

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATES

2 0 2 4

5
CHAIRMAN
CANDIDATES

12
COUNCIL
CANDIDATES

PRIMARY
ELECTION
APRIL 2, 2024
7AM-7PM

GENERAL
ELECTION
MAY 7, 2024
7AM-7PM

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 14, 2024 - 4:00PM

Deadline for submitting a request for an absentee ballot (Primary Election)

March 22, 2024

Absentee ballots mailed out to each registered voter who has sent in a timely request for an absentee ballot

March 24, 2024 - 4:00PM

Deadline for registering to vote for the Primary Election

April 1, 2024 - 12:00PM

Deadline for submitting a request for emergency absentee ballot (Primary Election)

April 1, 2024 - 3:00PM

Deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and emergency absentee ballots by mail to GTB Election Board, P.O. Box 238, Suttons Bay, MI 49682

April 2, 2024 - 7:00AM - 7:00PM

Polls open for voting for Primary Election

April 2, 2024 - approx. 8:30PM

Ballots for the Primary Election counted by Election Board in Tribal Council Chambers

April 9, 2024 - 5:00PM

Deadline for filing election challenges with Election Board (Primary Election)

April 10, 2024 - 5:30PM

Primary Election results certified if no election challenges filed

April 25, 2024 - 4:00PM

Deadline for submitting a request for an absentee ballot (General Election)

April 25, 2024 - 4:00PM

Deadline for registering to vote for the General Election

May 6, 2024 - 12:00PM

Deadline for submitting a request for emergency absentee ballot (General Election)

May 6, 2024 - 3:00PM

Deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and emergency absentee ballots by mail to GTB Election Board, P.O. Box 238, Suttons Bay, MI 49682

May 7, 2024 - 7:00AM - 7:00PM

Polls open for voting for General Election

May 7, 2024 - approx. 8:30PM

Ballots for the General Election counted by Election Board in Tribal Council Chambers

May 14, 2024 - 5:00PM

Deadline for filing election challenges with Election Board (General Election)

April 10, 2024 - 5:30PM

General Election results certified if no election challenges filed

May 17, 2024 (Tentative)

Oath of Office administered at Leelanau Sands Showroom *(Tentative pending expiration of challenge period/resolution of any election challenges, or Leelanau Sands scheduling issues)*

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN CANDIDATE

DANA GREENSKY

(160 Words)



Dana Greensky

Louisiana born, Peshawbestown raised. I am three fires. Wolf clan and the creator knows me as that feeling you get when you see the mornings first light. This submission is A. CALL. TO. ACTION. My declaration for candidacy is only as serious as the number of 18- to 49-year-olds who vote this 2024 election year. I am ready whenever you all will be.

“I want tradition. My ears are waiting for songs. My tongue to receive words. My skin waiting to be clothed in the weight of responsibility. My nieces eager for teachings. My sons waiting to see me healed. My sisters catching my tears. I want tradition.

But without the judgement. The side eye. The snickers. Blood aunties drawing blood.

I wont tradition. Of love. Of caring. Of compassion. Understanding. I’m gonna start the tradition. Of refusing colonial violence laced in Indigenous words. I won’t do their work for them. In that, I am tradition.”

-Abigail Echo-Hawk

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN CANDIDATE

THERESA MARSHALL

(197 Words)



Aanii Anishnaabeg! Theresa M. Marshall ndizhnakaaz. Daughter of Theresa Shananaquet ba, and Clinton Pelcher. I am a life-long resident of Kewadin where I am raising my family along with my husband Billy Marshall. Our family continues to learn the language, and our cultural traditions to lead the next generation.

I humbly ask for your vote for Tribal Chairwoman. I will serve you as a Chairwoman by listening to the issues, addressing them with active follow-up, and advocating for improving the quality of life for our GTB community. Opening the lines of continued conversation with our community. I will represent all our members to the best of my ability and continue to bring our issues to the front lines of all governmental communication.

