

**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 Boozhoo Inawemaaganak, Gdinmikoon. Anishinaabe-Odawa kwe ndaaw miinwaa Waganakising Odawa ndodabendaagwaz. Mshiikenh Ndodem.

Hello Relatives, I greet you all in a good way. My name is Kerstine Omei (nee: Bennington) and I belong to the Turtle Clan. I am the daughter of Tosha Otto and granddaughter of Gary Otto. My family comes from the Petoskey and Mount Pleasant areas. My heart belongs to my community here in Waganakising, and I have always been about ensuring our people have access to the opportunities and support they deserve.

Leadership goes beyond a title - it is being committed to understanding and upholding your responsibilities to your people. For years, I have had the honor of serving my community by developing and administering programming, writing grants, managing budgets, and advocating for our citizens. For example - as the former Higher Education Specialist and later as the Director of Education, I worked diligently to improve services and communication, provide student-centered advising, and streamline wraparound services for my students and their families. I have organized large-scale events, disseminated resources, strengthened partner relationships, and volunteered where needed. Through these experiences and my political science education background, I have a clear understanding of how our government operates and what it takes to initiate meaningful change for our people.

Our Nation has always had leaders with different but complementary roles—some working outward, others working inward. As Vice Chair, my focus will be internal: ensuring our governance is strong, our programs are serving citizens effectively, and our decisions reflect the voices of our people. But just as no leader can focus only inside, no leader can focus only outside—we must work in balance, always in service to our Nation.

In 2019, I began working alongside Jordan Shananaquet to identify and address the goals and challenges of our people. Together, we advocated for our Tribal citizens, organized major events, and offered support in times of crisis. We carried out this work collaboratively with others committed to the same goal of strengthening our community. Guided by our servant leadership mindset, we have been dynamic, responsive, and effective in meeting our community's needs.

Jordan and I are ready to continue this work on a larger level - not for ourselves, but for our people. We humbly ask for your support so that we can serve in the way leadership was always meant to be: with community at heart and sovereignty in action.

Chi Miigwech for your trust, your voice, and your vote.  
Kerstine Omei (Bennington)

For more information about who we are, our shared values, and commitments, visit:  
[LTBBCitizens4Change.com](http://LTBBCitizens4Change.com)

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

**Kerstine Omey (Bennington)**

**Petitioner's Name As It Should Appear On The Ballot**

Levering, MI

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**City & State of Residency**

**1. Work Experience:**

Grants Facilitator, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians  
Niigaandiwin Education Director, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa  
Executive Assistant to the Tribal Chair, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa  
Project Director, Nitaazhitoojik Industrial Training, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa  
Higher Education Specialist, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa

**2. Educational Background:**

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Michigan State University

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

Grant Writing & Management Certification  
Tribal Grants Management Training  
Project Planning & Development Training  
High-Impact Communication Skills Training  
Davis Bacon Training

I am committed to learning, supporting, and creating space for citizens to reconnect with culture at their own pace. I participate in seasonal practices such as sugarbush, harvesting medicines, and preparing eagle feathers for our graduates. My focus is on ensuring our government fosters opportunities for cultural learning and growth. To learn more about our shared values and commitments, visit [LTBBCitizens4Change.com](http://LTBBCitizens4Change.com).

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

Volunteered at community events such as the Traditional Jiingtamok, the Round Dance committee, and the PPE pop-up events in 2021. Served as a Cobell Scholarship Application Reviewer. To learn more about how we've served our community, please visit [LTBBCitizens4Change.com](http://LTBBCitizens4Change.com).

Special skills & abilities: Experience in relationship management, confidentiality, conflict resolution, policy development, and fiscal management. Extensive experience in grant writing, program development, and community-building.

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

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

Member, Bay Mills Community College Board of Regents (2023-2025)  
Director, Associated Students of MSU Programming Board (2011-2014)

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

Phone: 231-412-0080

Email: [LTBBCitizens4Change@gmail.com](mailto:LTBBCitizens4Change@gmail.com)

Website: [LTBBCitizens4Change.com](http://LTBBCitizens4Change.com)

Facebook Page: Vote Jordan Shananaquet & Kerstine Omey for LTBB Tribal Chair & Vice Chair