

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



Together, We Rise: Honoring Our Past, Nourishing Our Future  
Aanii Boozhoo Tribal Citizens,  
As we stand at the crossroads of tradition and progress, we humbly ask for your support in our campaign for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Waganakising Odawak Nation. We are Melissa Pamp and Jeff Boda, and we are running as a team, uniting our vision to honor our ancestors, protect our traditions, and build a future where our people thrive. As strong ambassadors, we will represent our nation at state, local, and federal levels, securing a seat at the table, and building meaningful relationships.  
As Mshiikenh Dodem (Turtle Clan), we are committed to fulfilling our duties as caretakers and protectors of our people. Guided by the

**1. Food Sovereignty and Collaborating with Other Tribes**

We will work to strengthen our sustainable food system that supports our people by supporting Inter-tribal food system. We recognize the strength in community and shared vision.

**2. Caring for Our Elders**

We will honor and protect our elders, the keepers of wisdom and love, by ensuring they live with dignity, safety, and respect. With compassion and care, we will safeguard their well-being.

**3. Working Together with Tribal Council**

Strong leadership means listening to everyone and working as a team. We will work closely with our Tribal Council to make sure every decision reflects the needs of our people.

**4. Empowering Our Youth**

Our children are the future, and they deserve a safe, supportive space to grow and thrive. Our plan is to partner with the Boys and Girls Club to ensure our kids always have a place to go- even when the government offices are closed. We will support a youth language initiative, and review of the K-12 scholarship.

**5. Developing Our Land for the People**

We are thankful for the Tribal Council' s work in acquiring land back for our people. Now, it is time to develop these properties. We have vision and will focus on creating an Intergenerational Building on Odawa Circle, affordable housing, and a Cultural Center to promote self-determination through cultural tourism. To make these plans a reality, we will seek philanthropic funding from organizations and individuals who share our vision.

**6. Training Our People in Building Trades**

To address the need for skilled workers and affordable housing, we plan to partner with a trusted organization to start a Tribal Building Trade School. Focusing on building and sustaining housing in our communities.

**A Vision Rooted in Unity**

This campaign is not about us—it' s about us. It' s about uniting to honor our ancestors and building a future where our children can walk with pride. Together, we can achieve food sovereignty, strengthen our community, and provide for the next seven generations.

We ask for your trust, your support, and your vote. Let us rise together, as one tribe, one family, one future.

Chi-miigwech,

Melissa Pamp (231.838.7548)

Jeff Boda (231.342.0015) [VotePampBoda@gmail.com](mailto:VotePampBoda@gmail.com)

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

**Melissa Pamp**

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

Brutus, Michigan

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**City & State of Residency**

**1. Work Experience:**

I have worked for the Odawa (and Victories) for over a decade and primarily in hospitality. I also served the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, processing civil, criminal, probate, juvenile child welfare, and drug court cases, while performing court recording and notary duties. Additionally, I contributed to hospitality and retail operations at Soaring Eagle Casino.

**2. Educational Background:**

Education has always been a priority for me. My higher education journey began with WOCTEP and as a non-traditional student at North Central Michigan College in 2007. In 2011, I earned my Associate's in Business Administration from Mid-Michigan Community College, and in 2017, I graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's of Applied Arts and minor in Business Administration.

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

With a profound dedication to cultural learning, I have immersed myself over the years with hands-on experiences and traditions. I have actively participated in buffalo and manoomin (wild rice) harvesting, spear fishing, subsistence fishing, actively gathering sacred medicines, and maple syrup processing. My skills extend to crafting traditional items such as ribbon skirts, moccasins, shakers, hand drums, and moss bags. I have also engaged in cultural activities like snow snake, wreath-making (crowns), Ghost Suppers, and scorched corn processing, as well as crafting a copper bowl. Additionally, I can prepare traditional corn soup and say "pie" in Anishnabemowin. These experiences have not only enriched my understanding of cultural heritage but also strengthened my commitment to preserving and sharing Odawa traditions.

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

I volunteer whenever possible, using my skills to support my community. I make moccasins for wild ricing, create ribbon skirts, and help prepare food for community events. I also advocate for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) by traveling and speaking to raise awareness and push for change. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to justice, cultural preservation, and community care, guiding my dedication to making a difference.

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

I have been deeply honored to carry the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) flag staff, a responsibility that reflects my commitment to advocating for the safety and justice of Indigenous women and families. I have also been recognized for cultural and traditional events, receiving medals at MIFO (for archery and 3-point shooting), as well as snow snake and traditional soup cook-offs. Above all, my greatest honor is being a mother, and grandmother, roles that inspire and guide my service to both my family and community.

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

Tribal Council 2019-2023  
Tribal Council 2023-Present

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

Mailers, Social Media, and Email