

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATES

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16
COUNCIL
CANDIDATES

PRIMARY
ELECTION
MARCH 31, 2026
7AM-7PM

GENERAL
ELECTION
MAY 5, 2026
7AM-7PM

TABLE OF CONTENT

03 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

04 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
STACIE MCCLELLAN

05 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
RYAN MEMBERTO

06 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
RUSSELL ANDERSON

07 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
DAVID ARROYO

08 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
DAVID WONEGESHIK

09 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
NOODIN AMANDA – JO
MCSAUBY JONES

10 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
TINA FRANKENBERGER

11 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
TASHENA SAMS

12 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
FRANCIS CAREW

13 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
AARON CHIVIS

14 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
BRIAN NAPONT

15 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
JANE ROHL

16 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
RUTH ANDERSON

17 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
ANDREW MYRICK

18 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
THERESA MARSHALL

19 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
ELIJAH SHOMIN

20 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATES

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 19, 2026 - 4:00PM: Deadline for submitting a request for an absentee ballot for Primary Election.

March 24, 2026: Absentee ballots mailed out to each registered voter who has sent in a timely request for an absentee ballot.

March 26, 2026 - 4:00PM: Deadline for registering to vote in the Primary Election.

March 30, 2026 - 12:00PM: Deadline for submitting a request for emergency absentee ballot. Emergency absentee ballots can only be requested at the Membership Office.

March 30, 2026 - 1:00PM: Testing and certification of polling machines by Election Board. All Tribal members are welcome to attend.

March 30, 2026 - 3:00PM: Deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and emergency absentee ballots by USPS mail to GTB Election Board, P.O. Box 238, Suttons Bay, MI 49682.

March 31, 2026 - 7:00AM - 7:00PM: Polls open for voting for Primary Election. Deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and emergency absentee ballots in person. Both absentee ballots may be dropped off at a registered voter's precinct polling place.

March 31, 2026 - 7:01 pm: Election Board may begin counting ballots for the Primary Election in Tribal Council Chambers at the Tribal Administration Building in Peshawbestown and unofficial election results announced. Tribal Members are welcome to attend.

April 8, 2026 - 5:00PM: Deadline for filing Primary Election Challenge (*5 business days*) with Election Board.

April 9, 2026 - 5:00PM: Primary Election results certified if no election challenge(s) filed.

April 2, 2026: Deadline for Election Board releasing list of registered voters and absentee voters for posting.

April 6, 2026: Membership Office begins accepting requests for absentee ballots for the General Election.

April 23, 2026 - 4:00PM: Deadline for submitting a request for an absentee ballot for the General Election.

April 23, 2026 - 4:00PM: Deadline for registering to vote for the General Election.

April 28, 2026: Absentee ballots mailed out to each registered voter who has sent in a timely request for an absentee ballot.

May 4, 2026 - 12:00PM: Deadline for submitting a request for emergency absentee ballot. Emergency absentee ballots can only be requested at the Membership Office.

May 4, 2026 - 1:00PM: Testing and certification of polling machines by Election Board. All Tribal Members are welcome to attend.

May 4, 2026 - 3:00PM: Deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and emergency absentee ballots by USPS mail to GTB Election Board, P.O. Box 238, Suttons Bay, MI 49682.

May 5, 2026 - 7:00AM - 7:00PM: Polls open for voting for General Election. Deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and emergency absentee ballots in person. Both absentee ballots may be dropped off at a registered voter's precinct polling place.

May 5, 2026 - 7:01PM: Election Board may begin counting ballots in the Tribal Council Chambers at the Tribal Administration Building in Peshawbestown and unofficial election results announced. Tribal Members are welcome to attend.

May 13, 2026 - 5:00PM: Deadline for filing Election Challenge (*5 business days*) with Election Board.

May 14, 2026 - 5:30PM: General Election results certified if no election challenge(s) filed.

May 14, 2026: Oath of Office administered at Leelanau Sands Showroom. (*Date tentative pending expiration of challenge period or resolution of any election challenges, or Leelanau Sands scheduling issues*).

