



# The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**TO: BOIS FORTE RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE  
AKA BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA**

Administration  
218-335-8581  
Toll Free: 888-322-7688  
Fax: 218-335-8496  
Home Loan  
218-335-8582  
Fax: 218-335-6925  
Economic Development  
218-335-8583  
Fax: 218-335-8496  
Education  
218-335-8584  
Fax: 218-335-2029  
Human Services  
218-335-8586  
Fax: 218-335-8080

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe hereby announces that a Regular Election will be held on June 9, 2026, on the BOIS FORTE RESERVATION.

This REGULAR ELECTION provides for a March 31, 2026, PRIMARY ELECTION in the event there are more than two (2) eligible candidates for each open position.

Elected positions to be filled are as follows:

- A. SECRETARY/TREASURER – BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA  
– FOUR (4) YEAR TERM
- B. COMMITTEEPERSON DISTRICT I – BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA  
– FOUR (4) YEAR TERM
- C. COMMITTEEPERSON DISTRICT II – BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA  
– FOUR (4) YEAR TERM

Candidates shall file with the Secretary/Treasurer or his designee during regular business hours beginning on January 9, 2026. Filing will close on January 20, 2026, at 4:30 P.M.

Attached are the Election Calendar & Guidelines for the 2026 Tribal Elections.

Date: January 8, 2026

  
Dr. Luke Warnsholz, Executive Director

Section 1.3.

Candidates for Office.

1.3(A). Eligibility.

A candidate for office must: (1) be an enrolled member of the Tribe; (2) be enrolled with the Reservation of his/her candidacy; (3) reside on the Reservation of his/her candidacy and enrollment; and (4) meet the requirements of Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution, as set forth in Section 1.3(D). A candidate for Committeeperson to represent a district established pursuant to Section 1.4(A), below, must reside in the district of his/her candidacy and enrollment. Requirements (1), (2), and (3) must be met for at least the twelve-month period immediately preceding the date established for the Primary election. No member of the Tribe will be eligible to hold office, either as a Committeeperson or Officer, unless he or she will reach his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday on or before the date of the Primary or Special Election. A candidate may file for only one (1) position.

1.3(B). Reservation Definition.

A Reservation is defined as all lands within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. A Band governing body, by official action, may define “reservation” to include specified lands outside the boundaries of the reservation, as may be defined by treaty, statute, executive order, or other document considered sufficient authority by the Band governing body, including all lands considered Indian Country under the governmental authority of that Reservation.

1.3(C). Filing of Notice of Candidacy.

1.3(C)(1). For Regular Elections, eligible candidates must file their notice of candidacy for Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, or Committeeperson, with the Secretary/Treasurer of the Band governing body or his/her designee beginning on the next business day after the Tribal Executive Committee prepares the election announcement. The filing period shall end not less than ten (10) days after it begins.

1.3(C)(2). For Special elections, eligible candidates must file their notice of candidacy for such offices beginning the next business day after the Band governing body prepares and posts the election announcement. The filing period shall end not less than ten (10) days after it begins.

1.3(C)(3). The Notice of Candidacy must be in writing, include the Candidate's physical (residence) address, the Candidate's name as they wish it to appear on the ballot, have the original signature of the candidate, comply with the requirements of Section 1.3(D), below, and be filed by the candidate in person. The Candidate's name may include a nickname or maiden name in parentheses on the ballot, provided that the Band governing body certifies that such nickname is widely known and appropriate for listing on the ballot. A filing fee must accompany each notice of candidacy. The amount of the fee will be Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for Officers (Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer) and Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) for Committeeperson. An incomplete Notice of Candidacy shall be rejected by the Secretary/Treasurer of the Band governing body or his/her designee.

1.3(C)(4). Each Band governing body must certify eligible candidates for office in accordance with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Ordinance, and the dates and guidelines established for Minnesota Chippewa Tribe elections. Each Band governing body must certify the names of eligible candidates as they shall appear on the ballot. Within twenty-one (21) days after the filing deadline the Band governing body must notify the individuals that filed notices of candidacy and the Tribal Executive Committee of the eligible and ineligible candidates and the position for which they have filed. Certification decisions must adhere to the requirements of the Constitution and this Ordinance. The Band governing body shall make its certification decision based on all information available at the time for determination including information provided by the person who filed the Notice of Candidacy.

