

SUMMARY REPORT

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe MCT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MEETING #1

August 21-22, 2017 | Onamia, MN

Facilitated by: The Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona
Joan Timeche, Executive Director
Lindsay Riggs, Tribal Services Program Coordinator
Danielle Hiraldo, Outreach Specialist/Senior Researcher

Sponsored by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Native Governance Center



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MCT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MEETING #1

Presented and Facilitated by the Native Nations Institute
University of Arizona
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Onamia, Minnesota | August 21-22, 2017

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) hosted a series of community meetings beginning August 2017. This report is a summary of the first gathering held in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) community on August 21-22, 2017. The meetings were intended to provide the MCT members/citizens educational information on the existing MCT constitution and begin the process for its revision.

Day 1 | Monday, August 21, 2017

Location: Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel

Day 1, August 21, 2017, started at 12:30pm with an opening prayer by Joe Nayquonabe, Sr. Mille Lacs Chairwoman Melanie Benjamin welcomed the group and Kevin Dupuis, MCT President and Chairman of the Fond du Lac Band, provided the purpose of the meeting. President Dupuis explained that the constitutional convention was called to address questions and issues raised by MCT members. Wayne Ducheneaux II (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe), Executive Director of the Native Governance Center (NGC), introduced NGC and explained its role as a resource throughout the MCT Constitutional Convention process. Ducheneaux introduced Rebecca Crooks-Stratton (Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community), NGC's Program Director. Joan Timeche (Hopi), Executive Director of the Native Nations Institute (NNI), welcomed the group and thanked them for hosting the NNI team. Timeche explained how NNI became involved in this meeting and discussed NNI's role as facilitators for the next two days. Danielle Hiraldo (Lumbee), Outreach Specialist & Senior Researcher, and Lindsay Riggs (Navajo), Tribal Services Program Coordinator, introduced themselves to the group. Timeche reviewed the proposed agenda and discussed the format for the two-day meeting (see **Appendix A**). Ninety-three participants signed in for both days. Participants were encouraged to sign in but was optional. There were several individuals who chose not to sign in.

Riggs led **SESSION 1: THINKING STRATEGICALLY ABOUT MCT'S FUTURE** exercise. Participants formed small groups and were instructed to individually complete the following sentence: ***"I want my (grand)children to live in a tribal community where..."***. After writing their individual responses down, participants were asked to share their responses with their small groups. See **TABLE 1** for the individual responses. NNI categorized the responses thematically into the following:

- Safety
- Culture
- Language
- Respect for each other
- Getting rid of drugs
- Helping one another
- Unity
- Education
- Youth
- Accountability

TABLE 1. SESSION 1: THINKING STRATEGICALLY ABOUT MCT'S FUTURE: "I want my (grand)children to live in a tribal community where...."

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6	GROUP 7
Absolute power no longer corrupts.	[They have] benefits: per cap, school continued ed., housing.	[There is a] sense of belonging.	[They have] respect for each other.	[We are] getting rid of drugs.	It's safe.	Blood quantum doesn't dictate if you belong. Where we don't allow bad federal policy to determine our identity and take away our ancestry.
We are governed by leaders who work together for the good of our people.	They have positive choices.	People work together to make a good community.	Everyone respects each other.	[It is] drug-free, Jacob's law applies, registry of predatory offenders.	People are healthy.	Being Anishinaabe isn't measured by blood quantum!
Tribal Chief of Police are elected by members and Tribal Court Judges are elected by members.	That [they] have excellent employment opportunities, housing, and resources such as MLBO offers.	They are safe, empowered, and are able to learn our culture and language. Where they can be productive, thrive and be happy, work for the tribe and feel a part of the tribe. Where they can voice their opinions without fear of what is said. Be able to speak their minds respectfully to future leaders and be treated with respect in return.	They know our language, songs, foods, and medicines.	It's drug free.	[They] grow up strong and healthy, drug free and smart.	The community is drug free, where everyone knows our culture and can speak the language. A community that recognizes our people not by a blood quantum but by their contributions to their family and community.
There are good positive leaders that keep our communities safe and cohesive (together).	They can receive the best education and healthcare available.	We are one people again!	Ojibwe language is the 1 st language and each member knows and practices our teachings and values.	Drugs are unacceptable.	[They are] safe.	They're recognized as enrolled members and have the same benefits as all members.
[They are] empowered Anishinaabé/Ojibwé! With no need of	They are accepted, supported, and protected.	All members work together with a common goal to do the best for all	People are practicing and learning our language & culture	There is not a drug or alcohol problem.	[There is a] safe environment.	Enrollment: [They] count all blood; ed. and health: [there is] complete

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GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6	GROUP 7
outside Native (Bush) Nations Builders.		members of our tribe (equality).				coverage; land: [we] regain; language.
Is our government the model T version and when will it be updated to reflect today?	They have opportunity to engage in language, ceremony, and cultural activities.	1) They are safe & secure; 2) A good education is available (the ability to think!); 3) They are taught our history, culture, religion, language; 4) They learn to be leaders.	They will grow up rich in tradition. Where we can all live in peace and not have to worry about choosing a side.	[They are] drug-free.	[They are] safe from harm; grow into a better community; [can] pursue higher education.	LLBO enrollment criteria are based on s.t. other than BQ.
[It is] free of tribal corruption.	Natural resources are abundant, cared for, accessible; environment is important.	Everyone is involved in the community.	ALL adults help with the raising, mentoring, and teaching of our culture, traditions, and ceremonies to help carry these important ways given to our people.	[We are a] drug free community, lateral violence free community.	We can all get along with everyone and not be afraid to walk our own streets because of the drugs/ alcohol/etc.	There is trust in leadership, where our culture and teachings are readily available, and where they can be proud of the people who came before them.
[There are] new laws of enrollment. We are [missing word] the old ways yet.	They have employment options.	There is peace.	People are treated with respect, care, and dignity. The community is healthy.	[There are] no drugs!!! No violence.	Healthy recreational opportunities exist and are accessed; education and economic opportunities are accessible.	They feel safe and are proud of where they come from. That they grow with knowledge of customs and language. That all members and their families are recognized for their Indian blood, no matter their quantum level.
They feel free to participate with their tribal government.	They have abundant natural resources and access to them.	People are responsible for their own lives; our community is not band enablers. [We have] responsible adults.	[They are] respectful.	[We] eliminate the drug dealers who are harming us and especially our children.	There is peace, safety, a healthy environment, justice for all and prosperity for all.	Our values and principles - seven grandfather teachings - permeate the community so that our future

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6	GROUP 7
						generations will grow and thrive as Anishinaabeg in a positive way.
The community has true sovereignty and an equitable relationship with other national governments, especially the United States. I want our communities to be self-sustaining and sustainable with continued high value on cultural preservation and environmental stewardship.	[There is] affordable/adequate housing.	We welcome, accept, and love all. They don't become reliant on technology and material things; <u>live</u> our values; respect elders and each other.	Our Anishinaabe values resonate.	[We are] drug free.	They are/feel safe to be Indian.	[There is] justice.
My grandchildren can make their own decisions on where they want to live, but I would like them to come here and live in District III with me. But, I see much trouble for them as they are white, native, black.	We can own a home and take good care and [do] maintenance ourselves.	Everyone actively participated in the community.	[They] respect one another; that we are looking out for the future generations, not just here and now.	[There is] no drug abuse.	[There is] a happy and helpful community - not afraid of surrounding.	[They] retain our traditional values and spirituality.
Foster care is not needed.	We can have good health and dental coverage.	[There are] recreational opportunities: cultural activities, immersion schools, quality health/dental care, quality education.	[They are] respectful, law abiding, accountability, parental involvement (accountability).	[There is] no drugs and violence.	Gender equity is practiced/ active; meaningful employment opportunities. Mancomin is healthy & sustained.	[There is] tribal unity -local and nationally.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6	GROUP 7
[There is] no foster care.	[They] grow up in a tribal community where their parents and grandparents protected them and made decisions so they can prosper as Natives.	We have no more poverty and hunger.	There is equal opportunity to live without fear of violence and drugs while proudly speaking and living our culture and language.	[We are a] drug free community; the protections for my great grandchildren/ grandchildren to not be exposed to these drugs that are very dangerous.	Anywhere they would like to live and only if the community is safe! We have to learn to get along with different people. As it is a mixture in the world. I hate to hear that they can't get along with the whites!	[They] respect.
[We] teach our youth/membership about our government and constitution.	My children's children know where they come from and proud of being Native.	Education - Ojibwe culture, language as well as technical college [is available].	[There is] understanding.	[We are] drug-alcohol free.	[They] respect - law, police, elders, each other and be an example; [are] treating others as they would like to be treated themselves.	[They are] self-sufficient.
They are well educated, rich in culture and successful.	[There is] safety, education, respect, self-worth, they help others, strive for betterment of community.	They are safe and growing as confident and proud Anishinaabe children. A place where the welfare of your family and community comes first. A place where culture and the lessons of our ancestors' help shape us, and our future generations. A place where our lands, our resources, and each other are respected and appreciated.	The water is clean and winter's [left blank].	We should be drug free on all our reservations.	Our elected officials can get along, support each other instead of bickering; [are] free of the drugs/alcohol; culture is important and language is important.	I want my grandkids to know this is where their family lived-walked-rode around. I want them to be safe and happy.
Traditions, culture, and language are valued.	Equality thrives.	Our voices matter.	[They] know and understand their identity.	Drugs are [not] tearing families apart.	Adults/people are self-sufficient.	[There are] individual responsibilities for each.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6	GROUP 7
[There is] equality.	[They know] culture, language, [are] drug free, and know your clan roll.	[They know our] language.	We pass on lessons about love, forgiveness, and healthy relationships, NOT those of (historical) trauma and abuse.	Ojibwemowin is known, understood, and spoken in all arenas of decision-making.	Individuals are socially responsible.	[There is a] good way of life.
			[They] keep the culture alive, learn the language, do traditional ceremonies, get along with others, and don't abuse your elders and one another.			

Timeche asked the participants what was missing from the responses. The participants stated they did not hear the following:

- Hunting, fishing and gathering (upheld by 1854 treaty)
- Parental accountability and involvement in their own families to start with
- Clean water
- Teach our young men to be domestic violence free, there's too much hatred across our reservations and men abusing females; we have to stop that. "Women are made for kissing, not hitting."
- Teach our youth and kids about tribal government. We don't learn about tribal government in our schools (K-12) even when we are the dominant population.
- Teach the sacredness of women, we have to model equality.
- Concerning the MCT constitution process, there is no accountability in our elected officials. It is difficult to remove folks who are doing bad; I hope to find a simpler mechanism to recall officials (Article 5 and 6) who are not upholding their responsibilities.

Hiraldo presented **SESSION 2: GOVERNMENT & CONSTITUTIONS: WHAT THEY ARE, DO, & LOOK LIKE ACROSS INDIAN COUNTRY**. She began by asking the participants how they governed prior to adopting a written constitution. Participants discussed the concept of hereditary chiefs in their communities, spokespersons, clans, to name a few. The presentation acknowledged that governance is an Indigenous tradition; reviewed traditional Indigenous governing systems, contemporary structures, and the role constitutions play in governing.

Timeche then presented NNI's and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development research findings during **SESSION 3: WHY ARE SOME NATIVE NATIONS MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN OTHERS**. It included a short video that reviewed the five principles of Native Nation Building and provided foundational information for the next small group discussion. The principles include: (1) practical self-rule (sovereignty); (2) capable governing institutions; (3) cultural match (institutions match community beliefs about authority); (4) strategic orientation (long-term vision and decision-making); and (5) public-spirited leadership (leaders bring the community into their thinking and actions). This approach is known as the "Native Nation Building Approach".

After the presentation, Timeche facilitated a discussion on the topic of big-picture suggestions to changing the MCT constitution. The participants were again asked to respond individually and then in small groups discuss their responses. NNI recorded the individual responses and categorized them thematically (see **TABLE 2**). The categories included:

- Enrollment
- Creating six autonomous bands outside of the MCT
- Separation of powers
- Removal of the Secretary of Interior approval clause
- The need for a decision to be made to separate from the MCT or not
- Representation and elections
- Things to consider when discussing the status of MCT and the separate bands (identifying specific suggestions)
- Begin a constitutional reform process and rewrite the MCT constitution
- Discuss who has the power to interpret the MCT constitution
- Land

There were three responses that did not fit into any of the aforementioned broad themes. Those responses are listed under the heading "Parking Lot" after Table 2. One of the responses was written in Ojibwe/Anishinaabe. Instead of interpreting it, NNI took a picture of the response and included it.

TABLE 2. What suggestions do you have in changing the MCT Constitution?

Enrollment	Six Autonomous Bands	Separation of Powers	Secretary of Interior Clause Removal	Make a Decision: Separate or Not from MCT	Representation & Elections	Things to Consider	Start Over	Who Interprets?	Land
Enrollment: count all blood (tribal).	Separate sovereignty for each Band.	Separation of powers.	Remove Department & Secretary of Interior from constitution.	We all working together.	Tribal population is unequal and smaller tribes are overrun.	Inform tribal members "what is a constitution." A lot are not informed or understand the MCT constitution.	Change everything! Throw it out and start over (written by Anishinaabeg for Anishinaabeg). Option of other Anishinaabe nations to join.	Clearer MCT interpretations.	Land: Back to the tribe who's land it is on.
Inclusive of all Anishinaabe ancestry.	Encourage & allow each (6) bands to self-govern through enrollments, elections, land (more like Mille Lacs w/ separation of powers).	Separation of powers.	Take out Secretary of Interior from constitution.	Unify 6 bands: preamble reuse & include a short statement regarding unifying together.	Allow representatives to decide the size of their councils.	How to get federal recognition.	A constitution that is based on our Ojibwe values - culture based.	Interpretation by independent body. Supreme Court made up of Band members.	Clarify who has ownership of lands & rights of lands.
Enrollment: if mother is enrolled, then children should be enrolled.	Each band should develop their own type of government.	3 tier government/ separation of powers: clarification of election ordinances.	Removal of clause requiring U.S. Secretary of Interior approval.	What's the purpose of MCT? Unity. Not tell each other what to do, but harmony.	Creating representative seats in each band that reflects by population.	If we disband from MCT (extermination) , are we opening up to have federal government not recognize each individual band?	Do away with Constitution & write our own Native specific- not similar- make our own original "Native" specific constitution written by Natives.	Clarify removal process-define 2/3 vote- to say "at least 2/3 vote"	Heirship property issues.
Enrollment & blood quantum - inclusive of all Anishinaabe.	Each of the 6 inherent governments should	Establish an appeal process.			Election ordinance: clarification on	Consider cost of change.			MCT land on individual reservations .

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Enrollment	Six Autonomous Bands	Separation of Powers	Secretary of Interior Clause Removal	Make a Decision: Separate or Not from MCT	Representation & Elections	Things to Consider	Start Over	Who Interprets?	Land
Audit of rolls.	determine their own form of governance.				how one is certified.				
Change enrollments to include all Indian blood.	Further definition of each separate government entity. Clearer definition of authority.	Separation of Power: 3 branches		Constitution (MCT) is a barrier to self-governance.	Review representation for each tribe at MCT level.	Study other Constitutions out there – 4 to 5- some are good- tribe in Florida- 163 pages long to as short as 8 pages. 10-25 [pages] happy balance.			
Enrollment includes all Ojibwe blood.	Each tribal government have the right to govern their own tribe & structure as each see fit.	Allow for Separation of Powers with authorization to create a judiciary authority.		Formulate separation of 6 Bands or remain as one (Referendum for people's decision)	Election ordinance & sovereignty at tribal level.				

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Enrollment	Six Autonomous Bands	Separation of Powers	Secretary of Interior Clause Removal	Make a Decision: Separate or Not from MCT	Representation & Elections	Things to Consider	Start Over	Who Interprets?	Land
Need to discuss the membership.	Consensus of our table of 5. We are in agreeance that it would be better for each Band to have the decision if they want separation of powers. We, the Mille Lacs Band membership, would like to break away from the MCT.	Create a way to address MCT constituent complainants and resolve.		Get rid of RBC model - or keep each band to self-determine.	Discuss term limits.				
Enrollment: blood quantum; audit of rolls	Larger tribes vs. smaller tribes-ability to do what we want \$\$-wise, we are not equal.	Clearly define authorities of committees: TEC, RBC		Leave the decision of separation of powers up to their band members not up to an RBC.	Need more elected officials; five is too small.				
Family choice of where to enroll, which band we identify with.	Vote to allow MLB to separate from MCT.			Sub-committees, not elected official helping MCT issues.	Open to make revisions. WE wrote own constitution.				
Create other avenues for membership other than blood quantum. Examples: participation in	Dissolution of MCT and replacement with voluntary and cooperative coalition of all Minnesota								

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Enrollment	Six Autonomous Bands	Separation of Powers	Secretary of Interior Clause Removal	Make a Decision: Separate or Not from MCT	Representation & Elections	Things to Consider	Start Over	Who Interprets?	Land
community, siblings enrolled, etc.	Anishinaabe tribes that is organized without the interference of federal law.								
Enrollment: Blood quantum, separate band standards.	What works for one Band doesn't mean it works for all 6 Bands. We don't need the 6 other Bands to be successful.								
Membership ratified - "scholars" well written document. Look at it.									
Where are we going in 50 years? Will we exist as Ojibwe unless we change criteria enrollment?									
Enrollment process.									

