CHAPTER 8-3 ELECTIONS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

8-3-1 Authority
This Chapter is established by the Colville Business Council under authority contained in Article III, Section 2, of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, including the amendments thereto.

(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-72)
(Certified 2/20/97)

8-3-2 Purpose
Purpose and intent of this Chapter is to establish and define written procedures for the administration of fair tribal elections.

8-3-3 Definitions
(a) “Business Council” means the Colville Business Council, a 14 member governing body established by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

(b) “Closely related” means:
   (1) Grandparent
   (2) Parent
   (3) Spouse/significant other
   (4) Daughter
   (5) Son
   (6) Brother
   (7) Sister
   (8) Aunt
   (9) Uncle

(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-74)
(Certified 2/20/97)
(Amended 1/9/03, Resolution 2003-6)
(Certified 1/10/03)

(c) “Constitution” means the Constitution and By-Laws having been proposed and duly ratified by the Indians of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on February 26, 1938, including amendments.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-91)

(d) “Election Committee” means a committee composed of one seated council member from each district, provided that he is not up for re-election this calendar year, and providing that the Election Committee is approved by majority vote of a quorum of the Colville Business Council.

(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-74)
(Certified 2/20/97)
(Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-54)
(Certified 2/12/02)

(e) “Election day” means the day established by the approved schedule of events to hold the primary election or the general election.

(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-7)

(f) “Election Staff” means the Executive Director or his designee, Election Coordinator and one Election Clerk.

(Amended 2/5/98, Resolution 1998-108)
(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-74)
(Certified 2/20/97)
(Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-55)
(Certified 2/12/02)

(g) “Eligible voter” means an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes, who are at least 18 years of age as of election day.
(h) “Enforcement officer” means any tribal police officer, game warden, and park rangers. (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-91)

(i) “Him/he” is intended to be gender neutral and should be understood to include the meaning of she/her. (Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-8)

(j) “Physically reside” means bodily residing in a primary home residence in accordance with Article II, Section 6 of the Constitution and By-Laws. (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-90) (Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-9)

(k) “Polling place” means the location designated by the Election Committee where balloting takes place. (Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-74) (Certified 2/20/97)

(l) “Registration” means all enrolled tribal members, 18 years of age and older are considered automatically registered for tribal election purposes.

(m) “Schedule of events” means the official notice of election to include applicable times/dates of events.

(n) “Signature” includes, for those persons unable to write, a thumbprint and/or his “X,” providing two witnesses affix their signature.

(o) “Superintendent” means the superintendent or designee of the Colville Indian Agency. (Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-10)

(p) “Tribes” means the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-91)

(q) “Voting district” means the general geographic area surrounding the Inchelium, Keller, Nespelem and Omak communities. The boundaries of each Reservation district shall be specifically delineated in an official voting district map approved by the Election Committee. Voting districts shall also include adjacent off-reservation areas. The following lists on and off reservation voting district communities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inchelium District*</th>
<th>Keller District*</th>
<th>Nespelem District*</th>
<th>Omak District*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inchelium</td>
<td>Keller</td>
<td>Nespelem</td>
<td>Omak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colville</td>
<td>Wilbur</td>
<td>Grand Coulee</td>
<td>Riverside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kettle Falls</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>Electric City</td>
<td>Oroville/Loomis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunters</td>
<td>Curlew</td>
<td>West Coulee Dam</td>
<td>Tonasket/Ellisford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orient</td>
<td>Malo</td>
<td>Delano</td>
<td>Malott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northport</td>
<td>Danville</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brewster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The off-reservation voting district communities may not be used to establish candidate residency. District map available, upon request through the Elections Office or district community centers. (Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-74) (Certified 2/20/97) (Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-16)

(r) “Certification of votes” means the official tallied results of all poll votes and absentee ballots approved by the Election Committee. (Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-11)

(s) “Indoctrination” means verbal and written orientation instructions provided to the District Election Board by Election Staff and the Election Committee. (Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-12)
(t) “Candidate” means any tribal member who has satisfied the requirements for candidacy, as provided for in Article II, Section 6 of the Constitution and By-Laws.  
(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-13)

(u) “Incumbent” means current Councilperson seeking re-election.  
(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-14)

(v) “Tribal entities” means tribal programs that operate under the Confederated Tribes and shall include profit and non-profit organization enterprises owned and/or controlled by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.  
(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-15)

ELECTION OFFICIALS

8-3-30 Election Committee

(a) The Election Committee shall, pursuant to Article III, Section 2, of the Constitution and By-Laws, have overall responsibility to determine the rules and regulations governing all tribal elections, provided such rules and regulations shall be subject to approval by the Colville Business Council.  
(Amended 12/17/98, Resolution 1998-911)  
(Certified 12/22/98)  
(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-73)  
(Certified 2/20/97)  
(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-17)

(a) In the event that a candidate is closely related to an Election Committee member, the alternate Election Committee member will be used. The Election Committee shall identify a minimum of four alternate committee members on the date which the schedule of events is approved.  
(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-73)  
(Certified 2/20/97)  
(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-18)

(c) The Election Committee shall consist of one seated council member from each district.  
(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-73)  
(Certified 2/20/97)  
(Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-56)

(d) The Election Committee members shall not be up for re-election during the election year.  
(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-73)  
(Certified 2/20/97)  
(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-19)

(e) The Colville Business Council Executive Committee shall not be recognized as ex-officio Election Committee members.  
(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-73)  
(Certified 2/20/97)  
(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-20)

