MOHAWK NATION
OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

BOOK VIII OF THE REGISTER'S BOOKS

Elections and Petitions

Who may vote and on what; holding a vote from the call to the Ledger; petitions by residents and what their signatures bring; the Nation's petitions to the Crown.

One of the National Books of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River.

First edition · October 2026

Elections and Petitions

Book VIII of the Register’s books

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SECTION 1

Who decides, and how

When the Nation votes, and who may.

The rules in this book are proposed: for the Nation to adopt by its Gazette.

Its colour: **Slate green**

THE ELECTORATE

The Nation’s offices are held by commission and appointment under the Secretary-General (Book VI). Some decisions, though, belong to the members themselves: a change to the Nation’s foundational rules, and any question the Secretary-General puts to them. This book sets out how those votes are held, and how any resident may petition the Nation.

Who may vote	Proposed rule
A member of the class	Ascertained on the Register, and of full age (18)
A member by adoption	Received under the Nation’s law of adoption, with the same standing as by descent
Where they live	Anywhere in the world: the posterity is dispersed, and the vote follows the member
How they are listed	The roll of electors is drawn from the Register on the day the vote is called, and published with names only

What may be voted on	Proposed rule
A change to the Nation’s foundational rules	Two-thirds of those voting, with at least a third of the roll taking part
A question put by the Secretary-General	A majority of those voting
Any office the Gazette makes elective	A majority of those voting; a second round between the two highest if none has one

SECTION 2

Holding a vote

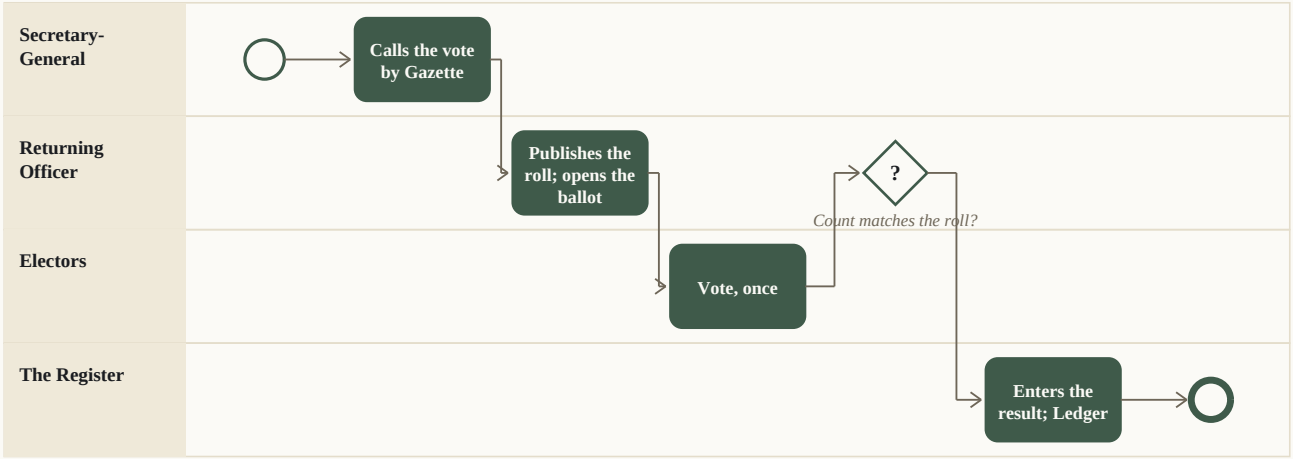
From the notice to the result on the Ledger.

The rules in this book are proposed: for the Nation to adopt by its Gazette.

Its colour: **Slate green**

THE VOTE

How to read the diagram: each row is one party — the Secretary-General, the Returning Officer, the electors, and the Register. Follow a vote left to right, from the call to the result; the diamond is the count, checked against the roll before the result stands.



Safeguard	How
One member, one vote	The ballot checks the elector against the roll; a second ballot cancels the first if both arrive by different means
Secrecy	The ballot is separated from the elector’s name before it is counted
A count anyone can check	The tally, by channel, is published with the result; the ballots are kept sealed for 90 days
Independence	The Returning Officer is appointed for the vote, and has no interest in its outcome (Book IX)
Challenge	Within 14 days of the result, to the Court of the Nation

SECTION 3

A vote, worked through

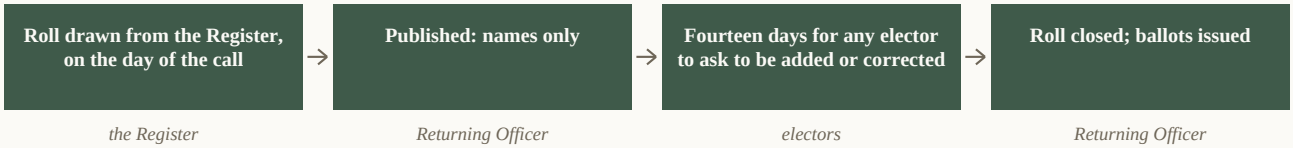
From the call to the result, with a recount.

