



AMERICAN HORSE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION POLICY

REVISED-September 22, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

American Horse School will stand together so that our children will recognize and embrace education for the future.

VISION

We will stand together to create a healthy learning environment so that our children at American Horse School have the opportunities to acquire leadership competencies for building a better future by achieving a level of greatness experienced by our people carrying on the values that are uniquely and beautifully Lakota.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

The American Horse School believes that every child has an inherent right to lifelong Learning. We believe that ALL children have the potential and ability to learn. In partnership, we can help to facilitate the achievement of personal goals and embrace and retain Lakota values. American Horse School embraces the seven Lakota values and virtues:

Waohola-Respect	Woksape-Wisdom	Wocekiya-Prayer
Wahwala- Humility	Waonsila-Compassion	Wawijake-Honesty
	Wawokiye-Generosity	

STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION

Every student shall have equal educational opportunities and access to all school activities, opportunities and support services regardless of race, color, creed, sex, and national origin, place of residence or physical challenged.

School Board Members:

Mr. John Haas
Dr. Richard Iron Cloud
Mr. Robert Two Crow

Administration:

Alice Phelps
American Horse School,
P.O Box 660, Allen, SD, 57714, Phone: 605-455-1209

REASON FOR POLICY

It is important that American Horse School academic and research missions are supported by qualified employees, with a safe and secure environment for all AHS constituents, including students, visitors and employees. It is also important that AHS take meaningful actions to protect its staff, students, funds, property, and other assets.

We shall coordinate Title ix, Affirmative Action, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance activities. Any person who feels they have been discriminated against shall contact this person or contact the Regional Director, Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, Colorado, 80202-3582

Table of Contents

<i>ELECTION POLICY</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>ARTICLE I-PURPOSE</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>ARTICLE II-AUTHORITY</i>	<i>1</i>
SECTION 1-Election Ordinance Authorization.....	1
SECTION 2-Election Commission.....	1
<i>ARTICLE III-VOTER REGISTRATION</i>	<i>1</i>
SECTION 1-Eligible Voters	1
SECTION 2-Registered Voter Requirements.....	1
SECTION 3-Voter Record Registry.....	2
<i>ARTICLE IV- QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE</i>	<i>2</i>
SECTION 1-Candidate Declaration	2
SECTION 2-Candidate Fees	2
SECTION 3-Nominating Petitions	3
SECTION 4-School Board Vacancy	4
SECTION 5-Additional Candidate Qualifications.....	4
SECTION 6-No Candidate Appointment Process	4
<i>ARTICLE V-ELECTIONS.....</i>	<i>4</i>
SECTION 1-Election Time Periods.....	4
<i>ARTICLE VI-TERMS OF OFFICE.....</i>	<i>4</i>
SECTION 1-Election Terms	4
<i>ARTICLE VII-BALLOT AND ELECTION RECORDS</i>	<i>5</i>
SECTION 1-Election Documentation.....	5
SECTION 2-Election Records	5
SECTION 3-Election Records Retention	5
SECTION 4-Election Ballot Boxes.....	5
SECTION 5-Ballet Box Handling	5
<i>ARTICLE VIII-POLLING PLACES.....</i>	<i>6</i>
SECTION 1-Official Polling Locations	6
SECTION 2-Polling Location Hours of Operation	6
<i>ARTICLE IX-BALLOTING AND VOTING.....</i>	<i>6</i>
SECTION 1-Method of Voting	6

