

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/Hello,

Melissa Wiatrolik niidishnaakas, Miigiza ndoodem, Odawa/Ojibway nishnabe endow, Apatawing didojibaa, Aapading endizhew mideoeow. I just introduced myself in the Anishnaabemowin (Native American language) My name is Melissa Wiatrolik I'm Eagle clan, I'm Ojibway/Odawa Native American, I come from Middle Village and I'm a Midewiwin woman. I'm a mother of two adult children Alicia and Jordan Hooper, I'm a sister to Bo, Jeff, and late Michael Wiatrolik, my parents are the late Deborah Martin (Smith) and Steve Wiatrolik, and a bonus mom late Sheila Shalifoe (Petoskey). My grandparents are the late Lorraine Lasley (Feathers), William Smith, and step grandpa Stanley Lasley. I currently accepted the Executive Assistant position for the Beaver Island Historical Society. I recently served as the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)/Tribal representative for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and Tribal representative/Treasurer to the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) for 7 years. I have completed training/mentorship on Historic Preservation with Wesley Andrews through Andrews Cultural Resources, and other wonderful training/certificate opportunities. I have worked for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians for about two decades. The first twelve years I worked as assistant to the Tribal Administrator assisting and overseeing 26 departments within the Tribal government, then worked one year within the Housing Department where I developed the training for Environmental Reviews for potential environmental impacts to cultural resources to determine whether Tribal housing projects meet federal, state, and local environmental standards.

I'm running for Council to be able to utilize the knowledge and experience that I gained throughout the years of working within the tribe to assist the community in getting legislation up-to-date and assure our tradition and culture comes first within decisions and look to the community for direction. Strengthening our government-to-government relationships. Develop properties we have and utilize our tribal programs to assist in the process. Assure there's a process that will ensure the Tribal Citizens voices are being heard in. Give it back to the community and assist the citizens in assuring they are part of the process. Work with one another to ensure we move forward for the best interest of our citizens. I'm passionate about preserving our culture heritage and will strive to assure we work towards providing funds for a cultural center.

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

Melissa Wiatrolik

Petitioner's Name As It Should Appear On The Ballot

Harbor Springs, MI

City & State of Residency

1. Work Experience:

I currently work for the Beaver Island Historical Society on Beaver Island, MI as the Executive Assistant. I assist with preservation, educational programming, historical research, marketing, and museum exhibits. I have 7 years experience in Historic Preservation field. I have served as Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Representative, and Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) Treasurer for 7 years. I have 20 years experience working within the Tribal Government Administration within the Executive and Legislative Branches for LTBB.

2. Educational Background:

In progress- Bachelors in Museum Studies, (BMCC) Associates Degree Business, Business and Technology Certificate from Bay Mills Community College, and Advanced Business and Management certificate from Ferris State University, a Business and Tech Supervision Certificate from Ferris State University, Excel and Excel plus certificate, and Environmental Review training certificate from U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums, Cultural Stewardship certificate, and Historic Preservation Certificate from Andrews Cultural Resources.

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

I had the honors of receiving the cultural knowledge and experience by many Elders and Pipe carriers within the Nations. I have a lifetime experience with the LTBB history, culture, and Anishnaabmowin (Native American Language) and the drive to learn more about all history and learn to braid all the stories within the community.

4. Volunteer Experience, Special Skills and Abilities:

Local cemeteries in clean up and special honors.
Little Traverse Conservancy
Leeleneau Conservancy

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

Received Culultural Indigenous Knowledge Keeper award.
Historic Preservation awards

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 Bural Board - 2019 to Present - Secretary
MACPRA - 2018-2024 - Treasurer
Amik Society - 201 to Present - Advisory
Harbor Springs Historical Society Trustee - 2022 to 2024

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