(f) Three members shall constitute a quorum.  
(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-73)  
(Certified 2/20/97)  
(Amended 1/10/02, Resolution 2002-21)

(g) Alternates to the Election Committee may be any enrolled Colville tribal member who is an active voter, and has voted in previous elections. The Colville Business Council shall select one alternate for each district.  
(Approved 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-57)

8-3-31 Election Staff

(a) The Election Staff shall consist of the Executive Director or his designee, Election Coordinator and one Election Clerk.  
(Amended 2/5/98, Resolution 1998-108)  
(Amended 2/6/97, Resolution 1997-75)  
(Certified 2/20/97)  
(Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-58)
(b) The Executive Director or his designee, Election Coordinator and Election Clerk shall be the only persons authorized to receive, from the U.S. Post Office, election correspondence, and the postmaster shall be so notified.

(c) The Election Staff shall be allowed to handle and process election material as set forth herein.

(d) The Election Coordinator shall be responsible for the proper administering of the election and shall provide adequate security of the ballots.

(e) Election Staff may be required to work overtime as necessary.

(f) The Election Staff shall notify the Executive Director in the event that a staff member is closely related to a candidate. The Executive Director shall replace the staff member.

8-3-32 District Election Board Member

(a) The District Election Board shall consist of a Chairperson, two judges, Sergeant-at-arms and an alternate for each district. The Chairperson will be appointed by secret ballot from the prospective District Election Board members on orientation day before the primary and general election.

(b) The Chairperson is to arrive at the specified polling place on or before 7:30 a.m. on the day of election. The Chairperson shall be responsible for:

1. Ensuring that each District Election Board member and alternate is at the specified polling place on or before 7:30 a.m.;
2. Setting up the polling place and providing security of the ballot box, timesheets and ballots;
3. After the count has been completed, he will escort the ballot box back to the main tribal building after the polls close; and
4. Hand carrying one (1) copy of the unofficial certification of poll votes, signed by the District Election Board members, time sheets and the ballot box to the Election Staff in the main tribal building.

(c) The Sergeant-at-arms shall be responsible for:

1. Maintaining order and calling upon the enforcement officers, when it is considered necessary, for assistance;
2. Assisting with setting-up and clean-up of polling place; and
3. Arriving at the specified polling place on or before 7:30 a.m. on the day of election.

(d) Judge number one is responsible for:

1. Assisting the Chairperson with the distribution of ballots, identifying voters, verifying signatures of voters, voters’ eligibility and checking contested ballots by:

   A. Checking the voters list to see if individuals received an absentee ballot;
(B) Checking to see if the voter is a new voter; or

(C) Checking to see if the voter is from that established district.

(2) Assisting with setting-up and clean-up of polling place; and

(3) Arriving at the specified polling place on or before 7:30 a.m. on the day of election.

(e) The number two Judge is responsible for:

(1) Securing the ballot box;

(2) Ensuring that each ballot is accounted for and that the voter has deposited his ballot into the ballot box;

(3) Assisting with setting-up and clean-up of polling place; and

(4) Arriving at the specified polling place on or before 7:30 a.m. on the day of election.

(f) The Alternate is responsible for:

(1) Showing up on orientation and election day, in case one of the selected District Election Board members is not available.

(A) If needed, moving into the unavailable District Election Board member's position and assuming those responsibilities; or

(B) If all District Election Board members are present, the alternate will receive four hours of show-up time.

(2) Arriving at the specified polling place on or before 7:30 a.m. on the day of election.

(g) The District Election Board members and alternates shall be appointed and approved by the Election Committee and shall be qualified active voters from that district.

(h) District Election Board members shall not be closely related to candidates from their district.

(i) It is desired that at least one District Election Board member speak the native language.

(j) Preference in selection, shall be given to persons who have served as District Election Board members in prior elections, and to those who can visibly identify eligible voters from that district. Rotation of District Election Board members will occur every year beginning in May. The previous years' alternate will become a bona fide District Election Board member of his respective voting district. District Election Board members rotate and are replaced at the end of their third year.

(k) There shall be a District Election Board for each district.
(l) Should any infraction be committed by any District Election Board members, it shall be grounds for immediate removal. Infractions include, but are not limited to:

(1) Tampering with tribal election ballots;

(2) Tampering in any way with the election process;

(3) Disclosing to voters confidential information regarding candidates;

(4) Late arrival to orientation and polling place;

(5) Attempting to influence voters;

(6) Being disrespectful to voters and/or fellow workers;

(7) Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

8-3-33 Enforcement Officers

(a) An enforcement officer shall be assigned to the vicinity of each polling place on election day.

(b) The assigned enforcement officer shall accompany the District Election Board Chairperson back to the main tribal building with the locked ballot box after the polls have been closed and the votes have been counted and certified by the District Election Board members.

ELIGIBILITY

8-3-60 Candidates for Council Positions

(a) Any enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, qualified under the provisions of Article II, Section 6, of the Constitution may announce his candidacy for the Colville Business Council within the district of his residency by filing with the Election Staff a petition signed, by not less than ten (10) eligible voters of the district of his residency. The candidate may have more than one (1) copy of an official petition signed and circulated.

(b) A candidate must physically reside in the district in which he has filed for candidacy for not less than one (1) year prior to the date of the primary election. The candidate shall have the burden to establish that he meets the physical residency requirements. The Election Committee shall decide all issues related to candidate residency and such decision shall be final.