SECTION 2-Voting Booth	6
SECTION 3-Voter Ballot Distribution	6
SECTION 4-Voter Booth Occupancy	7
SECTION 5-Voter Booth Occupied	7
SECTION 6-Voter Ballot Validity	7
SECTION 7-Voter Ballot Marking.....	7
SECTION 8-Voter Ballot Submission.....	7
SECTION 9-Voter Ballot Spoiling.....	7
SECTION 10-Election Poll Closing	7
SECTION 11-Absentee Ballots.....	7
ARTICLE X-COUNTING OF ELECTION RETURNS.....	8
SECTION 1-Election Ballot Counting.....	8
SECTION 2-Opening of the Ballot Box	8
SECTION 3-Procedures for Counting of Ballots	8
SECTION 4-Reason for Failure to Count Ballots	9
ARTICLE XI-ELECTIONEERING, WATCHMEN, AND CHALLENGERS.....	9
SECTION 1-Polling Site Neutrality	9
SECTION 2-Candidate Watchman.....	9
ARTICLE XII-SETTLING OF ELECTION DISPUTES	9
SECTION 1-Election Result Challenges	9
SECTION 2-The Election Commission Decision to Recount.....	10
SECTION 3-Election Dispute Resolutions	10
SECTION 4-Election Administrative Hearing	10
ARTICLE XIII-CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND NEPOTISM.....	10
SECTION 1-Conflict of Interest.....	10
SECTION 2-Disqualification due to Conflict of Interest	10
SECTION 3-Nepotism	11
SECTION 4-Definition of Immediate Family	11
ARTICLE XIV-INSTALLATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN HORSE SCHOOL BOARD.....	11
SECTION 1-Installation of Elected Officials.....	11
SECTION 2-Installation Timeframe	11
SECTION 3-Oath of Office.....	11
SECTION 4.....	11

ARTICLE XV-DUTIES OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICIALS	11
SECTION 1-Election Commission Disqualifications	11
SECTION 2-Election Commission Meetings	12
SECTION 3-Candidate Adjudications.....	12
SECTION 4-Election Authority	12
SECTION 5-Election Commission Duties	12
SECTION 6-Election Commission Procedures	13
SECTION 7-Election Commission Obeyance.....	13

ELECTION POLICY

ARTICLE I-PURPOSE

To provide for an ordinance duly adopted by the American Horse School Board establishing regulations for School Board elections.

ARTICLE II-AUTHORITY

SECTION 1-Election Ordinance Authorization

This election ordinance is authorized by the constitution of the American Horse School Board and by the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council.

SECTION 2-Election Commission

An Election Commission shall be established. This Election Commission shall have the responsibility of organizing and implementing the American Horse School Board election process.

The Election Commission shall consist of four individuals, whose members shall come from the current American Horse School employee pool. Once established the Election Commission shall designate roles and responsibilities outlined in this Election Policy to the Election Commission members.

Interested staff members shall submit a letter of intent to serve on the AHS Election Commission to the school administrator. The Administrator shall bring the Election Commission letters of intent establishing the Election Commission to the School Board for concurrence.

If more letters of intent are submitted by individuals that wish to serve on the Election Commission, then there are available Election Commission positions, the Election Commission members shall be established by drawing randomly the names of individuals from submitted letters of intent.

ARTICLE III-VOTER REGISTRATION

SECTION 1-Eligible Voters

Eligible voters shall be those tribal members who are duly registered to vote pursuant to Article III, Section 2 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2-Registered Voter Requirements

To be registered to vote, a person must:

- A. Be an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

- B. Be at least 18 years of age on the day of election.
- C. Sign a registry book provided for all polling places specified in Article VIII, Section 1 of this Ordinance.
- D. The designated Election Commission Clerk shall verify the name against a current general council membership listing and mark, check, highlight, or otherwise validate the printed name on the list.
- E. An individual must show some means of identification when challenged by an Election Commission Clerk or Judge.
- F. The registered voter shall then be given the necessary ballots.
- G. A tribal member, not on the voter registration roster, may request to cast a challenge ballot.

