconded by Bridgette Schulz, Voting: Yes – 549, *Continued on Page 4*





HO-CHUNK NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HO-CHUNK NATION

Introduction.

On September 21, 2024 the General Council met and passed a resolution for a Secretarial Election.<sup>1</sup> The resolution advances an effort to amend the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation (hereinafter "Constitution"). If passed, the amendment would permit enrollment by persons who were previously enrolled in other Indian Tribes when they were minors, as long as they meet all other Ho-Chunk membership blood-quantum and DNA requirements.

After the Office of General Council provided the resolution to the Election Board, it was verified that a majority of voters at the General Council voted for the Constitutional Amendment.<sup>2</sup> Following its' April 6, 2025 meeting, the Board referred the proposed amendment to the Attorney General for an Opinion relating to the constitutionality and legality of the proposed amendment. Once this Opinion is given, it is to be posted in the Nation's newsletter for two consecutive printings, along with the text of the proposed Amendment.<sup>3</sup>

Text of the Proposed Amendment.

The Resolution seeks to amend Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation by adding the following language to said Article II, Section 1:

(e) Beginning the date this amendment is approved the Ho-Chunk Nation will permit the enrollment of persons at least 18 years old, who were enrolled in another Tribe as a minor child, to enroll with the Ho-Chunk Nation upon relinquishment of enrollment in that other tribe. The Descendant must meet all other qualifications as identified in Article II, Section 1 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution.

Opinion.

1. The proposed amendment was adopted by a quorum of the General Council and was properly certified by the Election Board. It is *procedurally lawful*.
2. The proposed amendment is also *constitutionally* sound.

1 The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Code 2 HCC§ 6.21 now refers to this as a Constitutional Election.

2 Resolution 09.21-24G. The Resolution passed by a vote of Yes - 928, No - 562, Abstain - 135, for a total of 1,625 votes. The quorum number was 1,261.

3 Election Code 2 HCC §6. 21. e.(1)

*William F. Gardner*

William F. Gardner  
Attorney General of the Ho-Chunk Nation



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE  
Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 09.21.2024-G  
AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION REGARDING A REQUEST TO AMEND  
THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW DESCENDANT ENROLLMENT WITH THE  
HO-CHUNK NATION AFTER RELINQUISHMENT FROM ANOTHER TRIBE

