Oneida Nation
Oneida Business Committee
Legislative Operating Committee
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Oneida-nsn.gov

Legislative Operating Committee
Fiscal Year 2026
Fourth Quarter Report
July 2026 – September 2026

Legislative Operating Committee Action on Legislative Requests

During the FY26 Fourth Quarter the Legislative Operating Committee added one (1) legislative item to its Active Files List. The Legislative Operating Committee denied one (1) legislative item during the FY26 Fourth Quarter.

On July 1, 2026, the Legislative Operating Committee denied the request to add the Minors Trust GWA Emergency Law to the Active Files List as an emergency, noting the Minor's Trust General Welfare Assistance Law is already on the Active Files List for development as a high priority. The Legislative Operating Committee added the add the Election Law Emergency Amendments to the Active Files List.

FY26 Fourth Quarter Legislative Accomplishments

During the FY26 Fourth Quarter the Legislative Operating Committee brought forward the following legislative items for amendment or adoption:

Elder Protection Law

On July 8, 2026, the Oneida Business Committee adopted the Elder Protection law through the adoption of resolution BC-07-08-26-B. The purpose of the Elder Protection law is to uphold the Nation's responsibility to honor and protect its elders. This law establishes a comprehensive framework to prevent, identify, report, investigate, and respond to elder abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation and affirms the Nation's cultural responsibility to honor, respect, and preserve elder wellbeing. The Elder Protection Law will:

- Establish a comprehensive framework to prevent, identify, report, investigate, and respond to elder abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation.
- Establish an Interdisciplinary Team composed of multiple Nation departments to coordinate case review, guide investigations, recommend actions, promote cooperation, and identify resources.
- Establish a duty to report suspected elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The law requires any person with knowledge or reasonable suspicion of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation of an elder to report immediately to Aging & Disability Services or the Oneida Police Department.

- Create a broad class of mandated reporters, including family, caretakers, elected officials, employees, healthcare workers, mental health professionals, social workers, law enforcement, judicial staff, and fiduciaries.
- Establish civil penalties:
  - A mandated reporter who fails to report may be fined up to $2,000.
  - Anyone who knowingly files a false report may be fined up to $2,000.
  - Anyone who interferes with an investigation or retaliates against a reporter may be fined up to $2,000 per occurrence.
- Provide investigation procedures requirements including that they must begin promptly and include required steps such as:
  - Visiting the elder's residence;
  - Observing the elder;
  - Conducting interviews;
  - Reviewing healthcare and financial records;
  - Interviewing guardians/caregivers;
  - Requesting law-enforcement assistance;
- Offering or arranging needed services.
- Authorize medical examinations under specified consent conditions or by court order.
- Authorize emergency protective actions, including protective placement, may be taken when necessary.
- Protect confidentiality and records. Departmental report forms and investigative records are confidential and may only be disclosed under limited circumstances, such as to the elder, suspect, service providers, law enforcement, auditors, and through court order.
- Provide that records must be retained for five years.
- Affirm elders' rights to:
  - Notice of an investigation unless emergency conditions exist.
  - Refuse services if they have capacity.
  - Protect their property rights, including the right to deny entry.
  - Representation by counsel at their own expense.
- Provide for rights of the accused to refuse services for themselves, refuse entry (subject to warrant), and obtain counsel at their own expense.
- Grant the Oneida Trial Court jurisdiction over all actions under this law. Personal jurisdiction extends to members of the Nation and Nation employees.

The Elder Protection law became effective on August 3, 2026.