SECTION 3-Voter Record Registry

- A. The records of registry shall be the responsibility of the Head Judge of the Election Commission.
- B. The Election Commission Head Judge shall after each election and prior to certification of the results cross check the membership listings used at each polling place to determine if an individual has voted more than one time in the same election.
- C. All election results shall be declared void when found that a person has registered at more than one polling place on the same day.
- D. When an election has been declared void another election shall be called within thirty (30) days of the declaration.
- E. Any person or persons voting more than one time in any election shall be prohibited from voting in any American Horse School Board elections for a period of five (5) years from the date of the offense.
- F. The Election Commission Head Judge shall cause a misdemeanor complaint to be filed with an appropriate court against such violators.
- G. All records of the Election Commission Head Judge shall be kept in a safe and secure manner at the Administrative Offices of the American Horse School.

ARTICLE IV- QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

SECTION 1-Candidate Declaration

Prior to being declared a candidate for any elective office or being appointed to any office, the individual must meet the minimum qualifications pursuant to the American Horse School Board Constitution. The candidate pays the required filing fee for such elective office pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of these regulations provided appointees filling expired terms of office are exempt from posting of filing fees.

SECTION 2-Candidate Fees

Candidates must complete federal, state, and tribal background checks. Background checks will be initiated as soon as complete petition packet is turned in. One (1) money order for \$20.00 will be required by the Oglala Sioux Tribal Courts along with completed background release form

(attached. The back ground release form and the \$20.00 money order will to go to clerk of courts at the Justice Center.

Candidates must successfully complete and pass an Oglala Sioux Tribe Public Safety background check (\$20) and State of South Dakota background check (\$30 and \$5 fees), and an FBI background check (completed by school during 8 AM to 3 PM on days school is in session). Candidates much also submit results of a Drug/Alcohol test.

Candidates should initiate background checks as soon as possible in order to submit completed petition packet by the deadline. One (1) money order for \$20.00 to Oglala Sioux Tribal Courts along with background release form (attached) will need to go to clerk of courts at the Justice Center. OST Court number is (605) 867-5151.

Finger printing can be done at the Pine Ridge Correctional Facility with a \$5.00 money order. Leave the money order blank as the Correctional Facility will let you how they want the money order filled out. Candidates will be issued two (2) finger print cards. The Correctional Facility will instruct you as to how they want you to complete finger print cards. The Correctional Facility will return the completed finger print cards back to you and you must return both fingerprint cards with your petition packet. OST Correctional Facility number is (605) 867-1234.

Alcohol breath test and urine analysis (U)A testing will be completed at the OST Clinical Laboratory. This test requires (1) money order in the amount of \$35.00. You may want to call them to make an appointment 605- 867-2204. Completing these tests are the candidate's responsibility. You will need to take your photo ID when you go to complete this test.

Candidates must return all receipts, finger print cards, and applicable test results with your candidate petition packet.

SECTION 3-Nominating Petitions

Any person who wishes to announce their candidacy for an elected position to be considered during the regular school board election, shall be required to personally pick up a nominating petition and return the completed application with all associated fees and supporting documentation to the Election Clerk or to another member of the Election Commission and pursuant to the American Horse School Board Election Time Frame.

The 2026 American Horse School Board election will be for Five (5) vacant SCHOOL BOARD POSITIONS.

The two (2) candidates from the Pass Creek District that receive the highest vote totals will each serve four (4) year school board terms. The candidate from the LaCreek District that receives the highest vote totals will serve a four (4) year term. These three seats will be up for elections for four (4) year terms again in 2030.

The next two (2) candidates from the Pass Creek District that receive the highest vote totals will each serve a two (2) year terms that will expire in 2028. These two board member positions will

be up for elections for four (4) year terms in 2028. After the 2028 election, these two positions will be eligible for elections for these two board positions in 2032.

SECTION 4-School Board Vacancy

The Oglala Sioux Tribe has appointed a three (3) member interim school board for American Horse School.

SECTION 5-Additional Candidate Qualifications

The 2026 American Horse School Board election will be for Five (5) vacant SCHOOL BOARD POSITIONS.

The two (2) candidates from the Pass Creek District that receive the highest vote totals will each serve four (4) year school board terms. The candidate from the LaCreek District that receives the highest vote totals will serve a four (4) year term. These three seats will be up for elections for four (4) year terms again in 2030.

