

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



Aanii

my name is James Pontiac.

I currently reside in the Manistee area. I am the proud father of 4 LTBB tribal citizens ranging in age from 22 to 8. My father was Rudy Pontiac-ba & my mother was Margaret Leo (Pontiac)-ba As such I learned about LTBB and what my grandparents did with the NMOA as well.

I currently serve on the LTBB Citizenship Commission as Chairperson since 2023. I was previously served on LTBB Tribal Council in 2022-2023 to fill the vacancy left by Marty Vandecar-ba's passing.

I am running again because I felt we as Tribal Council did alot of good during my short time on Tribal Council. I was humbled and honored to be selected and be able to serve all the Anishnabek of LTBB. I want to continue to do good in that role.

With current events I feel our sovereignty is under a grave threat. I feel that steady Tribal leadership in both legislative and executive branches is needed now more than ever. I always will protect our sovereignty.

I am for accountability and transparency when it comes to governmental operations. While on Council we voted to add additional funding to build more housing at the Indian Town housing project. I am glad to see what was built. I am acutely aware of on-going housing needs in the Petoskey area. We need more land and housing for our Anishnabek.

I would like to see Tribal Council pull back from running operations in Economic Development areas sooner than later. As long as the proper guardrails are in place first. We do need to seek out additional diverse revenue opportunities and move on them.

I continue to respect our primary revenue generator the Casino's ability to operate without undue influence. However I would like to see management have more ability to do more things to move business forward and increase revenues.

I live my daily life by 7 grandfathers and trying to think about the 7 generations ahead in my daily life I always keep those in mind. I also try to learn and use Anishnabemowin whenever possible.

We need to come together as a Tribal Nation both internally and externally.

There's a saying that a "rising tide lifts all boats" that is my goal for all the Anishnabek of the LTBB

Miigwech

James Pontiac

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

James	Wauwausum	Pontiac	
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Middle Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Suffix (Sr., Jr., etc.)</b>
James W Pontiac			
<b>Petitioner's Name As It Should Appear On The Ballot</b>			
Manistee Michigan			
<b>City &amp; State of Residency</b>			

**1. Work Experience:**

currently employed at LTBB Tribal Court  
previously hospitality industry experience in both the front of the house and the back of the house in a casino and golf club  
sworn law enforcement officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs & LRBOI

**2. Educational Background:**

High School diploma-Grand Rapids Catholic Central  
Associate in Arts-Liberal Arts Grand Rapids Community College  
Bachelor in Arts-Criminal Justice Michigan State University

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

life long learner of traditional beliefs seven grandfathers & seven generations and Anishnabemowin

**4. Volunteer Experience, Special Skills and Abilities:**

volunteer youth reader Manistee Area Public Schools  
volunteer coach for various youth sports basketball, tee-ball, soccer-Manistee Recreation Association.  
volunteer coach West Shore Amateur Hockey Association  
volunteer at various tribal events in Manistee area.

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

life saving merit award & earned my first eagle feathers in Manistee area (LRBOI) both in July 2000 at Anishnabe language camp  
selected to serve as LTBB Tribal Councilor 2022 and Citizenship Commission 2023  
graduate of Bureau of Indian Affairs-Indian Police Academy 1997

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

selected to fill the vacancy on LTBB Odawa Tribal Council in 2022 with passing of Marty VandeCar-ba.  
appointed by Executive and affirmed by Tribal Council to the LTBB Citizenship Committee in 2023.

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