

# 2018 Candidate for District I Representative

Shane Drift



Boozhoo! My name is Shane Drift, I am running for District I Representative. I am humbly asking you for your support and vote in the up and coming general election on Tuesday, September 18th, 2018. I am for an open, fair, and transparent tribal government. I'm a single father with two wonderful children. I work full time for the tribe. I serve with our Ambulance Service going on seven (7) years. I also serve with our Fire Department over twenty five (25) years. It would be an honor to serve you at the new District I Representative.

I am for lowering the high salaries and putting the salaries to reflect the positions of our tribal government. If I am elected, I will work with the other tribal council members on building a healthy financial reserve. We also need to set aside monies so that the reservation tribal government employees receive their yearly pay raises. We also need to look at raising the minimum wage.

If I am elected, I will work with the other tribal council members on addressing our drug problems here on the reservation. We need to help our band members that are addicted to meth, opiates, and heroin. Some band members shared stories of people's homes being broken into because they were after pills and /or they stole their stuff. Band members finding needles at the park we need to strengthen our tribal codes. I would propose that the tribe remodel our court system after the wellness court system in Grand Rapids.

If I am elected, I will work with the other tribal council members to ensure we continue funding our urban offices in Minneapolis and Duluth. We also need to set monies aside so that our band members can vote at the Minneapolis and Duluth urban offices in the 2020 election.

The elderly needs program and emergency funds program are currently out of funds. If I am elected, I will work with the other tribal council members to make sure that the elderly needs programs and the emergency funds program does not run out of fund in the future.

We need to sit down with our youth and see what they would like to see here on the reservation. Some may want a boxing club, film and computer class, language and culture club. We also need to set aside money so that the tribe can hire more summer youth workers.

Once we become financial secure we also need to look creating our own "Bois Forte Veterans Program". The Veterans Program would be available to assist our Veterans financially. We would sit down with our Veterans and create a Bois Forte Veteran's program.

We need to start working on becoming self sufficient by creating new businesses. I know that the tribe did try and create new businesses and lost millions of dollars. They had the right idea unfortunately they bought into the wrong businesses. If I am elected, I would like to put any new business ideas before the band members to review, ask questions, and give final approval.

Blood quantum, we need to come together and decide what we want to do regarding the blood quantum, we need to come together and decide what we want to do regarding the blood

quantum. If we decide we want to include other tribes, we also need to include descendants. Sooner or later each of our families will be at the point where our children, grand children, or great grand children will not be able to be enrolled. Bois Forte could make a proposal to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), that the MCT needs to include other tribes and add descendants. If the MCT does not for this then Bois Forte could make a second proposal that each individual tribe be allowed to create their own criteria regarding blood quantum. The blood quantum is working against us, let's make it work for us.

We need to protect our treaty rights and the 1854 treaty area. I am against mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) which is located within the 1854 treaty area. Once the state of Minnesota lets a new mining company set up shop then another mining company will come in and then another. Once the mine closes its doors the jobs will end and they will move on with their huge profits. And all they will leave behind is the pollution for us to deal with. Our per capita payments come from the fishing licenses sold in the 1954 treaty area. Once the mine moves on and leaves the pollution behind. It will only be a matter of time before pollution seeps into the water, rivers, streams, and pollute the surrounding are. I would hate to see the number of fishing licenses drop because of the pollution. Is this a chance we want to take? I know I wouldn't want to take that chance. Some may say that I am blowing things out of prortion, I say better safe than sorry. We need to protect the 1854 treaty area.

I am in favor of casino payments. We would need to put I to a referendum vote. If the bois forte band members voted in favor of casino payments. We would then need to go through the process of getting approval. Once approved, we would need to

agree on an amount. Let's say we agreed on \$200.00, so that's 3600 band members x \$200.00 = \$720,000.00. Plus we need to consider the taxes. We put money into an account (account A and Account B) until we reached \$46,000,000.00. We could give our casino payments of \$200.00 for five (5) years. Once we're done using account A then we start using Account B, while putting money back into Account A. Please keep in mind that this is just an example.

I am also in favor of bringing back the Elders committee and have the Elders committee be a part of the council meetings. We also need to bring back our language and culture program/position. We also need to bring back our traditional round house and water drum ceremonies. I support anything that pertains to our language, culture, traditions, and way of life.

If you have any questions please call me on my cell phone at 1-218-750-2552. You can also message me on Facebook. Let's come together and start building a better and brighter future. Vote Shane Drift District I Representative on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Respectfully,  
Shane Drift, Candidate for District I Representative - Bois Forte  
Reservation