

KYKOTSMOVI, ARIZONA

HOPI ELECTION BOARD-2021 HOPI TRIBAL GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL, HOPI TRIBE

The Hopi Election Board is in preparation for the Hopi Tribal 2021 General Elections for the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

September sounds like a longways away but it will be here before we know it. September, second Thursday of the month will be the Primary election. November, second Thursday of the month will be the General election.

The primary election is the process of having individuals who wish to submit an application to compete to have their names placed on the ballot to vie for the chairman and the vice chairman seats, this election will determine the final two competitors who will move on into the general the final election.

In the general election the top two individuals who received the majority of the votes from the primary elections will be placed on the ballot for the general election which will determine who becomes the next chairman and vice chairman for the Hopi Tribe. In this election the individual who receives the majority votes by eligible Hopi voters will be taking the seat of the chairman and the vice chairman. Once the Hopi Election Board certifies the election results it is presented to the Hopi Tribal Council.

The Oath of Office is given by a Hopi Tribal Judge and seated by the Hopi Tribal Council on the first of December which begins the first quarter of the Hopi Tribal Council meeting for the fiscal new year.

The present Hopi Election Board regular members are: George Nasafotie Jr, Chairman from the Village of Shungopavi, Adrinne Masaquaptewa, Vice Chairman from the Village of Hotevilla, Colleen Seletstewa, from the Village of Mushungnuvi, Cheryl Tenakhongva, from the Village of Hotevilla, Mardell Lomayestewa, from the Village of Shungopavi. Alternate members are; Dorothy Ami, 2nd Alternate, from the Village of Tewa, Darlene Lucario-Nuvamsa, 3rd Alternate, from the Village of Shungopavi.

The 1st Alternate position is vacant and interested individuals who wish to serve on the Hopi Election Board as an Alternate may submit a Letter of Interest to the Hopi Tribal Secretary's Office, Hopi Tribal Council. An interested person must be 18 years of age, a Hopi enrolled member, and be able to speak and understand the Hopi language, must not be a staff member of the Hopi Tribal Chairman, Vice Chairman or a member of the Hopi Tribal Council.

The Hopi Election Board has begun preparing for the upcoming elections in December 2020, and a question was asked How are we going to manage this Tribal Election in this time of crisis? The Coronavirus Pandemic is very prevalent on the Hopi Reservation and this is a major concern of the Hopi Election Board. Throughout their discussions several of the Board members agreed and requested that a motion be made to consider writing a letter to the Hopi Tribal Council on their concerns.

The Hopi Election Board has sent a letter to the Hopi Tribal Council with their concern of the method which they should consider for the elections this year. As we all know that this Coronavirus Pandemic is upon the Hopi Reservation and if the numbers should remain the same the Hopi Election Board has considered several options:

Option 1. The Hopi Tribal elections will be held at early voting sites which will be located throughout the Hopi Reservation and absentee ballot voting will be available for those who still wish to vote by having their ballot mailed to them.

Early voting sites will be located outside of the villages on given days for each location, there will be no polling sites within the villages or communities. Voting site on election days will be at the Hopi Elections Office only which is located in Kykotsmovi, AZ. To vote by absentee ballot, an eligible voter shall request for a ballot to be sent to them and they will mail back to the given address provided.

Option 2. The Hopi Tribal elections be held by Mail in Voting only. No early voting sites will be available. All voting shall be done by mail in voting only, this will be handled just like Absentee voting. Each eligible voter living on or off reservation will be able to request for a ballot to be sent to them by mail. Eligible voters on and off the Hopi Reservation would have this same process. No polling sites anywhere, ALL voting will be by mail.

With ALL voting by mail those who would want to vote must request and submit their correct mailing address within the given time frame/deadline date. No walk-in voting will be held.

Option 3. The Hopi Tribal Elections be held in the year 2022, a one-year suspension will be given on the Tribal elections. One year extension would be given to the sitting Officers, this extension would be processed by Action Item/Resolution by the Hopi Tribal Council.