Pardon and Forgiveness Law Amendments

On July 8, 202, the Oneida Business Committee adopted the amendments to the Pardon and Forgiveness law through the adoption of resolution BC-07-08-26-I. The purpose of the Pardon and Forgiveness law is to establish a fair, efficient, and formal process through which individuals may seek relief from certain barriers created by past actions. Amendments to the Pardon and Forgiveness Law:

- Create an exception allowing applicants with outstanding penalties/fines to proceed only if the application is for employment purposes and the applicant meets the requirements for a conditional waiver.
- Establish the full conditional waiver framework, including:

    - waiver applies only to employment eligibility;
    - outstanding penalties/fines remain fully enforceable;
    - mandatory payment agreement requirements for Pardon and Forgiveness Committee recommendation;
    - good-cause exception for missed payments;
    - grounds for rescission for non-payment.
- Allow an applicant proceeding under the conditional waiver (employment-only) to submit proof of a Pardon and Forgiveness Committee-approved payment agreement instead of proof of full payment.
- Clarify that a pardon or forgiveness does not affect restrictions imposed under the Nation's Safe Neighborhoods law, in addition to existing sex-offender requirements.
- Require the Oneida Secretary's Office to monitor payment-related conditions and provide quarterly reports to the Pardon and Forgiveness Committee; and clarify that monitoring is solely for eligibility enforcement, not decision-making.
- Authorize the OBC to rescind a pardon/forgiveness when a person fails to meet a payment condition under 126.6-3, with notice and a thirty (30) day cure period; reinstates all prior ineligibilities. Includes subsections specifying:
    - rescission is an eligibility action, not an employment action;
    - notice must be issued per 126.10-4.

The Pardon and Forgiveness law amendments became effective on August 3, 2026.

Eviction and Termination Law Amendments

On July 8, 202, the Oneida Business Committee adopted the amendments to the Eviction and Termination law through the adoption of resolution BC-07-08-26-J. The purpose of the Eviction and Termination law is to provide consistent procedures for terminating a contract and/or evicting an occupant which affords the occupant due process and protects all parties involved. Amendments to the Eviction and Termination law:

- Add or revise the definition for Comprehensive Housing Division, law enforcement agency, occupant, owner, periodic tenancy, rental value, and stay of eviction.
- Expand who qualifies as an owner under the law from just the Nation to the Nation when the Nation is acting in its capacity as a lessor as defined in the Leasing law or lessee; or the Nation or any person or entity within the Nation's jurisdiction acting in its capacity as a landlord as defined in the Landlord Tenant law.
- Revise the delegation of administrative rulemaking authority provided under this Law for the Nation's residential, agricultural, and business contracts.
- Remove the terms "alleged" and "allegations" throughout the Law.
- Revise how notice of an early contract termination or eviction is provided to individuals and corporations or partnerships.
- Provide that an occupant shall have a right to cure for a failure to pay rent, but is not guaranteed that right to cure for subsequent violations.
- Clarify an occupant's right to cure for instances of waste or contract breach by providing steps for remedying this type of breach, and also providing that the right to cure is not guaranteed for subsequent violations.
- Clarify what types of offenses qualify as a violation of law or rule or nuisance activity.
- Revise who is allowed to notice an owner of a violation of law or rule or nuisance activity.

- Clarify that an owner is not required to provide an occupant an opportunity to cure for a violation of an applicable law or rule or nuisance act.
- Clarify and expand when an individual may contest a contract termination.
- Revise how an occupant's failure to vacate following the notice of eviction or a contract expiration is handled by an owner by involving the Oneida Nation Judiciary in an effort to increase due process for all individuals involved.
    - If an occupant fails to vacate the premises, instead of allowing an owner to immediately change the locks as currently allowed, an owner is required to file an eviction action with the Oneida Trial Court to remove the occupant from possession or occupancy of the premises.
    - In an eviction action, if the Oneida Trial Court finds that the termination and eviction occurred in accordance with this law and the owner is entitled to possession, the Oneida Trial Court shall immediately enter an order for judgment to the owner for the removal of the occupant and their property from the premises.
    - At the time of ordering judgment for the removal of the occupant and their property from the premises, the Oneida Trial Court issues writ of removal – which requires an Oneida Police Department Officer to remove from the premises the occupant and all other persons found upon the premises, using such reasonable force as is necessary if they have not yet removed themselves, and then remain on scene while the owner changes the locks and secures possession of the premises.
- Expand the amount of time allowed for an owner to return a security deposit to an occupant from thirty (30) days to sixty (60) days.
- Make other drafting changes and broad organizational changes.