1.3(C)(5) If a candidate fails to submit a complete Notice of Candidacy, Certification of Eligibility, or Authorization and Consent to Disclosure during the filing period, the Band governing body shall not certify the candidate as eligible for office.

1.3(C)(6) Any person who has filed a complete Notice of Candidacy has standing to challenge the certification or non-certification of a person who has filed a Notice of Candidacy for the same position. Any challenge of such a decision must be filed with the Executive Director of the

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe or a person designated in writing by the Executive Director by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt by the Tribal Executive Committee of the notice of certification or non-certification. Any challenge must state with specificity the reason(s) why the decision of the Band governing body did not comply with the requirements of the Constitution and may include supporting documentation. Immediately upon receipt of a challenge, the Executive Director or a designee shall: (1) notify the Band governing body of the challenge and advise it that a complete record of all documents related to the challenge determination must be submitted to the Executive Director by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of the challenge; (2) provide a copy of the challenge and documentation to the person whose certification is being challenged and advise the person that any answer to the challenge must be filed with the Executive Director by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of the challenge; and (3) notify the Tribal Election Court of Appeals that a challenge has been filed. The Executive Director or a designee shall submit the following materials to the Tribal Election Court of Appeals at the expiration of the aforementioned deadlines: the challenge and supporting documentation; the record compiled by the Band governing body; and any timely filed answer to the challenge. Notwithstanding any provision of this Ordinance, the Tribal Election Court of Appeals shall convene and within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving the challenge, record, and answer, decide the issue of certification or non-certification based on the materials described above. The Tribal Election Court of Appeals may convene by telephone conference. The decision of the Tribal Election Court of Appeals must be in writing and signed by the Chief Judge. The decision of the Tribal Election Court of Appeals shall be final.

1.3(C)(7).

If a member serving in any position on an existing Band governing body, and whose term does not end with the current election, desires to file for a different office on that Committee, he/she may do so. However, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day that the Election Announcement is posted pursuant to Section 1.2(A)(3), such member must file with the Band governing body or its designee and serve upon each of its other members a notice of resignation from that member's current position. Said resignation shall be irrevocable upon certification of the tribal member who has

resigned as a candidate and will be effective upon the successful candidate's assumption of authority of the position for which such member has filed.

- 1.3(C)(8). In the event another incumbent member desires to file for the office for which a notice of resignation has been filed and served, he/she must file and serve a notice of resignation at least three (3) days prior to the date that the Election Announcement is prepared.
- 1.3(C)(9). Each office for which a notice of resignation has been filed and served in accordance with this section will be included in the Election Announcement, and a Special Election for those positions will be held contemporaneously with the Regular Election.

**THE MCT ELECTION CALENDAR**  
**ELECTION CALENDAR**  
**2026 Regular Election**

December 23, 2025: Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for other RTC office.

January 5, 2026: Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.

January 8: Election Announcement

January 9: 8:00 a.m. - Opening of period for filing for office.

January 20: Close of filing period

January 27: Selection of Election Court of Appeals Judge  
**(For certification of candidate)**

February 9: Deadline for Notice of Certifications of candidates to TEC.

February 11: Challenge certification or non-certification of candidates to MCT by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of certification.

February 12: Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.

February 12: Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge and alternate Election Contest Judge.

February 13: Complete record of all documents related to challenge submit to MCT by 4:30 p.m.

February 13: Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30 p.m.

February 13: Submit all materials to Tribal Election Court of Appeals at expiration of aforementioned deadlines.

February 17: Deadline for Decision of certification or non-certification by Tribal Court of Appeals.

February 20: Notice of Primary Election and Posting.

February 24: TEC provides ballots for Primary Election.

March 30: Deadline for bands to notify MCT on choice of appellate forum.

