July 12, 2022

CHALLENGE TRIBAL ELECTIONS - Saturday, July 9th, 2022

I, Gayle Green tribal citizen, challenging the process of distributing the absentee ballots during election.

- Absentee ballots had to be corrected and tribal council did not address the issue till their meeting June 27, 2022 along with Election board representative
- Election board knew of printing errors. They had already sent out 1st ballots but had to correct
  errors it was my understanding tribal council was aware of situation but did nothing till June 27,
  2022
- Not enough time for citizens who requested absentee to complete ballot and get back to
  election board by 4:30 pm July 8: 2022 and this was the holiday weekend 4th of July even with
  overnight because where the outside service area lives
- Though I was a candidate I missed votes from others because of absentee ballots not reaching everyone.
- 5. I have enclosed documents as my correspondence during this process.

Sincerely
Gayle L Green
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

Tribal Citizen

- Of the (11) days given to correct the errored absentee ballot, one of those days was a legal Holiday thereby losing other days in an already accelerated absentee circulation to a new timetable of just (10) days for an absentee ballot circulation
- Once the error was identified, an extension equal to the original Elections Boards timetable of (28) days for a mailing process should have been given over to the process or an extension equal to the already misused (18) days spent on the error.

# Verification Section 6 (f)

Because Citizens may file absentee ballot requests close to or after the filing deadline, each Citizen requesting an absentee ballot shall remain personally responsible for verifying that their absentee ballot request form was received by the Election Board prior to the filing deadline. Further, each Citizen is personally responsible for ensuring enough time exists for the voter to receive and return the absentee ballot prior to the deadline for returning absentee ballots

May 3 - Sent for a oscilled Election Board

On May 5 - Confur 2022, I sent in and received verification of receipt for my requested absentee ballot as specified in Section 6(f) of the Pokagon Band Election Code.

However, when the absentee ballots were sent out, I did not receive my absentee ballot.

My phone calls to the election board resulted in a history search to identify that I had in fact requested an absentee ballot and a verification letter had been given to me. However due to the very limited time frame allowed for the second mailing process, insufficient time existed for the election board to properly expedite my absentee ballot to me and therefore was not sent.

#### Notes:

Extension to file for a vacated council position was given to an elected council member after the deadline to file had passed. In keeping with a fair and impartial election, a same consideration should have been given to membership in the absentee ballot voting process.

By expediting the absentee ballots mailing process into a (10) day span the (28) day allowable time frame has jeopardized the election.

Applying due diligence for obtaining and documenting absentee ballots for self-proved to be disregarded and was not able to be rectified due to shortened absentee mailing time frame even with expedited mailing.

Dayle Green

July 13, 2022

## 2022 Election Challenge

- Misleading or Confusing Ballot Papers
- 15-day timeline
- Verification

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Section 4(b) of the Pokagon Constitution: ... The election process shall follow a timetable that allows for a General Election to be conducted on the second Saturday in July each year to maintain the staggered terms mandated by the Constitution.

Pokagon Band Election Code Section 6(e) (f) ... Issuance and Return of Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots shall be prepared and ready within fifteen (15) days following the Election Board's certification of the List of Candidates. The Election Board shall conduct a forum for the election pursuant to subsection 2(I)(5) of this Code prior to making the absentee ballots available.

May 26, 2022, .... The Certified List of Candidates was completed

June 10, 2022, .... Absentee Ballots Become available for distribution

- Absentee Ballots became available and were distributed
- June 27, 2022, after an (18) day lapse in time, Tribal Council discussed a printing error had been identified on the mailed absentee ballots.
- June 29, 2022, ... A call went out to Citizens that a new Absentee Ballot was being mailed to Registered Voters with corrected information.
- July 4, 2022, Holiday Celebrated ... No Mail Delivered
- July 9, 2022, Election

. . .

Following the May 6, 2022, Candidates Certification and per Section 6(e) of the Pokagon Band Election Code the fifteen-day absentee ballot time frame began on June 10, 2022

Eighteen days later ... June 27, 2022, Council and a Representative of the Election Committee identified the error existed on the already mailed absentee ballots.

At this point in time (11) days remain on the Calendar before the official election count and vote.

- Per the Election Boards Circulated Timetable, an allowance of (28) days is given over for the mailing and returning of all absentee ballots.
- Under the identified Error date of June 27, 2022, voters were given (11) days for circulation of and return of all absentee ballots.



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#### 2 Messages









**Theresa Barber** 

To: Theresa Cc: Election.Board >

6/23/22

### Update re Absentee Ballot Error

Dear 2022 General Election Candidate:

The following information is being posted to the Pokagon Band website, Citizens Services Portal/Election 2022:

#### **Absentee Ballot Errors Have Been Corrected**

The Election Board discovered printing errors in the absentee ballots mailed by the Election Office on or before June 17, 2022.

Immediately, the Election Board corrected the printing errors and had corrected ballots printed. The corrected absentee ballots are purple in color. If your absentee ballot is not purple in color, you received an absentee ballot with printing errors.

Eligible voters who received an absentee ballot with printing errors will receive a corrected absentee ballot through expedited mail from the United States Post Office. Please watch your mail for a large, 10 x 13 cardboard envelope containing your corrected ballot.

The Election Board also agreed to provide postage for expedited return of the purple ballots (3-4 day delivery guarantee).

All other absentee ballots will be mailed directly from the Election Board office via regular mail.

It is important that you know you can vote with confidence using this corrected ballot. If you have any questions, please contact the Election Office at (269) 782-1763.

Pokagon Band Election Board

Migwetth Thank you,

Theresa (Teri) Barber **Tribal Enrollment & Elections Lead Clerk** 

#### Pokegnek Bodewadmik

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi







