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**COMBINED IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL VOTING POLICY OF THE  
LONE PINE PAIUTE SHOSHONE RESERVATION**

**Preliminary Statement / Purpose of “Proposed Policy”:**

The purpose of this virtual voting policy is to enable the Tribe’s General Council to participate and vote both virtually and in person during General Council meetings. This is a draft policy to be distributed to the General Council ten (10) days prior to the General Council meeting on July 10, 2022. The new Resolution on voting will be drafted and put to a vote of the general council at a General Council meeting after July 10, 2022.

An additional purpose of this proposed voting policy is to enact some rules for General Council meetings with the goal of making them more orderly, efficient and to enable The Tribe to complete the tasks on the Agenda for a meeting in the time allotted for the meeting.

Policy on Virtual Voting

**I. Applicability**

- a. This Virtual Voting Policy shall apply to all votes of the General Council during a General Council meeting, for example votes on Tribal Resolutions and meeting minutes.
- b. This Policy does **not** affect the process for electing Tribal Officers as described in the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Indian Reservation Election Ordinance, adopted on August 15, 1992.

**II. Purpose**

- a. The purpose of this policy is to allow for any eligible enrolled tribal member 18 years or older to vote on action items during General Council meetings, regardless of location, by creating procedures for virtual voting.
- b. The votes of eligible, tribal voters shall have the same weight (1 person, 1 vote), regardless of whether they vote in person or virtually.

**III. Technology**

**a. In Person Technology**

- i. Vote Casting shall be accomplished in person in the traditional manner (with voter cards and/or virtual voting platform).
- ii. Each eligible enrolled Tribal Member (18 years or older) shall receive access to the virtual voting platform.

**b. Remote / Virtual Voting Technology**

- i. Vote Casting shall be accomplished remotely by using the “Poll” feature in Zoom’s remote collaborative meeting software and/or chosen virtual platform.
- ii. Eligible Tribal voters who desire to participate in the General Council meeting remotely via zoom and/or virtual platform must pre-register for the meeting (*see* Section IV(a)(ii), below) or selected virtual platform.

#### IV. General Council Meeting Format; Agenda Items; Registered Eligible Tribal Voters

##### a. Publication of Specific Items Before General Council Meeting

###### i. General Council Meeting Agenda

1. Physical and digital copies of General Council meeting agendas, minutes of previous meeting minutes and relevant documents shall be published at least five (5) business days prior to the General Council meeting (concurrently with a virtual platform pre-registration link, and Minutes from Prior General Council Meetings, *see* subparts ii, iii, and iv of subsection a below). Example: All relevant documents would need to be published no later than the Monday before a scheduled General Council Meeting.
2. Any eligible tribal voter may add items to the General Council meeting Agenda by making a written request to the Tribal Secretary at least ten (10) business days prior to the General Council meeting.
  - a. An email sent to [secretary@lpsr.org](mailto:secretary@lpsr.org) or any written request physically submitted or mailed to the Tribal office (and timely received) shall satisfy the “written request” requirement.

###### ii. Virtual Participation Pre-Registration

1. A Pre-Registration zoom and/or virtual platform Link shall be published at least five (5) business days prior to the General Council meeting, concurrently with the Agenda, and Minutes from Prior General Council Meeting (*see* subparts iii and iv of subsection a below)
2. Any eligible tribal voter may pre-register to participate in the General Council meeting.

###### iii. Minutes from Prior General Council Meeting

1. The Minutes from the most recent General Council Meeting shall be published concurrently with the Agenda and Pre-Registration zoom and/or virtual platform Link at least five (5) business days prior to the General Council meeting.

##### a. Integration of In Person and Remote/virtual General Council Meeting

###### i. Host Computers

1. Host Computers shall be used to display any presentation slides to participants and host the virtual meeting platform.

###### ii. Projector / zoom and/or virtual platform Display

1. The screen of the Host Computer shall be 1) projected on a large display in person and 2) shared with virtual participants so that virtual participants and in person participants see the same General Council presentation.

##### b. General Council Meetings shall follow the following format and order:

###### i. Tribal Chairperson calls General Council to order

###### ii. Prayer

###### iii. Opening Roll Call

1. ‘Presence’ shall be established once in person participants sign in.
2. The Tribal Secretary shall read aloud a list of in person and virtual participants. There shall be no distinction between tribal members who appear in person vs. those who appear virtually in regards to their status as ‘present’ for the meeting.