(c) Candidates who are temporarily away from their normal district residence, because of attendance in an institution of higher education or military services are exempt from physically residency requirements as stated in section 8-3-60(b), providing that the candidates intend to return to the district they were elected to.

(d) Candidates who are qualified under section 8-3-60(c), if elected, must return to physically reside in their district on the Colville Indian Reservation before assuming their office.

(e) A candidate who is qualified and elected under section 8-3-60(c) above, must return to physically...
reside in his district on the Colville Reservation before assuming office.

(f) Candidates cannot be a member of the tribal Election Staff.

8-3-61 **Eligible Voters**

(a) Enrolled members of the Colville Tribes who are eighteen (18) years of age on the day of primary election and/or general election are eligible to vote.

(b) Eligible voters, voting for the first time may vote in the district of their choosing. A first time voter's actual vote will establish voting district for future elections.

(c) Eligible voters who have voted in prior elections must cast their ballot in the district that they most recently voted in, except as provided for in section 8-3-62.

8-3-62 **Change of Voting District**

(a) Eligible voters who have moved and have physically resided in a different district for a period of one (1) year preceding the next general election may request that their voting district be changed to the district in which they currently reside.

(b) Off-reservation voters who wish to change their established voting district must request in writing a change of voting district form. An off-reservation voter's request will require a one (1) year waiting period from the date upon which the request form was returned.

(c) The Election Committee will rule on all requests for change of voting districts and that decision shall be final and authoritative.

8-3-90 **Petitions**

(a) No person will be allowed to receive an official petition form before or after the dates specified in the schedule of events.

(b) A prospective candidate must apply in person to receive an official petition for candidacy, and sign for it.

(c) Petitions shall be numbered serially and only one official petition per candidate shall be issued. Candidates may make copies of their petition.

(d) Election Staff shall verify the eligibility of those who signed the official petition using the most current eligible voter list generated from the Tribal Enrollment Office.

(e) In the event an issued official petition is lost or destroyed, that number will be null and void and a new number shall be issued.
(f) A candidate is required to sign an affidavit that states he understands the approved schedule of events prior to being issued an official petition.

(Amended 2/25/93, Resolution 1993-67)
(Amended 2/21/91, Resolution 1991-67)
(Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-92)

(g) A candidate is required to deliver his own official petition into the hands of the Election Staff according to the approved schedule of events. The Election Staff will verify with the candidate the following:

1. The position they are filing for;
2. The spelling of the name; and

The candidate will acknowledge information to be true and correct on the official petition. The Election Staff will date and time stamp the official petition. Once the official petition has been processed it will not be returned to the candidate for any reason. The Election Staff will bring the petition to the Election Committee for certification.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-106)
(Amended 2/25/93, Resolution 1993-67)
(Amended 2/21/91, Resolution 1991-47)
(Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-93)

(h) The election office clock is the official elections clock and will be used for the approved schedule of events. Petitions will not be accepted after the date and time stated on the approved schedule of events.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-107)
(Amended 2/25/93, Resolution 1993-67)
(Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-94)

8-3-91 Schedule of Events
(a) The annual schedule of events must be approved by the Colville Business Council by resolution. The approved schedule of events shall be published in the February edition of the Tribal Tribune and posted in all tribal entities, BIA, IHS and approved U.S. Post Offices. No Election Code amendments shall be made following the approval of the schedule of events, or until completion of the general election. The election process will begin upon approval of the schedule of events.

(b) The approved schedule of events shall contain the following information:

1. Opening date for filing an official petition;
2. Closing date for filing an official petition;
3. Deadline for withdrawing official petitions;
4. Certification of candidates;
5. District Election Board orientation;
6. Date of primary election;
7. Date of general election;
8. Polling place:
   (A) Inchelium Subagency,
   (B) Keller Community Center,
   (C) Nespelem Community Center,
   (D) Omak Senior Meal site,
9. Date of poll vote certification for primary election;
10. Date of absentee ballot certification for primary election;
11. Date of poll vote certification for general election;
12. Date of absentee ballot certification for general election;
13. Date of oath of office.

(Section 8-3-91(c) Repealed, Resolution 2002-97)

8-3-92 Address Labels and Candidate Material
(a) The Election Staff shall prepare the following material for distribution to candidates:

1. Eligible eighteen (18) year old list;
2. Voters-by district list;
3. Never voted list; and

(February 2003 version of Chapter 8-3)
(4) A copy of this Chapter.

(b) The lists shall be prepared from the Tribal Election and/or Enrollment records.

(c) One set of (computer) printed, gummed address labels, of eligible constituents, for their respective districts, shall be provided to each certified candidate at cost. The district labels and list may be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested or the candidate may pick up his individual district labels and list from the Elections Office on the Thursday, before 3:00 p.m., following the certification of candidates. If the candidate fails to contact the Election Office, before the above mentioned date and time, the labels and list will be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(Amended 2/5/98, Resolution 1998-107)

(d) No lists other than specified in section 8-3-92(a) shall be issued to candidates.

(Section 8-2-92 Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-98)

8-3-93 Absentee Ballots

(a) Eligible voters shall be allowed to vote via absentee ballot.

(b) Certified candidates will be allowed to solicit absentee voting by mailing out pre-printed materials.

(c) Eligible voters may utilize preprinted post cards to request an absentee ballot or any other written and signed request (e.g.: letters, Tribal Tribune notice).