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

STACIE MCCLELLAN



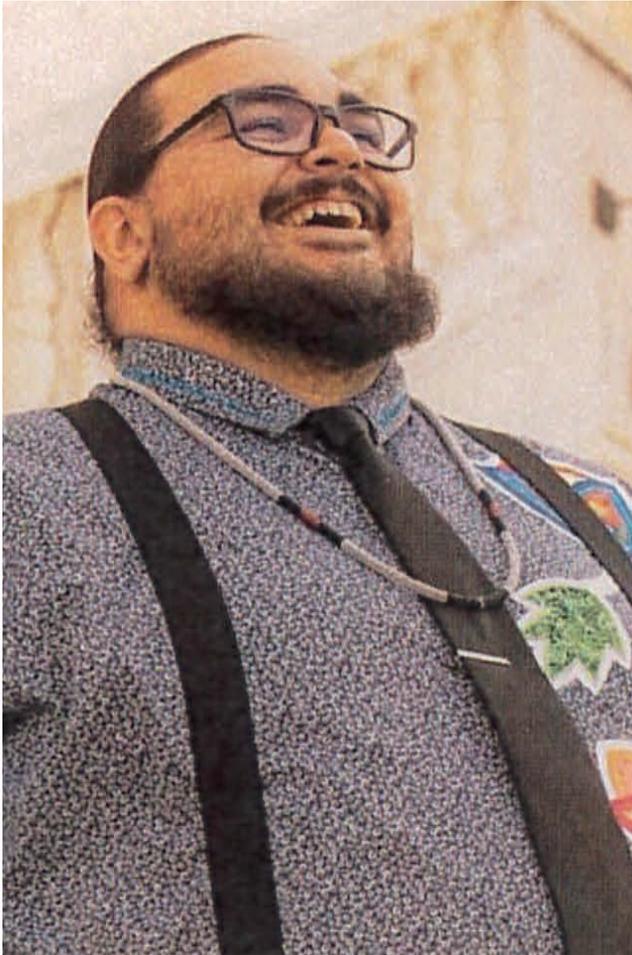
Aanii, my name is Stacie McClellan and I would proudly appreciate your support during the 2026 Tribal Council Elections. I grew up in Traverse City, MI and after graduation I moved to Taos, NM. From there my adventures began. Eventually I found my way back home to Traverse City and enrolled at Northwestern Michigan College. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with Ferris State University.

Since then I have been working for GTB for 12 years, of which 10 of those years I have been the Self Governance Coordinator and I currently sit on the Green Committee. I'm well diversified with the thoughtful, technical knowledge and skills on how our Government and Economic Development entities operate. Together we can make change, streamline services to our membership, and create opportunities for

both Government and EDC. I'm here for you, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any further questions you may have. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve as your elected Tribal Councilor. Stacie McClellan 231-218-4794 Stacie.McClellan@yahoo.com

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

RYAN MEMBERTO



Boozhoo kina weyaa,

My name is Ryan Memberto and I am announcing my candidacy for GTB Tribal Council. I believe it is time for our young people to step up and come forward with appreciation for our ancestors, respect for our elders, and commitment to our future generations.

Taking care of our community must be a top priority. I will work to improve access to healthcare, housing, and mental health services, while supporting our elders, veterans, and families. GTB Membership deserves opportunity, safety and leadership that follows through with transparency and accountability.

We must also embrace progressive and responsible change. By pursuing diverse, sustainable economic development, expanding education and job opportunities, we can build a future that honors our traditions while creating new paths forward.

Our culture is our strength. I will advocate for protecting and revitalizing our language, traditions, and ceremonies by supporting cultural education and implementing programs that connect our youth to their identity and history. When we know who we are, we stand stronger together.

Together we can strengthen our community and move forward with unity and purpose while remaining true to who we are as Anishinaabek.

