



Shivwits Band of Paiutes
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2025

Shivwits Band of Paiutes Statement Regarding June 12, 2025 Band Meeting

SHIVWITS BAND RESERVATION— The Shivwits Band Council issues this statement to address concerns raised during the June 12, 2025, general Band meeting and to reaffirm our collective commitment to transparent, lawful, and inclusive governance.

What Happened

At the June 12 meeting a Band member, Mrs. Sabrina Redfoot, introduced motions seeking to invalidate the current Band Council election process, including nominations and ballots already approved and underway. The Band member's motions to set aside the valid election process were not on the agenda, were not lawfully noticed, and did not follow the requirements set forth in the Shivwits Band Bylaws for affecting elections.

Furthermore, the attempt to limit voting at the meeting to only those physically present, excluding those Band members participating virtually. This action directly contradicts the Band's Administrative Ordinance, which guarantees the rights of virtual attendees to participate meaningfully, including through voting.

What the Law Requires

The Shivwits Band Bylaws are clear that the Band Council is the duly authorized governing body of the Shivwits Band. While Band members have rights to express concerns and seek changes, an attempt to stop an election must follow specific processes laid out in the Bylaws, namely, Referendum and Initiative. **"If it is dissatisfied with Band Council act or failure to act, the General Membership can take official action by forcing a referendum or proposing an initiative."** Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1. These specific procedures exist to ensure fairness, due process, and transparency for all members on and off the Reservation. Fundamental organizational elements of Tribal governance established and addressed specifically by the Bylaws, i.e., number of council members, election processes, etc., must be addressed using Bylaws processes.

The Bylaws establish the structure for elections and changing elections. Random motions by a member that does not like the results where she counts the votes for her own motion, cannot override the Bylaws processes. No individual member holds the authority to override the established Bylaws processes, make declarations on vote validity, or restrict participation rights. Any attempt to do so is legally invalid and cannot be recognized by the Band Council. No individual Band member has more rights to vote than any other member of the Band, including those residing off-Reservation. Importantly, there are not two classes of Band membership under the Bylaws, with one class having superior voting rights as that Band member suggested.

Our Position

The Shivwits Band Council reaffirms that:

- The current Band Council election process was valid, lawful, was undertaken as noticed and according to the Bylaws;
- All eligible Band members, regardless of location or mode of participation, have an equal right to vote and be represented;
- Any attempt to disenfranchise members, disrupt election processes, or introduce motions without proper notice and procedure is rejected, including the motions Sabrina tried to use to derail a legitimate election;
- The appropriate ways for members to raise concerns about governance are through voting, formally noticed initiatives, or referenda, as outlined in our governing documents.

Moving Forward

The Shivwits Band Council remains committed to upholding the rule of law, protecting the rights of all Band members, and conducting governance in a fair, inclusive, and respectful manner. We also encourage all members to stay informed through official Band communications and to avoid misinformation, especially on social media platforms not authorized for official use.

We thank the Band's members for their continued participation, and we encourage everyone to engage our established governance processes with confidence in its legitimacy and fairness.