(d) Special arrangements will be made at the Nespelem U.S. Post Office to handle the election correspondence and only the Election Staff are authorized to receive election materials from the Nespelem U.S. Post Office. Accordingly all pre-printed absentee ballot request cards shall be addressed to the:

Colville Confederated Tribes
Election Coordinator
P.O. Box 150,
Nespelem, WA 99155

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-108)

(e) All requests for absentee ballots will be accompanied by a written, signed form and must be delivered in person by the individual requesting the absentee ballot or by U.S. mail.

(Amended 11/1/90, Resolution 1990-597)

(f) The Election Staff will maintain a chronological listing of all absentee ballot requests and balloting materials that have been sent or received.

(g) Persons voting for the first time may vote in any district of their choosing Election Staff will honor and process only the first request, thereby insuring that persons are allowed to vote only once and only in one district.

(h) All received absentee ballots and absentee ballot request will be stamped with a date stamp and initialed by the Election Staff. Any returned absentee ballot that does not bear a U.S. postmark, will be presented to the Election Committee (noting the date it was received) for a decision to validate or to invalidate it. For any returned absentee ballot that bears more than one valid U.S. postmark, the earlier U.S. postmark will be counted.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-108)

(i) In the event an eligible voter indicates in writing that his absentee ballot was lost or destroyed, a new one may be issued providing that the necessary precautions are taken by the Election Staff to insure that only one ballot is returned/counted.

(j) All returned absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than the date of the election day, and
must bear the written signature of the voter on the outside envelope (see sections 8-3-93(h) and 8-3-93(p)).

(Amended 12/22/98, Resolution 1998-914)
(Amended 11/1/90, Resolution 1990-598)
(Certified 12/7/90)

(k) A returned absentee ballot that does not bear the signature of the voter on the outer envelope will be invalid.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-120)

(l) Eligible voters select only one candidate for council position number one and only one candidate for council position number two from the Inchelium, Nespelem, and Omak Districts, and only one candidate from the Keller District.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-108)

(m) Writing or marks on ballots will be invalidated and will not count if they contain the printed or signed name of the voter.

(Amended 2/7/91, Resolution 1991-24)
(Corrected 7/30/01)

(n) The Election Coordinator shall be responsible for the printing and safeguarding of all ballots.

(o) Absentee ballots shall be identical to poll ballots.

(p) Walk-in absentee voting will not be allowed. All absentee ballots must be returned via U.S. mail or at the polls.

(Section 8-3-93 Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-99)

8-3-94 **Ballots**

(a) Only official ballots shall be used in voting.

(b) Absentee ballots shall be color-coded as in the past. Districts will be identified as follows:

   1. Nespelem-green;
   2. Inchelium-Blue;
   3. Omak-Pink;
   4. Keller-Yellow; and
   5. Each ballot from each district shall have a tear-off serial number.

(c) The candidates' names shall appear on the ballots in alphabetical order, except that the incumbents' names shall appear first.

(d) The names and spelling used shall be the same as printed on the candidates' petition.

(e) The tear-off serial numbers are to be used in insuring proper accountability only, and shall be removed prior to voting/mailing of absentee ballots to the voter.

(f) Sample ballots shall be posted in the community centers, Tribal, BIA, IHS buildings; Nespelem, Omak, Inchelium and Keller Post Offices.

(g) Sample ballots shall not be provided to the candidates by Election Staff.

(h) Write-in voting for candidates shall not be allowed and shall not be counted.

(Section 8-3-94 Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-100)

8-3-95 **Campaigning**

(a) Posting and distribution of campaign materials will not be allowed in any tribal entities, BIA or IHS buildings.

(b) Campaign materials are the responsibility of the candidate and do not carry the express endorsement
or rejection of the Colville Confederated Tribes, the Colville Business Council, or employees of the Tribes.

(c) Candidates will bear the full financial responsibility for their own campaigns.

(d) Candidates will be allowed to provide for private transportation of voters to the polls.

(e) No campaigning will be allowed within 200 feet of the polling places during elections.

(f) A candidate from the Nespelem, Omak or Inchelium Districts may select a running-mate for his campaign, where one candidate runs for position #1 and the other for position #2.

(g) Council members and Employees of the Colville Confederated Tribes, tribal entities, BIA or IHS are prohibited from campaigning during assigned working hours.

(h) Expenditures by candidates for their campaigns from tribal entities, tribal government, BIA or IHS funds will not be allowed.

(i) It shall be the responsibility of the candidate for the removal of all his signs, posters, and all other campaign materials one (1) week after the certification of a primary, a general or a special election.

(j) Using tribal facilities or resources to promote one’s candidacy, or attempting or publicly offering the use of tribal facilities or resources to promote one’s candidacy, is prohibited.

(k) If the Election Committee or Staff receives a signed complaint in writing alleging that a certified candidate has violated any of the campaign rules set forth in subsections (a) through (j) above, the Election Committee will use the process set forth in subparts (1) through (12) below to determine whether a violation has occurred, and if so what penalty shall be assessed. The purpose of this process is to provide due process and consistent treatment for candidates and other interested parties, define the responsibilities of candidates, and further paramount tribal government interests in resolving complaints in a consistent and orderly fashion, and in providing efficiency, certainty, and finality to the elections process.

(1) All written notices to a candidate required under this section shall be mailed to the candidate via certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address provided by the candidate in the certification process. The Committee and Staff shall be entitled to rely on this address, and it shall be the responsibility of the candidate to provide any change of address and to check his or her mail. A candidate’s failure to respond within the deadlines set forth in any notices sent in this manner shall be deemed a waiver of any rights set forth in the notice or in the subsection on which the notice is based.

