

Emergency Notice from Election Committee due to COVID-19 Outbreak Drive-Thru Nominations on April 6, 2020

In light of the unprecedented public health emergency created by the COVID-19 outbreak, the LEKT Election Committee is making some changes to the 2020 Election in order to conduct all election activities as safely as possible while complying with Business Committee Resolution No. 42-20, the Stay Home Stay Healthy order that prohibits large public gatherings.

We will be doing our very best to maintain as closely as possible the schedule of events already announced in the 2020 Election Rules and Regulations, while still accommodating the health and safety of our tribal members. In the near future, we will send out new details about the election process, including any changes in dates or procedures that may be necessary.

Most immediately, the Business Committee Nominations will still take place on April 6, 2020, at 7:00 PM, at the Tribal Center, in conjunction with the General Community Council Meeting that will be limited to nominations only, and will be on a drive-thru basis, instead of gathering in person as normally done. Election Committee staff, with assistance from Tribal Police, will conduct this process. Simply show up and we will help you make your nomination in accordance with best social distancing practices. This includes people on foot or bike.

We are asking candidates to submit their Acceptance of Nomination form (printed on the back side of this letter) and Candidate Letter on Nominations Night. We will also accept these items on Wednesday April 8, 2020 at the Tribal Center from 4:00-5:00pm.

We know that this year's election process will be a huge change for many people, and we are asking for your patience and understanding as we do everything possible to reduce risks and to care for Tribal members, staff, and the wider community. The decision to make such changes was not made lightly, but it is absolutely critical to minimize all unnecessary interpersonal contact in the election process until the coronavirus crisis is passed. We are especially concerned about the risk of infection to our Elders and those with medical conditions that could make the disease more serious or even fatal.

Please be mindful that with ever-changing information regarding the spread of COVID-19 and new directives for public safety, things may be subject to change, but it is our commitment to remain as consistent and transparent as possible.

We communicate with our tribal voters mainly by mail, so it is of utmost importance to keep addresses, name changes, and signatures up-to-date with our enrollment department (all forms available on www.elwha.org).

We appreciate your continuing support and cooperation.

-The Election Committee