“Parking Lot” of topics that participants want to discuss:

- Confused why is this happening
- Safety/regulate of tribal lands.

ke ge apane ji-gagwe-
minji mendamang ;
endase-giizhuk ; iw
niigaani - ukidowin
ezhi bii'igaadeg imaa
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The first day ended with small group reports of the participants' table discussions. Some of the participants were pleased with the afternoon discussions; while others were cautious about the format and having outsiders facilitate the meeting.

Day 2 | Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Location: Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel

Day 2 began with a welcome from NNI Facilitator Timeche and review of the day's proposed agenda. She explained that NNI created a brief survey to assess participant knowledge and understanding of the MCT Constitution and to offer another option to provide input. The survey was distributed at the beginning of the day. An empty box was available for participants to submit their completed surveys. After the announcement, the agenda continued with the scheduled session.

MCT Counsel Phil Brodeen (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa) presented **SESSION 4: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MCT & CURRENT STRUCTURE**. The presentation covered the history of the MCT Constitution, the powers and duties of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) and Reservation Business Committees (RBC), and the constitution's day-to-day operations (Administration, Education, Finance, Human Services departments).

Following Brodeen's presentation some participants expressed concerns about the format of the meeting and proposed agenda. Timeche addressed the concerns by opening discussion on an agenda format that the entire group could agree upon. Some of the discussions began to move away from how to proceed. Participants decided before the lunch break that we would continue in the group format and discuss: what's working and what's not working with the MCT Constitution.

Timeche began **SESSION 5, ROUND 1: HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN THE MCT & BAND GOVERNMENTS?** asking the participants to think about **what's working** within the existing MCT constitution. Participants worked individually and discussed their responses within their assigned small groups. Discussion transitioned into **SESSION 5, ROUND 2: HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN THE MCT & BAND GOVERNMENTS?** using the same individual response to small group process by prompting the participants to consider **what's NOT working** within the existing MCT constitution.

Groups reported their findings. The list below is the summary reported by a representative of each group. Individual responses are documented in **TABLE 3**.

- **Group 1:**
 - Process: There is friction going on in the room; we are going a little fast and need more education; communication with membership is filtered and are snippets; facilitation process is appreciated and gives everyone an opportunity to share.
 - *What's working*: What are they doing? There's strength in numbers, collectively 40,000 members, we're not sure if MCT takes advantage of that in terms of lobbying on behalf of the whole; provide the exercises through the website or social media; Mille Lacs took the constitution to the community.
 - *What's not working*: blood quantum, tribe is being diminished; federal recognition between all 6 bands; President Trump; culture, language, traditions, and our elders need to be woven into all that we do and that we have representatives; we hold ourselves back, we don't think we can move forward as a tribe.
- **Group 2:**
 - *Working*: Zaagibagaang initiative.
 - *Not working*: MCT should do a better job of informing individual band members; current structure of each reservation having a chairman, vice, etc. doesn't work, each band needs to come up with representation; there is no enforcement, particularly Article 13.

- **Group 3:** We mostly talked about what’s *not working*: Information needs to get out; need to be clear about who’s disseminating that information, who should be doing it? The bands, tribe? MCT should take on more of those tasks, to use their resources to get education out. As band members, we do have a responsibility to engage in the process; take information as it is offered; enrollment: we agree on lineal descendancy; take a look at the Wilder Report and educate ourselves about that; local government and RBCs; need more communication and transparency, who controls the resources? If we decide to keep the constitution, it should be amended and have Anishinaabe values; look at ways that we can unite and other avenues we can take.
- **Group 4:** *Not working*: not being informed; do not understand the constitution.
- **Group 5:** *Not working*: communication between people and band members; we don’t know what the constitution says or what it means, needs more explanation; our grandchildren not being enrolled; a lot of people don’t care about the constitution.
- **Group 6:** Going through the constitution line-line and discussing as we go (a way to learn); having a team of educators and lawyers talk about the constitution (education).
- **Group 7:** Our grandchildren were a big concern, our grandchildren and great grandchildren... We don’t really understand all the rules and regulations on the constitution; we are all one - Anishinaabe; we should all stand together; and try to teach the stuff we do know. Our land, our people are important; each one of us has a different idea, but we all come from one place and we’ll all go back to one place.
- **Group 8:** Overall cooperation; each reservation has its own special needs.
- **Group 9:**
 - *Working*: Stronger voice together as MCT; the constitution brings us all together.
 - *Not working*: Grandchildren are not enrolled; agenda is not followed at TEC meetings; lack of adequate communication to all members; inclusion of all members (on and off reservation); a lot of problems but no solutions. Each band to have a more comprehensive set of discussion on the local level; pros and cons (playing out the scenario) of breaking away from the MCT.
- **Group 10:**
 - *Working*: We are federally recognized right now. In the Federal Register it lists all 6 bands individually, so are we recognized as the individual bands or as the MCT. What is the process for federal recognition?
 - *Not working*: Interpretations of the constitution, require Secretary of Interior election referendums.

TABLE 3. What’s WORKING and NOT WORKING with the existing constitution?

WHAT’S WORKING	NOT WORKING
Strength in numbers.	Blood quantum.
Opportunities to lobby.	Federal recognition.
Opportunity to hear more input/continue.	President Trump.
Mille Lacs took constitution to homes.	Culture/language/traditions not woven into everything.
Stronger voice together.	Representatives in process.
Constitution brings us together.	Hold ourselves back.
[We] are federally recognized.	Enrollment, possibly move toward lineal descent.
Continue work of Zaagibagaang.	Not following TEC agenda.
Stand up for rights of our people.	Unity for all members.
Here together talking about what’s important to us.	Lack of adequate community.
Elected officials.	Inclusion of all members.
Process.	Interpretations of constitution.

More education.	Inform members better.
Continue forward.	Current structure doesn't work.
Go through constitution line by line and learn.	No tribal court @ MCT level.
Get overall cooperation from each band, overseen by MCT.	Don't understand constitution & rules/resolutions.
Each member takes responsibility to be engaged.	Communication between band members.
Infuse constitution with traditions/culture.	Our grandchildren not being enrolled.
Consider federacy structure.	Most don't care about the constitution.
Look at ways to unite.	Things not going well for children.
Each band to discuss constitution before national.	Getting info to people, who's responsible? MCT should determine this & use their resources (live stream).
Play out pros/cons of breaking out into 6 separate entities.	Educate on Wilder Report.
Do we need MCT?	More communication, accountability, transparency in RBC & oversee representations.
Is our sovereignty in jeopardy w/recognition at MCT level?	Who controls resources?
Do we need SOI approval on everything? Or remove?	Have we decided on timeline? Who is responsible for what?

Timeche and Hiraldo co-presented **SESSION 6: STRENGTHENING OUR GOVERNMENT: HOW HAVE OTHER NATIVE NATIONS ADDRESSED THE PROCESS OF REVISING OR REFORMING THEIR CONSTITUTION?** The presentation included a brief survey of several constitutional reform process examples. The NNI facilitators concluded with a group discussion prompting the participants to provide recommendations for the MCT constitution process by utilizing the individual and small group discussion process. The responses are recorded in **TABLE 4**.

TABLE 4. Based on what we've heard and discussed today, our recommendations for continuing the MCT constitution process are...

Group	Response
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each reservation should be responsible for educating their residents line-by-line of the constitution.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue (historical) education and develop a constitution commission. Needs to be well-funded. Submit draft to TEC for approval.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Come up with how each band coming up with own constitution to meet own needs and continue to change.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From elders, questionnaire of needs assessment. Make sure everyone is aware/understands to make decisions. People are trained and fit needs of people. When people vote they are educated/understand. It's up to RBC to help us with process to understand constitution. Grandchildren need to be recognized.

Group	Response
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See background documents that participants should understand (redlined documents). • Set aside time to integrate that information into process (at band, at big gatherings, etc.). • More deep, rich, “what does this mean to us?” discussions. • Go through constitution line by line. • Discuss how to disseminate information through media and different locations.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do own discussions on each reservation because there are similar problems. • More culture stuff including in the front of the constitution.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line by line explanation to members with a legal person to explain so all understand. • Do we need MCT? • What are the pros/cons? • Cultural aspect integrated into the process. • Communication from MCT to everybody.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everybody wants to change, but nobody wants change. • Create a video on all six nations. • Create a constitution commission that generates and interprets for the people. • Bring in youth. • Create a fund for active outreach. • Allocate money to study more constitution issues. • Provide an equal voice for every tribe. • Still need to understand MCT, what they (elected officials) do today?
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline: Length of time needed. Have a goal in mind as to how long it will take. • Educate all band members (L-B-L). • Use Zaagibagaang education materials as a start. It has videos, links, and other resources about MCT.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure humor is there. • Send communication to everyone. • Educate. • Keep meeting together as members. • Cultural component needs to be added - Ojibwe. • Include history (natural order of laws, etc.). • Binding agreement (language, tradition, culture), culture and identity (what we do/not and just do), solutions in our ceremony, practice love/respect with one another.
Independent group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency in process. • Significance of MCT history and why formed. • Review local MLB statutes. • Focus on parts not working. • Creating form of education, possibly exam. • Take initiative to bring one more person. • Discuss what are the options (if any). • Need to be aware of outside political atmosphere. • Consolidating interpretation of constitution to continue education. • More education. • Diffuse the air of separation and promote unity among tribes.

Before the meeting adjourned, an individual expressed his views on the MCT constitution. He insisted that there's "nothing Ojibwe in the constitution. There's no life either. Where does the life come from? The connection to the outside world? That's where we come from: iron, copper, zinc, water. We have a constitution that is older and that connection has been broken. We going to use the pink and brown to determine this? If you want to know our culture go outside, talk to the water. We're talking from our minds and not from our hearts (love, goodness)." He then suggested everyone take tobacco and go outside and pray, which many did. Once everyone returned to the meeting room, it was agreed that was the best way to end the day and the meeting adjourned.

At the end of the session, NNI reminded participants to submit their completed surveys.

MILLE LACS BAND WRITTEN SURVEY RESULTS

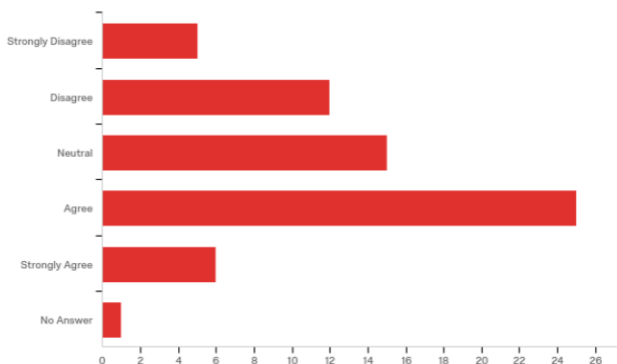
Out of 100 surveys distributed, NNI received 64 responses. The following pages include those responses and a preliminary analysis.

Note about survey: NNI distributed a paper copy to all the participants at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Constitution Convention meeting on the morning of the second day. Participants submitted their completed surveys in to box at the end of the day. NNI collected the responses and developed an online version through Qualtrics, a survey software. In order to maintain the integrity of the survey, an NNI staff member recorded the responses verbatim into the online software. Misspellings and illegible remarks are marked with [sic] and [illegible] respectfully.

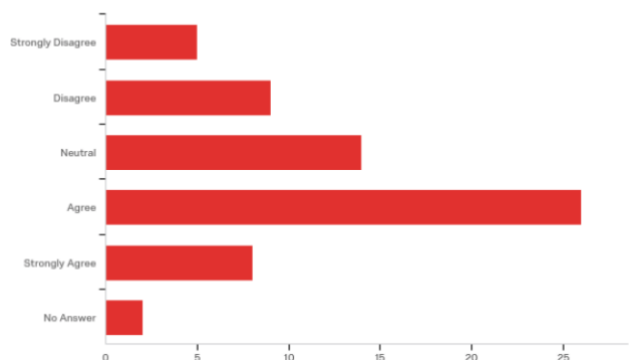
The survey was developed to assess three main categories: level of understanding, personal views, and general information. Respondents were asked to "rate each statement by circling a number between 1-5." **1 =Strongly Disagree; 2=Disagree; 3= Neutral; 4= Agree; 5= Strongly Agree**. There were two open-ended questions that focused on recommendations for specific changes to the MCT constitution.

The first set of questions (Q1-4) related to the respondent's level of understanding of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. You will notice from the following graphs that the *majority of the respondents agree that they understand the constitution; the powers of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) and Reservation Business Committees (RBCs); and the way MCT government operates.*

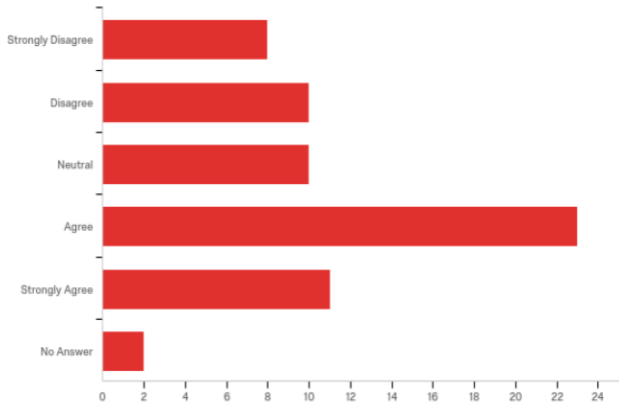
1 - I understand the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution and Bylaws.



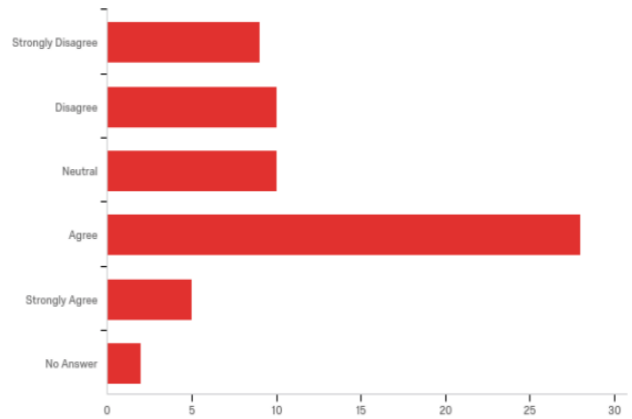
2 - I understand the powers of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC).



3 - I understand the powers of the Reservation Business Committees (RBCs).

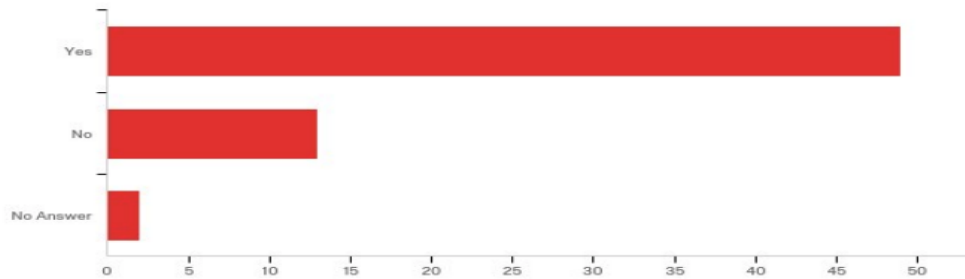


4 - I understand how the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal government operates.



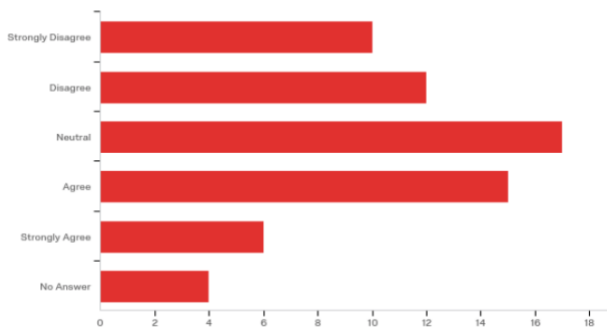
One question (Q5) was designed to inquire whether a respondent has read the MCT constitution. Of the 64 respondents, a majority 49 (76.56%) answered “yes”.

5 - I have read the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution.

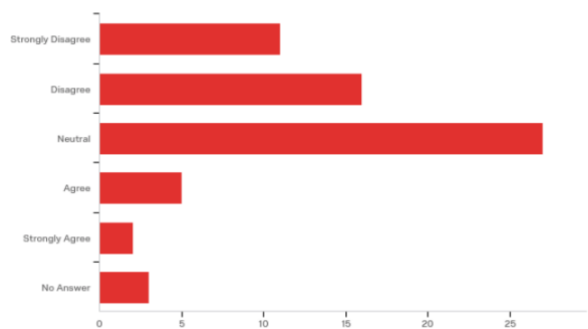


The second set of questions (Q6-9) gauge the respondents’ personal views of MCT governmental functions. These questions address the perceived notions of equity, clarity, and representation within the MCT government. The graphs below illustrate that fifteen (15) respondents “agree”, seventeen (17) chose “neutral” as their response, and twelve (12) “disagree” the MCT’s election process is fair (Q6). For question 7, twenty-seven (27) respondents were “neutral” on whether the TEC exercises power fairly, followed by sixteen (16) who “disagree” and eleven (11) who “strongly disagree” with the statement. Twenty-three (23) respondents “agree” that the qualifications to run for TEC are clear (Q8); twenty-two (22) selected “neutral” and sixteen (16) selected “agree” as their responses for whether the qualifications are adequate (Q9). Respondents appear to agree that the candidate qualifications are clear; however, equity may be a concern with the execution of such powers and authorities.