(2) A signed, written complaint shall be filed with the Election Committee at the Election Office during normal business hours, and the Staff shall stamp the complaint with the date of filing at the time it is filed.

(3) Election Staff shall conduct a review and investigation of any properly filed complaint.

(4) Within three (3) working days of the filing of a complaint, Staff shall provide written notice, in the manner set forth in subpart (1), to the candidate who is the subject of the complaint (hereinafter referred to as the respondent). The notice shall provide the respondent with a copy of the complaint, and an opportunity to respond to the complaint in writing. The respondent’s written response must be submitted to the Committee within five (5) work days of the mailing of the notice.

(5) The notice required in subpart (4) shall also provide the respondent an opportunity to appear at a hearing of the Election Committee, in order to present evidence and make argument regarding the allegations in the complaint. The hearing shall take place no sooner than seven (7) work days and no later than ten (10) work days after the mailing of the notice, unless the respondent requests, and the Committee grants, a different date.
(6) A respondent’s request to reschedule a hearing must be in writing and submitted not later than three (3) work days after the mailing of the notice to the respondent required in subpart (4). The request must provide a compelling reason for the rescheduling; inconvenience, lack of time to prepare, or other commitments are not sufficient grounds. The committee’s decision whether to grant rescheduling shall be in writing and issued not less than two (2) work days before the initially scheduled hearing date; the Committee’s decision shall be final as to the date of a hearing. A respondent’s failure to attend a hearing that has been scheduled as provided in subparts (4) through (6) shall be deemed a waiver of the right to participate at the hearing.

(7) The Election Staff shall submit to the Committee a summary of its findings regarding the allegations in the complaint, not later than two (2) work days prior to the hearing on the complaint. A copy of the findings shall also be provided to respondent at this time.

(8) At the time set for the hearing, the Election Committee shall review the findings of the Staff and any written submission of the respondent. If the respondent appears at the hearing, he or she shall have an opportunity to respond to the allegations and the findings of the Staff. The proceedings shall be recorded whether or not respondent appears.

(9) The Committee will determine whether a violation occurred, and if so, assess an appropriate fine and any additional appropriate penalty. The Committee’s decision shall be in writing and shall be served on the respondent and complainant in the manner provided in subpart (1). The Committee may assess a fine in the range of $100.00 to $500.00 per violation found, the amount of the fine dependent on the severity of the violation. Failure to pay the fine will result in ineligibility for the next election. If the Committee makes a specific finding that the violations are aggravated in nature or are repeat violations, or involve an intent to deceive the Committee or Staff, the Committee shall disqualify the respondent from the current election.

(10) The Committee shall submit to the Colville Business Council copies of any and all of its decisions which find that a violation has been committed, so that in any case where a candidate who committed a violation is elected to office, the Council may consider whether to take further action under its constitutional authority over the conduct of its members; this requirement to forward decisions to the Council is distinct from the process referred to in subpart (11) below, under which a respondent may petition the Council for review of a Committee decision, and is not intended to trigger any obligation under the Constitution for the Council to review the Committee’s decision.

(11) The Committee’s determination as described in subpart (9) above shall be final, and notwithstanding any other provision of tribal law, the Tribal Court shall have no jurisdiction over any cause of action arising there from, except that pursuant to Article I, Section 4 of the By-Laws of the Tribes, the notice of decision shall inform the respondent that he or she may petition the Colville Business Council for review within five (5) work days of the mailing of the decision. Failure to petition the Business Council within five (5) work days shall be deemed a waiver of the right to petition, and the Council shall summarily dismiss any untimely petition. The Petition shall be filed at the Election Office in the manner set forth in subpart (2) above; the Election Staff shall date-stamp the petition and promptly forward it to the Chairman of the Business Council.

(12) The Business Council will review any petition timely filed by a respondent under subpart (11). If the Council’s review determines that the petitioner failed to comply with any of the deadlines for responding to a complaint with the Election Board, such that the respondent is deemed to have waived the right to participate in the process, the Council shall summarily dismiss the petition. If the petitioner is found not to have waived the right to participate, the Business Council Chair shall call a special meeting of the Business Council, for purpose of conducting a brief hearing on the matter of the petition, to be held not later than fourteen (14) work days after filing of the petition. The Council’s decision shall be final, and notwithstanding any other provision of tribal law, the Tribal Court shall have no jurisdiction over any cause of action arising there from.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-109)
(Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-101)
(Amended 2/6/03, Resolution 2003-64)

(Febuary 2003 version of Chapter 8-3)
8-3-96  **Ballot Boxes**
(a) Ballot boxes shall be prepared in advance and shall contain the following materials.

   1. Ballots;
   2. Flag;
   3. Pens (6);
   4. Tablets (4);
   5. Scotch tape (1);
   6. Stamp pad;
   7. This Chapter;
   8. Constitution and By-Laws;
   9. Voters list;
   10. Time sheets (4);
   11. Poll book and tally sheets;
   12. Certification of poll vote forms;
   13. Ballot envelopes;
   14. CCT tribal envelopes;
   15. Jar with key to box; and

(b) Prepared ballot boxes shall be inventoried by the Election Staff and District Election Board Chairperson the day before election day. Ballot boxes shall then be issued to the Chairperson of the District Election Boards, along with one set of keys which will be locked/sealed after the District Election Board members' certification of the poll votes.

