

TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBAL ELECTIONS COMMITTEE 2024 REGULATIONS

As attested by their signatures below, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Elections Committee 2024 hereby adopts and agrees to be bound by the following revised regulations. Any member of the committee who violates one or more of the regulations may be removed from the committee for such action upon the unanimous vote of remaining committee members.

1. Committee proceedings held in closed session in accordance section 3(d), Resolution #55-09, are deemed confidential and shall not be disclosed by any committee member.
2. The committee will retain an appropriate, independent third party which shall be responsible for maintaining a continuous and verifiable chain of custody on all absentee ballots and may assist the committee in the counting of the votes on April 7, 2024.
3. When filing for office, candidates' applications must be complete at the time of filing, i.e., accompanied by the completed filing form, the required filing fee, and a completed form authorizing the required background check.
4. All requests for absentee ballots, whether the first or subsequent request, must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2024.
5. If an incumbent files for office, the "comp" privileges of that incumbent are immediately suspended upon filing with respect to all tribal members up to the date of the election.
6. If a tribal member makes a written, signed complaint to the Elections Committee against a candidate alleging a violation of section 9(3) of the Elections Ordinance (prohibiting use of tribal resources in electioneering), the Election Committee shall immediately report the alleged violation to the Ethics Commission for investigation and processing in accordance with the Tribe's Ethics Code.
7. The conduct of the vote count on April 7, 2024, including the opening of ballot boxes, the separation of ballot sections, and the tallying of votes, shall take place in full view of tribal membership. Except for individuals affiliated with the third party described in paragraph 2 above, attendance at the count shall be limited to tribal members and a member's legal spouse. For purposes of this regulation, attendance means physical attendance. Presence or observation of the vote count by others through electronic or mechanical means, including audio or visual recording and internet streaming, is prohibited.
8. The third party firm retained by the committee shall undertake the following responsibilities, which shall be set out or incorporated by reference in a contract with that entity:
 - a). Following the filing deadline, the firm shall meet with the Election Committee to receive the final ballot form and substance.

b). Upon receipt of the final ballot form and substance, the firm shall retain a printing firm and direct the printing of an appropriate number of ballots.

c). Upon consultation with the Election Committee, the firm shall identify the name(s) and means of contact of the firm by which tribal members may request an absentee ballot.

d). The firm shall receive and maintain security for voted absentee ballots. Upon receipt of a voted absentee ballot, the firm shall open the envelope marked Statement of Membership. If the Statement of Membership is completed, the unopened envelope marked Ballot shall be placed into the absentee ballot box. If the Statement of Membership is not completed or otherwise shows ineligibility of the voter, the envelope marked Ballot shall be marked spoiled, retained in a separate file, and reasonable effort shall be made to contact the tribal member who sent the ballot and inform him/her of the error on the Statement of Membership.

e). A tribal member is entitled to only one ballot, either by absentee or at the voting site. The firm shall record absentee ballot requests in an absentee ballot poll book. The firm shall have the absentee ballot poll book at the voting site to double check whether those voting at the poll received an absentee ballot. In the event a tribal member requests a second ballot, either because an absentee ballot was lost in the mail or a ballot was spoiled, the firm shall record that ballot number in the appropriate poll book as spoiled before providing the substitute ballot.

f). On April 7, the firm shall be present on the Reservation to make ballots available to tribal members who wish to vote at the poll. Those tribal members shall first be required to sign a poll book, vote a ballot, and deposit the voted ballot into a ballot box, separate and distinct from the absentee ballot box. The firm shall be present from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. to make ballots available to tribal members in this manner.

g). Immediately following the close of voting on April 7, the firm shall in full view of the tribal membership open and count the ballots of the poll ballot box first and the absentee ballot box second. The ballots shall be counted in such a manner as to maintain maximum secrecy of each voted ballot.

h). Upon the opening of a ballot, the voter identification section shall be removed and placed into a separate file and the voting section of the ballot shall be read aloud. The firm shall run two separate tallies of the votes as read aloud and, after each 20 ballots have been counted, the two tallies shall call back their totals. Each ballot shall be counted in this manner with totals stated aloud at the conclusion of the vote.

i). Upon the conclusion of the vote count, the firm shall retain the counted ballots, separated voter identification sections of absentee ballots, statements of membership, absentee ballot request log, and poll book secure and off the Reservation until the firm is notified by the Election Committee that either no appeals have been filed or all appeals have been exhausted.

k). Upon the conclusion of the vote count, the firm principal in charge of the firm's activity shall certify in writing to the Elections Committee a complete accounting of all ballots, including number of ballots printed, number of ballots voted by absentee and at the poll, and

number of unvoted ballots. To the extent that other staff of the firm were employed in any of the above steps, those individuals shall prepare a declaration stating their involvement, their compliance with these regulations, and the general supervision of their activities by the firm principal. It is the intent of the Election Committee that these declaration(s) shall evidence a complete and secure chain of custody for all ballots.

9. In accordance with section (e) of the Election Ordinance, it is the unanimous judgment of the Committee that the use of tribal buildings, whether or not for fee, for the conduct of campaign events in tribal elections is a prohibited use of tribal resources by candidates.

Chairman

Secretary

Bailiff

Treasurer

Poll Book Clerk

Committee Member

Committee Member

Dated: _____