###### iv. Approval of Agenda

###### v. Approval of Minutes from Prior General Council Meeting(s)

- vi. Agenda Items for Subsequent General Council Meeting
  - 1. In the past, the Tribe has permitted members to make motions to add Agenda items to the General Council meeting during the General Council Meeting – this will no longer be permitted and Agenda items must be submitted in advance of the meeting.
- vii. Discussion and Voting on General Council Meeting Agenda Items
  - 1. Both in person and virtual participants shall be given two minutes during the discussion portion of the agenda item to address the general council.
  - 2. In person participants must use the provided microphone/podium and identify themselves by their full name.
  - 3. Virtual participants shall use the ‘raise hand’ feature to be recognized and make their comments.
  - 4. Each Agenda item shall be introduced by the Tribal Chairperson
    - a. Comments from any tribal member participant shall be permitted in accordance with Section VI – Conduct of Meeting Participants, below.
    - b. The Tribal Chairperson shall have discretion to end comments and call a vote on the Agenda item.
  - 5. When Comments have concluded, the Tribal Chairperson shall call for a vote on the Agenda item, following the Combined Virtual and In Person Voting Procedure in Section V, below.
- viii. Closing Roll Call
  - 1. In person participants shall return their voting devices (if any) and sign confirmation upon leaving the meeting and/or meeting adjournment.
    - a. If a device is not returned by an individual voter, the corresponding in person participant shall be responsible for the replacement of the device and all associated costs.
    - b. Replacement costs shall be automatically deducted from the individuals non-gaming distribution.

## **V. Combined Virtual and In Person Voting Procedure**

### **a. Display**

- i. The Agenda item to be voted on, and all voting options (e.g., for Tribal Resolutions: yes, no, abstain) shall be displayed to participants, via a screen and projector for in person participants, or via a presentation slide for remote/virtual participants).

### **b. Vote Casting**

- i. General (both in person and virtual / remote)
  - 1. In the event of a tie, the Tribal Chairperson’s vote shall break the tie.
  - 2. Once the meeting has concluded, in person participants must return their virtual voting devices to the sign in desk.
- ii. In Person
  - 1. Once a vote on an Agenda item is opened, tribal voters shall use traditional voter cards or virtual voting platform to record their vote.

2. Voters shall be careful to select their choice correctly, as user errors shall not be grounds to redo the vote.
- iii. Virtual / Remote
- c. **Time**
  - i. Time allotted for voting
    1. The time a virtual vote remains open shall be the same (or as close as possible) for individuals voting in person.
    2. Once the Secretary announces the in person vote total, virtual voting will be closed and virtual vote tabulations will be announced.
  - ii. Notices
    1. A verbal notice shall be given both in person and via zoom and/or virtual platform that the time to vote has begun. The amount of time the vote will remain open shall also be stated at the time the vote is opened.
    2. A verbal notice shall be given both in person and via zoom and/or virtual platform prior to closing voting.

## **VI. Conduct of Meeting Participants**

### **a. Rules Applicable to all General Council Participants**

- i. Time Limits on Comments
  1. In order to give all who wish to speak the opportunity to do so and ensure the ability to get through meeting Agendas, all participants shall be limited to one comment per agenda item.
    - a. The Tribal Chairperson, in his or her sole discretion, may allow an individual one additional extension of up to two (2) minutes, for a total comment time of four (4) minutes.
- ii. No Disruptive or Disorderly Behavior
  1. All participants, both in person and virtual, are required to follow the Meeting Rules set forth in Tribal Resolution No. 09-07-14-02 (No Disruptive or Disorderly Behavior at General Council Meetings), adopted on September 7, 2014.

### **b. Additional Rules Specific to In Person General Council Participants**

- i. In person meeting participants providing public comment or otherwise addressing the General Council shall do the following when addressing the General Council:
  1. State his or her full name prior to making a comment;
  2. Use provided microphone;
    - a. Individuals who are physically able shall come to the podium at the front of the room and speak into the microphone when making public comment;
    - b. Individuals who are not physically able to stand at the podium shall be provided a wireless microphone from which to make a public comment;

## **VII. Virtual Voting Records**

- a. To instill confidence in a new voting system and permit virtual voters to confirm that their votes were cast as they intended, a record of how each eligible tribal voter voted

during a General Council meeting shall be kept at the tribal office for at least five (5) years following the General Council meeting during which the vote occurred.

- b. Upon request from a virtual voter, the Tribe shall furnish to that individual the Tribe's record of how that individual tribal voter voted at a General Council meeting.
- c. The integrity of the vote is of the utmost importance and accordingly virtual voter records are confidential; individual tribal voters may only request his or her own voting record. In no case shall the Tribe or Tribal staff reveal to any third party how a tribal voter voted.

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