   (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-110)
   (Amended 12/17/98, Resolution 1998-913)
   (Certified 12/22/98)

(c) Returned locked and sealed ballot boxes will remain in a locked space until the Election Committee and the BIA Superintendent of the Colville Indian agency request the re-count of poll votes and the official certification of poll votes.

   (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-110)
   (Amended 12/17/98, Resolution 1998-912)
   (Certified 12/22/98)
   (Section 8-3-96 Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-102)

8-3-97  **Indoctrination of the District Election Board Members**
(a) The District Election Board members will be indoctrinated by the Election Staff and/or Election Committee, the morning, prior to election day.

   (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-111)

(b) The indoctrination shall include the following:

   1. Inventory of ballot boxes;
   2. Instructions on processing of wages, mileage, meal stipend and timesheets;
   3. Review of this Chapter;
   4. Process for contested ballots;
   5. Name and phone number of assigned tribal police officer;
   6. Use of dividend roll book;
   7. Voters lists include:
      (A) Eligible voters who have established a voting district;
      (B) Eighteen (18) year olds;
      (C) Eligible voters who have never voted; and
      (D) Voters requesting absentee ballots.
   8. Procedures for certification of poll vote;
   9. "Interpreter" will not have access to pen, pencil or other marking device while assisting voter;
   10. Use of poll book and tally sheet;
   11. Display of U.S. and tribal flag;
   12. Instruction for alternates;
   13. Arrangement to set up/use polling places;

   (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-111)

   (February 2003 version of Chapter 8-3)
(14) Other pertinent information.

8-3-98 **Primary Election Preceding General Election**

(a) A primary election shall be held at least four weeks before the general election. A primary election will be held in the Nespelem, Inchelium and Omak districts only if there are more than two certified candidates for each numbered position (from those districts) and in the Keller district only if there are more than two certified candidates from that district.

(b) In the primary election for each voting district, the two candidates receiving the most votes in each numbered position in Nespelem, Inchelium and Omak districts shall qualify as candidates for the general election, and the two candidates receiving the most votes in the Keller district shall qualify as candidates for the general election. In the event of a tie between candidates, in the primary election, for a vacant general election ballot position, those candidates will advance to the general election, even if the number of candidates for that general election, exceeds two for each position in the Nespelem, Inchelium and Omak districts, or exceeds two for the Keller district.

(c) Only candidates qualifying for the general election via the primary election shall appear on the final election ballot.

(d) The certification of the primary election shall be the same as the certification of general election where such certification procedures are applicable and relevant in section 8-3-104.

8-3-99 **Election Day Procedures**

(a) Indoctrination by the District Election Board Chairpersons.

(b) Election Staff shall be in the Tribal Office no later than 7:30 a.m.

(c) The Election Coordinator shall notify the District Election Board Chairpersons of any additional absentee ballot requests.

(d) The District Election Board members, including alternates shall arrive at their designated polling place no later than 7:30 a.m.

(e) The District Election Board members shall prepare the polling place to include display of U.S. flag, setting up tables, booths, ballot box, poll and tally sheet.

(f) Polling places will opens at 8:00 a.m.

(g) Eligible voters must be visibly identified by a District Election Board member or show valid identification and be listed as an eligible voter from that district.

(h) The ballots of all persons who are voting for the first time shall be treated as contested ballots to insure that first time voters vote only once and in one district.

(i) Allow orderly, secret voting to proceed.

(j) Allow eligible voters to cast their vote and where there is doubt, allow the voter to cast a contested vote (i.e. allow him to vote and seal his vote in an envelope with the District Election Board writing the voter's name and the reason for contesting the vote, on the outside envelope).

(k) Any voter who was sent an absentee ballot, and for whatever reason state that they have not voted in...
(l) Sergeant-at-arms will maintain order and call upon the enforcement officer when it is considered necessary for assistance.

(m) District Election Board members may take coffee, smoke, and lunch breaks providing that they remain in the polling place if "workload" permits.

(n) No activity other than elections will be allowed in the assigned polling places.

(o) District Election Board members will not divulge any election information except through official channels.

(p) Polls close at 8:00 p.m.

(q) Persons waiting in line to vote at 8:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

(r) Doors shall be locked and only District Election Board members and enforcement officers shall be present while vote count is being certified, and no interruptions shall be tolerated (i.e. phone calls, visitors).

(s) Certification sheets shall be accurately filled out and signed and shall include the following:

(1) Total number of ballots cast;
(2) Number of invalid votes;
(3) Number of contested votes; and
(4) Number of valid votes each candidate received.

District Election Board members must sign the certification of poll vote results.

(t) The District Election Board Chairperson will verbally relay the certified results to the Election Staff.

(u) The District Election Board Chairperson is responsible to secure the ballot box with a copy of the poll vote results, ballots and their assigned keys locked inside.

(v) The District Election Chairperson and the enforcement officer must escort the secured locked ballot box and hand carry the original certification of poll votes to the Election Staff located in the main tribal building.

(w) The Election Coordinator is responsible the following:

(1) Make periodic calls to each polling place throughout the day to check status;
(2) Preparing and distributing the certified results; and
(3) Locking and securing all ballot boxes.

Certification of Poll Votes

(a) The District Election Board members will verify and certify the results of the poll votes for their district.

(b) The Election Coordinator will prepare the poll vote results for the Election Committee and the BIA Superintendent to officially sign and approve the written statement of the results.