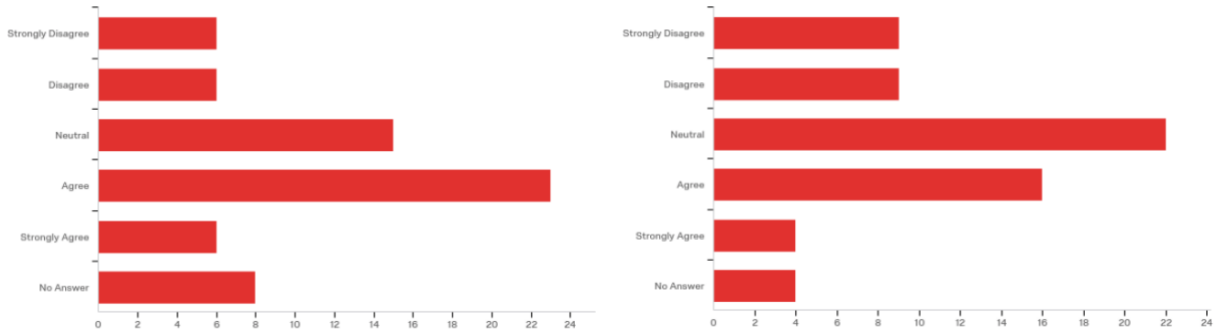
6 - The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's election process is fair.



7 - The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) exercises power fairly.



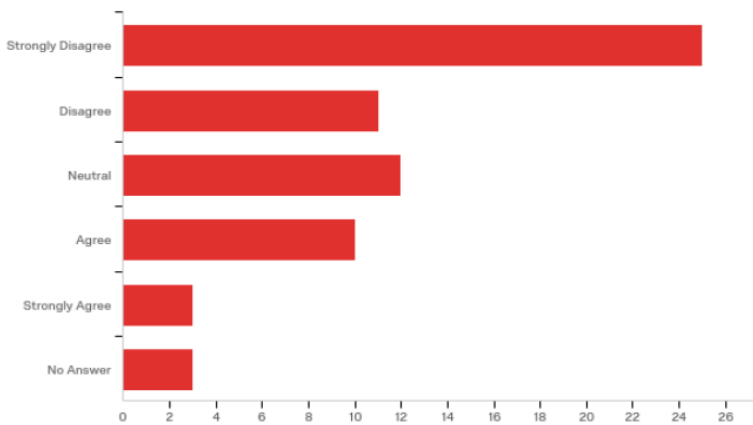
8 - The qualifications to run for the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) are clear to me. 9 - The qualifications to run for the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) are adequate.



Questions 10 was a duplicate of question 7 so no responses were recorded.

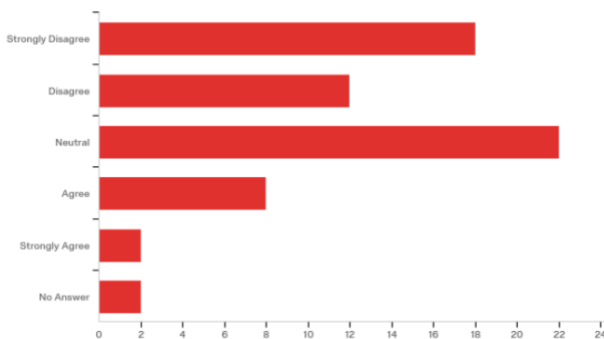
Twenty-five (25) respondents “strongly disagree” that the current MCT enrollment criteria reflect how they view themselves as Anishinaabe (Q11).

11 - Current enrollment requirements reflect how we view ourselves as Anishinaabe.

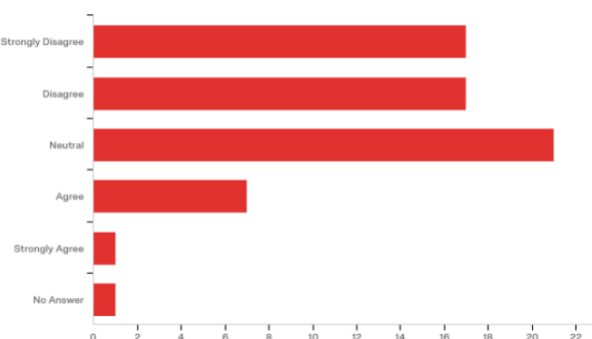


The respondents expressed the most disagreement with the questions related to representation and equity (Q12-15). Eighteen (18) respondents “strongly disagree” that the bands’ needs are equally considered, compared to twenty-two (22) “neutral” responses (Q12). Seventeen (17) respondents “strongly disagree” and seventeen (17) “disagree” that major TEC decisions include band input (Q13). Fourteen (14) “strongly disagree” and nineteen (19) “disagree” that there is ample opportunity to address concerns within the MCT government while nineteen (14) were “neutral” (Q14). Finally, seventeen (17) respondents “strongly disagree” and sixteen (16) respondents “disagree” with the statement that the MCT constitution serves the needs of the people (Q15).”

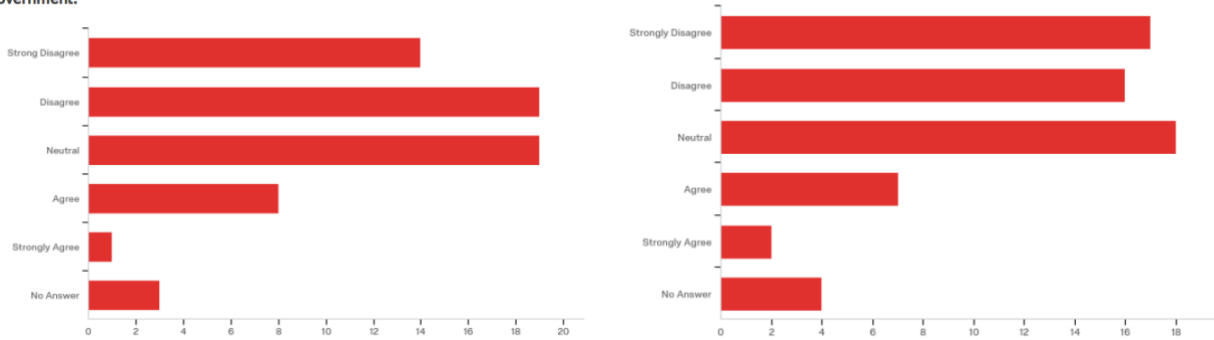
12 - The needs of each band are equally considered.



13 - Major Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) decisions include band input.

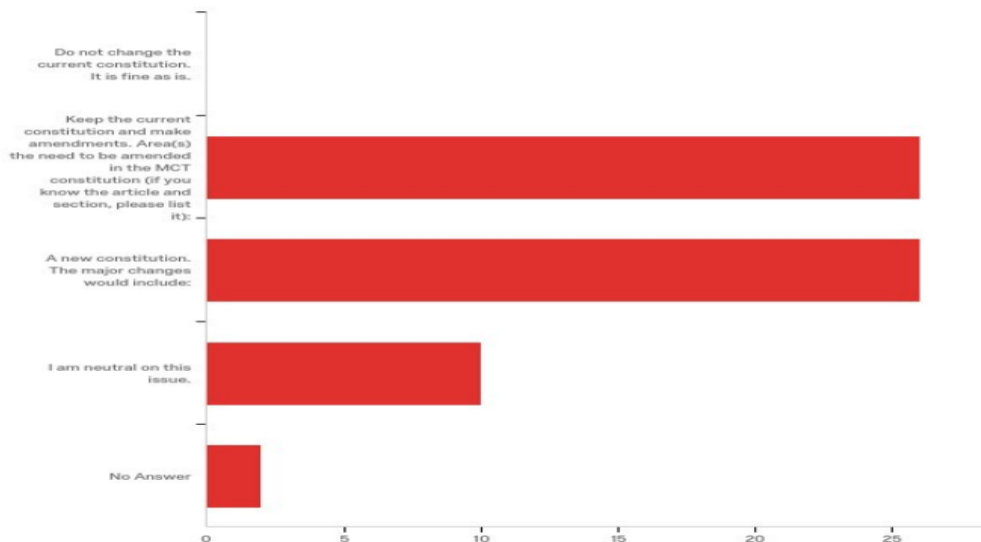


14 - There is ample opportunity to address concerns with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal 15 - The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution serves the needs of the MCT people. government.



The final set of questions seek community input on how to improve the MCT government. Respondents were asked to consider how much change they would like to see in the future (Q16). Twenty-six (26) respondents answered the question suggesting that the tribe should “keep its current constitution and make amendments” to address some of the concerns, while another twenty-six (26) responded that there should be an entirely “new constitution” written. Zero (0) respondents elected to keep the constitution the way it is currently written.

16 - In looking to the future of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal government, how much change do you think should happen?



If the respondents chose to amend the constitution or write a new one, they were prompted to write what they think needed to be amended in the existing constitution or any major changes that needed to be included in a new constitution. Comments regarding each of these are listed below.

a. Amend Existing Constitution

Out of the respondents who suggested amending the existing constitution:

- Ten (10) out of the twenty (20) responses included enrollment as an amendment within the existing constitution.
- Five (5) responses addressed the TEC’s authority to interpret the constitution.
- Five (5) responses addressed the need for education and engagement to occur if amendments will be made.
- Two (2) responses included removing the Secretary of Interior approval clause from the existing constitution.
- Other responses include:
 - “Ojibwe Values and Culture.”

- “Appeal process for membership rights.”
- “Terms limits and a court of appeals should be added into the existing constitution.”
- “Strengthen preamble, clarify TEC and individual band duplications regarding land authorities at individual rezs [sic]. Clarify relief process for person subject to removal.”
- “Article 3- Governing Body- power to the people!”
- “Elected officials to abide by oath of office.”

b. Write a New Constitution

Out of the respondents who suggested to write a new constitution:

- Six (6) out of twenty-three (23) responses discussed the need for a separation of powers.
- Five (5) responses addressed enrollment concerns.
- Other responses identified the need to incorporate Anishinaabe culture into the governing document including having an Anishinaabe person write the document (two responses).
- Three (3) suggested that powers and authorities should return to the band level.
- Two (2) responses suggested that input for the new constitution should come from MCT citizens.
- One (1) response specifically states, “Bicameral Legislative. Tribal Wide constitution and local constitutions as well. Three branches, bill of rights, mechanisms for expansion, direct election of tribal Offices and citizenship.”
- Other responses include:
 - “For bands members if you are connected of theft drug sales then you lose your [illegible] payments in order for you to receive a lump sum payment they have to go to college for at least two years.”
 - “Allow the Separate inherent sovereigns to separate from the white man's constitution that don't reflect our Anishnabe values language and traditions. Allow Bands as inherent sovereign to determine their own destiny. The MCT is a barrier to self-government.”
 - “Dissolution of the MCT under the 1934 IRA rules in United States department of interior authority. Replacement with tribally organized body of all Anishnabe tribes who sit to participate, to work together equitably, with strength together, stronger than anything that federal government ever made. We are bonded by family, ceremony, history, and culture. We do not need their oversight and will not lose our status.”

c. Other Suggestions

Twenty-eight (28) respondents offered more suggestions to strengthen the MCT constitution.

- Seven (7) respondents discussed the importance of the bands remaining autonomous. Of the seven, two (2) expressed not to diminish the bands’ autonomy within the MCT government structure. One (1) respondent stated “All Bands responsible to govern as they see fit. Mille Lacs has separation of powers form of Govt. [Government]. Leave us be- it works for us!!” The other four (4) expressed that the bands should have their own constitutions, “doing away with MCT all together”, “in favor of Mille Lacs band becoming its own tribe - no longer under MCT”, and “be able to be independent, sovereign, self-determination. As MCT Tribe we have difference [sic] viewpoints, different ideas that we can't exercise on our own Reservation [sic]”.
- Six (6) responses included some form of education and citizen input within the process. Two (2) respondents discussed the need to insert Ojibwe culture, language, and traditions incorporating the 7 teachings. Two (2) respondents discussed removal of Secretary of Interior approval clause. Two (2) identified TEC’s authority to make interpretations.
- Other responses included:
 - “Recognition of Articles of constitution.”
 - “Accountabiliter [sic] - follow it.”
 - “Add judicial components, cultural additions for resolution.”

- “There are too many political agendas. There are elected leaders that want to build a kingdom so they can be king.”
- “Same as needing a new constitution.”
- “Call a referendum on the Q's on #16 + let membership decide what we should do so we can start working on it + moving [sic] forward.”
- “Have committees to advise the TEC members from your tribe.”
- “Making sure all of the reservations have [casinos] for their [revenue] and other [businesses], our [casinos] take care of the needs of our reservation.”

General Information

The demographics of the audience may help understand who attends the MCT Constitutional Convention sessions and how they may assist in future endeavors. In addition, it allows the elected leaders to discuss a strategy to engage members who are not attending the sessions. The majority of the respondents were female (65.63%). The respondents' ages ranged from 24-81. 60.94% are employed and 51.43% are enrolled MCT citizens.

The complete survey is located in **Appendix B**.

Appendix A

MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

CONSTITUTION MEETINGS

August 2017 – January 2018

Sponsored by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT)
with generous support from the Native Governance Center
and the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Presented & Facilitated by the Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona
October 23-24, 2017

Fortune Bay Resort Casino, The Woodland Ballroom, Vermilion, Minnesota

Day 1

Time	Agenda Item
11:30 a.m.	REGISTRATION & LITE LUNCH
12:00 p.m.	OPENING PRAYER
	WELCOME & PURPOSE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bois Forte Band – Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers• Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – Chairman Kevin Dupuis
	INTRODUCTIONS: FACILITATORS, PRESENTERS, & SPONSORS
12:30 p.m.	SESSION 1: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MCT & CURRENT STRUCTURE — <i>Philip Brodeen</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• History of the MCT Constitution• What are the powers and duties of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC)?• What are the powers and duties of the Reservation Business Committees (RBC)?• How does the MCT work on a day-to-day basis in comparison to each Band?• Discussion: <i>Does the current MCT Constitution accurately reflect who we are as a people today?</i>
2:30 p.m.	SESSION 2: THINKING STRATEGICALLY ABOUT MCT'S FUTURE — <i>Native Nations Institute</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the following sentence: <i>"I want my (grand)children to live in a tribal community where...."</i>
3:00 p.m.	SESSION 3: GOVERNMENT & CONSTITUTIONS: WHAT THEY ARE, DO, & LOOK LIKE ACROSS INDIAN COUNTRY — <i>Native Nations Institute</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The foundations of effective governments: What does a government do?• Defining a constitution in the broadest sense• The key issues a constitution needs to address• The diversity of constitutions and governing systems across Indian Country• Do you have the governance tools you need to achieve your strategic goals?
3:30 p.m.	DISCUSSION (Small Groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What suggestions do you have in changing the MCT Constitution?</i>
4:15 p.m.	SMALL GROUP REPORTS
4:30 p.m.	ADJOURN



NATIVE GOVERNANCE
CENTER

Day 2

Time	Agenda Item
8:00 a.m.	BREAKFAST
8:30 a.m.	WELCOME, REVIEW OF DAY 1 DISCUSSION and REVIEW OF DAY 2 AGENDA
8:45 a.m.	SESSION 4: WHY ARE SOME NATIVE NATIONS MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN OTHERS? — <i>Native Nations Institute</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The <i>Standard Approach</i> to Native community and economic development• The <i>Nation-Building Approach</i> to Native community and economic development• The results of each• Discussion: How does this apply to the MCT?
9:15 a.m.	SESSION 5, ROUND 1: HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN THE MCT & BAND GOVERNMENTS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groupwork: <i>What's WORKING</i> with the existing constitution of the:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MCT overall?○ Tribal Executive Committee (TEC)?○ Reservation Business Committees (RBCs)?
10:00 a.m.	BREAK
10:15 a.m.	SESSION 5, ROUND 2: HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN THE MCT & BAND GOVERNMENTS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groupwork: <i>What's NOT WORKING</i> with the existing constitution of the:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MCT overall?○ Tribal Executive Committee (TEC)?○ Reservation Business Committees (RBCs)?
11:00 a.m.	SMALL GROUP REPORTS & CATEGORIZATION OF COMMONALITIES
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH
1:00 p.m.	SESSION 5, ROUND 3: HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN THE MCT & BAND GOVERNMENTS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groupwork: <i>Of the issues identified in previous rounds, how might we address some of the key issues?</i>
1:45 p.m.	SMALL GROUP REPORTS
2:15 p.m.	BREAK
2:30 p.m.	SESSION 6: STRENGTHENING OUR GOVERNMENT — HOW HAVE OTHER NATIVE NATIONS ADDRESSED THE PROCESS OF REVISING OR REFORMING THEIR CONSTITUTIONS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions & Answers
3:00 p.m.	DISCUSSION (Small Groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Based on what we've heard and discussed today, our recommendations for continuing the MCT constitution process are...</i>
3:45 p.m.	SMALL GROUP REPORTS
4:15 p.m.	NEXT STEPS
4:30 p.m.	ADJOURN

