

## Introduction

# Eastern Shoshone General Council Voting Modernization Initiative

## Key Initiative Highlights

- Focuses on enhancing transparency in voting processes, ensuring all voices are accurately represented.  
Promotes increased participation by making voting more accessible and user-friendly for all members.  
Implements technology to improve accuracy and reduce errors in vote counting and reporting.  
Seeks to build trust and confidence in Council decisions by adopting modern best practices.



## Challenges to the Current Voting System

# Why Modernization Is Needed

## Challenges to the Current Voting System

- Manual vote counting is time-consuming and prone to human error.  
In-person voting limits participation to those physically present.  
Voting results delay reduces transparency and trust in the process.  
Lack of technology excludes many younger and off-reservation members.

## Impact on Tribal Participation and Governance

- Many tribal members living off the Wind River Reservation cannot participate.  
Exclusion reduces tribal member representation and weakens governance.  
Difficulty verifying votes and quorum leads to unreliable meeting outcomes.  
Overall participation rates remain low, impacting decision legitimacy.



## Initiative Goals

# Goals of the Initiative

## Increase Accuracy & Transparency

Implement digital voting tools to reduce errors and provide instant, clear vote tallying that all members can trust. Council members receive real-time, verifiable results, minimizing disputes and building trust. Every vote is traceable and auditable.

## Verify Quorum Reliably

Use technology to securely confirm quorum presence in real time, ensuring valid and legitimate council decisions. Automated quorum checks prevent delays and invalid sessions, supporting efficient governance and compliance with tribal rules.

## Expand Access for Off-Reservation Members

Enable secure remote participation for tribal members living off-reservation, bridging geographic barriers. Members studying or working in other states can participate fully in council decisions, ensuring all voices are heard.

## Uphold Tribal Sovereignty

Manage all voting data internally within the tribe to maintain control over governance and data privacy. Only authorized tribal staff access sensitive voting information, preserving autonomy and self-determination.



# What Is Clicker Voting?



## How Clicker Voting Works

- Handheld devices are issued to members at check-in for easy and secure voting. Members cast their votes by pressing buttons for Yes, No, or Abstain options. Votes are tallied instantly and securely, eliminating manual counting errors. Results are displayed in real time during the meeting, ensuring transparency.



## Key System Features

- Audit capability verifies voting accuracy and integrity. System modernizes the voting process for efficiency and security. Respects tribal sovereignty while ensuring accuracy and transparency.

Participation

# Hybrid Participation Model



## IN-PERSON + REMOTE

Members can vote in person at General Council meetings or securely from remote locations, ensuring broader participation regardless of physical presence.



## ONLINE AUTHENTICATION

Only verified tribal members can access remote voting through a secure online authentication process, protecting voting integrity and tribal sovereignty.



## FUTURE-READY MEETINGS

This model supports evolving meeting formats that integrate technology and tradition, enabling transparent and inclusive governance on the Wind River Reservation.

## Implementation

# Implementation Timeline



Fall 2025

### Vendor Selection

Complete the selection and procurement of voting technology vendors and equipment.



Winter 2026

### Pilot Testing & Training

Conduct pilot tests of the new voting system and provide training for users and staff.



Spring 2026

### First Use at Council

Implement the clicker voting system for the first time at a General Council meeting to gather feedback and ensure reliability.



2026–2027

### Remote Access & Hybrid

Expand the system to support secure remote access for verified members, enabling full hybrid participation.

## Budget Breakdown and Allocations

# Budget Summary (\$50,000 Request to BIA)

### Budget Breakdown and Allocations

- 22,000 USD – Clicker hardware & software
  - 8,000 USD – Technical setup & training
  - 4,000 USD – Outreach and education
  - 8,000 USD – Meeting logistics and support
- A total request of \$50,000 submitted to BIA to cover all expenses.

### Contingency and Risk Management

- A 16% contingency is included in the budget. This contingency provides flexibility to handle unexpected costs. Helps ensure the project remains on track despite unforeseen challenges. Demonstrates proactive risk management to funders. Supports transparency and accountability in budget planning.





# Resolution Highlights



## Implementation and Participation

- Directs Eastern Shoshone Business Council (ESBC) to implement voting technology.  
Supports hybrid participation combining in-person and remote voting.  
Ensures secure and reliable voting processes for all members.  
Promotes inclusivity by allowing broader member engagement through technology.



## Funding and Governance

- Authorizes a \$50,000 supplemental funding request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).  
Commits to transparent and inclusive governance practices.  
Affirms tribal sovereignty in managing voting data and processes.  
Demonstrates responsible stewardship of resources for technological advancement.



Ensuring a Smooth Transition

# Next Steps for Voting Modernization Implementation

Ensuring a  
Smooth  
Transition

- Follow a clear sequence: adopt the authorizing resolution, secure funding, onboard vendors, and schedule the first tech-enabled meeting. Staying aware of key dates and deadlines will keep the project on track. Communication and coordination between teams is essential for successful implementation.

Action Items for  
Launch

- Adopt the General Council resolution to authorize the voting modernization. Eastern Shoshone Business Council (ESBC) submits the BIA funding request for \$50,000. Begin vendor onboarding and training to familiarize the team with the new voting technology. Schedule and plan the first General Council meeting using the tech-enabled voting system. Highlight any specific dates or deadlines for these next steps to keep the audience focused on the timeline.



Engagement

# Q&A / Open Discussion



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a large, light brown marbled paper shape with a diagonal cut on its top-right corner. Overlapping the bottom-left corner of this shape is a smaller, rectangular piece of a book cover. The book cover has a dark background with large, irregular, light-colored shapes (possibly representing stones or abstract forms) and some red and yellow accents.

Thank You