The Eviction and Termination law amendments became effective on July 22, 2026.

Election Law Emergency Amendments
On July 8, 202, the Oneida Business Committee adopted the emergency amendments to the Election law through the adoption of resolution BC-07-08-26-K. The purpose of the Election law is to govern the procedures for the conduct of orderly elections of the Nation, including pre-election activities such as caucuses and nominations. The emergency amendments to the Election law will reduce the number of Election Board members required to sign the election totals from six (6) to three (3).

The emergency amendments to the Election law were necessary for the preservation of the general welfare of the Reservation population to ensure that the 2026 General Election could occur in an efficient and lawful manner. The 2026 General Election was scheduled for July 11, 2026. The number of Election Board members required to sign the election totals was reduced from six (6) to three (3) due to the Election Board's concern that there will not be enough Election Board members to meet the original requirement for six (6) members. The Election Board provided that they were not able to secure an adequate number of alternate positions for the 2026 General Election.

Additionally, observance of the requirements under the Legislative Procedures Act for the adoption of the amendments to the Election law was contrary to public interest and the process

and requirements of the Legislative Procedures Act could not be completed in time to allow the proposed emergency amendments to be adopted and implemented prior to the July 12, 2026 General Election.

The emergency amendments to the Election law became effective immediately upon adoption on July 8, 2026, and will remain effective for six (6) months until January 8, 2026.

Extension of the Emergency Adoption of the Safe Neighborhoods Law

On August 12, 2026, the Oneida Business Committee extended the emergency adoption of the Safe Neighborhoods law through the adoption of resolution BC-08-12-26-B. The Safe Neighborhoods law was adopted by the Oneida Business Committee on an emergency basis on February 25, 2026, through the adoption of resolution BC-02-25-26-C. The purpose of the Law is not to impose a criminal penalty but rather to serve the Nation's compelling interest to promote, protect, and improve the health, safety, and welfare of the reservation population by prohibiting sex offenders from loitering or residing in specified areas around locations where vulnerable populations, including children, regularly congregate. The Safe Neighborhoods law recognizes the right of sex offenders to reenter the community. Therefore, through the Safe Neighborhoods law, the Nation balances its responsibility to sex offenders with its responsibility to protect the surrounding community by promoting regulatory measures which provide protections for the community that do not wholly prohibit sex offenders from being part of this community. The Safe Neighborhoods law:

- Prohibits a sex offender from being present or entering into specified prohibited locations, that are primarily focused on areas in which children are known to congregate, while also providing exceptions for when a sex offender may enter a prohibited area.
- Prohibits a sex offender from establishing a permanent residence or temporary residence within two thousand five hundred (2,500) feet of any prohibited location, while also providing exceptions for when a sex offender may have a residence less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) feet of any prohibited location.
- Prohibits a person or entity from selling, leasing, subleasing, renting, conveying, or otherwise allowing a sex offender to stay in any place, structure, or part thereof with knowledge that it will be used as a permanent residence or temporary residence by any sex offender that is prohibited from establishing residence under this law.
- Provides a process to allow a sex offender to petition for a waiver of the residence restriction to the Oneida Police Department Chief of Police, and then appeal a denial of a waiver to the Oneida Public Safety and Security Commission.
- Requires the Geographic Information System Department to develop and maintain an official map of the reservation showing prohibited locations and the resulting residency restrictions distances that is made available on the Nation's website.
- Provides for the enforcement of violations of this Law and subsequent penalties that are available.

The emergency adoption of this Law was necessary, and continues to be necessary, for the preservation of the safety and general welfare of the reservation population due to the fact that sex offenders are a serious threat to the public safety of vulnerable populations, including children, if regulatory measures are not in place that protect the community by reducing opportunity and temptation by prohibiting sex offenders from being present on or residing in specified areas designated as places where vulnerable populations commonly congregate.

