

LTBB Election Board Nonimination Application Form - SECTION 3
CANDIDATE STATEMENT (Limit to 1 page)
(This Section of Form Will Be Published on LTBB Website)



My name is Bernadece Boda, and I am honored to present myself as a candidate for the LTBB Tribal Council. I was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but have called Northern Michigan home since 2003. I was raised by my mother, Frances Compo, and my grandparents, Frank and Viola Compo (née Shomin). My upbringing was shaped by the strength and values of my family, and the rich cultural heritage of the Odawa people. I hold a Master of Science as well as a Master of Public Administration degree from Grand Valley State University.

I currently serve as a Tribal Relations Specialist for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, covering 18 states. In 2023, I had the privilege of receiving the U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal, one of the highest federal service awards given for outstanding contributions in public service. In May 2024, I also received recognition from the Chicago Federal Executive Board for my leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Federal community. These experiences have provided me with a unique perspective on government relations and public policy, which I believe would be invaluable as a member of the LTBB Tribal Council.

As a Tribal Relations Specialist, my role involves fostering communication and collaboration between the federal government and tribal communities. I work directly with tribal leaders and citizens to ensure that their concerns are heard, understood, and addressed within the context of federal policies. My work aligns closely with the core responsibilities of the LTBB Tribal Council—advocating for our community, protecting our sovereignty, and advancing our tribal interests in an increasingly complex political environment.

We are living in a time where tribal sovereignty is increasingly under threat, both from external pressures and internal challenges. In this current political climate, it is vital that we continue to assert and protect our rights as a sovereign nation, ensuring that our tribal voice is strong, clear, and unified. The ongoing struggle for sovereignty makes it more important than ever for our leaders to be well-informed, dedicated, and skilled in navigating the complexities of government relations.

The LTBB Mission Statement speaks of our people's freedom—freedom to speak our language, practice our customs, and honor our spiritual beliefs. This freedom is rooted in the values of Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, and Truth. As a council member, I will work tirelessly to uphold and advance these values, ensuring that they are woven into every decision we make. I am committed to fostering unity within our community, as well as ensuring that our economic development aligns with our cultural values.

In addition to supporting traditional industries, I believe we must look to innovative economic development strategies. By leveraging our assets, including natural resources, technology, and our rich cultural heritage, we can create opportunities that will empower our people and help us thrive in the modern economy. At the same time, we must ensure that these efforts do not compromise our sovereignty or the well-being of our citizens.

As we move forward, we must continue to focus on education, justice, communication, and planning, as outlined in our mission. These priorities will guide us toward a future where we honor the past, while providing the tools and opportunities needed for future generations to succeed. I am dedicated to making decisions that honor the past while moving our tribe forward in meaningful, sustainable ways.

I ask for your support in this election, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve you on the LTBB Tribal Council. Together, we will protect and strengthen our tribe, ensuring that the freedom and values we hold dear are preserved for the next seven generations.

Milgwech,
Bernadece Boda

**LTBB Election Board Nomination Application Form - SECTION 2
(This Section of Form Will Be Published on LTBB Website)**

Bernadece A. Boda

Petitioner's Name As It Should Appear On The Ballot

Alanson, MI

City & State of Residency

1. Work Experience:

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - CENSUS BUREAU - PERMANENT TRIBAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST
CHICAGO REGION, July 2022 - Current**
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – CENSUS BUREAU – TEMPORARY PARTNERSHIP SPECIALIST
CHICAGO REGION, Oct. 2019 – Dec. 2021**
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PETOSKEY – TITLE VI COORDINATOR, Petoskey, MI Oct. 2018 – Oct. 2019
ODAWA CASINO REPORT – BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE, Petoskey, MI Jun. 2018 – Oct. 2018
**STATE OF MICHIGAN, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES- SERVICES
SPECIALIST, Grand Rapids, MI May 2016 – May 2017**
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS- YOUTH COORDINATOR, Harbor Springs, MI Dec. 2014 - Apr. 2016
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS- COURT ADMINISTRATOR, Harbor Springs, MI Oct. 2006 - Oct. 2013
**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS, TRIBAL COURT- PROBATION/COMMUNITY JUSTICE OFFICER,
Harbor Springs, MI Sept. 2003 - Oct. 2006**
KENT COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION- YOUTH SPECIALIST, Grand Rapids, MI Dec. 2000 – Aug. 2003
61st DISTRICT COURT- CLERICAL AIDE, COLLECTIONS AND TRAFFIC DIVISION, Grand Rapids, MI Sept. 1996 – Sept. 1998
MICHIGAN INDIAN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES, Grand Rapids, MI Jun. 1992 – Jun. 1994
LTBB GAMING AUTHORITY CHAIRPERSON, Petoskey, MI 2017-2019, Appointed

2. Educational Background:

Grand Valley State University: Master of Public Administration
Graduation Date: April 2006

Grand Valley State University- Master of Science
Graduation Date: April 2004

Grand Valley State University - Bachelor of Science
Graduation Date: August 2000

High School Diploma - Grand Rapids Public Schools - West Bridge Academy, Native American Education Program
Graduation Date: June 1996

3. Traditional Cultural Experience/Knowledge, and/or Other Training, Certificates:

FY 2025 Records Management
FY 2025 Data Stewardship and CUI Training
FY 2025 Title 13 Course
FY Title 26 Training

4. Volunteer Experience, Special Skills and Abilities:

Volunteer - LTBB Children's Solstice Party
Volunteer - LTBB Sovereignty Day Celebration
Volunteer - LTBB Pow Wow
Volunteer - LTBB Round Dance
Volunteer - LTBB Hawks Basketball Coach

5. Awards, Honors Received (cultural/colonial):

2023 US Department of Commerce Gold Medal
2024 Chicago Federal Executive Board Award - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

6. Describe Current and/or Previous Elected or Appointed Positions Held at LTBB or In Any Other Capacity, Government, or Organization (dates, titles, etc):

LTBB Gaming Authority Vice-Chair: The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Gaming Authority (GA) 2017-2019: was responsible for overseeing the operation and management of gaming activities within the tribe's jurisdiction. The GA operates under the authority of the LTBB Tribal Council and is tasked with ensuring that all gaming operations, including casinos, are run in compliance with tribal, state, and federal regulations. The LTBB Gaming Authority works to maximize the economic benefits from these gaming operations to support the tribe's financial stability and fund community development programs, services, and initiatives that benefit tribal citizens.

The authority also ensures that the tribe adheres to the standards set by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which governs the operation of casinos and other gaming activities for federally recognized tribes. In addition to ensuring compliance with laws, the LTBB Gaming Authority is responsible for managing the finances of the tribe's gaming operations, maintaining ethical practices, and promoting responsible gaming. The revenue generated by these operations supports important tribal services, such as healthcare, education, cultural preservation, and social services, improving the overall well-being of the LTBB community.

7. If applicable, describe anticipated Campaign Information in Detail (Campaign Address, Email, Website, Social Media, Campaign Plan, Any Endorsements, etc):