The last years have shown leadership, improving the direct communication and assistance in building the voice of all counties for our membership. I will continue for improvement in housing, education, and streamlining the services for our membership. I also will continue to strongly advocate for behavioral health services and a place for recovery for our thriving community. A vote in the election is a vote for your people. Vote for proven leadership, Vote Marshall. Miigwech!

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN CANDIDATE THURLOW “SAM” MCCLELLAN

(343 Words -will format properly once you come to a decision)



Vote for Thurlow “Sam” McClellan

February 23, 2024

Dear Members of the Grand Traverse Band of
Ottawa and Chippewa Indians,

As the primary election on April 2, 2024, and
the general election on May 7, 2024, approach,
I, Thurlow “Sam” McClellan, am reaching out to
ask for your support in my candidacy for Tribal
Chairman. It would be both an honor and a
privilege to serve you once again in this capacity.

Throughout my life, I have been guided by
principles instilled in me from an early age:
honesty, openness,

fairness, and equality. These principles are not
just words to me; they are a commitment to
how I will always engage with you, our tribe's
members, whether you are family, or friend.

I believe leadership requires a clear vision for the
future and a concrete plan to achieve it. For too
long, we have settled for being second best, but

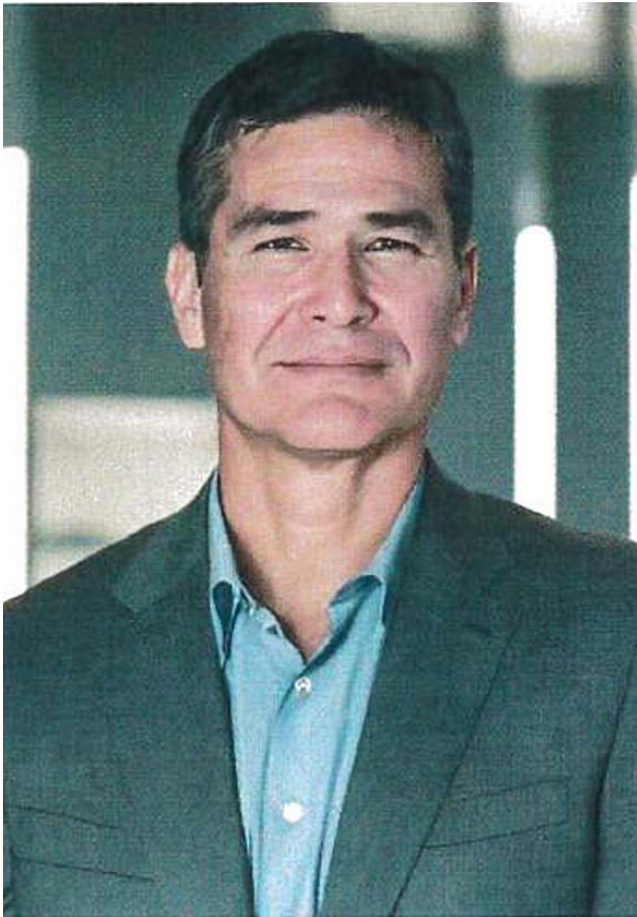
I know we are capable of so much more. Our involvement in the casino business is a prime example.
It's not just about being in the business; it's about excelling in it. This means hiring experienced,
capable individuals who not only have a proven track record but who are also committed to our
collective success. As an Elder, I have never shied away from hard work, and I bring this work ethic to
my vision for our community. I am specifically reaching out to my fellow GTB Tribal Elders to ask for
your support. Your vote is crucial, and I promise, I will not disappoint you.

I am always available to listen to your thoughts and visions for our Tribe. You can reach me anytime
at 231-649-1158 or via email at odawasam@hotmail.com. Your insights are invaluable to me, and
together, I believe we can achieve great things for our community. Let's move forward, not as
individuals, but as a united tribe, towards a future where we are not just participants but leaders in
our endeavors. Your vote for me, Thurlow “Sam” McClellan, is a step in that direction. Warm regards,
Thurlow “Sam” McClellan

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN CANDIDATE

BRIAN NAPONT

(185 Words)



Declaration of Candidacy for Tribal Chairman

Brian S. Napont

Boozhoo! I am honored to declare my candidacy for Tribal Chairman of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. I am a proud tribal member deeply committed to our community's future; a future built on the wisdom of our heritage.