Additionally, observance of the requirements under the Legislative Procedures Act for the adoption of this Law was, and continues to be, contrary to public interest since and the process and requirements of the Legislative Procedures Act cannot be completed in time to ensure that the Law can be adopted and implemented in time to best protect the safety and general welfare of the reservation population

The extension of the emergency amendments to the Law will become effective on August 25, 2026, when the emergency adoption of this Law as adopted through BC-02-25-26-C expires and will remain in effect for an additional six (6) month term which will end on February 25, 2027.

Code of Ethics Law Amendments

On August 12, 2026, the Oneida Business Committee adopted the amendments to the Code of Ethics law through the adoption of resolution BC-08-12-26-C. The purpose of the Code of Ethics law is to is to establish clear standards of conduct rooted in the values of the Oneida people, to guide those entrusted with authority in serving the Nation with honor and responsibility. These standards reflect the sacred trust between the government and the people, and are intended to promote integrity, uphold the will of the Nation, and preserve the confidence of the Oneida people. Amendments to the Code of Ethics Law:

- Update the Code of Ethics so it clearly focuses on the Oneida Business Committee, bringing all expectations for how leaders should conduct themselves into one easy to understand law.
- Integrate the Great Law of Peace into the ethical foundation, affirming decision making grounded in peace, unity, and thoughtful deliberation as cultural mandates for governance.
- Ground the ethical framework in the Good Mind teachings, infusing leadership obligations with humility, compassion, clarity, and community centered thinking.
- Articulate the concept of Sacred Trust, emphasizing leadership as a duty held on behalf of past, present, and future generations rather than an individual entitlement.
- Clarify the definition of "Conflict of Interest" to encompass financial, personal, and political interests affecting leaders and their immediate families, reinforcing impartial stewardship.
- Mandate transparent disclosure of conflicts, ensuring ethical clarity consistent with the Good Mind's call for honesty and openness in governance.
- Require OBC members to recuse themselves from matters in which conflicts exist, upholding the Great Law of Peace's expectation that leaders avoid self interest.

- Implement structured annual and as needed conflict of interest filings, creating accountability mechanisms that reinforce responsible leadership.
- Modernize gift and honoraria reporting by increasing financial thresholds and updating reporting processes to better reflect contemporary governance realities including public disclosure.
- Prohibit acceptance of gifts tied to influence or business advantage, protecting the Nation's decision making from external pressure and maintaining community trust.
- Regulate OBC members' applications for positions that report directly to the Committee, preventing conflicts before they arise and strengthening procedural fairness.
- Safeguard confidential information by restricting its use for personal, financial, or political benefit, aligning with the Haudenosaunee value of responsible and respectful speech.
- Promote fairness and impartiality in leadership actions, ensuring decisions are made through unbiased judgment grounded in the Good Mind and collective well being.
- Prohibit nepotism in hiring, supervision, and resource decisions, maintaining equitable access and protecting the legitimacy of OBC leadership.
- Reinforce accountability and transparency as essential qualities of public office, affirming that OBC authority flows from the people and must remain answerable to them.
- Elevate cultural accountability by requiring OBC members to conduct themselves in ways that honor Oneida identity, teachings, and responsibilities.
- Strengthen expectations for meeting attendance, preparation, and professional engagement, acknowledging that presence and participation are integral to carrying the Sacred Trust.
- Codify a comprehensive list of prohibited behaviors—including retaliation, discrimination, misuse of office, and corruption—to uphold dignity and protect community confidence in leadership.
- Align enforcement with broader Nation laws to provide consistency, due process, and integrity in the handling of ethical violations.

The Code of Ethics law amendments became effective on August 26, 2026.