I humbly ask for your vote and support. Chi Miigwech.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

RUSSELL ANDERSON



Hey there beautiful and amazing people. Just a little bit about me. I am Russell Anderson, Jr and I am seeking the privilege of representing you on Tribal Council. I currently reside in Traverse City and work at Turtle Creek Casino. I have put 20+ years in gaming and have raised a sizeable family. I would like to have the opportunity make our communities better. Where we can help each other thrive. Where we can use our Sovereignty to make things better rather than hiding behind it to protect incompetence and deflect accountability. So we have a legacy for the children to inherit. Thank you.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

DAVID ARROYO



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TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

DAVID WONEGESHIK



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My name is David Wonegeshik, Tribal Member 734, and I wish to serve as a Tribal Council Member because I believe leadership is a responsibility to protect our people, our culture, and our future. Our tribe has always been strongest when we work together with respect, transparency, and accountability. I want to help ensure that our decisions reflect the voices of our elders, the needs of our families, and the hopes of our youth.

As a council member, I would focus on strengthening communication between leadership and the community, supporting opportunities for economic growth, and preserving our traditions and sovereignty for generations to come. I believe that good leadership means listening first, acting with integrity, and always putting the tribe above

personal interest.

Past generations have worked hard to protect what we have today. It is our responsibility to carry that work forward with honesty and dedication. I am committed to serving with humility, fairness, and respect, and to helping build a future that honors our past while creating opportunity for our people.

David Wonegeshik

(231) 492-0608

info@wonegeshikforcouncil.com

WonegeshikForCouncil.com

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

NOODIN AMANDA – JO MCSAUBY JONES



Aani nwiiji-kiwenhak, my name is Amanda McSauby, and I am running for Tribal Council to help build a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous future for our Nation.

I believe leadership must deliver real solutions that support our families, protect our culture, and strengthen our economy. **Affordable housing and infrastructure** must be priorities; safe and attainable homes and create stability for families and dignity for our elders. We must plan wisely and build efficiency to meet our peoples' needs.

Financial transparency and accountability must guide every decision. Our members deserve clear budget reporting, open communication, and leadership that answers questions honestly. Trust is built through openness and responsible stewardship.

Economic development is essential to putting money back into our members' pockets. By strengthening tribally owned enterprises and supporting small

businesses, we can ensure growth benefits every household.

We must also invest in **treatment programs** and accessible counseling services. Mental Health support and family counseling are critical to healing and strengthening our community.

Finally, **preserving our culture** and investing in youth ensures our traditions and values guide future generations.

Together, we can create a vibrant future for our tribe.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

TINA FRANKENBURGER



Every member deserves a government that treats them fairly-period. Not based on family, friendships, or past mistakes, but on equal application of our policies and laws. That principle has guided my eight years on Tribal Council, and it is the promise I carry forward.

With experience in Treaty Rights, business, and cultural knowledge, I have dedicated two terms to serving our people with honesty and accountability. Now, I am asking for the opportunity to continue that work.

As we face modern challenges-economic development, healthcare access, education, housing, and protection of our natural resources-we must approach every decision with forward-thinking solutions rooted in ancestral teachings. Tradition and progress

are not opposing forces; they walk together.

Economic growth must benefit our people directly through sustainable development that creates jobs while preserving our lands and waters. I will strengthen elder care by expanding in-home support, transportation, nutrition programs, and culturally grounded healthcare. I will invest in wellness programs, family resources, youth mentorship, and gathering spaces that connect generations.

Together, we will advance with purpose-honoring our ancestors, serving our people and building a sustainable future for the next seven generations.

I humbly ask for your support and your vote. Miigwetch.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

TASHENA SAMS



Aanii, my name is TaShena Sams, daughter of Paul and Tanya Raphael. I was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and moved to Peshawbestown in 1990. I grew up alongside the tribe and witnessed our growth from a few buildings to services and sites across six counties.

I have worked with the Grand Traverse Band for over twenty five years, beginning in the youth program at fourteen years old and continuing in various youth positions until 2023, when I transitioned to the Culture Department. These experiences shaped how I understand our community's needs.