My professional life has been dedicated to serving our Tribe. Now, I seek to give back on a greater scale. Our Tribe is at a crossroads. To honor our ancestors' sacrifices, we must embrace progress while safeguarding our traditions. As your Tribal Chairman, I will:

Drive Economic Growth: Create jobs and support sustainable development to strengthen our independence.

Empower Our Youth: Prioritize education, mentorship, and cultural programs to nurture future leaders.

Protect Our Heritage: Defend our lands, resources, and sacred traditions.

Promote Community Well-Being: Expand healthcare, tackle addiction, and build a healthier future for all.

Unify Our Tribe: Foster collaboration and ensure everyone's voice is heard.

Together, we'll honor the past and build a stronger, more prosperous Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Miigwech for your trust - let's shape our future!

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN CANDIDATE

SANDRA WITHERSPOON

(200 Words)



Aanii,

My name is Sandra Witherspoon, and I am declaring my candidacy for the office of Tribal Chairman, or one of the open seats on Tribal Council.

I started my career in “Indian Country” as a teenager in Charlevoix, working for the Native American Recovery Center in the mid 70’s, before heading off to college and work with the Forest Service in Wyoming, Arizona, and Oregon. Upon my return to Michigan, I was hired as the Substance Abuse prevention worker for GTB in the early 80’s. I wore many hats over the years, but my all-time favorite job was Youth Services and the Camp in Alden.

I am currently the Township Clerk of Charlevoix, and an election official for the State of Michigan. I am also employed by Northern Shores Community Development, a small Native CDFI, to administer a Native American Agriculture Fund grant. I have a diverse background of work experience, and previous experience as Tribal Council Secretary and Vice Chairwoman during my time on Council from 2004 -2012. I would be honored to serve the people of the Grand Traverse Band as Chairwoman, or as a Council member and ask for your vote in the upcoming Primary.

Miigwetch!

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

FAITH ANDERSON

(200 Words)



Hello to my friends, family members and fellow Tribal members. I am Faith Anderson and it is with great honor that I respectfully submit my letter of candidacy for Tribal Councilor. I am the daughter of the late Josephine (Wanageshik) Anderson of Northport and Erick Anderson of Elk Rapids. I am asking for your support and vote to be a voice for you on the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Tribal Council. I have 24 years of management experience with our Leelanau Sands and Turtle Creek Casinos and currently 17 years with our Grants Management Department within our Office of Management and Budget.

Being elected to the Tribal Council is a significant endeavor that offers a unique opportunity to contribute positively to our community. As a Tribal Councilor, I can work towards building consensus, promoting cultural preservation, and ensuring equitable representation for all Tribal Members. Being part of the Tribal Council will enable me to engage in strategic decision-making that can shape the future path of our community. My unique perspective, dedication, and ability to collaborate will make a lasting impact on the well-being and prosperity of our Tribe. I am asking for your support and vote.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

SANDRA ANDERSON

(116 Words)



Greeting GTB,

My name is Sandy Anderson the daughter of Steven ba Anderson & Audry June (Sands) Anderson. I live in Peshawbestown. I've lived here for 28 years. I have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. My husbands name is Mike Hernandez.

I am declaring candidacy as Tribal Councilor to work for you. I realized you have heard those words before from many, but I mean what I say. I've lived here long enough to know what needs to change. I've addressed many concerns as a tribal member, and like most, I'm unheard. I can make a difference. I will be your voice.

If I'm not your candidate of choice please vote regardless.

Many thanks,

Sandra Anderson

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

SCOTT LEWIS

(202 Words)



In a time when our community stands at the crossroads of tradition and transformation, my commitment is to steer us towards a future marked by growth, resilience, and transparency. Understanding the unique challenges we face, I advocate for a pivotal change in how we govern and grow: separating tribal council roles from business operations to empower our enterprises with the autonomy they need to flourish.

