

# Oneida Nation

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Oneida, WI 54155

## BC Resolution # 03-17-20-B

### Adoption of Emergency Amendments to the Election Law to Implement Alternative Processes to Address COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts on the Oneida Nation 2020 General Election

- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section 1, of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has identified multiple cases of COVID-19 after learning of the epidemic outbreak in Wuhan, China; and
- WHEREAS,** the President has created the White House Coronavirus Task Force to track the spread of the virus, identify solutions for reducing the spread of the virus, managing scarce resources, and identifying opportunities to improve testing, develop treatment and immunizations, and identify how to inform about and contain epidemics in the future; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Congress has adopted legislation which devotes \$8.3 billion to fund the fight regarding COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS,** the World Health Organization has identified that the spread of COVID-19 is now a pandemic with many countries experience the effects of illness and health issues related to the virus and economic impacts; and
- WHEREAS,** Governor Evers has announced that he has signed Executive Order # 72 which declares a "Public Health Emergency in Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus"; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 12, 2020, Chairman Tehassi Hill signed a "Declaration of Public Health State of Emergency" which sets into place the necessary authority should action need to be taken and allowing the Oneida Nation to seek reimbursement of emergency management actions that may result in unexpected expenses; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 13, 2020, there were 1,629 cases reported through the United States, and 18 cases of positive tests in Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS,** the CDC has issued the following precautions to avoid further spread of the virus:

***Clean your hands often***

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

***Avoid close contact***

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick; and

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Election Board, on March 13, 2020, after meeting with the Public Health Officer and acted to postpone the Caucus scheduled for the 2020 General Elections in order to avoid large gatherings of members where the virus could be easily spread; and

**WHEREAS,** the CDC has identified that the months of March, April and May should be the time when the potential for the highest increases in the number of confirmed cases would occur; and

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Election Board has identified that conducting a caucus or requiring applicants to obtain 10 signatures through the petition process would unnecessarily spread the virus by encouraging contact between individuals, but has expressed a strong desire to avoid moving the actual election dates; and

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Election Board is actively monitoring the public health crises and will notify membership as soon as possible should the election days be canceled, postponed or polling processes be amended to reduce the spread of the virus; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Oneida Business Committee adopts the emergency amendments outlined in the Election Law for six months from the date of adoption of this resolution, or until the 2020 General Election is concluded, which ever is sooner.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum; 9 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020; that the forgoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 5 members for, 2 members against, and 1 members not voting\*; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Summers, Secretary  
Oneida Business Committee

\*According to the By-Laws, Article I, Section 1, the Chair votes "only in the case of a tie."