

TITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Chapter 1.2

ELECTIONS

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1.2.1. Title. This chapter will be known as the Suquamish Tribe Election Code. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.2. Authorization. This chapter governing tribal elections is enacted pursuant to the authority vested in the Suquamish Tribe by its Constitution, particularly by Article V, and its designation of an electoral code to be adopted by the General Council as well as Article III and its authority to pass ordinances that provide for the maintenance of law and order and the administration of justice. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.3. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish uniform procedures for fair elections and to ensure the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.4. Definitions. (a) "Annual meeting" means the General Council meeting the third Sunday of March each year as established in Article V, section 2 in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Suquamish Tribe.

(b) "Council" means the Suquamish Tribal Council, which is the governing body of the Suquamish Tribe.

(c) "Constitution" means the Constitution and Bylaws of the Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison Indian Reservation.

(d) "Election official" means a tribal member designated by the General Council

on the day of the General Council meeting.

(e) “General Council” means the duly enrolled members of the Suquamish Tribe who are at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of the annual meeting.

(f) “Member” means a duly enrolled member of the Suquamish Tribe.

(g) “Tribe” or “tribal” means the Suquamish Tribe. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.5. Election Date. All Tribal Council elections will occur at the annual General Council meeting on the third Sunday in March. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.6. Quorum. A General Council quorum is established once fifty (50) eligible members have officially signed in. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.7. Qualification of Candidates. Any enrolled member of the Suquamish Tribe who is twenty-one (21) years of age or over on the day of the election and meets all other constitutional requirements is eligible to run for office. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.8. Qualifications of Voters. Any enrolled member of the Suquamish Tribe who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and is present at the General Council meeting on the day of the election may vote. All qualified voters are automatically registered to vote in all tribal elections. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.9. Election Officials. Once the General Council meeting is called to order, the membership will designate five (5) members as election officials. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.10. Nominations and Primary. (a) Candidates for Tribal Council positions will be nominated from the floor at the third Sunday in March General Council meeting starting at 10:00 a.m.

(b) Eligible candidates may give a speech of five minutes or less.

(c) When more than two candidates are nominated for a position, a primary election will be held.

(d) The candidates who receive the two highest number of ballots cast advance to the general election on Sunday afternoon.

(e) The candidate who receives the highest number of votes in the general election is elected to the Tribal Council position. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.11. Voting Procedures. (a) All elections will be by secret ballot.

(b) The voter will mark the ballot in a private area within the polling place. The voter will then place the marked ballot into the ballot box and leave the polling area. Only one person may occupy a voting booth at one time except as provided in §1.2.11(c) of this chapter.

(c) If a voter seeks assistance in marking the ballot, a designated person will mark the ballot as requested by the voter. Two election officials will witness the marking.

(d) Until the polls close, under no circumstances may a ballot box be opened. After the polls close, the ballot box will be unlocked in the presence of at least one officer of the Suquamish Police Department and the election officials. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.12. Election Results. (a) After the polls close, the ballots are tabulated and the election results are announced by the election officials and witnessed by the General Council.

(b) Before the General Council adjourns, the newly elected tribal official(s) will immediately assume the duties of the office to which he or she is elected. A judge of the Suquamish Tribal Court will administer the oath of office.

(c) For adoption elections, the tally and election results will not be announced at that General Council. Instead, at the next regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting, the Tribal Council will acknowledge the results and, if an adoption candidate receives greater than 50% approval vote, the Tribal Council will adopt the candidate by Tribal Council resolution. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.13. Election Disputes. All election disputes, including the determination of the qualifications of any voter, if questioned, will be resolved by the General Council. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)

1.2.14. Effective Date. This chapter becomes effective upon adoption by the Suquamish General Council in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Suquamish Tribe and enacted into law by the Tribal Council. (Res. 2018-224, passed Dec. 3, 2018)