An illustration: the figures are invented to show the method.

Its colour: **Slate green**

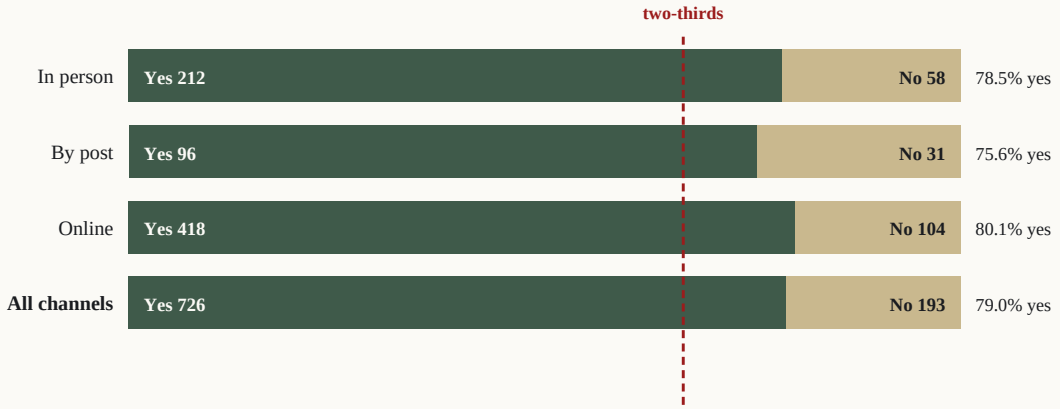
WORKED VOTE

How to read the diagram: follow the steps left to right — the roll drawn from the Register on the day the vote is called; published with names only; checked by electors for fourteen days; and closed. Beneath each step is who does it.



Step	In the worked vote
The call	By Gazette: “Should the Nation adopt the Rules of Elections?” A change to foundational rules: two-thirds needed, a third of the roll to take part
The roll	2,140 electors, drawn from the Register
Voting	Twenty-one days: in person at the Secretariat, by post, or online
The count	919 ballots — 43% of the roll, above the third required

How to read the chart: each bar is one way of voting, with the yes votes in green and the no votes in tan; the bottom bar is all channels together. The dashed red line marks two-thirds: a bar that reaches past it carried that share.



An illustration: 919 ballots on a roll of 2,140 (43% took part); 726 yes, 79.0% — carried.

The recount (illustration)	
Asked for	By any elector, within 7 days, where the margin is under 2% of the ballots — or by the Returning Officer on any doubt
Done by	A second officer, with no part in the first count, in public
Result	If it differs, the recount stands; both tallies are published
Then	The result entered by Gazette; its fingerprint on the Ledger

How to read the specimen: the ballot names the vote and its Record Code, asks the question in the Gazette’s exact words, and gives one box for each answer. The instructions at its foot tell the elector how its secrecy is kept.

SPECIMEN

MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER — BALLOT

Vote called by Gazette · Record Code of the vote

Should the Nation adopt the Rules of Elections set out in the Gazette?

☐ **YES**

☐ **NO**

Mark one box with a cross. Fold the ballot; it is separated from your name before it is counted.

SECTION 4

Petitions

Any resident may ask the Nation for anything.

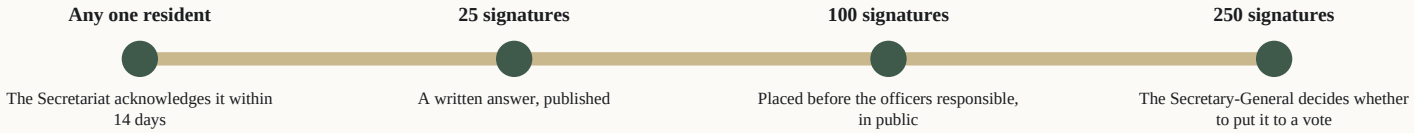
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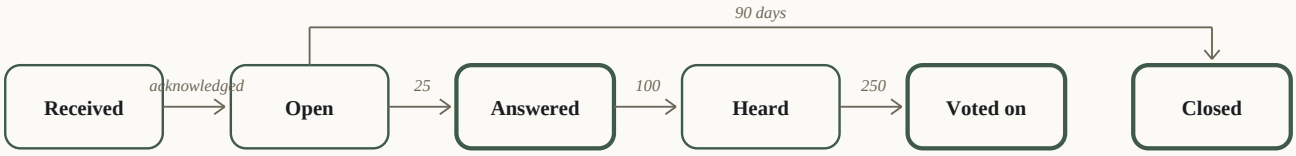
PETITIONS

A petition is how a resident asks the Nation to act: to make a rule, change one, answer a question, or right a wrong. Every petition is acknowledged, and the more people who sign it, the further it goes.