RESOLUTION 11-01-24 A

- WHEREAS**, on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; and
- WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS**, in Article IV, Section 2 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, the General Council delegated and authorized the Legislature to make laws and appropriate funds in accordance with Article V of the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS**, Article V, Section 1(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution ("Constitution") vests Legislative powers in the Legislature; and
- WHEREAS**, Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution ("Constitution") grants the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature ("Legislature") the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS**, Article V, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to establish Executive Departments, and to delegate legislative powers to the Executive branch to be administered by such Departments, in accordance with the law; any Department established by the Legislature shall be administered by the Executive; the Legislature reserves the power to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power; and
- WHEREAS**, Article V, Section 2(x) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact any other laws, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes necessary to exercise its Legislative powers delegated by the General Council pursuant to Article III including but not limited to the foregoing list of powers; and
- WHEREAS**, Article XIII of the Constitution addresses the process and requirements for amending the Nation's Constitution; and
- WHEREAS**, Article XIII, Section 1 of the Constitution states that "[t]his Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation voting at an election called for that purpose by the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board, provided, that at least thirty (30) percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election"; and
- WHEREAS**, Article XIII, Section 2 of the Constitution states that "Requests for a Secretarial Election. It shall be the duty of the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board to call and hold an election on any proposed amendment to this Constitution at the request of two thirds (2/3) of the entire Legislature, at the request of the General Council, or upon presentation of a petition signed by thirty (30) percent of the eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation."; and
- WHEREAS**, the Nation's General Council met on September 21, 2024 at its Annual Meeting and adopted Resolution 09.21.2024-G, entitled "A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Allow Descendant Enrollment with Ho-Chunk Nation After Relinquishment from Another Tribe"; and
- WHEREAS**, General Council Resolution 09.21.2024-G proposed, and approved, an amendment to the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution to add Section 1.(e) as follows:
- "(e) Beginning the date this amendment is approved the Ho-Chunk Nation will permit enrollment of persons at least 18 years old, who were enrolled in another Tribe as a minor child, to enroll with the Ho-Chunk Nation upon relinquishment of enrollment in that other tribe. The Descendant must meet all other qualifications as identified in Article II, Section 1 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution"; and
- WHEREAS**, General Council Resolution 09.21.2024-G asks the Nation's Election Board to call a Secretarial Election pursuant to Article XIII, Section 2 of the Nation's Constitution to be run in accordance with the Nation's Election Code, Section 21; and
- WHEREAS**, General Council Resolution 09.21.2024-G states further that upon the affirmative results of a Secretarial Election to amend the Constitution as stated above, the Legislature shall amend the HCN Enrollment & Membership Code (2 HCC § 6) to be consistent with the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Constitution states that "[t]he General Council retains the power to set policy for the Nation. This policy shall be resolutions proposed and approved at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings, by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council. This policy shall be made into laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions and statutes by the Legislative Branch of the Ho-Chunk Nation within forty-five (45) days after a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings."; and
- WHEREAS**, according to the Nation's Trial Court in *Coalition for Fair Government II v. Chloris Lowe, Jr., et al.*, CV 96-22 (HCN Tr. Ct., Jul. 23, 1996) at 11, the General Council is bound to follow the Constitution of the Nation; and
- WHEREAS**, also in *Coalition for Fair Government II v. Chloris Lowe, Jr., et al.*, CV 96-22 (HCN Tr. Ct., Jul. 23, 1996) at 13, the Trial Court of the Nation emphasized that properly conducted and Constitutional actions of the General Council are binding, but action which violates the Constitution would be unlawful and not "binding"; and
- WHEREAS**, the Attorney General of the Nation rendered an opinion, analyzing the 2024 General Council Resolutions, by memo dated October 28, 2024; and
- WHEREAS**, the Attorney General's October 28, 2024 opinion memo indicated that that Resolution 09.21.2024-G properly included the language for the requested amendment to the Constitution and a Secretarial Election may be called pursuant to the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS**, the Attorney General's October 28, 2024 opinion memo indicated that Resolution 09.21.2024-G properly requested the Legislature amend the HCN Enrollment & Membership Code (2 HCC § 6) to be consistent with the Constitution if the amendment to the Constitution is adopted; and
- WHEREAS**, the Legislature acknowledges General Council Resolution 09.21.2024-G while also noting the express binding policy directive within the Resolution to have the Election Board take action to call for a Secretarial Election to amend the Nation's Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, hereby acknowledges General Council Resolution 09.21.2024-G and refers the request to call for a Secretarial Election, pursuant to Article XIII, Section 2 of the Constitution, to the Election Board, as stated by the General Council within the resolution.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary of Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certifies that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of 13 members of whom 11 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held that on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2024, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 11 members, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, pursuant to the Article V, Section 2(a) and (x) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that the foregoing resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.

*Stephanie Begay*

Rep. Stephanie Begay, Tribal Secretary

11.01.24

Date

Continued from Page 3

No – 673, Abstain – 273, Total – 1,495. Motion Defeated.

17. For the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council to Request a Secretarial Election to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution to Include 1/8 of Anther Tribe to meet the Total 1/4 Blood Quantum, motion by Bridgette Schulz, seconded by Claire Maisells. Motion by Bridgette Schulz to approve Resolution 9-21-24Q, seconded by Claire Maisells, Voting: Yes – 342, No – 1,041, Abstain – 108, Total – 1,491. Motion Defeated.