March 31:	<b>Primary Election</b> (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)
April 1:	General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Election Results. (Prior to 8:00 p.m.)
April 2:	General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Election Results.
April 6:	Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)
April 6:	Deadline to Post Regular Election Notice without Primary Election.
April 7:	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).
April 13: <i>(Results, if Allowed or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> If earlier request)</i>	Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
April 17:	Deadline for Decision on Election Contest
April 20 <i>(or within 3 days of decision on Contest)</i>	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).
April 22 <i>(at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date):</i>	Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
April 27 <i>(hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal).</i>	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal
May 7 <i>(10 days from hearing on appeal).</i>	Last Day for Decision on Appeal
May 8:	Notice of General Election (or earlier if no appeal).
May 8:	TEC provides ballots for General Election (or earlier if no appeal).
June 9:	<b>General Election</b> (Polling Places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)

June 10:	General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election. Prior to 8:00 p.m.
June 11:	General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results.
June 12:	Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)
June 16:	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Notice of Contest. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.)
June 17 ( <i>or 16, if request for Recount is filed before deadline</i> ):	Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
June 26th:	Deadline for Decision on Contest for General Election.
June 29th ( <i>or within 3 days of decision on Contest</i> ):	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).
July 1st ( <i>at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date</i> ):	Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
July 6th ( <i>hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal</i> ):	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal.
July 14 <sup>th</sup> :	Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Court of Election Appeals.
July 16 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>or Ten days from Hearing on Appeal</i> ):	Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal.
Day following Decision of Appeal:	Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office.

# JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
04	05 Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.	06	07	08 Election Announcement	09 8:00am Opening of period for filing for office	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Close of filing period	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Selection of Election Court of Appeals Judge (for Certification of candidate)	28	29	30	31

# FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09 Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC	10	11 Challenge certification or non-certification to MCT by 4:30pm on the second business day following receipt of certification	12 Deadline for appointment of Election Boards. Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge and alternate Election Contest Judge	Complete record of all documents related to challenge submit to MCT by Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30pm Submit all materials to Tribal Election Court of Appeals at expiration of aforementioned deadlines	13 14
15	16	17 Deadline for decision of certification or non-certification by Tribal Court of Appeals	18	19	20 Notice of Primary Election and Posting	21
22	23	24 TEC provides ballots for Primary Election	25	26	27	28
01	02	03	04	05	06	07

# MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Deadline for band notify MCT on choice of appellate forum	31 Primary Election (Polling places open from 8:00am until 8:00pm)	01	02	03	04

# APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01 General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results (Prior to 8:00pm)	02 General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results (Prior to 8:00pm)	03	04
05	06 Deadline to request for Recount (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00pm)  Deadline to post Regular Election Notice without Primary Election.	07 4:30pm Deadline for contest of Primary Election (filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of MCT)	08	09	10	11
12	13 Deadline for decision on request for recount and results of recount if allowed	14	15	16	17 Deadline for Decision on Election Contest	18
19	(or within 3 days of decision on contest) 20 4:30pm Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with the Executive Director of the MCT and with Reservation Tribunal rendering decision)	21	at least two (2) days 22 prior to hearing date  Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals	23	24	25
26	(Hearing within 7 days 27 of notice of Appeal)  Last day for hearing on appeal	28	29	30	01	02

# MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
03	04	05	06 (10 days from hearing on appeal)  Last day for decision on appeal	07	08 Notice of General Election  TEC provides ballots for General Election. (or earlier if no appeal)	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09 General Election (Polling places open from 8:00am until 8:00pm)	10 General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election prior to 8:00pm	11 General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results	12 Deadline for request for recount (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00pm)	13
14	15	16 4:30pm - Deadline for Notice of Contest (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the MCT)	17 or 16th if request for Recounts is filed before deadline Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Deadline for Decision on Contest for General Election	27
28	(or within 3 days of decision on Contest) 29 4:30pm - Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with Executive Director of the MCT and Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision)	30	01	02	03	04

# JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	at least two (2) days 01 prior to hearing date  Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals	02	03	04
05  (hearing within 7 days 06 of notice of appeal)  Last day for Hearing on Appeal	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14  Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject to appeal to the Court of Election Appeals	15	(or ten days from 16 Hearing on Appeal)  Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal	17  Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	01