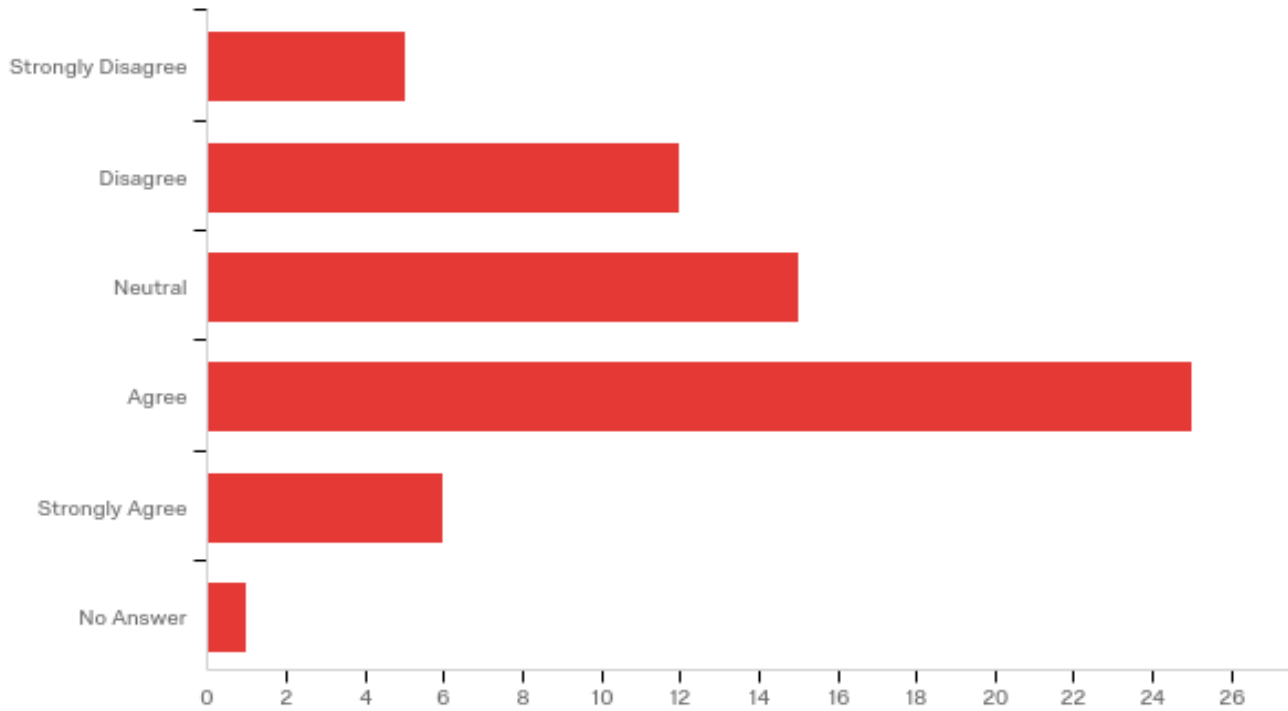
Appendix B

Default Report

MCT Constitutional Convention Survey

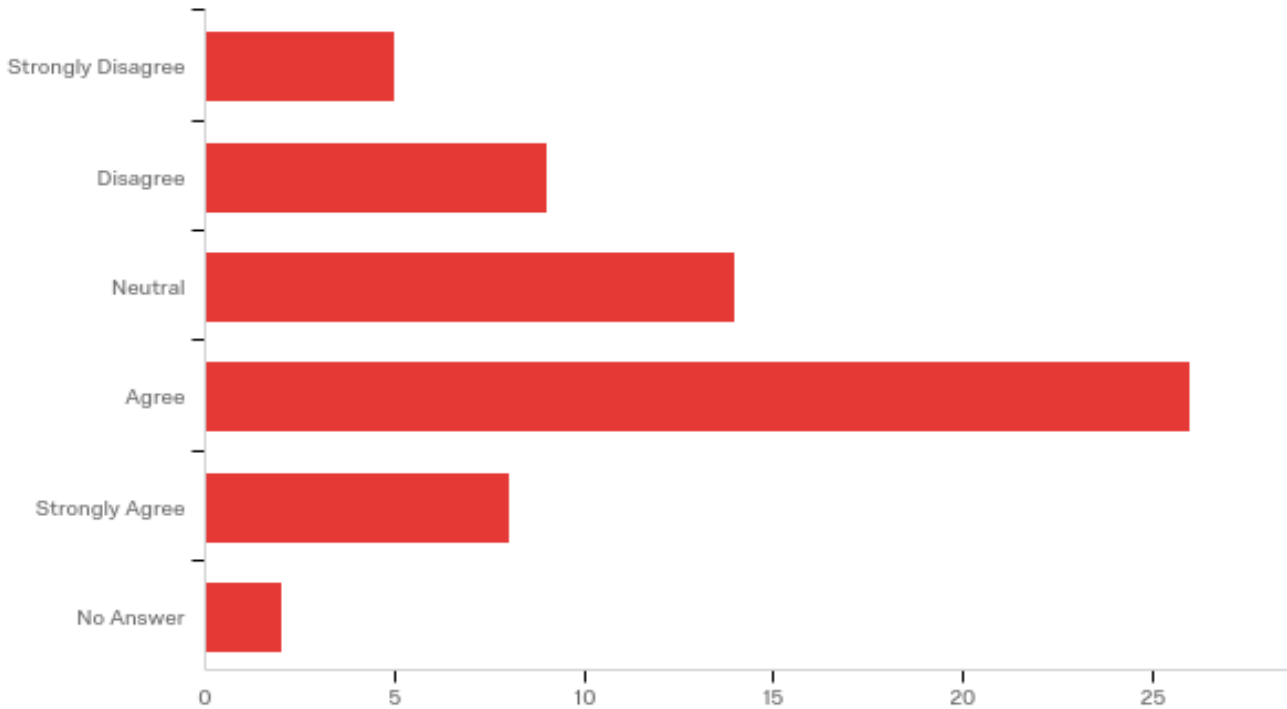
September 14th 2017, 2:35 pm MDT

1 - I understand the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution and Bylaws.



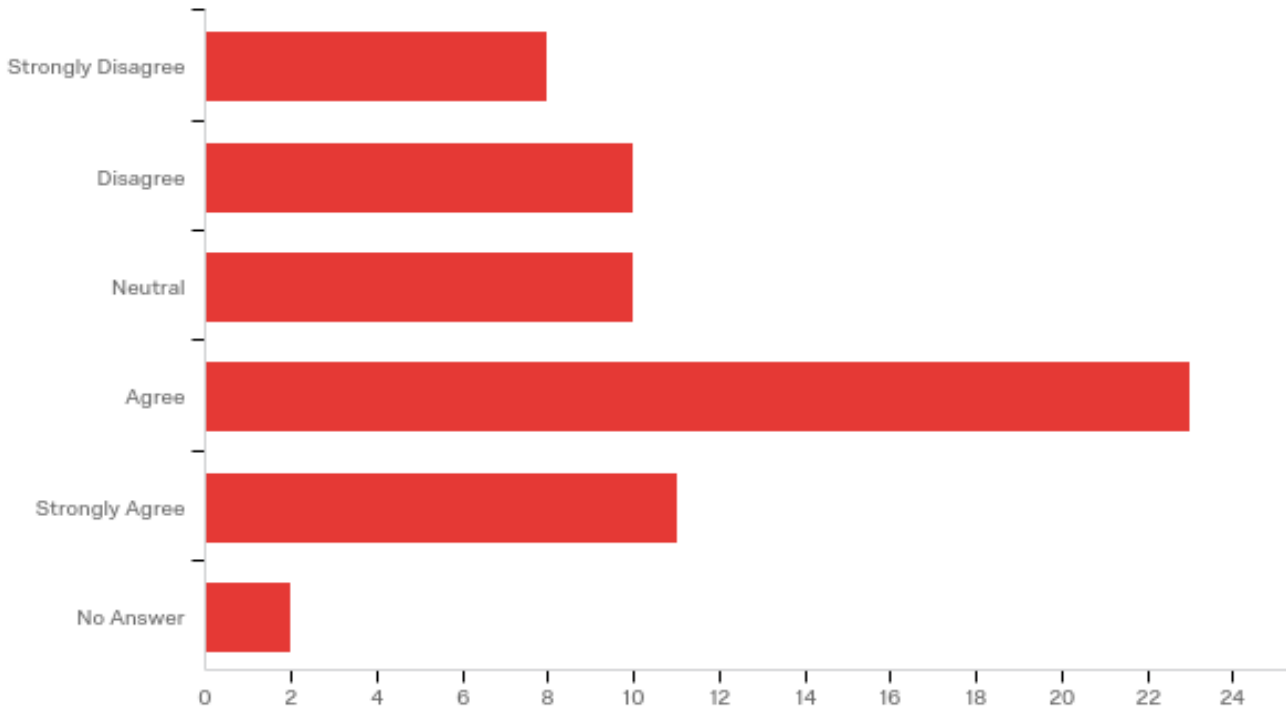
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	7.81%	5
2	Disagree	18.75%	12
3	Neutral	23.44%	15
4	Agree	39.06%	25
5	Strongly Agree	9.38%	6
6	No Answer	1.56%	1
	Total	100%	64

2 - I understand the powers of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC).



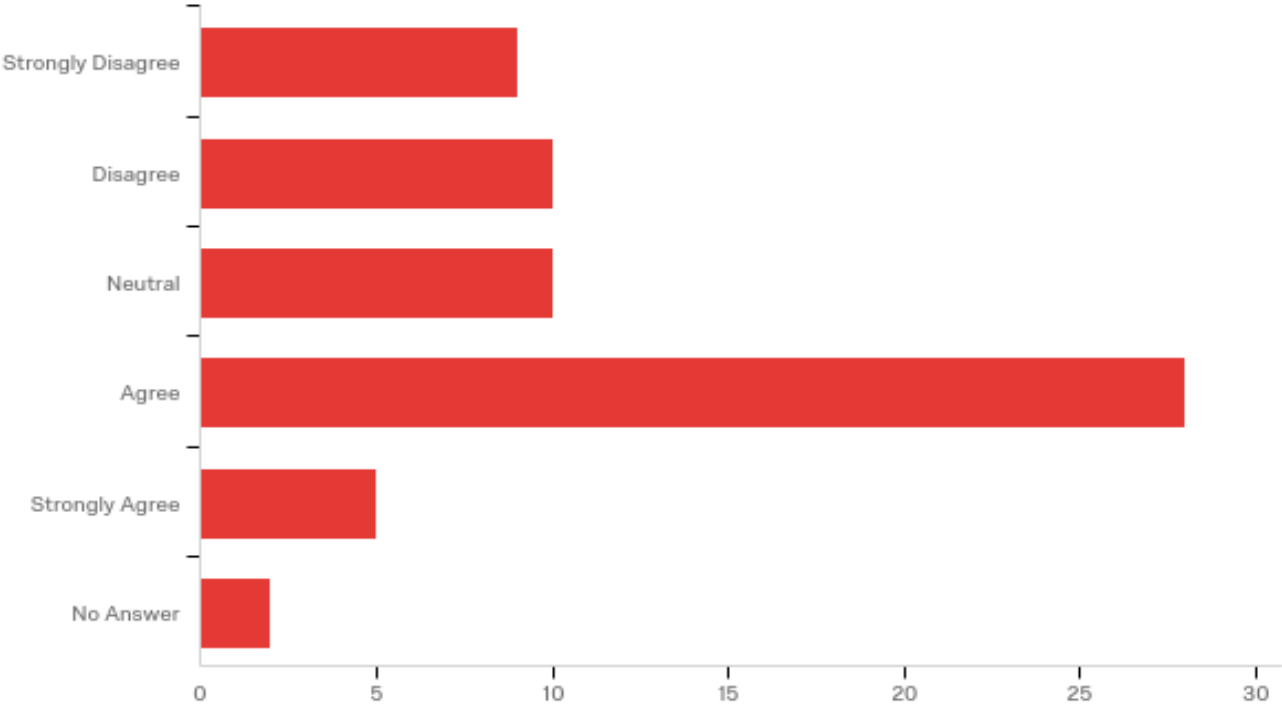
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	7.81%	5
2	Disagree	14.06%	9
3	Neutral	21.88%	14
4	Agree	40.63%	26
5	Strongly Agree	12.50%	8
6	No Answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

3 - I understand the powers of the Reservation Business Committees (RBCs).



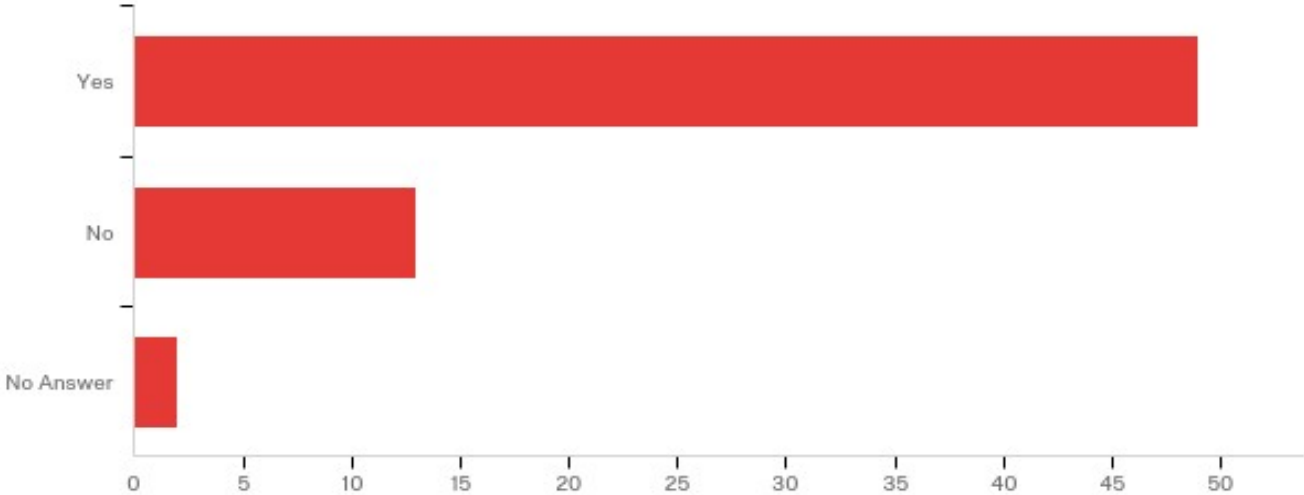
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	12.50%	8
2	Disagree	15.63%	10
3	Neutral	15.63%	10
4	Agree	35.94%	23
5	Strongly Agree	17.19%	11
6	No Answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

4 - I understand how the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal government operates.



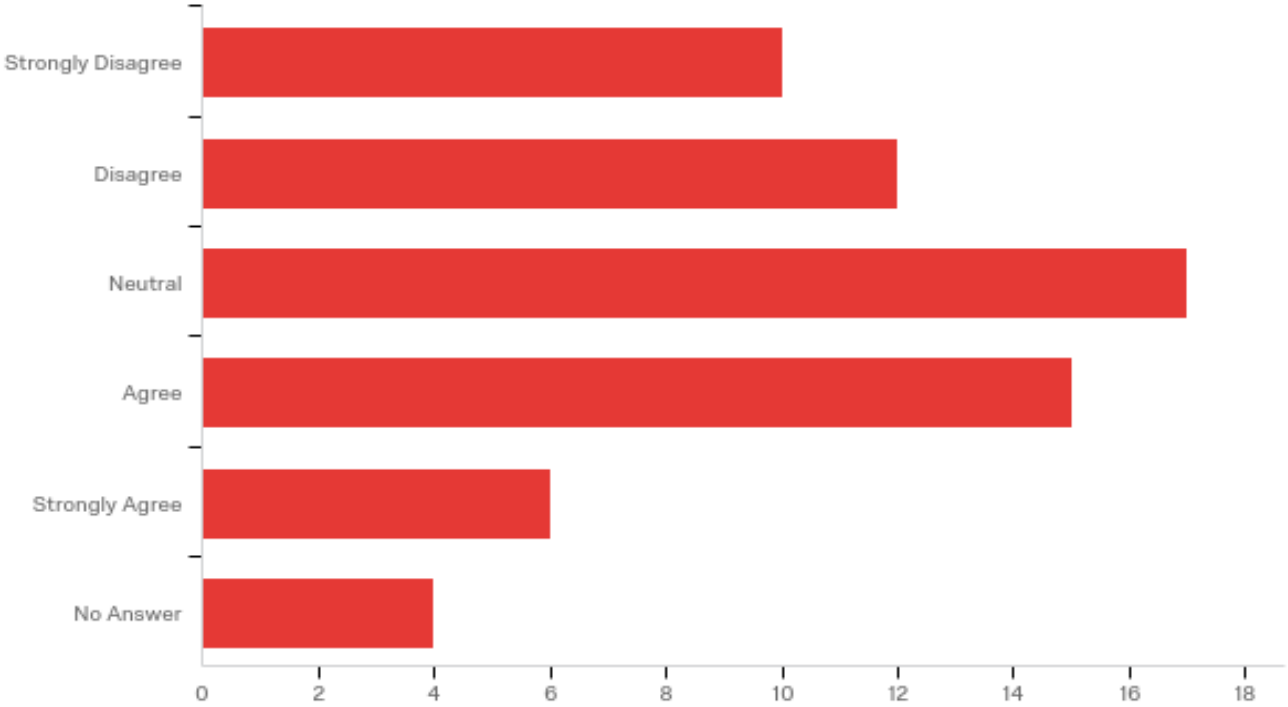
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	14.06%	9
2	Disagree	15.63%	10
3	Neutral	15.63%	10
4	Agree	43.75%	28
5	Strongly Agree	7.81%	5
6	No Answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

5 - I have read the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution.