Our community's heartbeat is its people, and our immediate needs—accessible healthcare and affordable housing—demand innovative solutions. I propose the establishment of dedicated boards for these sectors, focusing on enhancing quality, efficiency, and capacity to meet our growing demands.

Moreover, to solidify the foundation of our governance, I support the election of key positions such as our judge and sheriff. This move will not only ensure accountability but also fortify the stability and trust within our government structures.

Electing me, Scott Lewis, to the Tribal Council means championing a vision where every decision, every effort, is directed towards the empowerment and betterment of our community. Together, let's embrace change, uphold our values, and build a future that generations to come will be proud of.

Regards

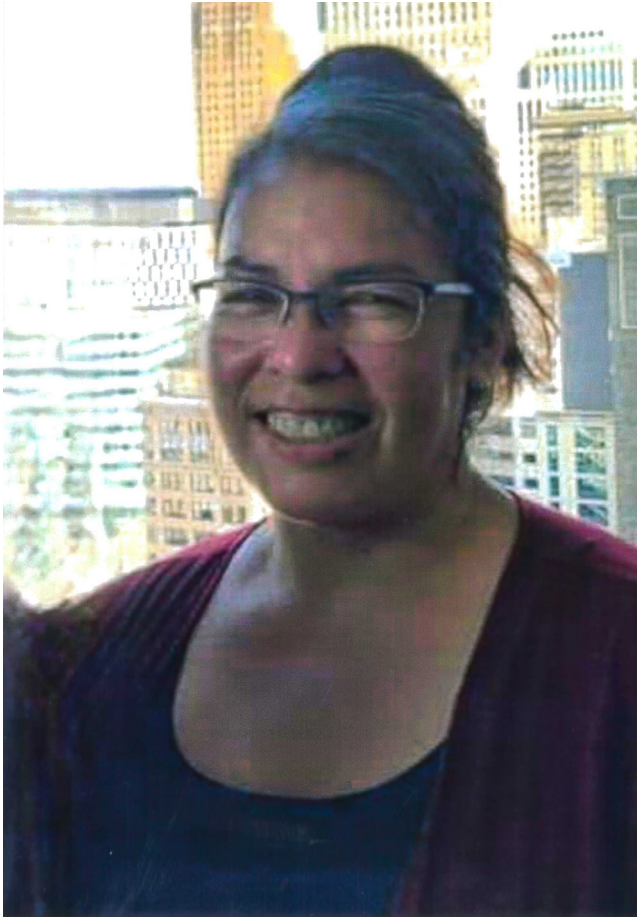
Scott Lewis

3319 N West Bayshore Dr Suttons Bay, MI 49682

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

THERESA MARSHALL

(193 Words)



Aanii Anishnaabeg! Theresa M.(Pelcher) Marshall ndizhnakaaz. Daughter of Theresa Shananaquet ba, and Clinton Pelcher. I am a life-long resident of Kewadin living on the Antrim reservation where

I am raising my family with my husband Billy Marshall. I humbly ask to continue to represent you for Tribal Council. I will Continue to serve as a committed Tribal Council Member who represents your voice moving forward issues, addressing them with active follow-up, and continuing advocating for improving the quality of life for our GTB community.

I have much respect for our elders who have fought for our federal recognition.

They have provided the groundwork for establishing our programs/services and business operations. I would like to continue to improve our governmental services through best practices in health, housing, natural resources and food sovereignty to name a few. Having formal training in Business Management (will have my Bachelors in 2024) has been advantageous for me to provide leadership to our enterprises.

We have made a lot of forward progress and I would like to continue to proactively address policies, protection of assets, and legacy building for our future generations. Vote for proven leadership, Vote Marshall. Miigwech!

