



My Election Book

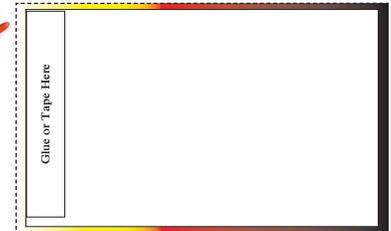
Glue or Tape Here

Draw what you would do if you were an Elected Official of our Tribe.
Use other pages to draw election buttons and election slogan.
And anything else you would like if you were running to be an elected official

Step One After you finish drawing.
Cut the paper along the dotted line.



Step Two Gather all of your cutouts from
Other worksheets and glue them together at the
side where it says.



Step Three Wait 15 Minutes for the glue to dry.



Finished!

The Book is ready for the
Election!

Our Government

Why do we need a government?

Imagine what your school would be like if no one was in charge. Each class would make its own rules.

Who gets to use the gym if two classes want to use it at the same time?

Who would clean the classrooms?

Who decides if you learn about Mars or play kickball?

Sounds confusing, right?

This is why schools have people who are in charge, such as the principal, administrators, teachers, and staff. Our nation has people who are in charge and they make up the government.

Our Government:

The Legislative Branch (Tribal Council)

The legislative branch makes laws for the nation.

Our Government:

The Executive Branch (Tribal Ogema)

The executive branch makes sure people follow the laws that the legislative branch makes. The leader of this branch is the Tribal Ogema

Our Government:

The Judicial Branch

When people are unsure about the meaning of a law, the judicial branch listens to many opinions and makes a decision.

The judicial branch is made up of courts, the clerk's office, and Peacemaking who mostly work with kids and teens. They are available to help solve problems or differences between people.

A Bit for the Kids

Our government has three branches.
Imagine a triangle.

At the top is the
Executive Branch
Ogema



Judicial
Branch
Judges
Courts

The other
corners are

Legislative
Branch
Tribal
Council

The three branches of our Tribal
Government work together
To run our Membership.

The Constitution provides for this system
so that no one branch has more power
than the others.

Why Vote?

When we vote during elections
we get to choose the leaders who
will govern our tribe

It's a good way
to be a part of our
Government.

Historic meaning of the Tribal Seal

Did you know that the current Tribal seal that we use is actually a third version? Do you know what our Tribal seal symbolizes?



The symbols of the river and the land in our Tribal seal represent the natural environment which has sustained our people for thousands of years. The nine feathers represent the nine Bands that constitute the historical Little River communities. It is in honor of and in memoriam to our ancestors of those nine Bands that are symbolized by the nine feathers.

These same four colors represent the four directions, the four seasons, and the four stages of life. It also represents the four races of humanity - to the extent that we can acknowledge that we are all related, not only spiritually, but also physically. We realize that we are all related after all.

Together, the eagles represent a pair, and that all animals and humanity as a pair bring forth life. The tree in the distance is a cedar tree which represents prosperity and peace.



The last symbolization is that of the entire seal being the shape of a circle. The circle represents harmony with nature and with all of our relatives. The circle stands for all things that are round in Creation, such as the sun and the moon. Mother Earth turns in a circle, the Anishinaabe dance in a circle, the birds make their nests in circles, and the four seasons and stages of life form a circle.

It wasn't until May 27, 1999 that the Tribal Council adopted the current wording seen on the seal. Of course as you already know, the significance of the September 21, 1994 date is that of when our Tribe was federally reaffirmed by the U.S. government.

Did you know there was so much information contained in one little seal that we all see so often?

Our Government Center

2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, Michigan 49660



August 19, 2013 saw the starting of the caravan as the government of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians began consolidating offices at the new Government Center on trust land near the intersection of US 31 and M-22, north of Manistee.



Checks and Balances



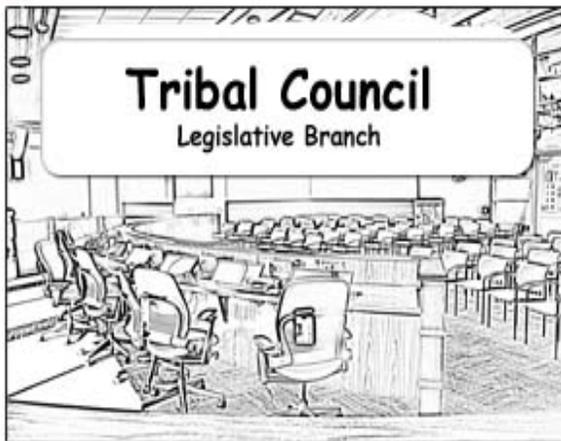
Executive office of the Ogema; executive and cabinet departments; independent government agencies.

Council can impeach and remove the Ogema from Office
 Council must approve Ogema appointments; it controls the budget; it can pass law over the Ogema's veto.

The Ogema can veto Tribal Council legislation; may propose legislation to Tribal Council.

The Court can declare the Ogema's acts unconstitutional.
 Tribal Court Chief Judge presides over impeachment of president; may prevent executive action through

The Ogema can appoint Judges



Tribal Council can change laws ; initiate a constitutional amendment; restrict jurisdiction of courts to hear certain types of cases; create whole new court systems or abolish new ones; expand or contract times and places that the Tribal Court sit.

Tribal Council ————— **Tribal Court**
 Tribal Council must confirm the Ogema's judicial appointments;
 Council can impeach or remove judges from office

Tribal Council ————— **Tribal Court**
 The Court can declare laws unconstitutional



Election Process

Tribal Council

Primary Process

Candidate publicly Announces his or her plan to run for office



Nomination Campaign

Candidate works hard to gain support from members of his or her District.



Trigger for primary election

If the Election Board verifies more than three candidates for any open seat, then a primary shall be held.

The Primary Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot.



Certified Slate of Candidates

The Election Board shall post primary results.

The Candidates who win the primary election will proceed to the General Election



Election Results

Tribal Council candidate(s) receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to fill each vacancy according to the rank order of votes received.



Counting the Ballots

The Election Board shall be located in an area that can be viewed, but not entered, by the public. The ballot tabulating and counting procedures shall be witnessed by a Little River Band Of Ottawa Indians Police Officer, who shall remain until the count of ballots is completed, certified, and announced.



Election Day

The General Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot and a central polling place.



Candidate Forum

Information department this year. The forum gave the membership a chance to ask questions of those running and to receive first hand knowledge of the issues that the candidates felt needed to be addressed by the office they were running for.