18. Limit Powers of Executive, motion by Marlys WhiteEagle, seconded by Bridgette Schulz. Motion by Marlys WhiteEagle withdraws Resolution 9-21-24R.

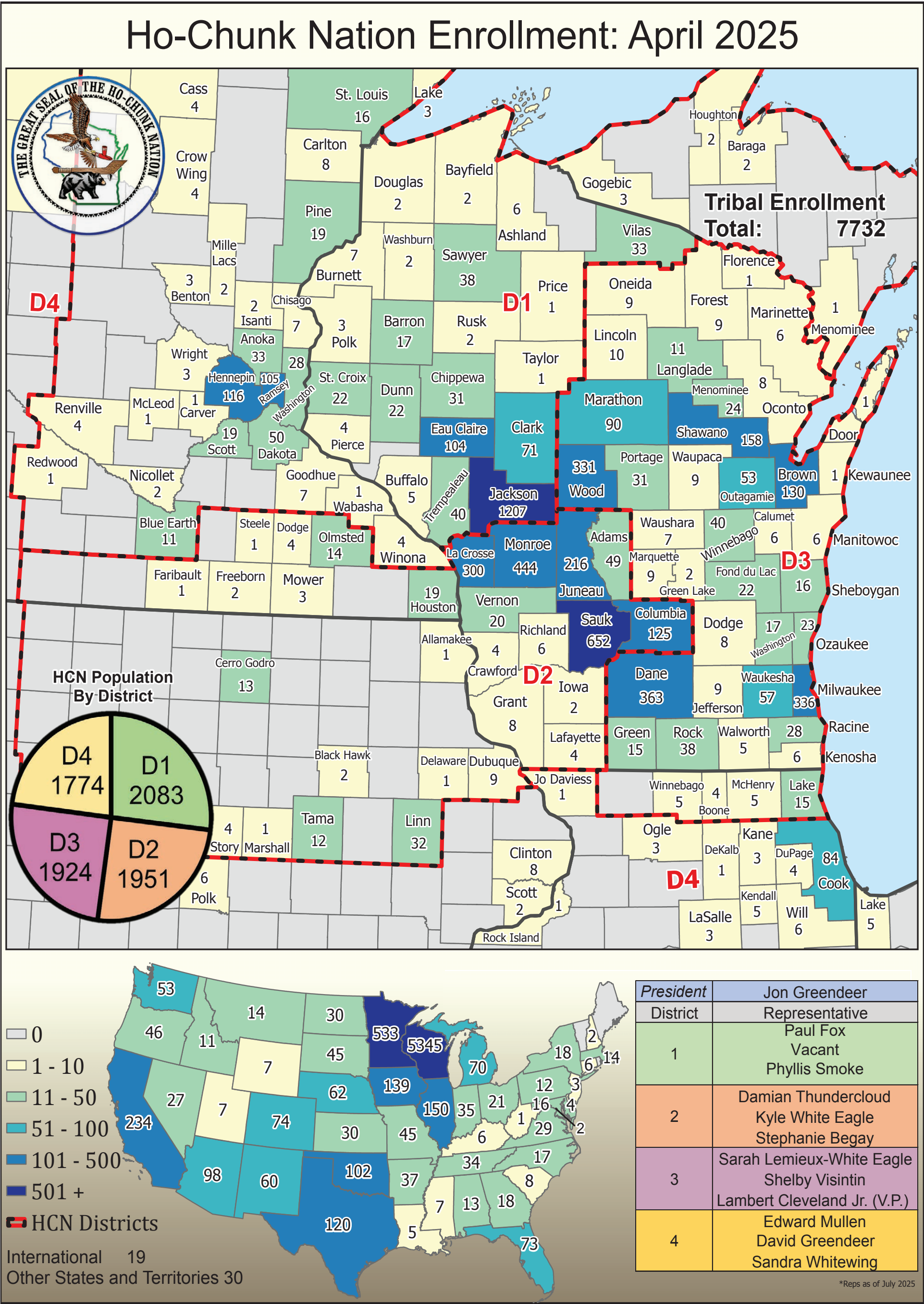
John Stacy moved to adjourn with a second by Rose Walker. The voting was Yes – 1,235, No – 85, Abstain – 33, Total – 1,353. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

This Special Edition is a product of the resolution proposed in number seven, "To Amend the Constitution to allow Descendant Enrollment with Ho-Chunk Nation after Relinquishment from another tribe." The Ho-Chunk Nation General Council numbers this resolution as 09.21.2024-G and the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature numbers this as Resolution 11-01-24 A. These two documents appear in this Special Edition.

The Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer called for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the General Council to be held on September 20, 2025. The Office of General Council announced the meeting will take place at the Kalahari Convention Center.

Questions or concerns can be emailed to Election.Board@ho-chunk.com or telephoned to 715-284-8900.







Election Board Meeting  
Sunday, April 6, 2025  
Sunrise Cliff – HCG-Wisconsin Dells

Call to Order by the EB Chairperson Weeta Montelongo at 9:01am.

Roll Call:  
Devin Funmaker, BRF  
Myra Price, Tomah  
Marsha Smith, Lacrosse  
Weeta Montelongo, Baraboo  
Cher Laubmeier, Madison  
Greg Smith, Wis. Rapids  
Danee Walker, Wittenberg  
Mary Lopez, Green Bay  
Alexandria Lange, Milwaukee, V  
Patrick Red Eagle, Mpls.  
Jo Ann Maney Chicago  
Crystal Pettibone, BRF  
Deana Mitch, Tomah  
Ethel Funmaker, Lacrosse  
Barbara Funmaker, Baraboo, 9:07a  
Lance Anwash, Madison  
Melanie Kasun, Wis. Rapids  
Vacant, Wittenberg  
Dave Radtke, Green Bay  
Hazel Guerrero, Milwaukee, V  
Victoria Fox, Mpls.  
Vacant, Chicago

EB Staff: Melissa Olvera  
Elissa Smith  
Others Present: Shelby Grant (Call-in User 1)  
EB Counsel: Erik Shircel  
David Mrgudich

Quorum Established at 9:02 am

Opening Prayer: Dave Radtke

- Motion: Myra Price made a motion to approve the EB meeting minutes with corrections for March 12, 2025, Second by Greg Smith, 11-0-0 Motion Carried
- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to approve the agenda, Second by Mary Lopez, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Myra Price made a motion to have the Election Board Office Administrator resend Absentee ballot along with a letter along the reason why they are getting another ballot, Second by Cher Laubmeier  
  
Myra Price rescinded her motion and Cher Laubmeier rescinded her 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Motion: Mary Lopez made a motion to call for the rescheduled Special Election D4, Second by Marsha Smith, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Myra Price made a motion to have the Election Board Office Administrator attach a letter with the Absentee ballot explaining why they are getting an absentee ballot again, Second by Cher Laubmeier, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Mary Lopez made a motion to approve the Special Primary Election, D4, S3, Second by Devin Funmaker, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Myra Price made a motion to table, dies a lack of second
- Motion: Marsha Smith made a motion to determine the Resolution 09.21.2024-G meets requirement Section 21D of the Election Code and refer to the Attorney General in the Department of Justice, Second by Myra Price, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to adjourn at 10:34 am, Second by Cher Laubmeier, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Weeta Montelongo  
EB Chairperson

Next EB Meetings: Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 9:00 am, EB Certify Elections results – Wis. Dells  
Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 9:00 am at Wisconsin Dells.



