

BONAPARTE FIRST NATION – ELECTION PROCESS COMPARISON CHART

Issue/Topic	Indian Act – Current System	Bonaparte Election Code
Adoption		Council approval by Band Council Resolution and ratification of 50% + 1 of BFN electors voting 'yes'
Term of Office	2 years	4 years, staggered terms
Number of Council Members	Chief plus four Councillors	Chief plus 4 Councilors
Electoral Officer Appointment	BCR and ISC letter of appointment	BCR appointment
Election Period	At least 79 days	At least 100 days
Nomination Procedure	<p>No limits on how many candidates a voter can nominate</p> <p>A voter can submit a nomination in writing before the nomination meeting or in person at meeting</p>	<p>Each Elector may nominate or second only one candidate for Chief and one candidate for Councillor.</p> <p>A voter can submit a nomination in writing before the nomination meeting, over Zoom or in person at meeting</p> <p>A candidate can only run for one position, Chief or Councillor not both</p>
Eligibility Requirements	Must be a voter in order to be a Councillor	<p>Eligibility requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 yrs old BFN member • Not in debt to the Nation for more \$5k • Paid \$250 Candidate Fee • Provide a biography to the EO • Have never been convicted of indictable offence involving sexual assault, aggravated assault, murder or attempted murder against an individual • Have not been convicted of any indictable Criminal Code of Canada offence in the previous 10 years, unless aboriginal right as defence • Applied for and submit criminal record check • Agreed to take a leave of absence, if employed at BFN or BFN entity
Accepting Nomination	No requirement to accept, may withdraw in writing	Candidate provides acceptance in candidate package
Candidate Fee	No fee	\$250
Qualifications to Vote	Voters must be a Band member who has reached the age of 18 as of election day	Voters must be a Band member who has reached the age of 18 as of election day

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Mail-in Ballots	Automatically sent to all off-reserve electors for which the Electoral Officer has a mailing address. Electors can also request one	Automatically sent to all off-reserve voters for which the Electoral Officer has a mailing address. Electors can also request one
Electronic Voting	Not available under the Act	Available
Recount	Not included in the Act, but may be possible if requested or on appeal	The electoral officer must undertake a recount in the case of a tie
Election Conduct	No specific prohibited conduct	Candidates must follow Campaign Code of Ethics
Removal from Office	<p>Seat becomes vacant if a Chief or Councillor is convicted of an indictable offence or dies. The Minister may declare that a person is unfit to hold office if the person has been convicted of an indictable offence, has missed three consecutive meetings</p> <p>If a person is removed from office the Minister can declare the person ineligible to be a candidate for six years</p>	<p>A person can be removed from office through the BFN Chief and Council Governance Manual if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been absent from 3 Council meetings in a row or within one year, without authorization; • violate the Code of Conduct; • fails to uphold the Oath of Office; • are charged with a criminal act that reflects their honesty and trustworthiness; • plead guilty to a violent offence; • misuse or misappropriate BFN property; or • accept or offer a bribe, forges a Council document <p>An Ethics Committee comprised of community members may also address serious complaints made against a member of Council</p>
Appeals	Submitted to ISC	<p>Submitted to and decided by the Chief and Council appointed Adjudicator</p> <p>All decisions of an Adjudicator can be appealed at the Federal Court</p>
Amendments	Not available	As approved by a majority of voters who participate in the vote, following consultation