How to read the line: it runs from a single petitioner on the left to 250 signatures on the right. Each mark is a threshold, and beneath it is what that many signatures bring.



How to read the diagram: each box is a standing a petition can be in — Received, Open for signatures, Answered, Heard before the officers in public, Voted on, or Closed — and each arrow is what moves it on: the number of signatures, or 90 days without enough.



A worked petition (illustration)	
Asked	That the Grand River’s level be read on the Station each morning
Signatures	126, in 40 days
What followed	A written answer at 25; placed before the Director of Communications at 100; adopted, and announced in the Gazette

SECTION 5

A petition, worked through

The form, and what happened.

Its colour: **Slate green**

WORKED PETITION

The petition form (specimen)	
To	The Secretary-General, Mohawk Nation of Grand River Secretariat
From	First Middle LAST, and the Register number of each who signs
We ask	In one sentence, what the Nation should do
Because	In no more than 300 words, why
Signed	Each signer’s name in its parts, and their Register number — checked against the Register, one signature each
What happened (illustration)	
Day 1	Received; acknowledged within 14 days; open for signatures
Day 12	25 signatures: the Director of Communications answers in writing, published
Day 40	126 signatures: placed before the officers responsible, in public
Day 55	Adopted: the Grand River’s level read each morning on the Station — announced in the Gazette

RULE A signature counts once, only from a member on the Register. Names are published; Register numbers are not.

SECTION 6

Petitions to the Crown

When the Nation itself petitions.

Its colour: **Slate green**

TO THE CROWN

The Nation has its own petitions too — to the King, and to the Crown’s ministers. These follow the protocol of Book IV: drafted with their instruments cited, signed by the Secretary-General, served, published in the press of record, and entered in the record of correspondence with their due date.

Example	On the record
The Representation and Notice to His Majesty the King, 1 April 2026	Served by registered mail; published in full in the Two Row Times; received at Buckingham Palace, 15 April 2026; acknowledged “With compliments”
Petitions to the House of Commons	The federal petitions e-2984, e-3466 and e-3740

SECTION 7

Why these rules

The reason for each proposed rule, so the Gazette can adopt or change it knowingly.

Its colour: **Slate green**

REASONS

Every rule in this book marked “proposed” is set out below with the reason for it. The Nation may adopt each as it stands, change it, or set it aside — knowing what each was meant to do.

The proposed rule	Why
Full age of 18	The age at which the Nation’s members are treated as adults in its other rules
Two-thirds, with a third of the roll, for foundational rules	The foundations should change only with broad agreement, and not by a small turnout
A majority for other questions	Ordinary questions should not be blocked by a minority
The vote follows the member, wherever they live	The class is a posterity dispersed worldwide
25, 100 and 250 signatures	Scaled to a nation of thousands, not millions: each step reachable by a real community effort
A recount under a 2% margin	Where the result could turn on error, it is checked
Ballots sealed for 90 days	Long enough for any challenge to be heard

SECTION 8

Standards, benchmarks and hard questions

How the Nation’s rules measure up.

Its colour: **Slate green**

STANDARDS

Standard	For
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, art. 25	The right to take part in public affairs, and to vote by secret ballot
Venice Commission, Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters (2002)	Universal, equal, free, secret and direct suffrage; an independent body to run the vote
Council of Europe, Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)5 on e-voting	Online voting that is secret, verifiable and auditable

How we compare

Benchmark	What they do	What the Nation does
UK Parliament petitions	A government response at 10,000 signatures; considered for debate at 100,000	Thresholds scaled to the Nation: an answer at 25, the officers at 100
Scottish Parliament public petitions	Any person may petition; a committee considers each	Every petition acknowledged, whatever its number
Estonia’s i-voting	Online voting with a secure identity since 2005; a later ballot replaces an earlier one	Online ballots, one member one vote, the last valid ballot counting

Questions an expert or critic would ask

Why should a nation of appointed offices hold votes at all?
The offices serve the members. Some decisions — the Nation’s foundations above all — belong to the members, and a vote is the honest way to take them.

Can members living abroad vote?
Yes. The class is a posterity, dispersed worldwide; the vote follows the member, not the address.

Isn’t online voting insecure?
It must meet the Council of Europe’s standard: secret, verifiable and audited, with a paper or postal route always open.

Do petitions bind the Nation?
No petition binds by itself; each earns a response, and enough signatures earn a public hearing and, if decided, a vote.