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

ANNA MILLER

(216 Words)



Aanii, my name is Anna Miller; I am declaring my candidacy for Tribal Council. I have been passionate about working with and for the people of our tribe throughout my entire career. I began my work experience at Leelanau Sands Casino in the Table Games department. I worked on that team for eight years leaving only to explore an entrepreneurial opportunity. I returned to work within the tribe, working in the Youth and Elders department. In 2006 I began working in the Human Resources department and I have remained in that field, gaining experience in both gaming and government entities. I have a master's degree from Central Michigan University, I earned this while working and raising my family. In addition to my education and work

experience I have other relevant experiences that would be helpful. I served for four years on the gaming commission and received a certification for attending training through the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). I have also trained as a mediator, the information and skills I received have been valuable. I understand commitment and I believe that I have a sense of the issues that are currently facing the Grand Traverse Band. I would be honored to serve the members and work to find solutions. I humbly request your support. Thank you.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

ANGELINA RAPHAEL

(195 Words)



Boozhoo,

Angelina Marie Raphael Nidizhnikaaz, Peshawbestown Nidoonjiba. I moved to Peshawbestown at 16 from Colorado. I graduated cum laude from Haskell Indian Nations University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. An impactful course was Advanced Casino Management. I've advocated for 13 years in my current position as PRC Benefits Coordinator within GTB government operations through health insurance, food assistance, social security, disability, and Veterans' benefits. I honestly love advocating and I am ready to take it to the next level politically. I am a tribal member, daughter, spouse, mother, sister, employee, I envision change. All

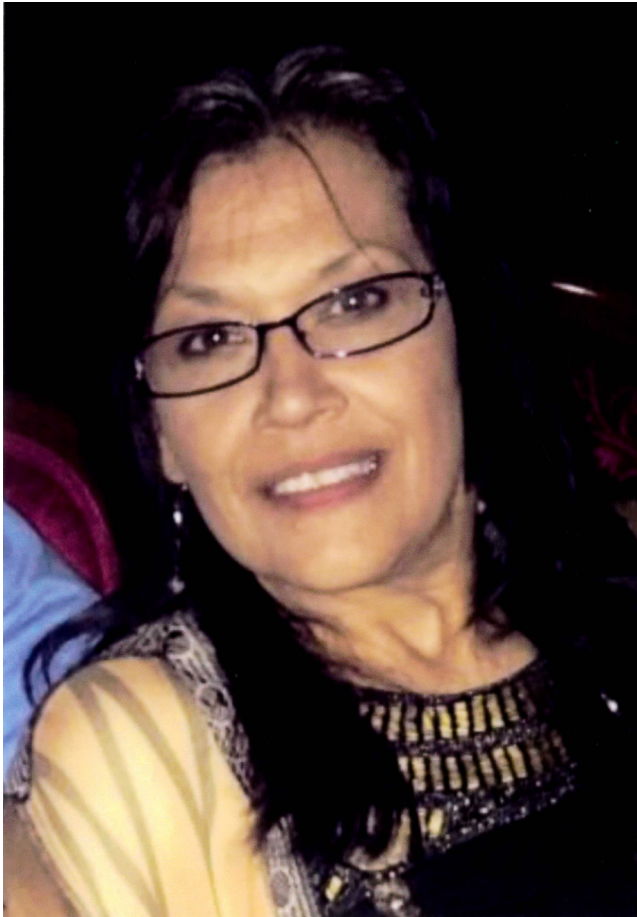
employees need to make a living wage in a high cost of living area. We shouldn't be increasing rent, instead create a savings program towards home ownership. I would love to see a youth leadership team similar to Jr. Tribal Council, when I was elected in the 90's. A new living facility for Elders with amenities is needed. Our beautiful Eagle Ridge property should be brought back to life into an event center. If elected I plan to develop relations with the State government elected officials to ensure strong allies with our governments.

Vote For Change! Chi Miigwech

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

TANYA RAPHAEL

(197 Words)



Aanii, My name is Tanya Raphael, I respectfully ask for your support in this election. It has been an honor for the last 29+ years servicing membership in various capacities.

As we reflect on our past, our elders worked diligently to ensure our future was sustainable so all opportunities would be available for future generations. Tirelessly they worked to retain our hunting & fishing rights, negotiated for federal recognition and reclaimed our status as a sovereign nation, and they did this all for us and now it's our turn. It's our turn to continue that same vision and work diligently so our tribe can grow stronger economically.