Our housing, developments, and enterprises have strengthened stability. But while we expanded outward, our culture, language, and youth connection have not grown at the same pace. Fluent speakers have become

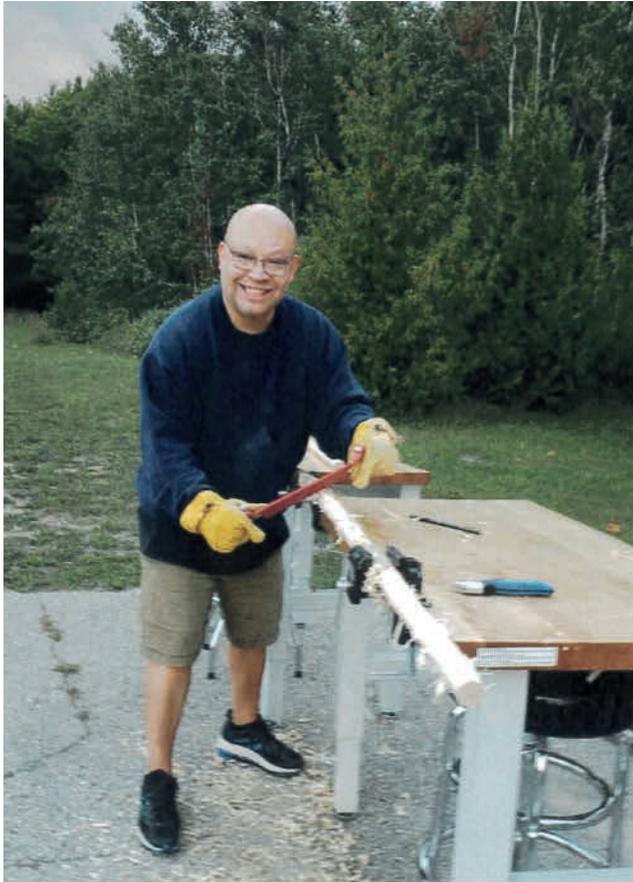
fewer and everyday teachings harder to access.

Our programs are meaningful, yet limited staffing prevents consistent support across all communities. When youth lack cultural connection, identity and mental health become affected. Connection to language, teachings, and community provides prevention, belonging, and healing.

This community helped raise me, and I carry a responsibility to strengthen opportunities so our youth grow up supported, connected, and proud of who they are as Anishinaabe. Miigwech.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

FRANCIS CAREW



Aanii Kinawayaya! My name is Francis Wayne Carew, and I am seeking election to the OTB Tribal Council. As a proud GTB tribal member, number 1013, I reside and work in Peshawbestown, ML. My academic background includes a Master of Arts in Music History and a Bachelor of Music in Classical Guitar Performance. Additionally, I minored in History and Native American Studies as an undergraduate, which has given me a solid understanding of both American and Native American history. I am a librarian, musician, author, community teacher, and martial artist. For the past 7.5 years, I have served as the Tribal Librarian for the GTB Heritage Library. In this role, I have utilized my extensive experience and knowledge to offer a variety of cultural and non-cultural programs, events, and activities that benefit both our tribal

community and the neighboring non-native community. As a community teacher, I have had the privilege of working with our children, elders, and adults. One of my greatest joys is teaching music classes and reading to the children in the Benodjenh Headstart program. I believe that children are our future and helping them develop into educated adults is of the utmost importance. Chi Miigwech!