The next two (2) candidates from the Pass Creek District that receive the highest vote totals will each serve a two (2) year terms that will expire in 2028. These two board member positions will be up for elections for four (4) year terms in 2028. After the 2028 election, these two positions will be eligible for elections for these two board positions in 2032.

SECTION 6-No Candidate Appointment Process

In the event there is no candidate that has filed for an elective office as per the American Horse School Board Election Time Frame, the vacancy shall be filled through appointment by the remaining members of the American Horse School Board.

ARTICLE V-ELECTIONS

SECTION 1-Election Time Periods

A school board election shall be held every other year in conjunction with the general election of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

ARTICLE VI-TERMS OF OFFICE

SECTION 1-Election Terms

Election changes for the 2026 election.

The 2026 American Horse School Board election will be for Five (5) vacant SCHOOL BOARD POSITIONS.

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ARTICLE VII-BALLOT AND ELECTION RECORDS

SECTION 1-Election Documentation

The Election Commission shall have the duty and responsibility to make up and update ballots and any other documents that may be necessary to conduct elections of the American Horse School Board. This shall be include, but not be limited, to the order of names on the ballots and the posting of sample ballots.

SECTION 2-Election Records

Election records shall be maintained by the Head Judge at all times. The results of the official voting, returns, and other pertinent documents shall be stored as official documents of the American Horse School Board Election and shall be kept in a safe and secure manner.

SECTION 3-Election Records Retention

Election records shall be maintained by the Election Commission Head Judge for a period of two (2) years after an election.

SECTION 4-Election Ballot Boxes

There shall be two (2) ballot boxes located at American Horse School in Allen, South Dakota and at the LaCreek District CAP office in Martin, South Dakota in those years when seats from both districts are up for election. When only American Horse School Board memberships from Pass Creek District are up for election, there will be one (1) ballot box located at American Horse School in Allen.

Polling Locations maybe changed to accommodate or to co-locate with existing election polling locations established in the Pass Creek and/or LaCreek Districts. The Election Commission shall determine final polling locations based upon election location information availability.

SECTION 5-Ballet Box Handling

- A. The ballot box shall be double locked during the election process. One key shall be kept by the Head Judge of the Election Commission and one key shall be kept by the Principal of American Horse School.
- B. The ballot boxes shall remain locked at all times except when necessary for the counting of ballots.
- C. The ballot boxes shall at all times be kept in a safe and secure place.
- D. The ballot boxes shall be maintained by the Election Commission and shall be moved only by a member of the American Horse School Board Election Commission.

ARTICLE VIII-POLLING PLACES

SECTION 1-Official Polling Locations

The official polling places for all American Horse School Board Elections shall be the American Horse School located at Allen, South Dakota, and the LaCreek District CAP Office located in Martin, South Dakota.

Polling Locations maybe changed to accommodate or to co-locate with existing election polling locations established in the Pass Creek and/or LaCreek Districts. The Election Commission shall determine final polling locations based upon election location information availability.

SECTION 2-Polling Location Hours of Operation

The polling places shall be open from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm on the day of the election. Notice of the day of the election, the voting place and hours of voting shall be given to the public by the Election Commission.

ARTICLE IX-BALLOTING AND VOTING

SECTION 1-Method of Voting

All votes cast in any American Horse School Board election shall be cast by secret ballot.

SECTION 2-Voting Booth

A voting booth shall be of the type that has a non-transparent curtain to ensure privacy while marking the ballot. There shall be a minimum of two (2) booths for each polling place in an election. The booth shall consist of a shelf or counter top to mark ballots and a curtain long enough to ensure privacy during voting, but short enough to ensure that there is only one person in the voting booth at a time.

SECTION 3-Voter Ballot Distribution

The registered voter shall use only the ballot given to him/her at the time of signing the registration book.