Ever wonder why we haven't:

- Focused on enhancing our Elders program, after all it is the largest population in GTB
- Developed a transportation service.
- Developed more housing (home ownership) opportunities or obtain housing for our elders that need assistance living.
- Focus on Behavior Health Services - Treatment, After Care, Support Services, etc.
- Develop more economic growth - Tribal Businesses and tribal membership businesses opportunities.

Let's work together to sustain our Elders Vision, by voting for representation that will work hard for future generations.

Don't forget to register and vote! Miigwetch

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

MICHELLE SHAW

(198 Words)



Hello!

My name is Michelle Shaw and I am a candidate for the Tribal Council. I moved to this area over 33 years ago from Lansing, MI. I have been working for over 26 years for Tribal Government and EDC. My experience has allowed me to serve my community and make a positive impact.

I aim to serve all tribal members, particularly those who are unhoused and in need of affordable housing. I want to create opportunities for those who are marginalized and ignored. I want to find answers to questions that have been asked of our leaders for years. Therefore, I respectfully ask for your vote and consideration in this election.

I am asking for your consideration and vote in this election because we cannot continue with the status quo. We must work together to find an easier way for our members to receive the help and assistance they need promptly. Our members deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. If you believe that we need a change, please vote for me. I am determined to bring about positive change for our tribe to continue to grow and prosper!

Thank you for your time and support!

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

DONNA SWALLOWS

(193 Words)



Aanii, I am honored to introduce myself as the daughter of Dorothy Rose Raphael from Peshawbestown, MI and Sylvester "Pete" Peoskey from Cross Village, MI.

I am a Tribal Councilor with over 30 years of experience in accounting. I hold a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Accounting from the University of Michigan.

In 1991, while working in Flint, I received a call from GTB Human Resources to apply for a position and return home. I was honored to return and serve the Grand Traverse Band. It has been my privilege to serve the membership, I am humbly requesting that Grand

Traverse Band citizens allow me to serve another term as a Tribal Councilor. If elected I promise to work diligently to ensure that all citizens are treated fairly.

- WISDOM - provide sustainable solutions to benefit the GTB
- RESPECT - Listening to and valuing input from membership.
- HUMILITY - Incorporate input from tribal citizens.
- COURAGE - Question tough issues
- LOVE - I will serve the membership and be available
- TRUST - To be present and represent the GTB
- HONESTY - Provide straightforward answers

Thank you for your consideration. Donna Swallows

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

TANYA TANNER

(199 Words)



Hello, my name is Tanya Tanner. I am the daughter of Rose Marshall (Smith), granddaughter of Agnes T. Paul. I am a wife and a mother of 3, Greg, Theresa and Willee. I grew up an army brat, lived 6 years in Germany and 36 years in VA. In my heart , I knew here was where I wanted to be. I am currently living in Traverse city with my sites for a forever home in Antrim County.

I started out working at the Casino as a shipping and receiving clerk, and then Elders Coordinator at 3mile, you can find me there. I have worked very hard in the jobs I have taken; I have always had the drive to succeed. My resume is lengthy with business, marketing, accounting, manufacturing, management.

In the short time being in my job positions here with the Tribe, it saddens me to see the divide in the community, the housing issues, the lack of behavioral help, I could go on , and yet I don't have to tell you; you already know. Given the opportunity with my knowledge, my drive along with my passion. I know I can make a difference. Thank you.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

SANDRA WITHERSPOON

(199 Words)



Aanii,

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I am currently the Township Clerk of Charlevoix, and an election official for the State of Michigan. I am also employed by Northern Shores Community Development, a small Native CDFI, to administer a Native American Agriculture Fund grant. I have a diverse background of work experience, and previous experience as Tribal Council Secretary and Vice Chairwoman during my time on Council from 2004-2012. I would be honored to serve the people of the Grand Traverse Band as Chairwoman, or as a Council member and ask for your vote in the upcoming Primary.

Miigwetch!

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

SANDRA YANNOTT

(0 Words)



ESSAY NOT PROVIDED.

No image