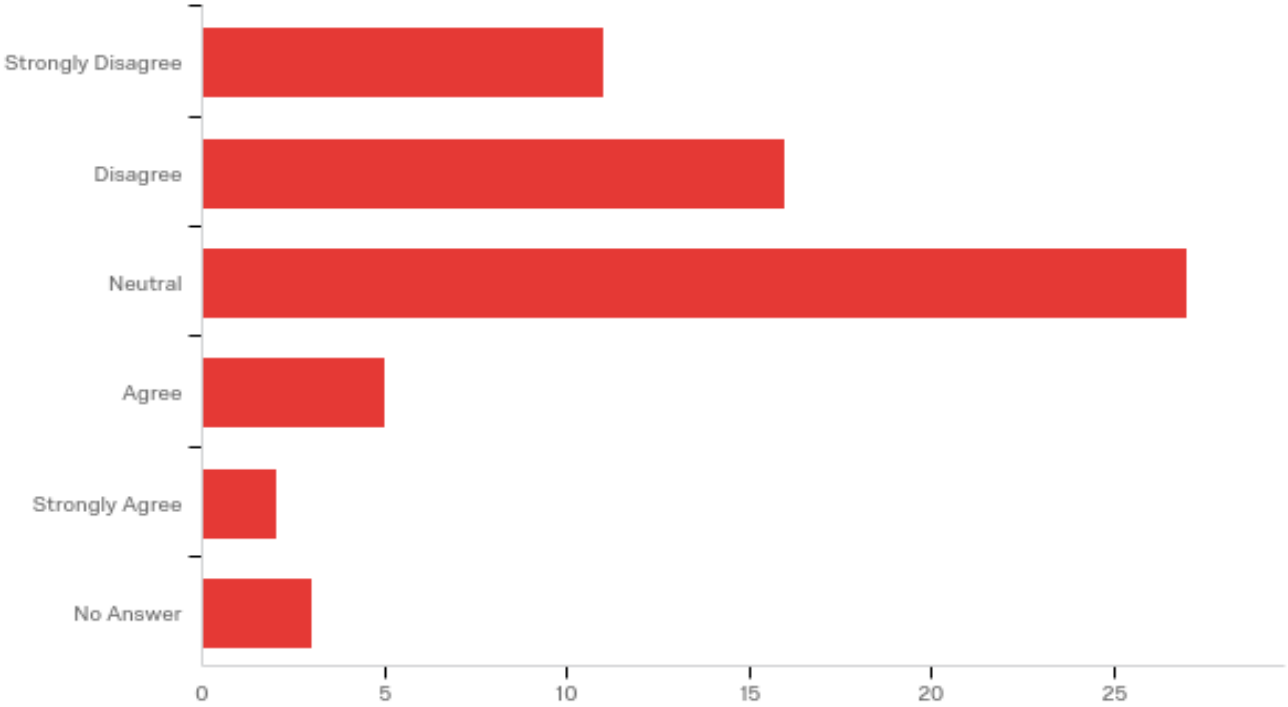
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	76.56%	49
2	No	20.31%	13
3	No Answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

6 - The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's election process is fair.



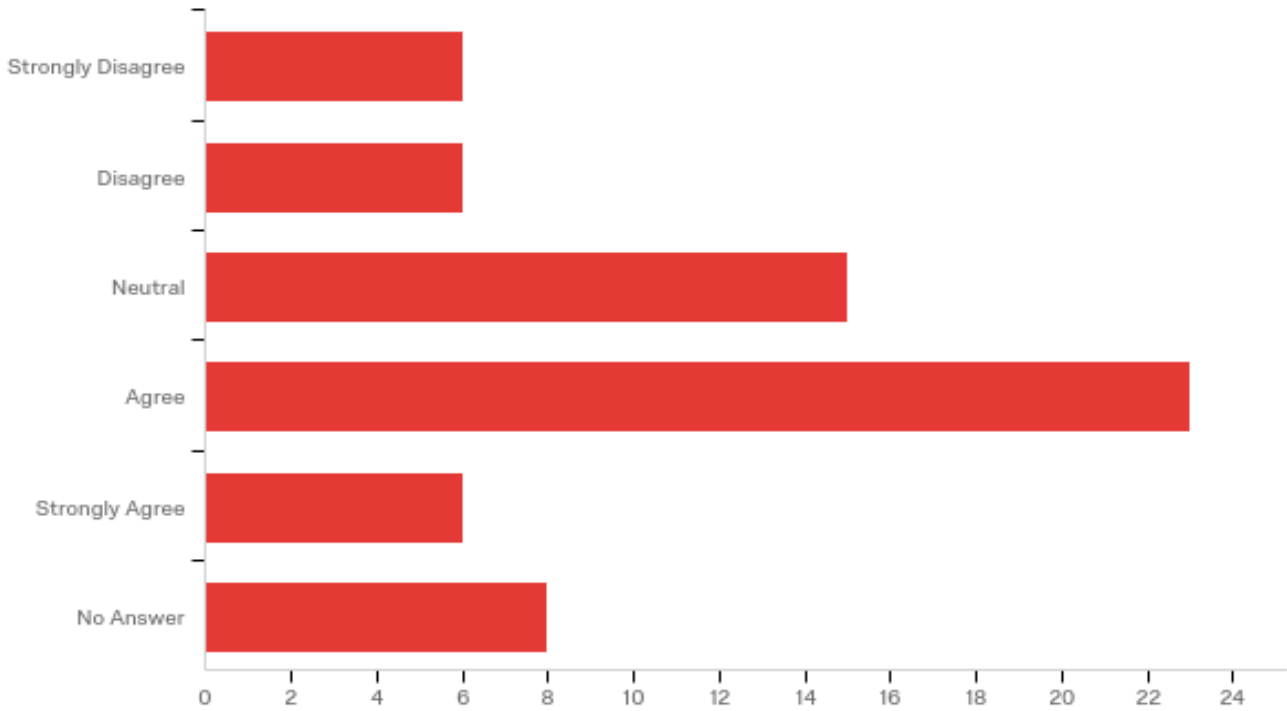
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	15.63%	10
2	Disagree	18.75%	12
3	Neutral	26.56%	17
4	Agree	23.44%	15
5	Strongly Agree	9.38%	6
6	No Answer	6.25%	4
	Total	100%	64

7 - The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) exercises power fairly.



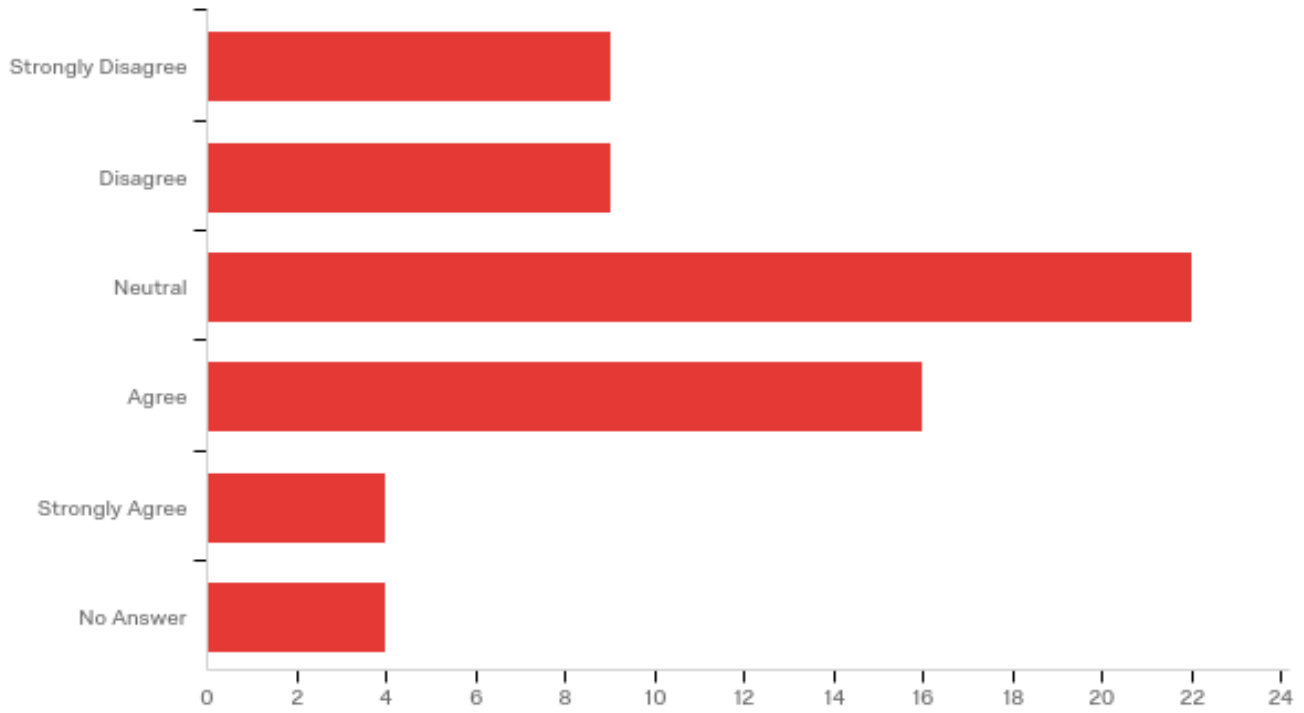
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	17.19%	11
2	Disagree	25.00%	16
3	Neutral	42.19%	27
4	Agree	7.81%	5
5	Strongly Agree	3.13%	2
6	No Answer	4.69%	3
	Total	100%	64

8 - The qualifications to run for the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) are clear to me.



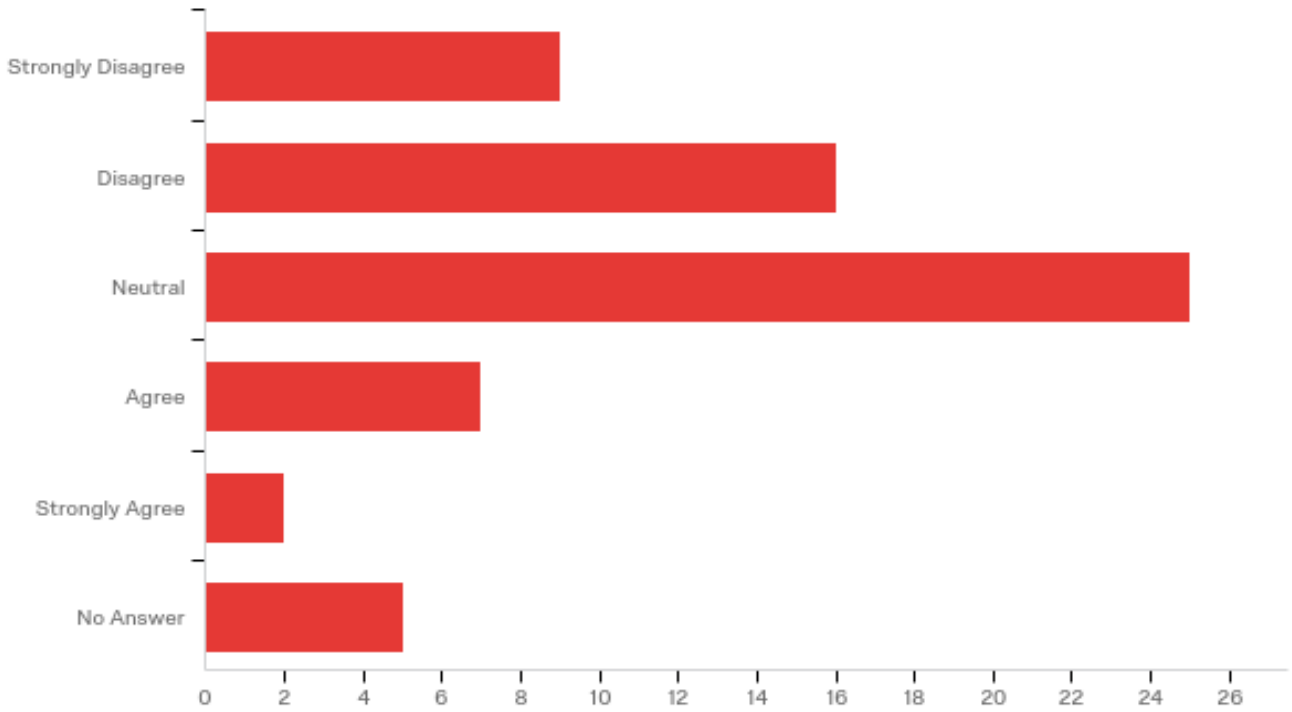
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	9.38%	6
2	Disagree	9.38%	6
3	Neutral	23.44%	15
4	Agree	35.94%	23
5	Strongly Agree	9.38%	6
6	No Answer	12.50%	8
	Total	100%	64

9 - The qualifications to run for the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) are adequate.



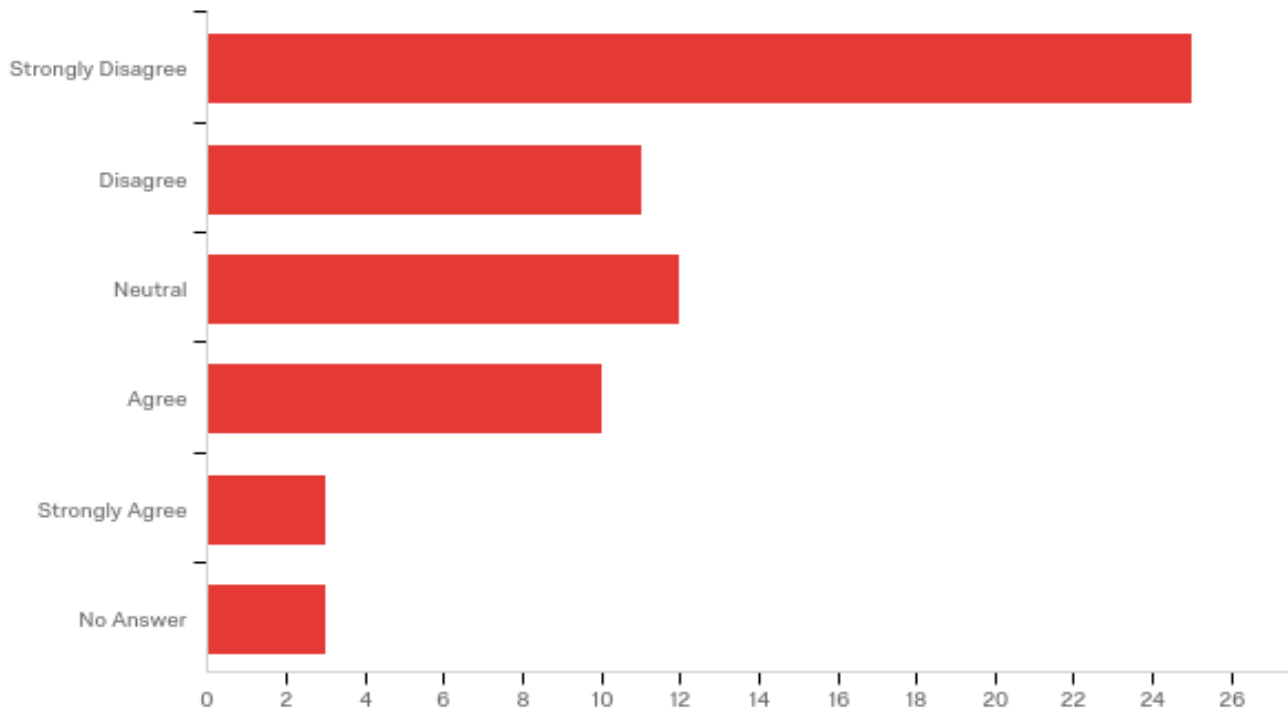
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	14.06%	9
2	Disagree	14.06%	9
3	Neutral	34.38%	22
4	Agree	25.00%	16
5	Strongly Agree	6.25%	4
6	No Answer	6.25%	4
	Total	100%	64

10 - The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) exercises power fairly. --REPEATED QUESTION 7--



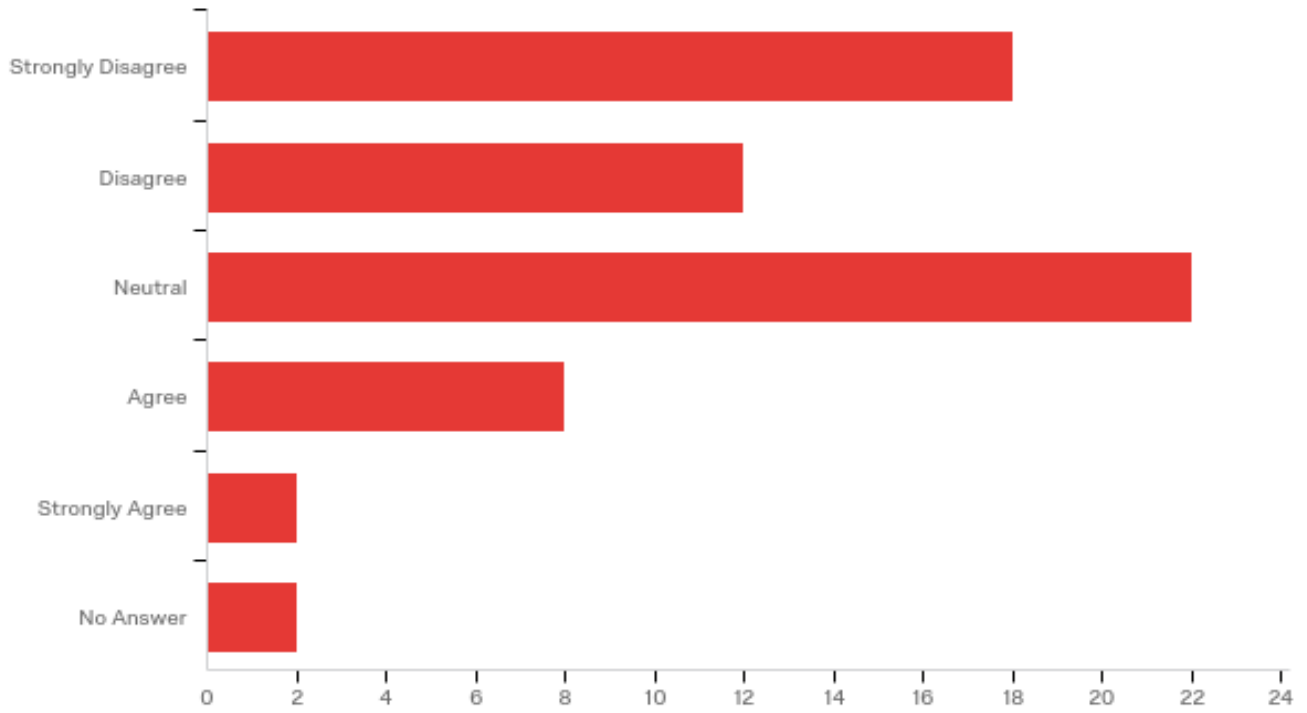
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	14.06%	9
2	Disagree	25.00%	16
3	Neutral	39.06%	25
4	Agree	10.94%	7
5	Strongly Agree	3.13%	2
6	No Answer	7.81%	5
	Total	100%	64

11 - Current enrollment requirements reflect how we view ourselves as Anishinaabe.



