



Whitney Gravelle
Bay Mills Indian Community
Tribal Chairwoman 2023

Building a Better Future Together

Family and friends from Bay Mills, aanii my name is Whitney Gravelle and I am running for Tribal Chairwoman in the 2023 Bay Mills Indian Community General Election.

I am the granddaughter of Albert “Big Abe” and Amelia LeBlanc on my mother’s side, and Grace Gravelle on my father’s side. I am the daughter of Evelyene LeBlanc-McPherson and Robert Gravelle.

I was born and raised on the Bay Mills Reservation. I graduated from Brimley High School and went on to Michigan State University where I graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. Afterwards, I continued my education at Michigan State University College of Law where I graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctorate. I also obtained a certificate in Indigenous Law by taking classes focusing on Federal Indian Law; the Indian Child Welfare Act; Tribal Law and Regulation; and Global Perspectives on Indigenous People.

Upon graduation from law school, I worked in Washington, DC for the United States Department of Justice in the Indian Resource Section. After returning, I served our community as Chief Judge of Bay Mills Tribal Court, and again as the Tribal Attorney for Bay Mills Indian Community. I have handled cases related to the scope of tribal land and jurisdiction, treaty hunting and fishing rights, child welfare advocacy, and the protection of lands held in trust for tribes and individual Indian lands.

I am running again for Tribal President, because I want to help continue the great progress Bay Mills Indian Community has been able to make over the last several years. In the last three years together, we have already accomplished several large priorities such as: negotiating a new fishing decree that supports tribal treaty rights, adding 19 new homes for tribal families on reservation, expanding employee benefits with an hourly wage increase and additional personal time off, strengthening cultural programming and teachings through the implementation of community workshops, developing recreation areas, participating in renewable solar energy development, engaging in economic development and diversification, stabilizing our finances across government and enterprise operations, investing in infrastructure that provides critical services, as well as paying off historic debts and other financial burdens.

We live in a beautiful place, filled with a long and strong history as a Tribal Nation. I would be honored to continue to serve Bay Mills as we work together to build a brighter and better future for the next seven generations. Above all else, I am so grateful to all of Bay Mills Indian Community for supporting me, trusting me, working with me, and believing in me. None of this would be possible without the hard work of our community. Please visit my Facebook page to learn more about my campaign, and also to let me know what you’re worried about or would like to see done around Bay Mills. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you have a question or want to talk on the phone! Miigwetch, and remember together we can “Win with Whitney!”