SECTION 4-Voter Booth Occupancy

There shall be one person in the voting booth at a time with the following exceptions:

A physically disabled person may have assistance in marking a ballot. Visually disabled persons may have assistance in marking a ballot. Non-reading and non-English speaking persons may have assistance in marking a ballot. The person assisting the disabled shall swear that he/she shall not discuss the voters casting of his or her ballot with any other person. They will not influence the voter in casting a ballot. They will assist only in marking a ballot as the voter wishes.

SECTION 5-Voter Booth Occupied

The voter, after receiving an official ballot shall immediately enter an unoccupied booth. If all booths are occupied, the voter shall wait in an orderly line and enter the first unoccupied booth when his/her time in line comes to enter a booth.

SECTION 6-Voter Ballot Validity

Only ballots marked in a booth shall be put into the ballot box.

SECTION 7-Voter Ballot Marking

Ballots shall be marked in ink and in the spaces provided on the ballot.

SECTION 8-Voter Ballot Submission

After marking of the ballot the voter shall fold the ballot in the presence of a member of the Election Commission and the voter shall physically put the ballot into the slot on the ballot box.

SECTION 9-Voter Ballot Spoiling

If for any reason a ballot becomes spoiled, the voter shall return the ballot in his/her possession to the issuing Election Clerk where they will be marked VOID in the presence of the voter and a new ballot will be issued to the voter. The registration book will be noted that a spoiled ballot has occurred and a new ballot has been issued.

SECTION 10-Election Poll Closing

At the closing of the polls, all persons in line at the closing hour shall be given an opportunity to cast a ballot. No others will be allowed to join the line past the closing hour.

SECTION 11-Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots will not be allowed.

ARTICLE X-COUNTING OF ELECTION RETURNS

SECTION 1-Election Ballot Counting

Immediately after the polls are closed all ballots shall be returned to the designated official counting site where the counting of the ballots shall commence. The official counters shall be the Head Judge of the Election Commission and the Election Clerks at the polling place, provided there is no conflict of interest for the counters. The Head Judge shall be the official recorder of the counting process. The Election Commission shall be responsible to determine conflict of interest situations and, if so determined, the Commission shall have the duty and authority to correct the situation by replacing the counter(s) affected.

SECTION 2-Opening of the Ballot Box

- A. Removal of ballots from last election, at which time the old ballots will be destroyed, prior to the inserting of the new ballots into the ballot box on election day.
- B. For removal of ballots for the purpose of counting on the day of election.
- C. Any other opening of ballot box must be witnessed by the Head Judge of the Election Commission, the American Horse School Principal, and entire American Horse School Board.

SECTION 3-Procedures for Counting of Ballots

At the time of poll closing and the last ballot has been cast the ballot box shall be shaken in a manner to thoroughly mix ballots. The ballot box will be taken to the designated official counting site. There shall be present at the counting:

- 1) Election Commission
- 2) Members of the American Horse School Board
- 3) Readers of ballots
- 4) Counters of votes (to run separate tallies)
- 5) Watchman

The ballot box will be unlocked by the Head Judge of the American Horse School Board Election Commission and the American Horse School Principal. Any candidate for election may not be present among those counting votes and must not interfere in any manner with the counting process. As each ballot is pulled from the ballot box, both readers will simultaneously read the ballot and announce the vote to the tally counters, who will mark their tally sheets. As the last ballot is tallied, the ballot box will be shown to all present that it

is empty and that all legal votes have been tallied. The tally sheet will be compared and if discrepancies appear the votes will be re-tabulated. When tally sheets are identical and deemed correct in count, each tally sheet will be signed by the counters, Head Judge of the Election Commission and the Principal. Marked ballots and tally sheets will be relocked in the ballot box and kept in a safe place until the next election or if there is a challenge of the voting or counting procedure.

