



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

*Executive Branch of Tribal Government
Office of the Chief Executive*

Via E-mail

September 25, 2025

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly
Carolyn Beaulieu, District I Representative
Wendy Merrill, District II Representative
Harry Davis, District III Representative

Re: Nomination of Gilda Burr to Serve as Commissioner of Administration

Aaniin. Under 4 MLBS §§ 4 and 6(b), I hereby nominate Gilda Burr to serve as the Band's Commissioner of Administration for a term ending June 30, 2029. With more than 30 years of dedicated service to the Band, Gilda has consistently demonstrated the integrity, vision, and cultural values necessary for this important leadership role. A trusted professional whose career has spanned finance, human resources, grants management, and court administration, Gilda has already proven her ability to build strong teams, reform complex systems, and design programs that will benefit the Band for many years to come.

What sets Gilda apart is not only her knowledge of tribal government operations, but also her life story. Growing up as the child of deaf parents, Gilda became her parents' interpreter from an early age. This formative experience taught her the values of service, empathy, and quiet confidence—traits that have guided her throughout her career. She understands what it means to advocate for those at a disadvantage and to carry responsibility with dignity and respect. These qualities are at the heart of her leadership style and are rooted in both her upbringing and her Anishinaabe values.

Gilda began her professional journey with the Mille Lacs Band in 1993 as a Financial Bookkeeper with the Housing Authority. Her diligence and work ethic quickly caught the attention of the Commissioner of Finance, who encouraged her to take on the role of Grants Reporting Specialist. At that time, the Band was considered "high risk" by federal agencies due to delinquent reporting on dozens of grants. Gilda immediately took ownership of the challenge. Within just one year, she brought the Band into compliance and helped restore its credibility in the grant world. This early achievement set the tone for the rest of her career: Gilda consistently stepped into difficult situations and transformed them through discipline, collaboration, and perseverance.

In 2000, Gilda became the Director of Human Resources. At a time of rapid growth for Band government, she led the redesign and expansion of the Human Resources Division, building it from a two-person office into a robust department of eight. She created new job descriptions, process flows, and budgets; while also introducing forward-thinking initiatives such as a comprehensive compensation system, a human resource database integrated with payroll, and leadership training for Band managers. Gilda also designed and implemented the Band's first

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employee orientation program. Each of these reforms brought the Band's employment practices into alignment with national standards while still reflecting the Band's values.

In 2006, Gilda accepted the call to serve as Court Administrator for the Band's Judicial Branch. Once again, she stepped into a role that required vision and rebuilding. Working with the Chief Justice and District Court Judge, she expanded the courts from one courtroom and five offices to two courtrooms and 14 offices. She developed policy manuals, case management systems, Guardian ad Litem training, and culturally relevant programs such as the Family Healing to Wellness Court, which supports parents working toward reunification with their children. Gilda also secured multiple grants to expand judicial services, including the Peacemaker Program and specialized wellness initiatives.

Her leadership in the courts was tested during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she successfully transitioned court operations to virtual platforms, ensuring that justice was not delayed even in the most difficult circumstances. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Gilda was honored in 2022 with the Court Support Excellence Award from the National American Indian Judges Association.

Beyond her departmental leadership, Gilda has consistently answered the Band's call to serve in governance and oversight roles. She has held tenure on the Grievance Committee since its inception in 2010, providing fair and principled review of employment matters. She has also served as a Trustee on the Woodlands Bancorporation Board (since 2024) and has contributed to the Anishinaabe Opportunities Industrialization Center (AOIC) Board, supporting restorative justice and community-based solutions such as the Sentencing Circle program.

Throughout her career, Gilda has embodied the Anishinaabe value of *mino-bimaadiziwin*—the good life—by fostering accountability, compassion, and cultural integrity in all she does. She has dedicated her life to improving the systems that serve our people, always with the goal of lifting up families, strengthening governance, and preserving opportunities for future generations. Her ability to lead across multiple domains—finance, human resources, courts, and boards—is exactly why I am nominating her for Commissioner of Administration.

On a personal level, Gilda is deeply rooted in her community. She has always viewed her work as more than a career, but rather a calling to serve her people and honor the sacrifices of those who came before her. Her parents instilled in her a belief in education, hard work, and faith, and she has carried these lessons into every aspect of her leadership. She is known not only for her knowledge and professionalism, but also for her kindness, humility, and dedication to the well-being of others.

Gilda has shown in her 30 years of service—by her proven record of system-building and reform, cultural grounding, and unwavering commitment—that she is a great fit for this position. I have no doubt that she will bring strength, stability, and vision to the role, and that under her leadership the Department of Administration will continue to evolve in ways that benefit our people today and tomorrow.

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It is therefore with the utmost respect that I nominate Gilda Burr and I humbly ask that the Band Assembly confirm her as the Band's next Commissioner of Administration and look forward to the many positive impacts her leadership will bring to our government and our community. I cannot thank Gilda enough for volunteering to step into this leadership role, and I will patiently await her confirmation hearing.

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Virgil Wind
Chief Executive

CC:

Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General
Jared Miller, Legislative Counsel
Danielle Smith, Parliamentarian / Clerk of the Assembly

Enclosure:

Gilda Burr's Resume