

2026 Business Committee and Chairperson Elections

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Two (2) Tribal Business Committee positions will be elected this year, the positions currently held by Melissa Gilman and Russell (Razz) Hepfer. The election will be held from the list of eligible tribal members who accepted their nomination for the 2026 General Election, or voters may write in the name of any person who is eligible to hold office as an alternative to voting for a nominated candidate. The other members of the LEKT Business Committee are Steve Joaquin Robideau and Christia (Tia) Skerbeck (whose terms will expire in 2027) and Frances (Gator) Charles (whose term will expire 2028).

The Election Committee of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe hereby gives notice of the schedule for the 2026 elections, as follows:

April 6 (Monday), 2026 – Nominations for Business Committee Candidates, 7:00 PM, at the regularly scheduled Community Council Meeting in Room 13 at the Lower Elwha Tribal Center. If a quorum is not present, the Business Committee will conduct the nominations.

April 9 (Thursday), 2026 – Deadline to Submit Acceptance of Nomination. Rule 5.3 of the 2026 Election Rules and Regulations requires any nominated candidate to submit this signed form to the Election Committee by the close of business on April 9, 2026 to be on the ballot. Written acceptance of the nomination may be submitted in one of two ways: (1) at the Community Council Meeting on April 6, 2026, by handing in the completed acceptance form to the Election Committee; (2) by sending the completed form in an email to elections@elwhaelections.com not later than 5:00 PM on April 9, 2026.

May 9 (Saturday), 2026 – Election of Business Committee member. There will be a polling place in Room 13 of the Tribal Center, which will be open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM. Mail-in ballots shall also be used and all mail-in ballots must be mailed so as to be received at the official post-office box by Election Day, May 9, 2026. Any ballots not received by Election Day WILL NOT be counted, regardless when they were mailed.

May 23 (Saturday), 2026 – Election of Chairperson. There will be a polling place in Room 13 of the Tribal Center, which will be open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM. Mail-in ballots shall also be used and all mail-in ballots must be mailed so as to be received at the official post-office box by the Chairperson Election Day, May 23, 2026. Any ballots not received by Election Day WILL NOT be counted, regardless when they were mailed.

The 2026 Election Rules and Regulations have been adopted by the Election Committee in accordance with the Tribal Constitution and have been mailed to all tribal members of voting age, and are also available on www.elwha.org.