SECTION 4-Reason for Failure to Count Ballots

At ballot counting, the Election Commission shall act as umpire in determining if a ballot is mutilated. A mutilated ballot must be one of the following:

- A. If more than the specified number of marks appears on a ballot in any way.
- B. Any human made marks that may distinguish a ballot from any others.
- C. If a signature or name appears on any ballot.
- D. The disqualified ballot will be signed by the Head Judge of the Election Commission and the reason for disqualification will be noted on the ballot.

ARTICLE XI-ELECTIONEERING, WATCHMEN, AND CHALLENGERS

SECTION 1-Polling Site Neutrality

The American Horse School Board Election Sites are neutral grounds and there shall be no campaigning or electioneering on Election Day by any person within fifty (50) feet of the polling sites. It shall be the duty of the Head Judge of the Election Commission to appoint a security officer who shall be responsible in maintaining order and prevent electioneering about the neutral grounds during the election process.

SECTION 2-Candidate Watchman

A watchman may be appointed by a candidate for election and the watchman may be present while ballots are being counted.

- 1) The Watchman's duties shall be limited to observing the official ballot count and the watchman shall have no other authority than written objection to said ballot count.
- 2) The Watchman shall be identified by nametag to be issued by the Head Judge.
- 3) A letter of authorization from a candidate for a watchman shall be filed with the Head Judge within one day and no later than 4:30 pm on the day prior to the election.

ARTICLE XII-SETTLING OF ELECTION DISPUTES

SECTION 1-Election Result Challenges

In the event that any registered voter or candidate for elected office wishes to contest any election results, the registered voter or candidate must notify the Head Judge in writing within five (5) days excluding Sundays and Holidays of the notification of the election results.

- A. The notification in writing to the Head Judge must include the following i. The contestants name, address, and phone number, which election the contestant wishes to contest, the contestant must state with specificity the reason why he/she wishes to contest the election and that the contestant desires the Election Commission to recount the ballots.

B. In the event of an election protest the Head Judge shall within five (5) days excluding Sundays and Holidays recount these ballots of the election protested in the same manner as the original Election Day count.

i. All these persons present at the original ballot count shall be permitted to attend the recount provided the person or persons filing the protests shall also be permitted to sit in attendance at the recount of the ballots.

SECTION 2-The Election Commission Decision to Recount

The Election Commission Head Judge, after the recount, shall announce to the parties his/her decision as to whether the original election count will stand and the protest will be held invalid or whether the original election count shall not stand and the election protest will be held valid.

SECTION 3-Election Dispute Resolutions

In the event that any person who is party to an election dispute or contest is not satisfied with the Head Judge decision then that party may appeal the decision to the American Horse School Board, whose decision on the election will be final.

SECTION 4-Election Administrative Hearing

Nothing in this article shall preclude a party from having the right to have counsel to represent him/her in any administrative hearing provided that the party shall have representation at his/her own expense.

ARTICLE XIII-CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND NEPOTISM

SECTION 1-Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest and/or nepotism shall never be allowed to exist in the election of any American Horse School Board member or for purpose of conducting elections. The Head Judge shall be responsible to prevent officials or candidates to use their positions for a purpose that is or is given the appearance of being motivated by a desire for private gain for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have family, business, or other ties.

SECTION 2-Disqualification due to Conflict of Interest

Any person holding elective office in the American Horse School Board shall have the responsibility to disqualify themselves in the event of a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest shall include but not be limited to adjudicating or deciding any matter which would affect the office holder's ability to decide a matter without bias or deciding any matter which effects any person's immediate family or business interest.

SECTION 3-Nepotism

Nepotism shall be prohibited by this ordinance. Nepotism shall include but not be limited to two persons from the same immediate family holding positions on the same commission, committee, nor shall two persons from the same immediate family be members of the American Horse School Board.

SECTION 4-Definition of Immediate Family

A person's immediate family shall be defined to mean: husband, wife, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, or any other legal dependent.

ARTICLE XIV-INSTALLATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN HORSE SCHOOL BOARD

SECTION 1-Installation of Elected Officials

The installation of the newly elected officers of the American Horse School shall be the responsibility of the Head Judge.

