



**MEMORANDUM
FROM THE ELECTION BOARD**

To: SRMT Members

From: SRMT Election Board
Hope Wheelock *HW*
Angela George *AG*
Sheila Loran *SL*
Joseph Bowen-Brewer *JBB*
Konwahontsiawi *K*

Date: November 28, 2017

RE: Voter Identification

The Election Board provides the following in response to questions raised regarding the form of identification that may be used to prove identity on Election Day.

The Election Ordinance provides a definition of "Valid photo identification" as follows: "Valid photo identification" means identification, which contains a picture of the Tribal member, issued by a government entity and which is sufficient to establish a person's identity."

It also provides in §XI.C. that "(e)ach person presenting himself to vote must sign in and present their Tribal Enrollment card or valid photo identification prior to receiving their ballots for the election and must put their enrollment number next to their name."

There is no specific requirement that only Tribal IDs be accepted, so any valid ID issued by any government entity is acceptable to establish identity at the time of voting. On Election Day, ID is used to establish identity only and is not used to establish eligibility to vote. The time to establish eligibility is prior to voting when members are responsible for ensuring their name is on the eligible voters list.

The online Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word "valid" as "having legal efficacy or force; especially: executed with the proper legal authority and formalities. If something is expired, it is no longer valid so as worded under our current Election Ordinance, the Election Board should not accept expired identification.

The general policy of the Tribe is to encourage voting as much as possible. We might want to think about clarifying this definition further and perhaps expanding it to include identification that may have expired but was issued within the last number of years.

Frequently Asked Questions Voter Identification

1. What is required to vote in a Tribal Election or Referendum?

You must be on the Eligible Voter's List **AND** on the day of the Election or Referendum, you must prove your identity in order to vote.

2. How do I prove my identity?

You must present valid photo identification issued by a government entity.

3. What is valid photo identification?

It's any photo identification issued by a government entity including, for example, a Tribal ID, a Driver's License, a Passport or a Status Card, **AND** it cannot be expired.

On the day of the Election or Referendum, expired photo identification, (even an expired Tribal ID) will not be accepted as proof of identity.