

**SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
ELECTION COMMISSION**

Contest: Sara Archer

March 12, 2026

BACKGROUND

On March 7, 2026, the Election Commission received a contest filed by Sara Archer. In her contest per Tribal Code Chapter 10.119, Ms. Archer formally challenged the verification of her Nominating Petitions.

The contest requested the following relief:

1. That Sara Archer be deemed eligible to run for office in Unit Two.

ANALYSIS

The Election Commission requested the Election Commission Attorney pursuant to 10.121(2) on whether the allegations in the contest constitute a violation of this Code. The Election Commission Attorney presented his findings to the Election Commission during the March 12, 2026, meeting.

The relevant code section for this contest is 10.112(5).

10.112(5)(c) forty (40) valid names, a tribal file number shall be required, address, and signatures of Registered voters if seeking office for members of the Board of Directors for Election Units II, IV, or V.

For Nominating Petitions, signatures are not deemed valid for three reasons:

1. A person signed more nominating petitions than the number of seats available for election
2. A person did not list a valid file number.
3. A person did not list an address that is on file with the Enrollment Department.

When the Election Commission reviewed the Nominating Petitions submitted, Ms. Archer submitted forty-six (46) signatures, of which twenty-seven (27) were deemed valid.

The Election Commission recognizes that, specifically for Unit Two, many residents have a P.O. Box with their address on file with the Tribe, but they do not reside within

the Tax Agreement Area and don't have a physical address listed in the Enrollment Department database.

Section 10.112(5)(c) requires an address, but it does not define what address is required anywhere in Chapter 10. Under 10.104(8), it is the duty of the Election Commission to conduct all tribal elections held pursuant to this Chapter. If something is not defined in Chapter 10, it falls on the Election Commission to define what they want that to mean to me. The Election Commission has decided to determine whether it can find any public records linking the address listed by members on Nominating Petitions who have a P.O. Box as their address to the Enrollment Department.

Upon the second review of the forty-six (46) Nominating Petitions signatures submitted:

1 signature was deemed invalid due to a member signing multiple Nominating Petitions for Unit Two.

4 signatures were deemed invalid for not having a valid file number listed.

1 signature was deemed invalid for not having an address that could be verified by the Election Commission as being linked to the member.

40 signatures were deemed valid.

FINDINGS

The Election Commission makes the following findings:

1. Based on the contest filed, Sara Archer does meet the forty (40) valid signatures necessary to be nominated for office in Unit Two.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the Election Commission makes the determination pursuant to 10.119 that the contest filed has merit and the Sara Archer is eligible to be nominated for office in Unit Two.

March 12, 2026



Election Commission Vice-Chairperson

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

This decision may be appealed to the Tribal Court of Appeals by filing a notice of appeal within five days of receipt of this decision. That appeal shall be governed by Tribal Code Chapter 82 Subchapter II: Appeals from the Election Committee. A notice of appeal must be filed within five (5) business days of the Appellant receiving this order and the publication of this order.