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

AARON CHIVIS

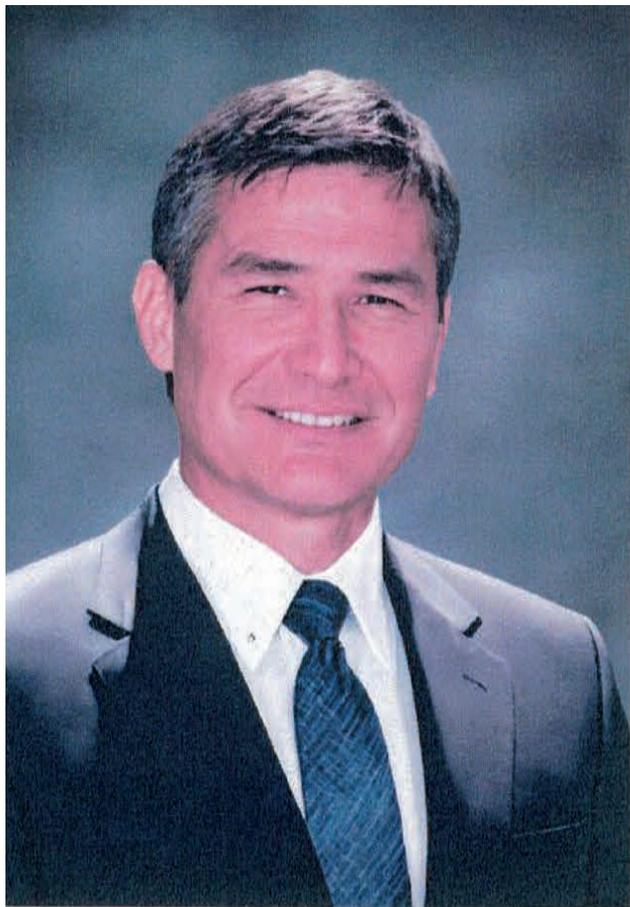


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TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

BRIAN NAPONT



Aanii, Boozhoo.

Nme' ndoodem.

I am asking for your continued support as one of your seven Tribal Councilors. I consider myself knowledgeable, battle-tested, and a hard worker - someone who has lived a life of steady improvement and is committed to doing the work. I understand the responsibility this role carries. We are a Nation of more than 4,100 members, and we have a duty to all members. Nearly 1,900 members live across our six-county area. Many need stable housing, education, social services and medical care, while many others rely less and are independently - working, raising families, building their lives. Balance matters.

Over the past several years, we have made steady, progressive progress that

strengthens our Nation and provides opportunity for our members. We have online gaming tax revenue, GTRS tribal revenue sharing, new elders trust revenue, new Herkner housing, new Benzie Casino, strategic landback acquisitions, Protected/expanded fishing zones, created GWE-including youth trusts, new tribal pharmacy, implemented a 4-day work week, and M-22 sidewalk and roads 2026.

I have spent my career serving our Tribe in natural resources, treaty protection, and I measure every complex decision by what is best for our Nation.

Miigwetch for your trust and

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

JANE ROHL



I am honored to seek reelection to the Tribal Council of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Tribal Council. My platform is grounded in sovereignty, transparency, and service to our citizens.

First, I remain committed to protecting and strengthening our tribal sovereignty. Every decision we make must safeguard our inherent rights, our lands, and our future generations. I will continue advocating for responsible economic development that diversifies revenue while preserving our culture and natural resources.

Second, I believe in transparent and accountable governance. Our citizens deserve clear communication, accessible leadership, and meaningful opportunities to provide input. I will continue to listen,

engage, and ensure decisions reflect the voice of our community.

Finally, I am committed to investing in our people -from housing and elder services to youth programs, education, healthcare, and workforce development. Strong families build a strong nation. By prioritizing opportunity, cultural preservation, and fiscal responsibility, we ensure long-term stability and prosperity.

Migwech for your support

Jane

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

RUTH ANDERSON



No image

good changes.

My name is Ruth Anderson.

Freddy Raphael and I were married in July 2023. We have been soul partners for 38 years. We have 5 wonderful young adults (George, Carla, Corey, Kaylyn, and Jonathan) and 12 beautiful grandchildren who are our heart and soul. We moved to Leelanau Co. 35 years ago.