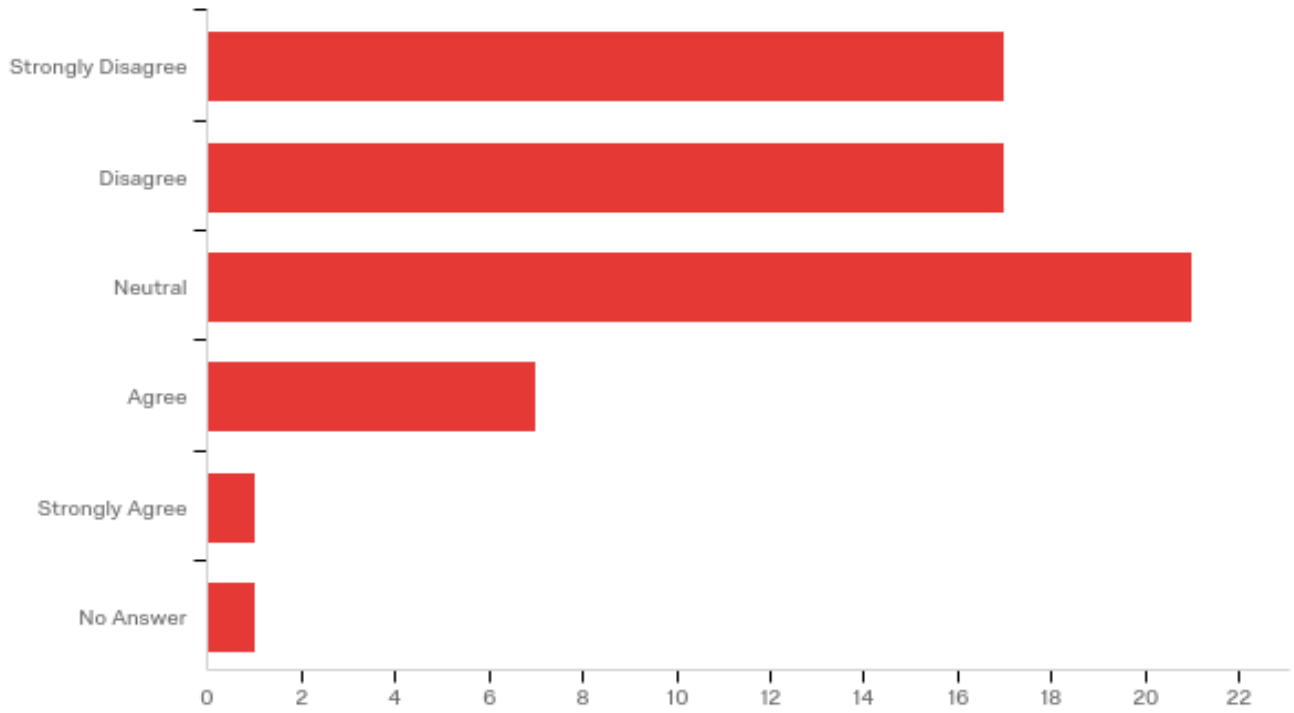
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	39.06%	25
2	Disagree	17.19%	11
3	Neutral	18.75%	12
4	Agree	15.63%	10
5	Strongly Agree	4.69%	3
6	No Answer	4.69%	3
	Total	100%	64

12 - The needs of each band are equally considered.



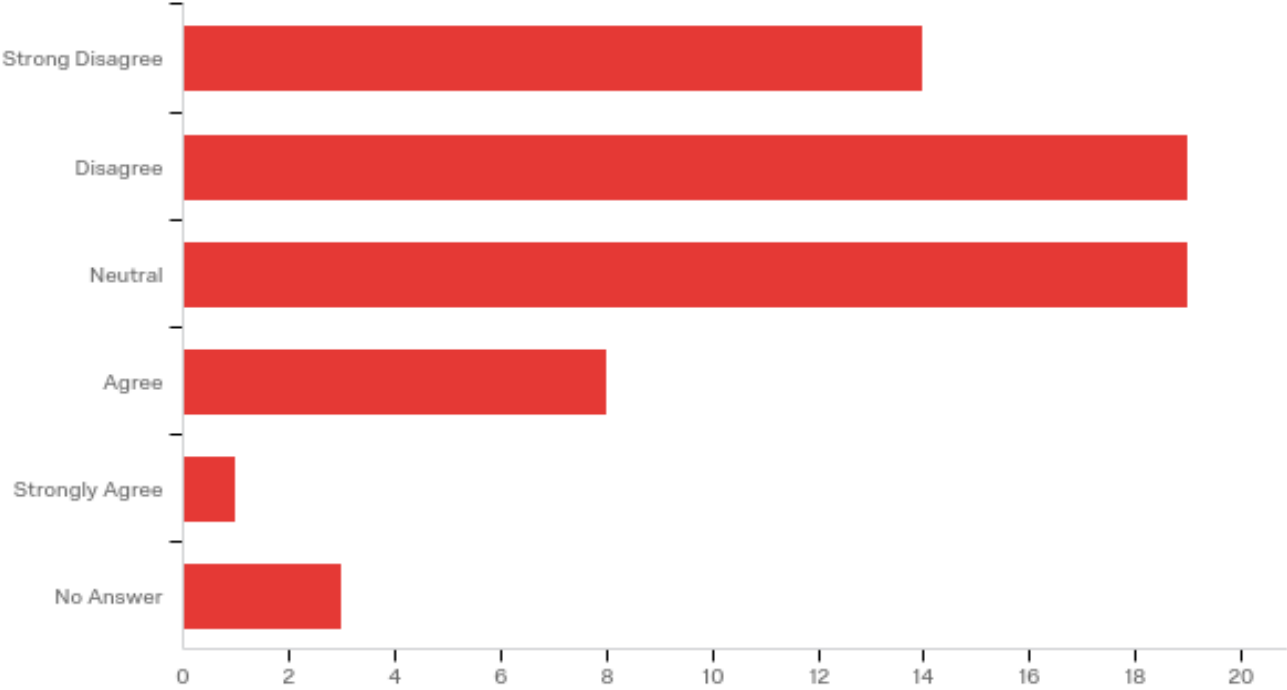
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	28.13%	18
2	Disagree	18.75%	12
3	Neutral	34.38%	22
4	Agree	12.50%	8
5	Strongly Agree	3.13%	2
6	No Answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

13 - Major Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) decisions include band input.



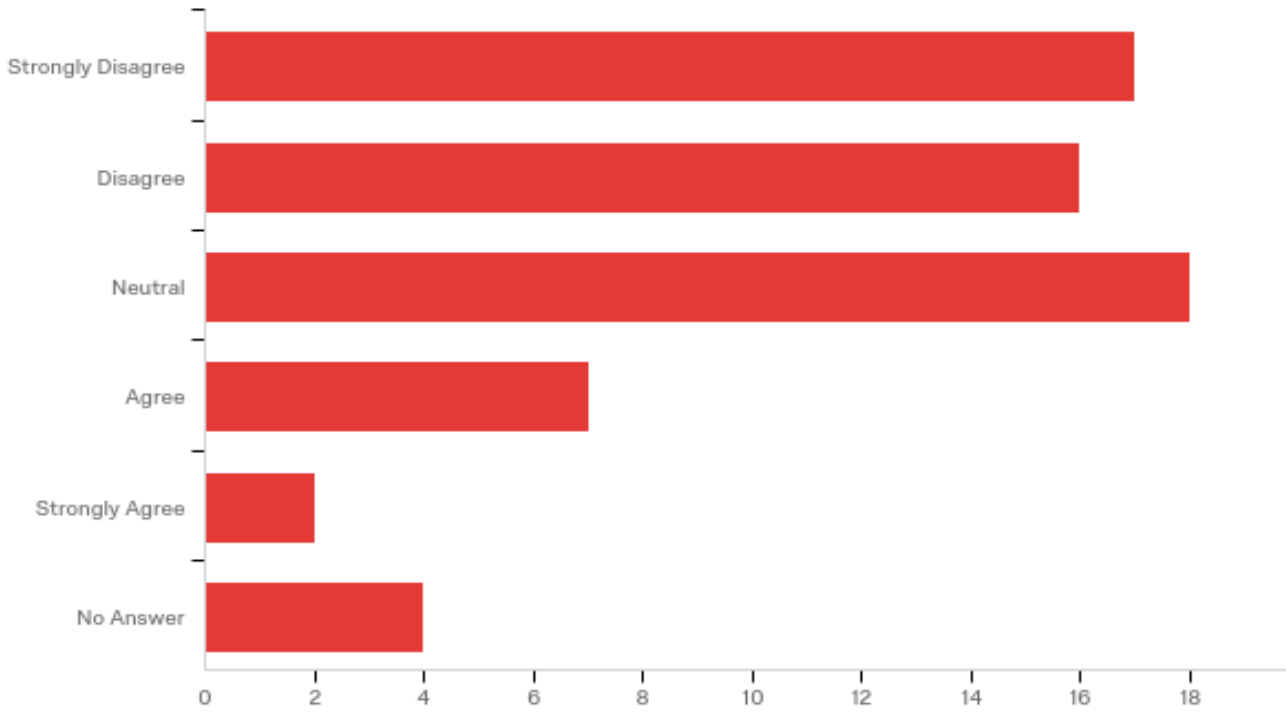
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	26.56%	17
2	Disagree	26.56%	17
3	Neutral	32.81%	21
4	Agree	10.94%	7
5	Strongly Agree	1.56%	1
6	No Answer	1.56%	1
	Total	100%	64

14 - There is ample opportunity to address concerns with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal government.



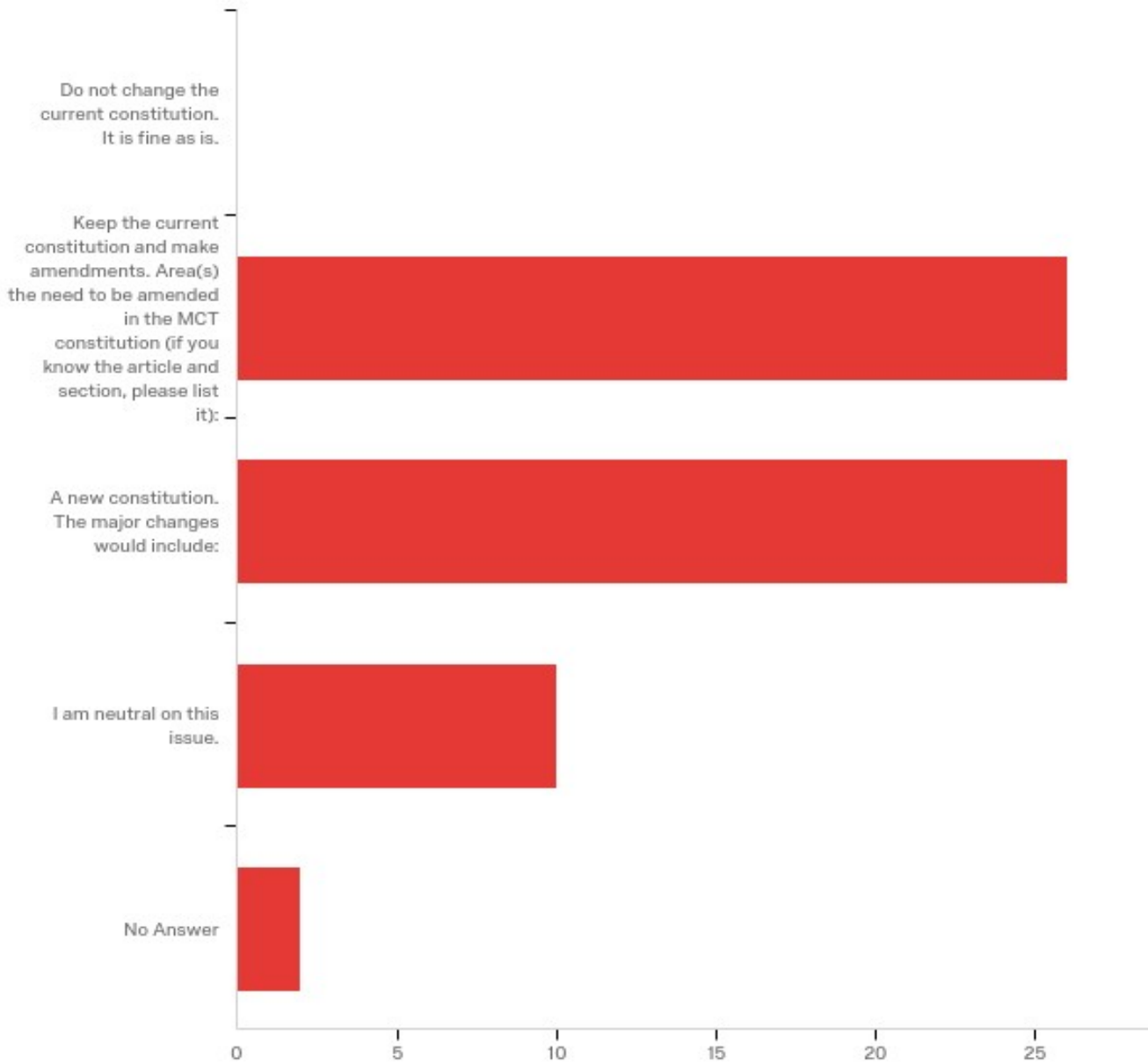
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strong Disagree	21.88%	14
2	Disagree	29.69%	19
3	Neutral	29.69%	19
4	Agree	12.50%	8
5	Strongly Agree	1.56%	1
6	No Answer	4.69%	3
	Total	100%	64

15 - The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution serves the needs of the MCT people.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	26.56%	17
2	Disagree	25.00%	16
3	Neutral	28.13%	18
4	Agree	10.94%	7
5	Strongly Agree	3.13%	2
6	No Answer	6.25%	4
	Total	100%	64

16 - In looking to the future of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal government, how much change do you think should happen?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Do not change the current constitution. It is fine as is.	0.00%	0
2	Keep the current constitution and make amendments. Area(s) the need to be amended in the MCT constitution (if you know the article and section, please list it):	40.63%	26

3	A new constitution. The major changes would include:	40.63%	26
4	I am neutral on this issue.	15.63%	10
5	No Answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

Keep the current constitution and make amendments. Area(s) the need to be a...

