

Stockbridge-Munsee Community
Donations to Political Organizations Policy

I. BACKGROUND

The Tribal Council recognizes that in order to advance the public policy goals of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, it may be necessary at times to participate in the political process through donations to political candidates and organizations. The Tribal Council hereby adopts this policy in order to assist the Council in making donations to political candidates and organizations by establishing a process and criteria for such donations.

II. GENERAL GOVERNING PROVISIONS

- A. All donations must be made in strict accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, and comply with all applicable reporting requirements
- B. To establish budget certainty, each fiscal year, the Tribal Council will determine separate budgets for federal, state, and local political donations for that fiscal year.
- C. The Tribal Council will vote to fund each budget with a lump sum distribution of money at a level it believes appropriate. These pools of funding will then be available and drawn from as required throughout the remainder of the fiscal year.
- D. Upon exhaustion of the funds in the political donation pools, there will be no further funds available for political contributions absent the Tribal Council determining to provide further funding for such activities.
- E. Any unused funds in the political donation pools at the end of the fiscal year will be (returned to the general budget of the Tribe/retained in the pool for use in the next fiscal year.)
- F. When developing the political donation budget for the next fiscal year, the Tribal Council shall be provided a cumulative report of all political donations made in the current fiscal year for its review and evaluation.

III. Definitions, Criteria, and Eligibility

- A. For the purposes of this policy, political candidates are individuals who have officially filed their candidacy for a federal, state, or local office, and have met all applicable legal requirements for the candidacy and campaign committee.
- B. For the purposes of this policy, political parties and committees are groupings that are officially recognized as such under applicable federal, state, or local laws and have fulfilled all legal requirements governing such organizations.
- C. The intent of the Tribal Council is that all political donations, whether at the federal, state, or local level, will be made with the objective of assisting the Tribe achieve its policy, legislative, and political goals and seeking to cultivate allies in both political parties at the federal, state, and local levels.
- D. As such, political donations will only be given to individual candidates or political organizations which have been or are likely to be supportive of the Tribe's policy agenda and in a position to have a positive influence to help the Tribe achieve that agenda.
- E. Individuals or organizations that have a history of anti-tribal, anti-sovereignty, or other unsuitable actions will not be eligible for consideration for political donations.
- F. As funds for political donations are limited, priority for political donations shall be given to those who have been most supportive of and are best positioned to assist the Tribe in achieving its most important goals.
- G. Priority for political donations will be given to individual candidates for the use of their specific campaign where we can be certain it will benefit individuals we support, as opposed to party committees or other organizations where the Tribe can be less certain that these donations would not ultimately be used in support of candidates or initiatives which conflict with the Tribe's goals and values.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Requests for consideration by the tribe of a political donation can be originated in any of the following ways:
 - 1. At the request of an elected member of the Tribal government.
 - 2. At the request of a citizen of the Stockbridge Munsee tribe.
 - 3. At the request of the tribe's federal or state lobbyists and consultants
 - 4. From the candidate or committee through the Tribe's online donation request form
- B. All requests for a donation should include the name of the candidate or committee, associated event (if any), date the donation is requested to be made by, and the desired amount of the donation.

- C. To facilitate efficient review of all requests for political donations, the Tribal Council will appoint (an individual or smaller committee of individuals) who will be empowered to evaluate and approve/reject/modify requests for donations. This individual/group will serve in this capacity for the length of the fiscal year and administer that fiscal year's political donation funds.
- D. The political donation review committee will meet on a (weekly/biweekly) basis in person or through teleconference to make determinations on donation requests.
- E. Each month, the political donation review committee will report on its activities and donations approved to the full Tribal Council.
- F. Upon approval of a donation by the review committee, the appropriate tribal entity (treasurer/comptroller/accounting department) will process payment and send to the candidate or committee in an expedited manner.

V. LIMITS

- A. The following limits apply to the Political Donation Program:
 - 1. The maximum donation amount allowable to an individual candidate under applicable federal/state/local law
 - 2. Yearly aggregate limits on political donations to an individual candidate or committee under applicable federal/state/local law
 - 3. Donations shall not exceed the amount of available funds in the respective federal, state, or local political donation pool
- B. The following requests will not be considered:
 - 1. Donations to a candidate or committee that has no demonstrable connection or value to the policy and legislative goals of the Stockbridge Munsee community
 - 2. Donations to a candidate for any elected tribal office at either the Stockbridge Munsee community or any other sovereign Indian tribal government
 - 3. Donations to any candidate for a leadership position in a pan-Indian organization such as the National Congress of American Indians or National Indian gaming association
 - 4. Donations to any candidate who is a blood relative or in-law of a member of the Tribal Council or Political Donation Review Committee for any federal, state or local office, except by the unanimous vote of the Tribal Council
 - 5. Donations to any candidate or committee with a demonstrable history of hostility to the interests of the Stockbridge Munsee Community, tribal sovereignty, or other unacceptable actions.