I have worked for GTB for 28 years, and for 20 of those years I was at the switchboard. I have been at the switchboard for so long because I enjoy helping our tribal members anyway I can (whether it is finding an employee or a department or just offering a listening ear). I am running for Council because I want to help our Tribe move forward. I'm not going to make promises, but I'll do the best I can. If we WORK TOGETHER as a TEAM, then we could actually make

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

ANDREW MYRICK



My family has always lived in this area, rooted here while keeping trade pathways open in all four directions. Our ancestors understood that true strength comes from connection, not isolation, and that balance guides how I approach leadership today.

I pledge to donate 25% of my Tribal Council salary, every quarter, with Tribal Members voting on which causes receive those funds. Two polls on GTB Community Facebook group already donated my winter 2025 GWD check based on Tribal Member votes.

My activism began by carrying forward questions asked by other Tribal Members over many years. The same concerns appear repeatedly in council meetings and newsletters: housing, voting access, financial transparency, and accountability.

I brought those questions to Tribal Council

and most often received no response. Silence after election isn't accountability.

I support separating government from business and creating transparency every Tribal Member can access online and in person. I also support increasing GWD by launching a non-gaming per capita payment as soon as possible, so prosperity is not tied only to gaming or hospitality. If reform is not possible, I will use my STEM education, 15 years Sr. Engineer and property management experience to guide better GTB decisions.

www.ElectAndrew2026.com

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

THERESA MARSHALL



Aanii Anishnaabeg!

Theresa M. (Pelcher) Marshall ndizhnakaaz. Daughter of Theresa Shananaquet-ba and Clinton Pelcher. A lifelong resident on the Antrim reservation, I am proud to raise my family here with my husband, Billy Marshall.

I humbly seek the opportunity to represent you on Tribal Council. Completing my Business Management degree in May 2026, I bring professional experience, fiscal responsibility, and a strong commitment to protecting and strengthening our tribal enterprises for future generations.

Leadership must honor our teachings, respect everyone, and ensure our language, ceremonies, and values remain central in every decision we make. Progress should always reflect our identity and responsibilities to one another.

Having previously served, I understand the responsibility of this role. I have led with transparency and an open door, listening respectfully, encouraging dialogue, and working collaboratively to move initiatives forward in:

- Governmental Excellence: Strengthening best practices in Anishanabemowin, housing, education, and cultural resources.
- Economic Diversification: Supporting small businesses and seeking new revenue streams for long-term sustainability.
- Legacy Building: Making thoughtful decisions that honor our ancestors and protect the next seven generations.

I do not just listen to concerns, I follow through with action, advocacy, and clear communication to improve life for our GTB community.

Miigwech

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

ELIJAH SHOMIN



Aanii. I am Elijah David Shomin. I am running for Tribal Council to deliver a Sovereign Solution to a crisis that neither Washington nor Lansing can solve.

Sleeping Bear Dunes is our spiritual heart, but it is also a massive economic engine. This crown jewel drives a \$413 million regional economy, yet it currently faces a \$79 million infrastructure backlog. With federal shifts looming, the State is ill-equipped to inherit this burden without hiking fees to \$65-this would devastate local business.

I am the only candidate proposing a viable path forward.

Through a federal to federal transfer, we will restore the Dunes to GTB Trust while maintaining NPS jurisdiction. This preserves federal ranger jobs while placing the land under the protection of the only entity capable of funding its future.

We will launch a Co-Stewardship Endowment, leveraging our sovereign status to access federal grants for infrastructure, maintenance, and equipment that the State cannot reach. We proved this model by securing \$11.9 million for Mashkiigaki. This is more than a restoration of history; it's a blueprint for national land management. We have the resources, the right, and the results.

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Official 2026 Election Candidate List:

Stacie McClellan
Ryan Memberto
Russell Anderson
David Arroyo
David Wonegeshik
Noodin Amanda – Jo McSauby Jones
Tina Frankenberger
TaShena Sams
Francis Carew
Aaron Chivis
Brian Napont
Jane Rohl
Ruth Anderson
Andrew Myrick
Theresa Marshall
Elijah Shomin