Keep the current constitution and make amendments. Area(s) the need to be a...
Appeal process for membership rights
13-09 Tribal Interpretation - changed from what we voted for. would we retain federal recognition - count all Ojibwe blood
Enrollments
Enrollment, individual sovereignty, separate constitution, removal of the department of the interior
Ojibwe Values and Culture
Enrollment
Referendum vote on interpretations - set up an appellate board to interpret constitution referendum votes for any change / amendment
I think we should go section by section and amend to update sections for present and future time.
Go through it line by line and word for word
Term limits, court of appeals added, interpretations of constitution, enrollments
Stop making interpretations!!
Go through step by step probably going o take a good 2 months of weekly meetings
Election(s)
Strengthen preamble, clarify TEC and individual band duplications regarding land authorities at individual rezes. Clarify relief process for person subject to removal. Enrollment regulations need updating.
Do a referendum vote to make interpretations legal. Accept other Chippewa blood
Go line by line and explain what each means
Article 2 - membership/blood quantum or not Article 3- Governing Body- power to the people!
Elected officials to abide by oath of office and enrollment requirement
Enrollment, membership, remove secretary of the interior, Authority of MCT manner of review should not have to get okay from secretary interior
Amend according to needs of each band, we are still known as MCT. We need to foster the needs of our own people on our reservations. We do know what Leech lake or others need

A new constitution. The major changes would include:

A new constitution. The major changes would include:

For been members if you are connected of theft drug sales then you lose your prayer cat Payments in order for you to receive a lump sum payment they have to go to college for at least two years

Provided input during session

Enrollment Criteria

Needs to be written by Anishnabe

Bicameral Legislative. Tribal Wide constitution and local constitutions as well. Three branches, bill of rights, mechanisms for expansion, direct election of tribal Offices and citizenship

Allow the Separate inherent soviergns to separate from the white man's constitution that don't reflect our Anishnabe values language and traditions. Allow Bands as inherent sovereign to determine their own destiny. The MCT is a barrier to self-government

Add culture and tribal language

Communication Officials responsible to send summary to band members so all are informed

Term Limits- Eligibility - Sec of Interior- Remove_ Judicial Powers Separate

Separation of powers, greater representation, membership and citizenship, tribes with bands and reservations for individual nations?

Separation of powers rights of citizens checks and balances, citizenship

Enrollment qualifications for office RBC components and Land distribution and release to each band

Dissolution of the MCT under the 1934 IRA rules in United States department of interior authority. Replacement with tribally organized body of all Anishnabe tribes who sit to participate, to work together equitably, with strength together, stronger then anything that federal government ever made. We are bonded by family, ceremony, history, and culture. We do not need their oversight and will not lose our status.

Separation of Powers, enrollment citizens

Enrolling all children of members voting in candidate that should be 18, make petition process easily accessible, remove federal oversight and approval of tribal and reservation decisions live by our treaty

developed by ourselves and not by a government attorney or BIA. Incorporate our culture and values

Allowing MCT members to Create and write our own system of governing ourselves

Enrollment hand issue written by native people

Each tribe is don't reservation we are not a big band. Each tribe needs to be there

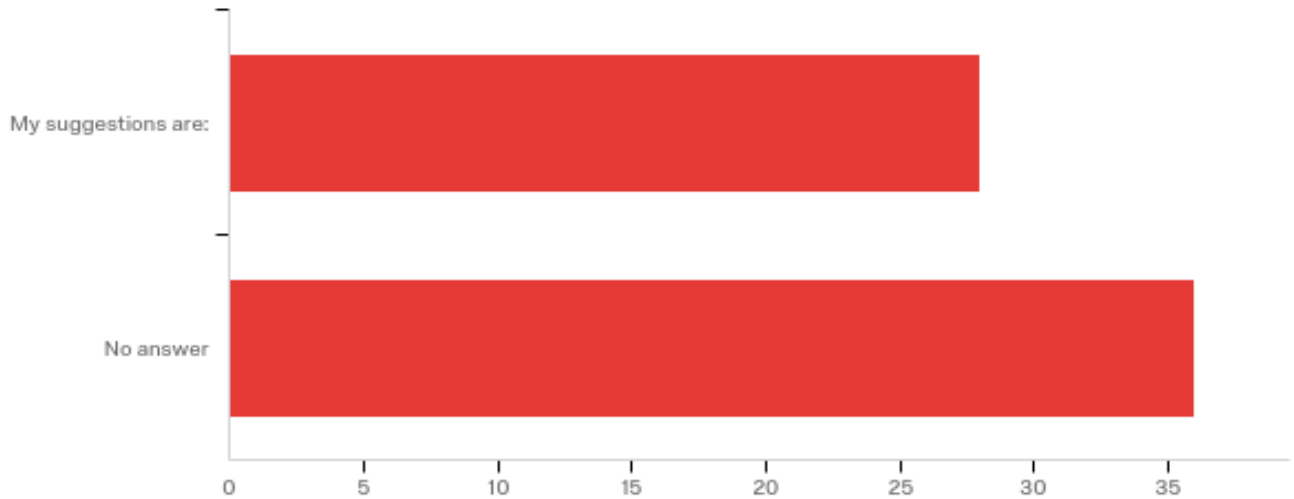
Our Traditional values to govern our tribe

The needs of each band separations of power, family values, and teachings of our grand parents

Input from the band members

Powers back to each individual Tribe

17 - What other suggestions do you have for strengthening the MCT constitution? Please be as specific as possible:



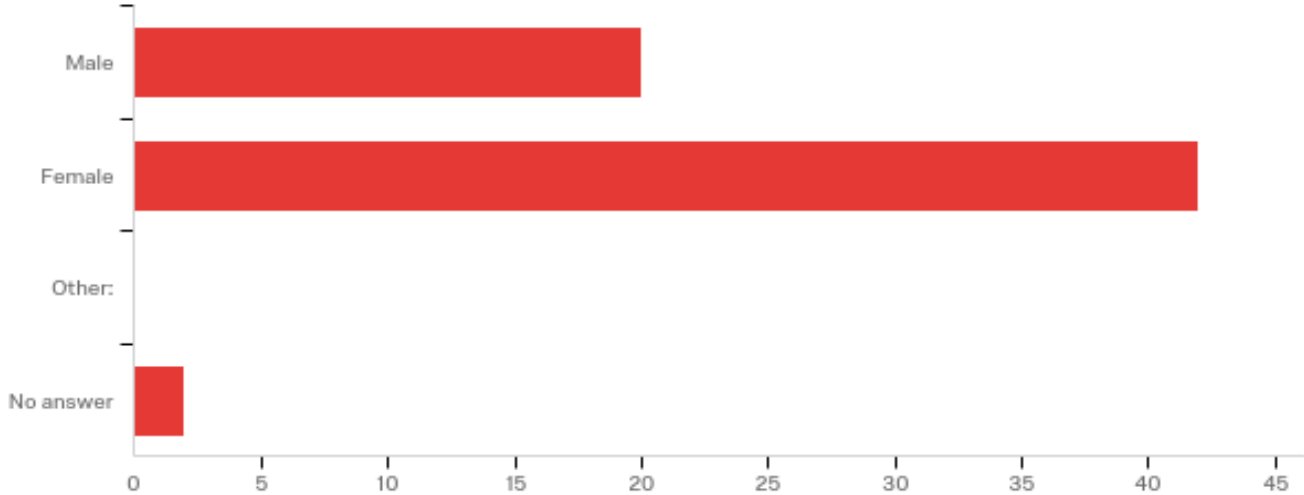
#	Answer	%	Count
1	My suggestions are:	43.75%	28
2	No answer	56.25%	36
	Total	100%	64

My suggestions are:

My suggestions are:
Autonomy to individual bands has always been important. Any changes to MCT Constitution should not diminish the sovereign status of individual bands
MCT must remain but more autonomy for individual bands to make enrollment decisions
Remove DOI, only Chippewa / Ojibwe Blood- red lake
Keep members of all tribes informed and updated via web, email, newsletters
To be informed
Recognition of articles of constitution
Each tribe should have their own constitution
Accountability
Add judicial components, cultural additions for resolution
Ask Members their opinions every step of the way

Remove Secuartarial approval of everything
There are too many political agendas. There are elected leaders that want to build a kingdom so they can be king.
To incorporate the 7 teachings, we won't fail then, change form the heart
Education
All Bands responsible to govern as they see fit. Mille Lacs has separation of powers form of GOvt. Leave us be- it works for us!!
Are Interpretations- needed? We need a referendum vote today! ASAP
same as previous question
Call a referendum on the Q's in number 16 and let membership decide what we should do so we can start working on it and move forward
The MCT needs to educate the constituents of our powers and rights, and the differences of amendments and interpretations no MCT/ TEC interpretations. Follow the proper MCT article 12 amendment process
Make wording specific and clear so there can be no mis-interpretations, recognize our treaty rights
Have committees to advise the TEC members from your tribe
TO be able to be independent and sovereign, self determination. As MCT Tribe we have different view points. different ideas that we can't excursive on our own reservation
I am in favor of Mille Lacs band becoming its own tribe, no longer under MCT
Start Teaching what ever we come up with at a young age. .Design Curriculum from K-12 and Cont. Ed
Do away with MCT all together. If we don't have the capital MCT we don't need any revision/amendment MCT constitution
Making sure all of the reservations have casinos for their revenue and other businesses, our casinos take care of the needs of our reservation
More input from the band members
Include Ojibwe culture, language and traditions

18 - What is your gender?

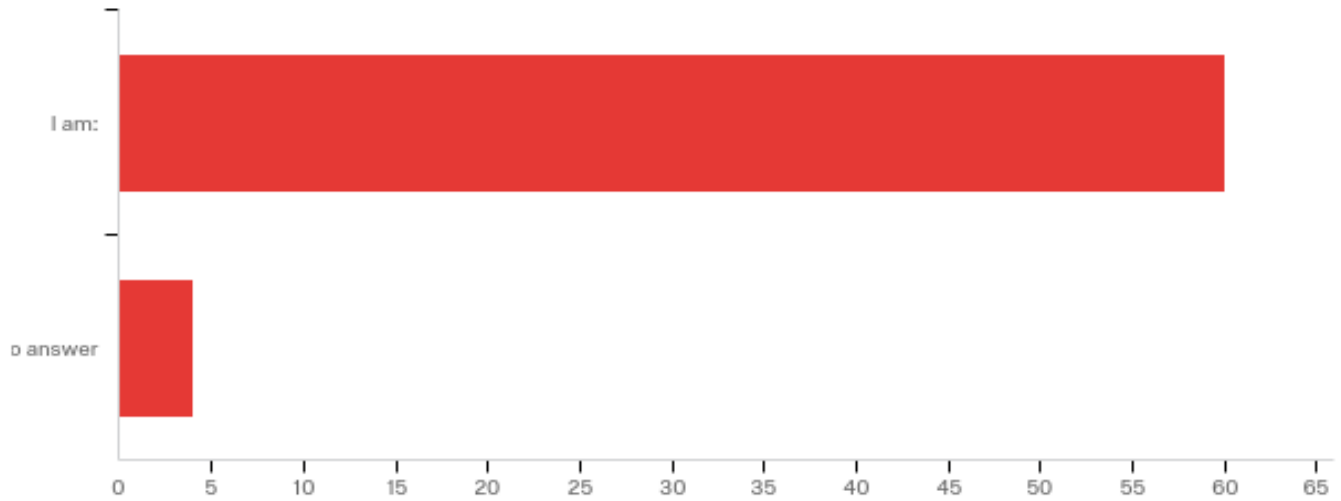


#	Answer	%	Count
1	Male	31.25%	20
2	Female	65.63%	42
3	Other:	0.00%	0
4	No answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

Other:

Other:

19 - What is your age?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	I am:	93.75%	60
2	No answer	6.25%	4
	Total	100%	64

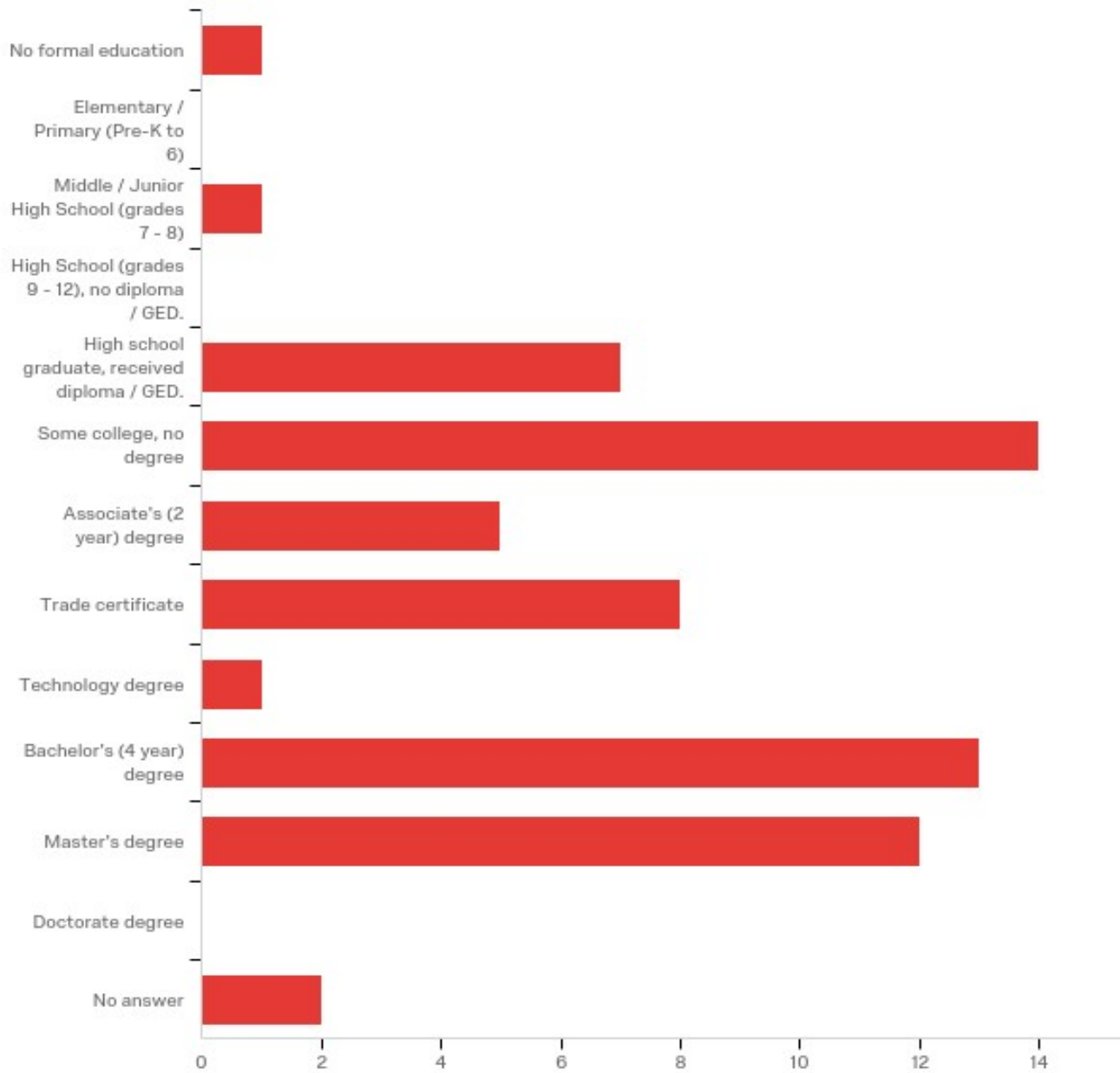
I am:

I am:
48
40
47
50
44
55
40
62
60
51
81

76
69
72
77
40
32
62
42
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45
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80
46
61
35

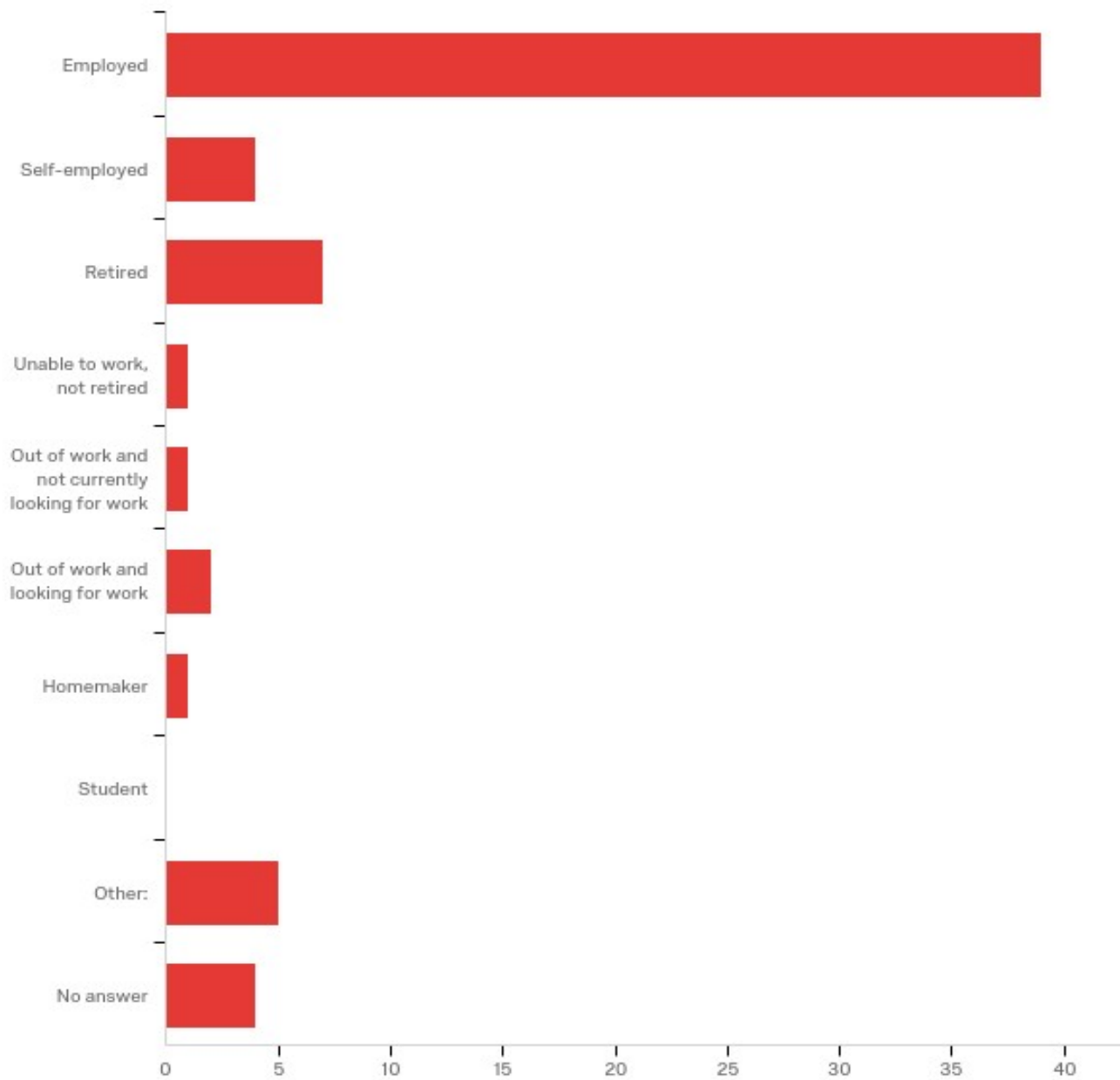
20 - What is the highest level of education you have completed?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	No formal education	1.56%	1
2	Elementary / Primary (Pre-K to 6)	0.00%	0
3	Middle / Junior High School (grades 7 - 8)	1.56%	1
4	High School (grades 9 - 12), no diploma / GED.	0.00%	0
5	High school graduate, received diploma / GED.	10.94%	7

6	Some college, no degree	21.88%	14
7	Associate's (2 year) degree	7.81%	5
8	Trade certificate	12.50%	8
9	Technology degree	1.56%	1
10	Bachelor's (4 year) degree	20.31%	13
11	Master's degree	18.75%	12
12	Doctorate degree	0.00%	0
13	No answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

21 - What is your current employment status?



