



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Election Board  
2608 Government Center Dr  
Manistee, MI 49660

## Resolution of Election Cycle Complaints

The purpose of this Memorandum is to apprise the Membership of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, of the status and resolution of the Challenges and Disputes filed during the 2021 Regular Election and which have been appealed to the Tribal Court.

### **A. Crampton v. LRBOI Election Board, Tribal Court Case No. 21-000504 EB** Case *Dismissed* after Motion by the Election Board.

This case was an appeal of two of the three decisions by the Election Board denying the Election Challenges filed by Shannon Paul Crampton. On page 1 of the Tribal Court's Order it specifically stated "The COURT FINDS that the Election Board did not commit a clear error in dismissing the Plaintiff's complaints. The Plaintiff's case is dismissed with prejudice."

Within its Order the Court made the following specific findings:

1. "The Court FINDS that the Election Board Regulations allow the issuing a partial report. The Court denies the Plaintiff's motion requesting that the issuing of a partial report as unlawful." (page 1).
2. "The Court FINDS that the Election Board did not err in dismissing the Plaintiff's complaint without a hearing because the Plaintiff filed an untimely election dispute, not a challenge." (page 9).
3. "The Court FINDS that the Election Board did not commit clear error in refusing to grant the Plaintiff a hearing. Even if it was an error to refuse the Plaintiff a hearing, it is harmless error because the Court FINDS that the Plaintiff filed an untimely election dispute, not a challenge." (pages 9-10).
4. "This Court FINDS that Plaintiff failed to file his Complaint within the deadlines provided for in the Statute for filing election disputes and is time-barred." (page 11).
5. "Even if the Plaintiff's claim was not barred due to untimeliness, his claim would still fail because this Court has previously ruled that the Election Board has the authority to extend the time for pick-up of candidacy packets." (page 11).

### **B. Romanelli v. LRBOI Election Board, Tribal Court Case No. 21-000503 EB** Case *Dismissed* after Motion by the Election Board.

This case was an appeal of the decision by the Election Board denying the Election Challenge filed by Antonio Romanelli. On page 1 of the Tribal Court's Order it specifically stated "The COURT FINDS that the Election Board did not commit a clear error in dismissing the Plaintiff's complaints. The Plaintiff's case is dismissed with prejudice."

Within its Order the Court made the following specific findings:

1. "The Court FINDS that intervention by Mr. Champagne will not unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of the original parties and therefore, Mr. Champagne is allowed to intervene." (pages 6-7).
2. "This Court FINDS that Plaintiff failed to file his complaint with the Election Board within the deadline specified for in the Regulations for filing election disputes, and therefore, his complaint is time-barred." (page 9).

**C. Lonn v. Wolfe & LRBOI Election Board**, Tribal Court Case No. 21-000103 EB  
Case *Dismissed* after Motion by the Election Board.

This case sought a temporary restraining order and appealed the decision by the Election Board denying the Election Challenge filed by Diane Lonn.

Within its Order the Court made the following specific findings:

1. The Court agrees with the Election Board when they state that the Petitioner was mistaken when she filed a "challenge" to the Election. She should have followed the regulations for an "Election Dispute" instead. (page 2).
2. "The Court finds that the Election Board exercised due diligence in determining Respondent Wolfe's residency and certifying her as a candidate." (page 2).

**D. Olson v. LRBOI Election Board**, Tribal Court Case No. 21-000524 EB  
Case *Dismissed* after Motion by the Election Board.

This case was an appeal of the decision by the Election Board denying the Election Challenge filed by Larry Robert Olson. On page 1 of the Tribal Court's Order it specifically stated "The COURT FINDS that the Election Board did not commit a clear error in dismissing the Plaintiff's complaints. The Plaintiff's case is dismissed with prejudice."

In its opinion and order the Court specifically stated on Pages 12-13 that "[t]he findings of fact establish that Mr. Romanelli did not send law enforcement officers to arrest the Plaintiff and that to the contrary the Plaintiff personally contacted the Tribal Police and arranged to surrender to them. Therein, the COURT FINDS the Election Board's dismissal of the Plaintiff's complaint was not a clear error."