

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

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registration form before, or in conjunction with, requesting an absentee ballot in sufficient time to permit compliance with §81.12.

(b) The following records shall be kept for all notices:

(1) Names and addresses of persons to whom notices are mailed;

(2) Date of mailing; and

(3) A copy of each return registration request (including from whom received and date and time of receipt).

Tribal members living on the reservation who desire to vote must register with the election board in the manner it determines in time to permit compliance with §81.12. Registration procedures for such Indians shall be included in the notice of the need to register to resident members.

[46 FR 1670, Jan. 7, 1981, as amended at 46 FR 38352, July 27, 1981. Redesignated at 47 FR 13327, Mar. 30, 1982]

§81.12 Voting list.

The election board shall compile in alphabetical order an official list of registered voters arranged by voting districts, if any. This list shall designate, where applicable, those who have requested an absentee ballot and the members of the tribe who are or will have attained the age of 18 years within 150 days (180 days for Alaska tribes) from the date an election is authorized and who have duly registered to vote. A copy of this list shall be supplied to any district election board and shall be posted at the headquarters of the local administrative unit of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the tribal headquarters, and at various other public places designated by the election board at least 20 days prior to the election.

§81.13 Eligibility disputes.

The election board shall determine the eligibility of any written claim to vote presented to it by one whose name does not appear on the official list of registered voters as well as any written challenge of the right to vote of anyone whose name is on the list. Its decision shall be final. It shall rule on all claims no later than ten days before the election. Any claim not presented at least ten days before the election shall be disallowed. Nonresident claimants successfully appealing omission

from the list shall immediately be furnished an absentee ballot. Omission of names from the voters list due to late registration, if notification (pursuant to §81.14) has been timely mailed, shall not be considered grounds for challenge.

§81.14 Election notices.

Not less than 30 nor more than 60 days notice shall be given of the date of the election. Such notice shall include the location of where the results will be posted. The notice shall also advise that persons must register if they intend to vote. The election board shall determine whether the notice will be given by television, radio, newspaper, poster, or mail, or by more than one of these methods and whether in an Indian language in addition to English. A copy of any written election notice may be mailed to each registered voter and shall be posted at the local administrative unit of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and elsewhere as directed by the election board. At any time after receiving Secretarial authorization to hold the election, the board shall make available to the adult members of the tribe the text of any amendment or proposed constitution and bylaws, amendment thereto, charter, or charter amendment. The election board may determine the manner and timing of the distribution. However, the text shall be posted at least within the local administrative unit of the Bureau and the tribal headquarters within two days following the giving of notice of the election date by the election board.

§81.15 Opening and closing of polls.

If polling places are established, the polls shall remain open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., local time, unless different hours are set by the election board and the voters are informed of this in the election notice.

§81.16 Interpreters.

Interpreters, where needed, may be provided to explain the manner of voting to any voter who asks for instructions; provided, that all reasonable precautions are taken to ensure that the interpreter does not influence the voter in casting the ballot. The interpreter

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may accompany the voter into the booth upon the latter's request.

§81.17 Electioneering.

There shall be no electioneering during voting hours within 50 feet of any voting place. Sample ballots will be permitted in the voting booth.

§81.18 Manner of voting.

(a) Registered voters may vote by arriving at the appropriate polling place within the prescribed voting hours telling officials their names and addresses, signing their signature or mark on the voting list, and by marking and placing in the ballot box the ballots which will be handed to them. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

(b) Voting may take place at the same time regarding the adoption of a constitution, the ratification of a charter, or the amendment of such documents; provided, that entitlement to vote for the proposal is consistent with §81.6 of this part and, provided further, that no charter shall be considered ratified if the proposed constitution is not adopted and approved.

(c) The election board may choose not to use polling places and provide for the issuance and receipt of ballots entirely through the United States Postal Service. In that event, the election board shall use the appropriate procedures set forth in this part relating to absentee balloting.

§81.19 Absentee voting.

(a) Nonresident members who have registered may vote by absentee ballot except as prohibited by §81.6. Also, whenever, due to temporary absence from the reservation, illness, or physical disability, a registered and otherwise eligible voter is not able to vote at the polls and notifies the election board, the voter shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Upon his or her request, the election board shall give or mail absentee ballots to registered voters who may be entitled to receive them pursuant to §81.6. At the same time, such voters will also be provided a copy of the proposal to be voted upon when the full text does not appear on the ballot. Appropriate records shall be kept of those from whom requests are received and the date they were re-

ceived. The election board shall allow an absentee voter no less than ten days from the mailing out of an absentee ballot to receive and return the ballot. This period shall not be afforded absentee voters desiring to exchange a mutilated or spoiled ballot less than ten days before the election date. While requests for absentee ballots received less than ten days before an election will be promptly honored, no absentee ballot will be counted if received later than either the close of the polls or after some other deadline established by the election board. The election board shall furnish election officials the names of individuals who have been given or had mailed to them an absentee ballot.

(b) Accompanying the absentee ballot shall be:

- (1) An inner envelope bearing on the outside, the words "Absentee Ballot,"
- (2) Instructions for completion of the absentee ballot,
- (3) A copy of the proposed amendment, and
- (4) A preaddressed outer envelope, imprinted on the back with a certificate as follows:

I, (name of voter), hereby certify that I am a qualified voter of the (name) Tribe of Indians; that I will be 18 years of age or over at the election date and am entitled to vote in the election to be held on (date of election); and that I cannot appear at the polling place on the reservation on the date of the election because (indicate one of the following reasons): I am a non resident voter ; or I expect to be temporarily absent from the reservation ; or because of illness ; or physical disability ; or because no polling place has been established . I further certify that I marked the enclosed ballot in secret.

Signed: _____ (voter's signature).

(c) The absentee voter shall mark the ballot and the ballot shall then be folded so as to conceal the marking and be placed in the envelope marked "Absentee Ballot" and the envelope sealed. The voter shall then place the sealed envelope marked "Absentee Ballot" in the outer envelope, seal it and complete the certificate and mail it. The preaddressed outer envelope shall be directed to the election board at the reservation. Absentee ballots must be received by the election board not later