8-3-100

Certification of Poll Votes

(a) The District Election Board members will verify and certify the results of the poll votes for their district.

(b) The Election Coordinator will prepare the poll vote results for the Election Committee and the BIA Superintendent to officially sign and approve the written statement of the results.
(c) The certification of poll vote results will take place on the first working day following the election.

(d) The certified poll votes will remain separate from the absentee ballots until the certification of official returns is complete.

(Section 8-3-100 Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-106)

8-3-101 Contested Ballots

(a) During the count, the following categories shall be deemed contested ballots:

1. Eligible eighteen (18) year olds voting for the first time;
2. Eligible voters who are voting at a polling place and who have already requested an absentee ballot;
3. Eligible voters with a name change not listed on the poll book;
4. All ballots containing markings that are not in accordance with voting instructions, (which shall be processed pursuant to section 8-3-104);
5. All ballots where the eligibility of the voter could not previously be determined; and
6. All other ballots determined by the Election Staff to be contested.

(b) The contested ballots will be placed in an envelope. The voter's name and the reason for contesting the ballot will be written on the outside sealed envelope.

(c) The Election Committee will determine which contested ballots are valid or invalid the first Thursday following the poll place votes as stated in section 8-3-104(b) and will be recorded accordingly.

(Amended 12/22/98, Resolution 1998-910)

(d) Contested ballots declared invalid will remain sealed.

(Section 8-3-101 Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-107)

8-3-102 Grievance Procedures

(a) An election grievance concerns the manner in which the Colville Tribes administers and conducts any election. Only documented, written, signed statements filed with the Elections Office will cause an election grievance to be acted upon by the Elections Coordinator or the Election Committee. The Election Coordinator will receive and decide all minor (misspelling, addresses, and procedural) grievances within eight (8) working hours of receipt.

(Amended 2/21/85, Resolution 1985-73)
(Certified 3/26/85)

(b) Any grievant not satisfied with the decision of the Election Coordinator may appeal in writing to the Election Committee within eight (8) working hours of receiving the Election Coordinator's decision by filing a written appeal with the Elections Office.

(c) The Election Committee will use the procedures in this section to determine the disposition of all minor election grievances that are appealed from the Election Coordinator and all other grievances concerning the election, except those which use the procedures set forth in section 8-3-95. Except as provided in Article I, Section 4 of the Colville Tribal By-Laws, all decisions of the Election Committee are final.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-114)
Deleted 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-113
(Amended 1/9/03, Resolution 2003-10)
(Certified 1/10/03)

(d) All grievances which may affect the final vote count of the primary, general, or special elections that were not resolved prior to the commencement of the certification process must be properly presented to the Election Staff, the Election Committee and the BIA Superintendent prior to the official certification of the results. Grievances affecting poll votes must be received not later than one (1) hour prior to commencement of the official certification process for poll votes, and grievances affecting absentee votes must be received not later than one (1) hour prior to the commencement of the official certification process for absentee votes. Grievances filed after the certification process has commenced will not be considered.

(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-114)
(Section 8-3-102 Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-108)

(Febuary 2003 version of Chapter 8-3)
(e) The Elections Committee may hold a hearing on any election grievance. In the event a hearing is held, it will be for the purpose of determining the facts of any grievance, and the Committee may request any person with relevant information to testify before it. All candidates who may be affected by the grievance shall have a right to attend any such hearing, and may appear in person or by proxy. Candidates shall be given notice of such a hearing by phone call to the candidate's listed number or contact, and by mail if time allows. It is the responsibility of each candidate to provide the Election Coordinator with the candidate's current address and telephone number.

(f) Any grievance which will not affect the final vote count may be addressed by the Election Committee at any time, including after the date of the election.

(g) All grievances presented to the Committee will be listed by the Election Staff and published in the Tribal Tribune issue next following the primary and general election.

8-3-103 Certification of Absentee Votes
The Election Staff, Election Committee, the BIA Superintendent and designated staff shall count and certify the results of the absentee votes and shall immediately provide the Election Staff with a signed written statement of the results of the absentee and poll vote count.

8-3-104 Certification Procedures
(a) The Election Committee and the BIA Superintendent shall insure that proper procedure is followed including the following:

(1) Determine first if any grievances have been filed prior to the commencement of the certification process. If so, the grievance will be resolved before proceeding;

(2) Insure that candidates are allowed to observe the certification proceedings (vote count);

(3) Any district may be chosen by the Election Committee to be counted first or second or third or last;

(4) Contested votes will be ruled upon first, and only the approved ballots (yet unopened) will be placed with the unopened absentee ballots;

(5) Those ballots that are declared invalid by the Election Committee will be returned to the Election Coordinator (immediately) for disposition and will remain unopened;

(6) The returned absentee ballot envelopes and the contested ballot envelopes will be counted to ensure the total number of envelopes match the number indicated by election records;

(7) After counting the envelopes the Election Staff will open the outer envelopes and remove and shuffle the inner envelopes.

(8) Insure that each envelope contains only one ballot. Where envelopes contain more than one ballot, those ballots will be invalidated. (Note: By this time inner envelopes and ballots have already lost their identity);

(9) Outer envelopes that do not contain the inner (ballot) envelope will be set aside until instruction is received from the Election Committee. The inner (ballot) envelopes will be counted and shuffled to lose identity.
(10) Inner (ballot) envelopes are opened and ballots are removed.