Election Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025  
Lower C/D– HCG-Wisconsin Dells

Call to Order by the EB Chairperson Weeta Montelongo at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call:  
Devin Funmaker, BRF  
Myra Price, Tomah, ex  
Marsha Smith, Lacrosse  
Weeta Montelongo, Baraboo  
Cher Laubmeier, Madison, 6:07p  
Greg Smith, Wis. Rapids  
Danee Walker, Wittenberg  
Mary Lopez, Green Bay  
Alexandria Lange, Milwaukee, ex  
Patrick Red Eagle, Mpls.  
Jo Ann Maney Chicago, V  
Crystal Pettibone, BRF  
Deana Mitch, Tomah  
Ethel Funmaker, Lacrosse, 6:01p  
Barbara Funmaker, Baraboo  
Lance Anwash, Madison  
Melanie Kasun, Wis. Rapids, ex  
Alana Hansen, Wittenberg  
Dave Radtke, Green Bay  
Hazel Guerrero, Milwaukee  
Victoria Fox, Mpls.  
Vacant, Chicago

EB Staff: Melissa Olvera  
Elissa Smith  
EB Counsel: Erik Shircel  
David Mrgudich, V

Quorum Established at 6:01pm

Others Present: Benjamin Gamble, John Funmaker, Linda McHugh, Gary Phillips

Opening Prayer: Dave Radtke

- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to approve the EB meeting minutes May 4, 2025 with corrections, Second by Greg Smith, 11-0-0 Motion Carried
- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to approve the agenda, Second by Dave Radtke, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to enter Executive session at 6:11 pm, Second by Danee Walker, 11-0-0 Motion Carried
- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to exit executive session at 6:28 pm, Second by Cher Laubmeier, 10-0-0 (JM offline) Motion Carried
- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to confirm Benjamin Gamble as candidate for Legislator D4, S3 of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Run Off Election on June 3, 2025 dated this date, Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from the JDIB report with no felonies, Second by Cher Laubmeier, 10-0-1 (JM) Motion Carried.

Motion: Cher Laubmeier made a motion to approve the amended poster for The General Run Off Election for Tuesday, June 3, 2025 dated this date Tuesday, May 6, 2025, Second by Danee Walker, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.

Motion: Marsha Smith made a motion to approve the Official Ballot for The General Run Off Election on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 for D4, S3, Second by Dave Radtke, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.

Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to adjourn at 7:06 pm, Second by Dave Radtke, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted by

Weeta Montelongo  
EB Approved 06/04/25

Next Meeting: June 2, 2025 - Pick up machines at 11:00 am  
June 3, 2025 – Election Day  
June 4, 2025 – EB Meeting – Certify Results



Election Board Meeting-Certify  
Sunday, May 4, 2025  
Sunrise Cliff – HCG-Wisconsin Dells

Call to Order by the EB Chairperson Weeta Montelongo at 9:00 am.

Roll Call:  
Devin Funmaker, BRF  
Myra Price, Tomah  
Marsha Smith, Lacrosse  
Weeta Montelongo, Baraboo  
Cher Laubmeier, Madison  
Greg Smith, Wis. Rapids  
Danee Walker, Wittenberg  
Mary Lopez, Green Bay  
Alexandria Lange, Milwaukee  
Patrick Red Eagle, Mpls.  
Jo Ann Maney Chicago  
Crystal Pettibone, BRF  
Deana Mitch, Tomah, ex  
Ethel Funmaker, Lacrosse  
Barbara Funmaker, Baraboo  
Lance Anwash, Madison  
Melanie Kasun, Wis. Rapids, V @ 9:02 am  
Vacant, Wittenberg  
Dave Radtke, Green Bay  
Hazel Guerrero, Milwaukee  
Victoria Fox, Mpls.  
Vacant, Chicago

EB Staff: Melissa Olvera  
Elissa Smith  
Enrollment Director: Eliza Decorah, V  
EB Counsel: Erik Shircel  
David Mrgudich

Others Present: Terry Rainey & Mickey EAS

Quorum Established at 9:02 am

Opening Prayer: Dave Radtke

- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to approve the EB meeting minutes with corrections for April 6, 2025, Second by Mary Lopez, 11-0-0 Motion Carried
- Motion: Cher Laubmeier made a motion to approve the agenda with changes and adding 7 oath of EB Member, 8. Executive Session and move everything else down one, Second by Devin Funmaker, 11-0-0 Motion Carried

Alana Hansen was sworn in as the Election Board Alternate Wittenberg

- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:14am, Second by Joann Maney, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Marsha Smith made a motion to exit Executive Session at 9:48am, Second by Alexandria Lange, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to ratify motion in Executive session, Second by Mary Lopez, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Devin Funmaker made a motion to accept 9 Absentee ballots for the HCN Special Primary Election, D4, S3 on Saturday, May 3, 2025, Second by Myra Price, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Cher Laubmeier made a motion to accept 1 absentee ballot without the line connected, Second by Joann Maney, 8-2-1 (MP,DW)(WM) Motion Carried.
- Motion: Myra Price made a motion to approve the Email poll that was conducted on Monday, April 14, 2025 approving the revised poster, Second by Cher Laubmeier, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Cher Laubmeier made a motion to certify Benjamin Gamble as the candidate for Legislature D4, S3 with 28.57% of the 28 votes from the Saturday, May 3, 2025 from the Special Primary Election D4, S3 Saturday, May 3, 2025 pending a background check, to be placed on the Ballot for The General Run Off Election, for Tuesday, June 3, 2025 dated todays date Sunday, May 4, 2025, Second by Mary Lopez, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Cher Laubmeier made a motion to certify Sandra Whitewing as the candidate for Legislature D4, S3 with 50.00% of the 28 votes from the Saturday, May 3, 2025 from the Special Primary Election D4, S3 to be placed on the Ballot for The General Run Off Election, for Tuesday, June 3, 2025 dated todays date Sunday, May 4, 2025, Second by Myra Price, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Myra Price made a motion to approve the purposed language with changes to the Attorney General, Second by Cher Laubmeier, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.
- Motion: Danee Walker made motion to approve the amended poster for the General Run Off Election, for Tuesday, June 3, 2025 dated todays date Sunday, May 4, 2025, Second by Devin Funmaker, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.

District Concerns: BRF, Tomah, Lacrosse, Baraboo, Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, Wittenberg, Wisconsin Rapids, Minneapolis, No Concerns, Green Bay was address in Executive Session.

Motion: Myra Price made a motion to adjourn at 11:32am, Second by Devin Funmaker, 11-0-0 Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted by

Weeta Montelongo  
EB Chairperson  
EB Approved 05/06/25

Next Meeting: June 2, 2025 - Pick up machines at 10:00 am  
June 3, 2025 – Election Day  
June 4, 2025 – EB Meeting – Certify Results



**GENERAL COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 2025**

**September 20, 2025**

**KALAHARI CONVENTION CENTER**

**1305 KALAHARI DRIVE**

**LAKE DELTON, WI**

**Bus schedule will be announced soon**

**Rooms at Kalahari can be booked now:**

**<https://book.passkey.com/e/51078493>**

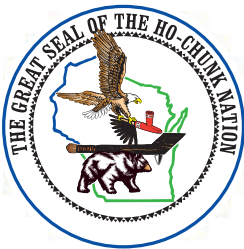
There will be rooms at HCG-WD and the link will be provided will it becomes available.

**Other information such as registration, meal times will be announced**



NOTICE AND RULES OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Monday, August 11, 2025



LEGISLATOR

DISTRICT 1, SEAT 2

Notice is hereby served to all eligible voters of District 1. The Ho-Chunk Nation is calling a Special Election which will be held due to the Resignation of Legislator Rodney Rave, District 1, Seat 2 effective July 11, 2025. The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board, in accordance with the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation will conduct a Special Election. ARTICLE IX< SECTION 10, Removal, Recall and Vacancies and the Election Code 2 HCC Sec. 6, states in relevant part:

ARTICLE IX-REMOVAL, RECALL VACANCIES  
Section 10. Vacancies in the Legislature. If a vacancy occurs in the Legislature because of death, mental or physical incapacity, removal or recall vote, resignation, felony conviction, or for any other reason, such vacancy shall be filled in the following manner:  
(a) If three (3) months or more remain before the next General Election, the Election Board shall call a Special Election in the appropriate District to be held within thirty (30) days.

**NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES**  
The official candidacy forms may be obtained from the Election Board Office. A candidate for elective office shall submit an Official Nomination Petition, Declaration of Candidacy and a \$5.00 filing fee by hand delivery or U.S. Mail to the Election Board Office before the close of the nomination period on **Wednesday, July 23, 2025 by 4:30 PM.** ORIGINAL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED. FILING BY FAX OR COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

**ELIGIBLE VOTERS:**  
Any enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation who is at least eighteen (18) years old and who has resided in their respective district for at least three (3) months. See *Election Code Sec. 11 (a) (6)*.

**REGISTRATION:**  
Each person seeking to vote must register at the polling place by showing identification before receiving an Official Ballot. If a person cannot write, that person must sign his/her name with a mark before two (2) witnesses

**ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES:**  
Any individual whose name does not appear on the eligible voters list can claim the right to vote by presenting a written challenge to the Election Board. Any eligible voter may challenge the eligibility of an individual’s name appearing on the eligible voters list by presenting a written challenge to the Election Board.

The Election Board shall rule on all written challenges to the list of eligible voters immediately after the close of the challenge period, Section 11. c. ii. (Deadline, Tuesday, July 22, 2025).

**ABSENTEE VOTING:**  
A voter may vote by absentee ballot provided the Election Board receives the absentee ballot request in writing no later than **Wednesday, August 6, 2025 by 4:00 P.M.** See *Election Code, Page 26, Sec. 13 (a) (i)*. Requests MUST INCLUDE the eligible voter’s name printed or typed (with signature), physical address where the ballot will be delivered (we use UPS next Day Air – UPS Next Day Air will not deliver to a P.O. Box), daytime telephone number and enrollment number.

**Absentee Ballots must be received before 7:00 pm on Monday, August 11, 2025.**

Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board  
W8801 Mission Road  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
TELEPHONE: (715) 284-8900  
TOLL FREE: (800) 890-0583  
FAX: (715) 284-8600  
E-MAIL: Election.board@ho-chunk.com

**POSTING ELECTION RESULTS:**  
The Election Board shall certify and post the official election results within three (3) days after the date of election.

**Please check eligible voter list for your District.**

**CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS:**  
Any member of the Ho-Chunk Nation may challenge the results of any election results within ten (10) days after the Election Board certifies the results. The Trial Court shall hear and decide a challenge to any election within twenty (20) days after the challenge is filed in the Trial Court.

**ELECTIONEERING:**  
There shall be no electioneering within fifty (50) feet of any polling places.

**SPECIAL ELECTION**  
**Monday, August 11, 2025**

**POST NOTICE OF ELECTION**  
**Saturday, July 12, 2025**

**POST ELIGIBLE VOTER’S LIST**  
**Wednesday, July 16, 2025**

**OFFICIAL NOMINATION PETITION DEADLINE**  
**4:30 PM**  
**Wednesday, July 23, 2025**

**CHALLENGES TO THE ELIGIBLE VOTER’S LIST MUST BE RECEIVED BY**  
**4:30 PM**  
**Tuesday, July 22, 2025**

**LAST DAY TO REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS**  
**4:00 PM**  
**Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

**SPECIAL ELECTION**  
**Monday, August 11, 2025**

**POLLING PLACES:**  
**OPEN AT 8:00 AM**  
**CLOSE AT 7:00 PM**

**BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI**  
INDIAN MISSION  
COMMUNITY BUILDING  
W8813 Mission Road  
(715) 299-6104

**MPLS./ST. PAUL, MN**  
MPLS./ST. PAUL  
BRANCH OFFICE  
1724 Selby Avenue  
(715)284-7660

**Other Polling Sites will be closed during this Special Election.**