

Why We Need the General Council Meeting & Voting Modernization Initiative

The Eastern Shoshone General Council belongs to all of us. But right now, too many of our voices go unheard. As tribal members, we deserve a system that is fair, secure, and built for today's world. That's why the General Council Meeting & Voting Modernization Initiative is not just a tech upgrade—it's about protecting our voice and our future.

The Problem We Face

- Our voting system relies on hand-raising and manual counting—slow, outdated, and vulnerable to mistakes.
- Over 4,600 enrolled members, but only those who can attend in person are counted.
- Around half of our tribal members live off the reservation—many are left out of major decisions.
- Every vote matters—but the current system makes it hard to trust the results or reach a quorum consistently.

What This Initiative Will Do

This initiative will:

- Make every in-person vote count instantly and accurately using handheld voting clickers.
- Eliminate human error and reduce the time spent counting votes.
- Build a system for verified online meeting & voting, so off-reservation members can participate too.
- Ensure quorum is tracked electronically and securely.
- Keep all tribal voting data under tribal control.

Why It Matters for All of Us

This is about more than technology. It's about our tribal sovereignty, our unity, and our future generations. Whether you live on the reservation or miles away, your vote should matter. This initiative honors our way of governing—by including all our people in the decisions that shape our future.

How We'll Get There

- Fall 2025: Choose a trusted vendor to supply the voting system.
- Winter 2026: Train staff, test the system, and educate the community.
- Spring 2026: Use the clicker system for the first time in General Council.
- 2026–2027: Begin building remote access tools so more members can vote securely from home.

How It's Funded

The Business Council is able to request up to \$50,000 in supplemental funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Aid to Tribal Government. This investment can pay for devices, software, training, and public outreach.

We Need Your Support

To make this happen, we need your support at the next General Council meeting. Help ensure every vote is counted—and every member is heard.