With the suspension of the General elections for the Hopi Tribal Chairman and Vice Chairman would possibly make it safer for the normal election process to be held in the following year 2022 and would start the set of the next four (4) year term for the Officers for the Hopi Tribal Council.

The Hopi Election Board requested for the Hopi Tribal Council to provide some guidance on these options, if the Hopi Tribal Council didn't provide any guidance on the matter the Hopi Election Board would make the determination at a regular board meeting no later than March of 2021. The reason for these options is for the safety of the voting members of the Hopi Tribe and its election workers and all those involved in the elections throughout the Hopi Reservation.

On February 9, 2020 the Hopi Tribal Council discussed the Hopi Election Board's request and the Hopi Tribal council recommend that the Hopi Election Board go with Option # 1 and continue having the elections as they have carried out the elections in the past. With the guidance from the Hopi Tribal Council, the Hopi Election Board have begun to move forward with the planning of the General Elections for the Hopi Tribe.

Primary Election date: September 9, 2021 and the General Election date: November 11, 2021.

Polling sites will be determined by the Hopi Election Board and the Village Community Service Administrators. Precautions on the COVID numbers will be at the forefront of the decisions which will be made.

Poll Officers will be hired through the normal hiring process, applications will become available through the announcement from the Human Resources Department of the Hopi Tribe.

UPDATING VOTER INFORMATION

The Hopi Tribal Registrar, Karen L. Shupla would like eligible Hopi voters to begin updating their correct mailing address, correct name updates and new 18-year-old eligible voters filling out the Voter Registration forms to have their names put in the Registry of Voters. Voter registration is not mandated by the terms of the Hopi election procedures, however, by providing updated information this will be entered into the Registry of Voters for updating with registry with the latest correct voter information for the upcoming elections. Local and off reservation Hopi members can begin sending their information to Hopi Elections Office P.O. Box 553 Kykotsmovi, Az 86039, kshupla@hopi.nsn.us, Fax number 1-928-734-1257 or go to the Hopi Election Website to fill out a Voter Registration form.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Hopi Tribal election voting requirements are: be a member or eligible for membership in the Hopi Tribe as set forth in Article II of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Hopi Tribe and, be 18 years of age or older on election day.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A PETITIONER

A petitioner is an individual who wish to submit an application to qualify and become a certified candidate for either of the competing seats: Chairman or Vice Chairman. The following are the requirements to become qualified as a candidate: shall be members of the Hopi Tribe, twenty-five years of age or older and must be able to speak the Hopi language. Each candidate fore either of said offices must also have a primary and physical residency on the Hopi Reservation for not less than two years immediately preceding his announcement of such candidacy of candidacy. A candidate must not have been convicted of a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude within ten (10) years of candidacy.

Another requirement for a petitioner is to collect signatures of ten (10) Hopi enrolled members on a petition sheet. Fill out forms which will be utilized to meet the requirements which are listed above. The Hopi Election Board will be qualifying the petitioners. Petitioner packets will be made available when the Notice of Election is posted by the Hopi Election Board.

Absentee voting will be a part of the elections so that those of you who may not be on the Hopi reservation on election day can request for a ballot to be mailed to you. With the availability of absentee voting there will be NO polling sites off reservation.

Voter education will be made through interviews through Hopi Radio KUYI 88.1 FM, local newspaper, posters and through zoom voter education as time is appropriate.

The election method shall be decided by the Hopi Election Board considering the recommendations received from the Hopi Tribal Council and making the election process safe for the voters and those who work for the elections. The Hopi Election Board will provide voter education on the method the election process will be adopted for this 2021 election year, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic this is the reason why there may be changes to the election procedures for the protection for all.

To the Hopi Public, please follow the recommended CDC pandemic procedures in order for this virus which is upon us to subside and be controlled for the betterment of the Hopi People and those living within our reservation.

The Hopi Elections Office is presently not open to the general public due to the Executive Orders and are still teleworking as determined by the Tribal government. For more information you may email kshupla@hopi.nsn.us or call and leave a message at 1-928-734-2507/2508.