SECTION 2-Installation Timeframe

The installation of the newly elected officers of the American Horse School shall occur with ten (10) days of the Oglala Sioux Tribal certification of the election.

SECTION 3-Oath of Office

The Head Judge shall administer the oath of office to the newly elected officers.

SECTION 4

I, _____ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey, and defend the constitution of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and will discharge the duties of my office as a member of the American Horse School Board with fidelity, that I have not paid or contributed either directly or indirectly any money or other valuable thing to procure my appointment except for necessary and proper expenses expressly authorized by law, that I have not knowingly received directly or indirectly any money or other valuable thing for the performance or non-performance for any act or duty pertaining to my office other than the compensation allowed by law.

ARTICLE XV-DUTIES OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICIALS

SECTION 1-Election Commission Disqualifications

The members of the American Horse School Board Election Commission shall disqualify themselves and withdraw from any and all functions of their positions during any election or

process in which a conflict of interest exists. Such members shall resume their duties only when there is no longer a conflict of interest.

The Election Commission shall have the authority by majority vote to disqualify any of its members in the event they continue to function in a conflict-of-interest situation.

SECTION 2-Election Commission Meetings

The Election Commission members are required to attend any and all Commission meetings as may be regularly scheduled, required, or called by the Election Commission Head Judge, except by reasons of illness, disability, or is otherwise incapacitated. In the event that any member fails to comply with this section, the Election Commission may take appropriate measures, including but not limited to removal from the Commission.

SECTION 3-Candidate Adjudications

The Election Commission shall have the duty and power to determine the eligibility of prospective candidates for membership on the American Horse School Board and shall provide any and all prospective candidates with a nominating petition which they may file with the American Horse School Election Commission Head Judge in order to be a candidate for the American Horse School Board.

Provided that additional minimum qualifications for prospective candidates may be imposed by the American Horse School Board or the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

In the event that the Election Commission finds that a prospective candidate does not meet the minimum qualifications imposed by law, the prospective candidate will not be allowed to become a candidate, nor will he/she be allowed to run for elective office until such time as he/she can meet those minimum qualifications.

- A. A person shall be removed from office after having been elected by the voters if it is determined after an election that he/she did not meet the minimum qualifications.

SECTION 4-Election Authority

The American Horse School Board Elections are to be conducted by the Election Commission in accordance with this ordinance and Oglala Sioux Tribal Law.

SECTION 5-Election Commission Duties

- A. The duties of the Election Commission shall be as follows:
- B. It shall be the duty of the Election Commission members to procure the current roster of registered tribal voters.
- C. In addition, the duties of the Election Commission Head Judge shall be as follows:

- i. Call all regularly scheduled meetings of the Commission and all meetings of the Commission as may be necessary to the proper conduct of the Commission's business.
 - ii. Preside over all Commission meetings except in case of absence for good cause.
 - iii. Install elected American Horse School Board members and administer the oath of office.
 - iv. Perform all other duties as may be necessary and required by this Election Ordinance, the Constitution or by the nature of the office of Head Judge of the Election Commission.
- D. In addition to the duties enumerated in Section 1 through 5 of this Article, the duties of the members of the Election Commission are as follows:
- i. Assume all duties of the Head Judge in case of his/her absence or inability to perform their own duties
 - ii. Perform all other duties as may be necessary and required by this Election Ordinance, the Constitution or by the nature of the office of Head Judge of the Election Commission.

SECTION 6-Election Commission Procedures

The Election Commission shall establish procedures in which meetings shall be held and in which public votes of the Commission members shall be cast in any situation requiring a vote of the Commission. The procedures shall be written and be made available at all meetings of the Commission and to any tribal member upon request.

SECTION 7-Election Commission Obeyance

The Election Commission shall have the duty to obey all of the Articles in this Election Policy and any other relevant laws and regulations as may be prescribed by the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council.