



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Government Center

August 28, 2020

Dear Shirley Trull,

The Election Board received your letter of protest and in regards to your letter a meeting was held by the Election Board to respond to your concerns.

The Election Board thanks you for your concern in regards to the issues in the Run-off Election for August 22, 2020.

In response to your protest letter:

#1. Untimely mailing of ballots to registered Tribal voters.

Response: Ballots were mailed on August 6, 2020.

#2. Numerous registered Tribal voters reportedly received no ballots at all.

Response: Our records indicate that only 1 was confirmed as not being received.

#3. National mail delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Response: This contributed to the concerns as communicated through the media.

#4. Potentially many ballots may have been received too late to return by the count date.

Response: Mail due to Covid-19.

#5. Local Tribal registered voters reportedly received ballots as late as Monday August 17, 2020 (if received at all) a mere 5 days preceding the count date August 22, 2020.

Response: Unconfirmed

#6. Local registered Tribal voters were able to drop their ballots at the Mayetta Ks. post office in town mailbox. This process kept ballot from going to Kansas City to get sorted. However if one deposited a ballot in the outside mailbox that ballot went to Kansas City, therefore it is possible the ballot did not make it for the count date. Off reservation voters do not have that advantage and are at the mercy of the postal system which is in dire need of improvement for on time mail delivery during this pandemic.

Response to these concerns listed are: The Election Board has no control over this national wide pandemic.

the ballot did not make it for the count date. Off reservation voters do not have that advantage and are at the mercy of the postal system which is in dire need of improvement for on time mail delivery during this pandemic.

Response to these concerns listed are:

The Board of Elections has no control over this national wide pandemic.

#7 c. Response:

This is redacted due to confidentiality and the board has no control over this specific situation.

#7 d. Duplicate ballots were mailed out to voters during the count process there was a system in place to screen out the duplicates, why were there duplicates in the first place.

Response to this concern is:

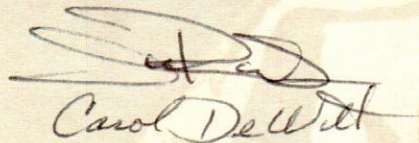
Proofing the list is a regular procedure. However the duplicates were beyond our control and was processed by AES (the election people)

The Board of Elections approves this document with 2 voting members. Sarah recused her vote in this letter.

This will be emailed to Shirley Trull and a certified letter will be mailed also.

Sincerely,

The Board of Elections



Carol DeWitt

August 26, 2020

Dear Election Board,

This letter is an official protest for the recent tribal election held on August 22, 2020, pursuant to the Election Ordinance, Section 11, Protests and Recounts.

The grounds for the challenge are:

1. Untimely mailing of ballots to registered tribal voters
2. Numerous registered tribal voters reportedly received no ballot at all
3. National mail delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic
4. Potentially, many ballots may have been received too late to return by the count date
5. Local tribal registered voters reportedly received ballots as late as Monday, August 17, 2020 (if received at all), a mere 5 days preceding the count date, August 22, 2020
6. Local tribal registered voters were able to drop their ballots at the Mayetta, Kansas post office 'in town' mailbox. This process kept ballots from going to Kansas City to get sorted. However, if one deposited a ballot in the outside mailbox, that ballot went to Kansas City. Therefore, it was possible the ballot did not make it 'in time' for the count date. Off reservation voters do not have that advantage and are at the mercy of the postal system, which is in dire need of improvement for on time mail delivery during this pandemic
7. Numerous administrative errors, as indicated by the Nation's General Manager's report:
 - a. Late approval for 'proofs' on 7/31/2020 resulted in a 12-day turnaround for this 2020 election versus a 6-day turnaround in the 2018 election
 - b. AES (the Election People) stated there was no date specified by Member Services to mail out the ballots; therefore, no sense of urgency was made in getting the ballots out to voters
 - c. Member Service Coordinator's poor attendance record during the critical period of ballot preparation and distribution between the department, Election Board, and the vendor, AES (the Election People). This behavior was a significant factor in the delay of ballot preparation and distribution.
 - d. Duplicate ballots were mailed out to voters. During the count process, there was a system in place to screen out the duplicates. Why were there duplicates in the first place?

Here is a partial list of people who did not receive a ballot:

1. [REDACTED]—Michigan
2. [REDACTED]—Colorado
3. [REDACTED]—West Virginia
4. Jessica Burghart—Kansas
5. Rebecca Parker—Kansas

This list is not an all-inclusive list, of course. I have numerous texts from members who did not receive a ballot. Member Services should have a log of who called in to report they did not receive a ballot. Due to time constraints, no ballots were re-sent out to anyone.

2 voters did send their ballots by 'overnight' mail, ensuring their ballots were part of the count. They incurred costs of \$26 and \$52. Not everyone has the means to cover those costs.

26 ballots were received on Monday, August 24, 2020. As of this date, the count has not been updated for Tuesday and Wednesday, August 25-26, 2020. No doubt that those ballots would have impacted the end voting results.

As a qualified voter, I am submitting this challenge to the Election Board. This election should not be validated due to the many issues and errors surrounding this 2020 election (late approvals, late mailings, late receipt or no receipt of ballots).

As a current Tribal Council Member, I am submitting this protest on behalf of ALL voters who believe in a fair and equitable election process. We, as a Nation, should be confident in our election process. Someone must take the moral courage to let the Nation know there were flaws during this 2020 election.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Trull". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Shirley Trull