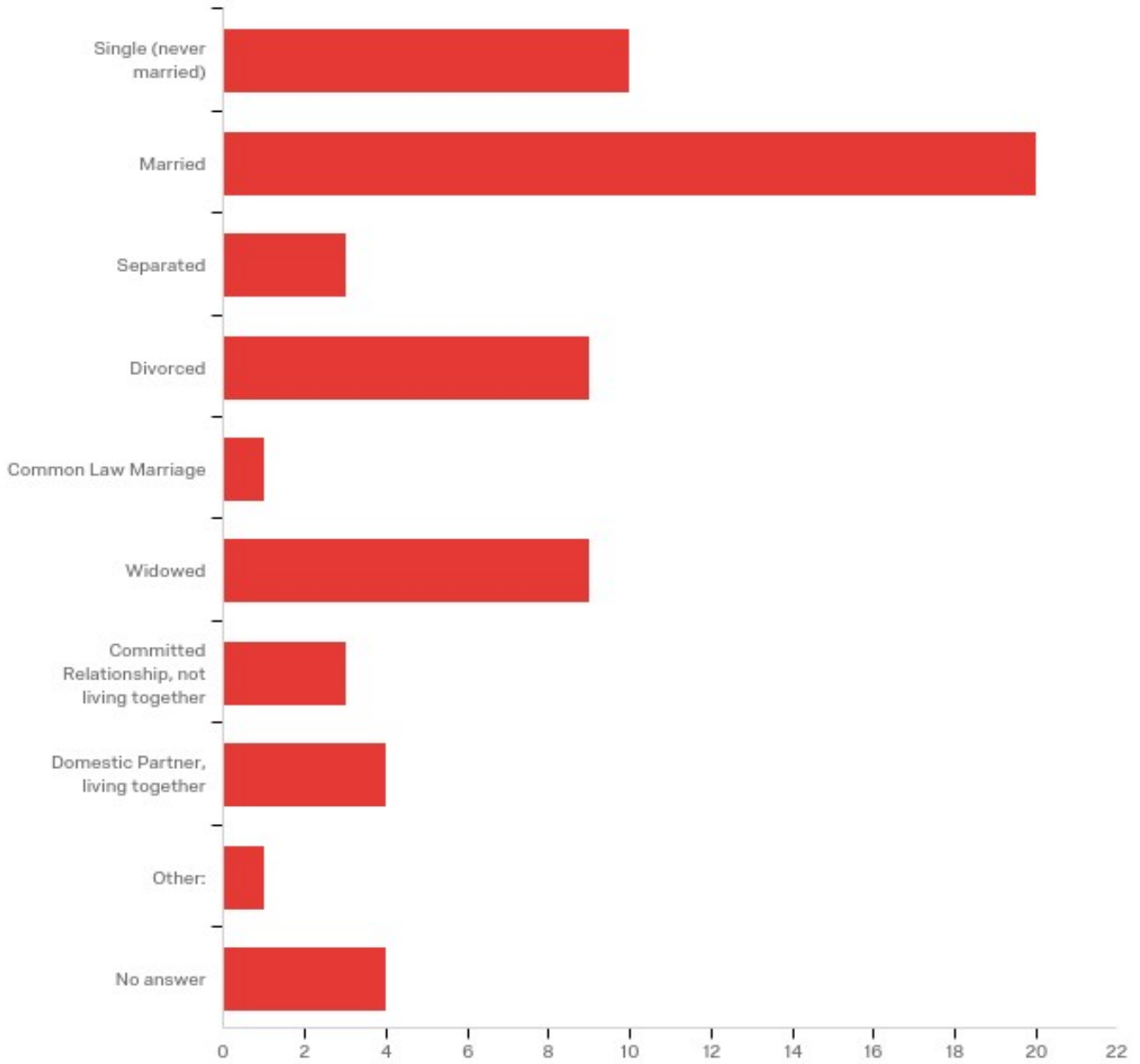
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Employed	60.94%	39
2	Self-employed	6.25%	4
3	Retired	10.94%	7
4	Unable to work, not retired	1.56%	1
5	Out of work and not currently looking for work	1.56%	1

6	Out of work and looking for work	3.13%	2
7	Homemaker	1.56%	1
8	Student	0.00%	0
9	Other:	7.81%	5
10	No answer	6.25%	4
	Total	100%	64

Other:

Other:
Under employed - not wanted
Elected Official
Indian
Freelance writer
Council Member

22 - What is your current marital status?



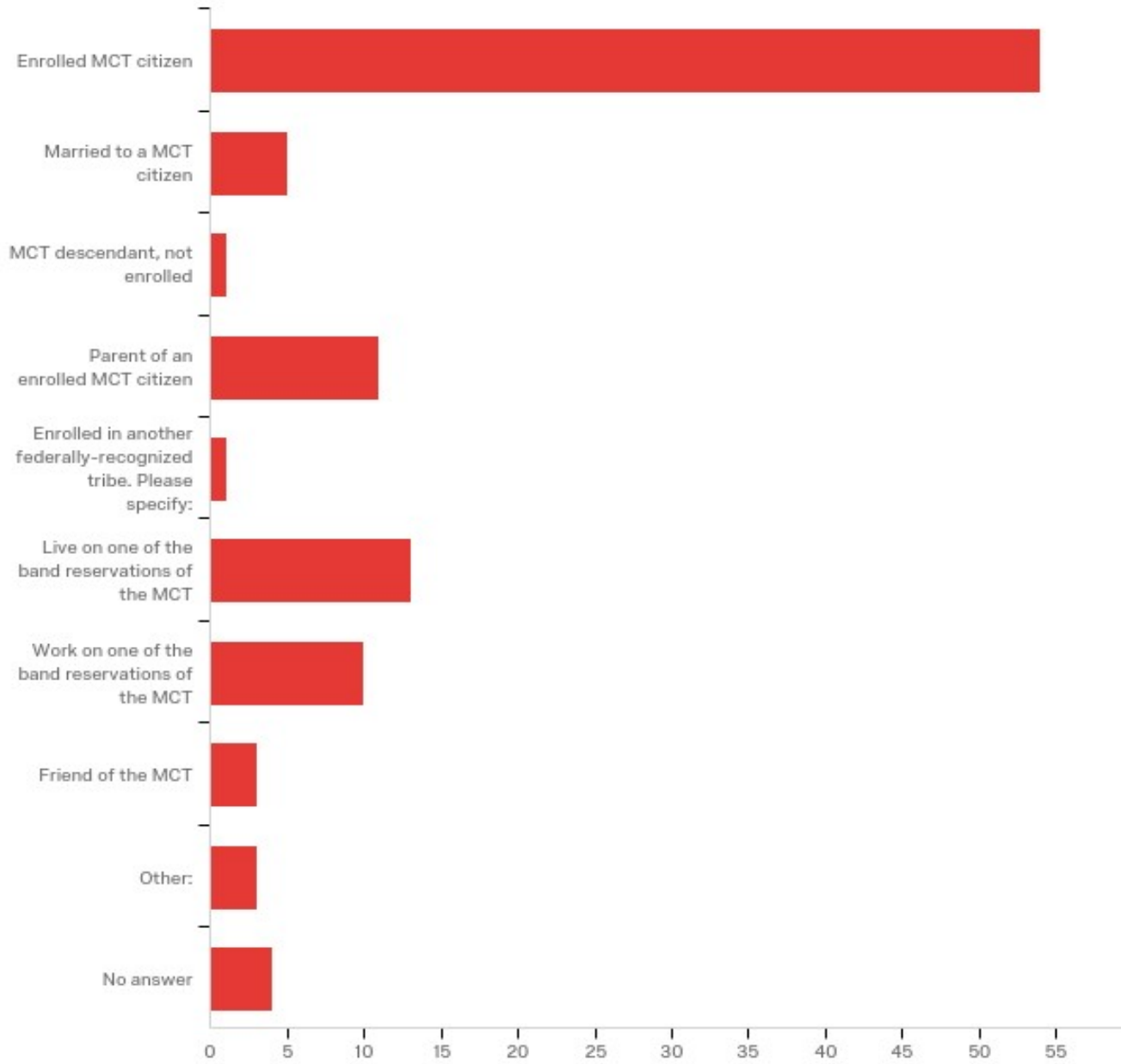
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Single (never married)	15.63%	10
2	Married	31.25%	20
3	Separated	4.69%	3
4	Divorced	14.06%	9
5	Common Law Marriage	1.56%	1
6	Widowed	14.06%	9

7	Committed Relationship, not living together	4.69%	3
8	Domestic Partner, living together	6.25%	4
9	Other:	1.56%	1
10	No answer	6.25%	4
	Total	100%	64

Other:

Other:
Blanket Married

23 - What is your MCT affiliation, check all that apply:



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Enrolled MCT citizen	51.43%	54
2	Married to a MCT citizen	4.76%	5
3	MCT descendant, not enrolled	0.95%	1
4	Parent of an enrolled MCT citizen	10.48%	11
5	Enrolled in another federally-recognized tribe.	0.95%	1

	Please specify:		
6	Live on one of the band reservations of the MCT	12.38%	13
7	Work on one of the band reservations of the MCT	9.52%	10
8	Friend of the MCT	2.86%	3
9	Other:	2.86%	3
10	No answer	3.81%	4
	Total	100%	105

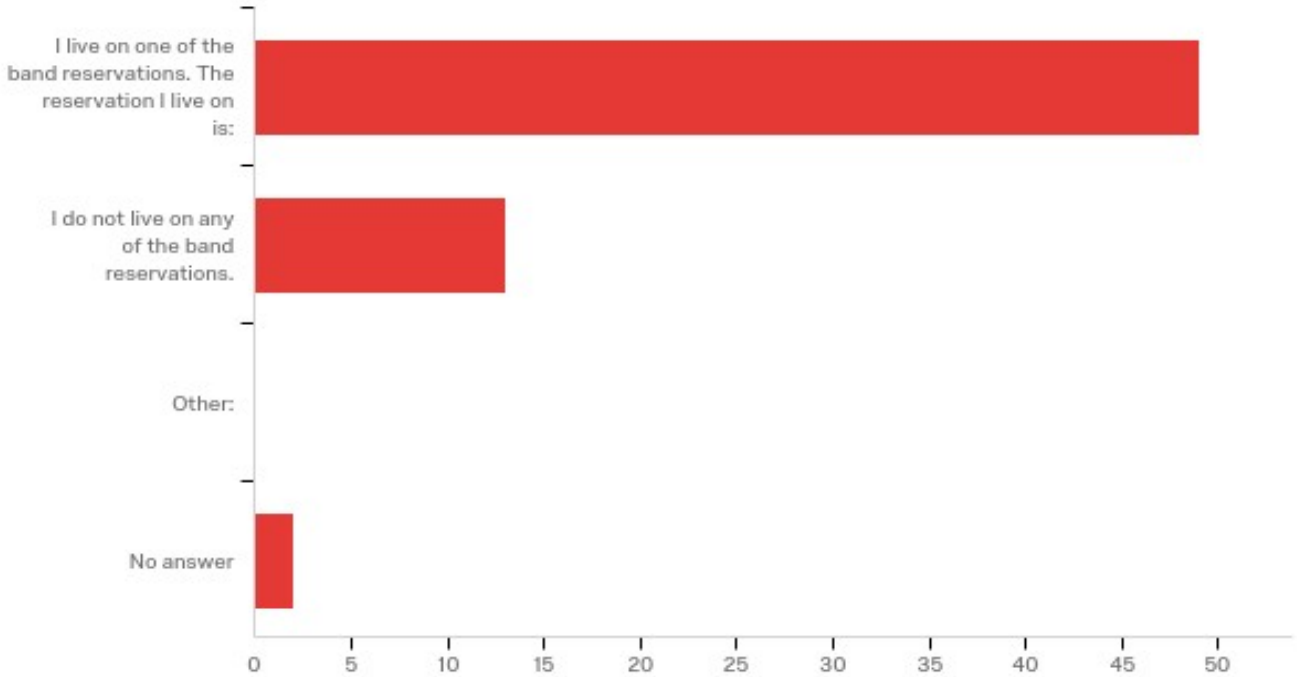
Enrolled in another federally-recognized tribe. Please specify:

Enrolled in another federally-recognized tribe. Please specify:

Other:

Other:
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Member
Thrive on White Earth Reservation
Enrolled member of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

24 - Where do you live?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	I live on one of the band reservations. The reservation I live on is:	76.56%	49
2	I do not live on any of the band reservations.	20.31%	13
3	Other:	0.00%	0
4	No answer	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

I live on one of the band reservations. The reservation I live on is:

I live on one of the band reservations. The reservation I live on is:
Mille Lacs Band
Mille Lacs
Mille Lacs
White Earth
White Earth

MLB
Mille Lacs
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Leech Lake
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
TDL
Mille Lacs Band
White Earth
Leech Lake
Bois Forte
Bois Forte
White Earth
White Earth Reservation
Mille Lacs Band
W.E.
L.L.
Grand Portage
Mille Lacs
Bois Forte
Grand Portage
Grand Portage
Grand Portage
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Fond du Lac band
Mille Lacs
Dist 3 Mille Lac Band of Ojibwe
Leech Lake
Mille Lac

Other:

Other:

25 - Comments and/or suggestions:

Comments and/or suggestions:
Uniform Election Process
Executive director at MCT must be ethical no variation from law and policies we need a new one peoples voices included don't reinvent the wheel
Review blood quantum requirement. It is creating a nonacceptance issue for our youth. Increased knowledge to members local and remote and their descendents
Each drive should have their own constitution and enrollment criteria. Grandchildren blood from two or more tribes not recognized as any band member.
Education is a Must!
Fair Representation to ensure the larger tribes don't over run smaller tribes
Work with the people you represent @ MCT and RBC levels
Good Job, we are making progress!
Keep at it. Miguech for coming
Member not citizen!
I would like to see a video of the Hy of MCT-(using the Burris Report?) put together by ALL six nations
Stop using citizen!!! I am not a citizen, I am a member, I belong!!! Tribal members only, why are allowing white people in and having input on our government
Culture needs to be a #1 addition to constitution and language also. What has TEC done for Mille Lacs.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide input
Maybe to look at the per capita given to underage. It is ruining the use to be able to know they have more money than they have ever had in their lives. Takes away motivation for being a citizen with constructive ideas, thoughts, and actions. It's a waste of fund money when most of this is spent on drugs!
Question 24 feels redundant
I think MCT is obsolete! Needs to disband but federal administrator is threatening to recognize tribe.
Good session I enjoyed the format, minimize individuals from dominating sessions
A good start! Way to put this together on short notice. It is appreciated
The four smallest reservations are the majority vote on the TEC. The 2 biggest reservations representing 70% of the MCT membership and the only 2 that aren't able to do perhaps are being out voted on issues that could benefit their reservations.
My home is not a tribal home but meetings held by MCT. My tribe reservation helps me because I am an elder