(11) Ballots are unfolded (face down) and counted. (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-118)

(12) All ballots are given to an Election Staff member who will assist with reading names of the candidate who received the votes. (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-118)

(13) A person designated by the Election Committee will sit adjacent to the Election Staff member to verify the correct names are called.

(14) Each candidates' first, last, middle or nick-name will be read clearly to avoid confusion of names that may sound the same. (Amended 12/22/98, Resolution 1998-906)

(15) The Election Committee will designate a tally person to visibly keep “tally” on the chalkboard placing a “tick mark” each time the candidate's name has been called. (Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-118)

(16) The tally person will call out “tally” each time a candidate receives a fifth mark or multiple thereof. Tally will also be kept by the Election Committee and the BIA Superintendent. (Amended 12/22/98, Resolution 1998-904)

(17) The election Committee member or the BIA Superintendent may request a tally check, that the count be slower or a recount of the total tally.

(18) Periodic pauses will be taken in the count to allow persons involved to remain alert and ready, and to insure that all persons agree to the chalkboard count. (Amended 12/22/98, Resolution 1998-903)

(19) A different vote count by any of the Election Committee members or the BIA Superintendent will cause the ballots to be recounted. (Amended 12/22/98, Resolution 1998-902)

(20) Ballots that contains markings other than or in addition to those authorized by the voting instructions shall be reviewed by the Election Committee for validation or invalidation. Each Election Committee member shall audibly vote on each ballot in question. (Amended 12/22/98, Resolution 1998-901)

(21) After the last ballot has been counted, the tally will be checked and only if each Election Committee member and the BIA Superintendent agree on the tally will those results be certified.

(22) The same procedure shall be observed by the Election Committee for all districts. (Amended 2/21/85, Resolution 1985-73)

(23) If a vote count difference of three (3) votes or less occurs between a candidate receiving the most votes and any other candidate, an immediate recount of both valid poll and valid absentee ballots is mandatory.

(24) The candidate receiving the most votes for position number one or for position number two in the Nespelem, Inchelium and Omak Districts will be elected. The candidate receiving the most votes in Keller will be elected; (Amended 1/17/91, Resolution 1991-16)

(25) In the event a tie between candidates for a vacant position occurs, a run-off election for the remaining vacant position, between only those persons receiving a tie vote, will be held within thirty (30) days.

(26) The certification forms shall immediately be filled out and signed by a quorum of the
Election Committee members and the BIA Superintendent;  
(Amended 12/22/98, Resolution 1998-900)

(27) Copies of the certified results will be made for distribution and posting and one copy will be provided to the Tribal Tribune to be placed on page one of the next edition.

(28) The Election Committee Chairperson will notify the news media of certified results.  
(Amended 2/20/97, Resolution 1997-118)

(b) All contested ballots shall be presented to the Election Committee in accordance with the certification procedure, as follow:

(1) The Election Committee shall determine by audible vote, the validity of each contested ballot. In order for a contested ballot to be deemed valid, a majority of the committee members present must vote in favor of validation.

(2) In determining whether to validate ballots containing marks that are not in conformity with the written voting instructions the committee members shall vote to validate such ballots only when they find that the voter's marking of the ballot clearly and unambiguously indicates the intent of the voter.

(3) All ballots containing markings indicating a vote for more than one candidate in a single position shall be invalidated.

(4) All ballots containing the signature or printed name of the voter shall be invalidated.

(5) The Election Committee shall rule on all contested ballots prior to final certification of the election.

(Section 8-3-104 Amended 2/7/02, Resolution 2002-110)

8-3-105 Oath of Office

(a) The council-elect shall be officially sworn in and seated in the Colville Business Council on the second Thursday in July.

(b) The following Oath of Office shall be administered by the BIA Superintendent of the Colville Indian Agency:

I ____, do solemnly swear and affirm that as an elected representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and in performing the duties I am about to assume as a member of the Colville Business Council, I recognize and respect and will uphold and defend the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and to the extent applicable the United States Constitution; that I will work for the best interests of the Confederated Tribes and its members in all matters at all times without prejudice and partiality; that I am bound by and will follow the Council Code of Professional Responsibility and that at all times my conduct will comport with the standards of conduct and behavior befitting a tribal leader as set forth in the Council Code.

(Amended 3/7/96, Resolution 1996-104)

(Certified 11/20/00)

8-3-106 Forms Used in Tribal Election

(a) Schedule of events;
(b) Petition sign-out sheet;
(c) Petition;
(d) Certification of candidates;
(e) Absentee ballot request;
(f) Candidates' furnished postcard;
(g) Tribal Tribune absentee request;
(h) Individual letters;
(i) Official ballot;
(j) Sample ballot;
(k) Change of district request;
(l) Instruction to voters;

(February 2003 version of Chapter 8-3)
(m) Inner-brown (ballot) envelope;
(n) Outer-white (ballot) envelope;
(o) Mailing envelope;
(p) 3x5 card for alphabetical listing of absentee voters;
(q) Inventory of ballot boxes;
(r) Time/mileage sheets for District Election Board;
(s) District Election Board certification of poll vote;
(t) Election Committee certification of poll vote;
(u) Election Committee/Superintendent certification of election;
(v) Listing voters by district and year.

(Amended 12/17/98, Resolution 1998-899)
(Amended 12/17/98, Resolution 1998-898)
(Chapter 8-3 Adopted 2/17/81, Resolution 1981-133)
(Revised 2/6/84)