

CATHERINEJ. CHAVERS, PRESIDENT
FARON JACKSON, SR., VICE PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH K. DROST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APRIL McCORMICK, SECRETARY
LEONARD M. FINEOAY, TREASURER



The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Administration
218-335-8587
Toll Free: 888-322-7688
Fax: 218-335-8496

Home 218-335-8582 Fax:

218-335-6925

Economic Development

218-335-8583 Fax:

218-335-8496

Education

218-335-8584 Fax:

218-335-2029

Human Services

218-335-8586 Fax:

218-335-8080

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – Election Court of Appeals

In re: Certification Appeal of Justin Keezer for Chairperson Election (White Earth)

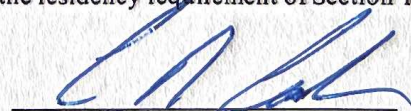
This matter came before the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – Election Court of Appeals (Court) on February 15, 2024. Pursuant to Section 1.3 (C) (6) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election ordinance, the Court convened within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving the certification challenge from candidate Keezer. Judge Robert Blaeser – the White Earth appointee to the Court – did not participate in the decision.

Candidate Keezer appeals the February 6, 2024 determination by the White Earth Reservation Business Committee that Candidate Keezer did not meet the requirement that he reside within the White Earth Reservation boundaries for the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the primary election, which residency is required by Section 1.3(A) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Ordinance:

A candidate for office must: (1) be an enrolled member of the Tribe; (2) be enrolled with the Reservation of his/her candidacy; (3) reside on the Reservation of his/her candidacy and enrollment; and (4) meet the requirements of Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution, as set forth in Section 1.3(D). A candidate for Committeeperson to represent a district established pursuant to Section 1.4(A), below, must reside in the district of his/her candidacy and enrollment. Requirements (1), (2), and (3) must be met for at least the twelve-month period immediately preceding the date established for the Primary election.

For purposes of analyzing this certification appeal the Court has presumed that candidate Keezer has met all procedural requirements to preserve and present his appeal. In his appeal Candidate Keezer fails to provide evidence that contravenes the determination by the White Earth Reservation Business Committee that he has not met the residency requirement. In addition, candidate Keezer misconstrues the residency requirement as only applying to candidates for Committeeperson and not Chairperson; the eligibility requirement is clear that the 12-month residency requirement applies to all candidates for office.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – Election Court of Appeals affirms the determination by the White Earth Reservation Business Committee that candidate Keezer has failed to prove he has met the residency requirement of Section 1.3(A) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Ordinance.


Christopher D. Anderson – Bois Forte Appointee

MEMBER RESERVATIONS • BOIS FORTE • FOND DU LAC • GRAND PORTAGE • LEECH LAKE • MILLE LACS • WHITE EARTH

NI-MAH-MAH-WI-NO-MIN "We all come together"

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 217, Cass Lake, MN 56633-0217 • Street Address: 15542 State 371 N.W., Cass Lake, MN 56633