



Whitney Gravelle
Bay Mills Indian Community
Tribal Chairwoman 2021

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 2021 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 Evelynene 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.

While in law school, I worked for the Udall Congressional Washington DC Internship, Native American Rights Fund, Michigan Supreme Court in Justice McCormack’s Chambers, Michigan Attorney General’s Office in the Indian Child Welfare Section, and in Michigan State University’s Indian Law Clinic.

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 for Tribal Chairperson, because I want to give Bay Mills love, safety, protection, opportunity, and support. When I think of the Bay Mills that will exist in the next five years, or even ten years, I am so excited for our people and proud to be part of everything we will accomplish! In the last seven months we have already accomplished several large priorities such as: stabilizing our finances across government and enterprise operations, supporting our employees with an hourly wage increase, resolving issues on tribal citizenship and enrollment, expanding employee benefits, repairing recreation areas, 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.

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!”