Boards, Committees, and Commissions Law Amendments

On August 12, 2026, the Oneida Business Committee adopted amendments to the Boards, Committees, and Commissions law through the adoption of resolution BC-08-12-26-D. The purpose of the Boards, Committees, and Commissions Law is to govern boards, committees, and commissions of the Nation, including the procedures regarding the appointment and election of individuals to boards, committees, and commissions, creation of bylaws, maintenance of official records, compensation, to establish clear standards of conduct, and other items related to boards, committees, and commissions. Amendments to the Boards, Committees, and Commissions law:

- Restructure the authority of the newly created Boards, Committees, and Commissions Department.
- Enhance standards of conduct and the prohibitions against conflicts of interest.
- Enhance and clarify enforcement provisions.

- Make a variety of other amendments to strengthen and clarify the duties and responsibilities of each entity, member, the Oneida Business Committee, and the Boards, Committees, and Commissions Department.

The amendments to the Boards, Committees, and Commissions law became effective on August 26, 2026.

FY26 Fourth Quarter Administrative Accomplishments

During the FY26 Fourth Quarter the Legislative Operating Committee brought forward the following administrative accomplishment:

Certification of Higher Education Grant Law Rule No. 1 - Student Eligibility Requirements and Administration

On July 1, 2026, the Legislative Operating Committee certified Higher Education Grant Law Rule No. 1 - Student Eligibility Requirements and Administration. The Oneida Business Committee then adopted the Higher Education Grant Law Rule No. 1 - Student Eligibility Requirements and Administration on July 8, 2026.

FY26 Fourth Quarter Community Outreach Efforts

The Legislative Operating Committee did not hold any community outreach events during the FY26 Fourth Quarter.

FY26 Fourth Quarter Legislative Highlights

The Legislative Operating Committee would like to highlight its work on the following legislative items during the FY26 Fourth Quarter:

Conflict of Interest Law Amendments

This item was sponsored by Jonas Hill during the 2023-2026 legislative term. The Legislative Operating Committee held one (1) work meeting during the FY26 Fourth Quarter regarding this legislative matter.

Indian Preference in Contracting Law Amendments

This item was sponsored by Jonas Hill during the 2023-2026 legislative term. The Legislative Operating Committee held two (2) work meetings during the FY26 Fourth Quarter regarding this legislative matter

Probate Law

This item was sponsored by Jameson Wilson and Kirby Metoxen during the 2023-2026 legislative term, an Jonas Hill during the 2026-2029 legislative term. The Legislative Operating Committee held six (6) work meetings during the FY26 Fourth Quarter regarding this legislative matter.

Safe Neighborhoods Law
This item was sponsored by Jameson Wilson and Kirby Metoxen during the 2023-2026 legislative term, and all Legislative Operating Committee members during the 2026-2029 legislative term. On July 15, 2026, the Legislative Operating Committee approved the draft and the legislative analysis of the proposed Safe Neighborhoods law. Then on August 5, 2026, the Legislative Operating Committee approved the public meeting packet for the proposed Safe Neighborhoods law and forwarded the Safe Neighborhoods law to a public meeting to be held on September 10, 2026. On September 10, 2026, the Legislative Operating Committee held a public meeting for the Safe Neighborhoods law, and no individuals provided oral comments during the public meeting. The public meeting was held open until September 17, 2026, and no individuals provided written comments during the public comment period.

Ten Day Notice Policy Amendments
This item was sponsored by Jennifer Webster and Jameson Wilson during the 2023-2026 legislative term. On July 1, 2026, the Legislative Operating Committee accepted the public comment review memorandum. Then on July 15, 2026, the Legislative Operating Committee approve the public comment review memorandum, draft, and legislative analysis for the proposed amendments to the Ten day Notice Policy, and approved the fiscal impact statement request memorandum and directed the Finance Department to provide the LOC with a fiscal impact statement of the Ten day Notice Policy amendments by July 29, 2026.

Tribal Sovereignty in Data Research Law
This item was sponsored by Jennifer Webster during the 2023-2026 legislative term. The Legislative Operating Committee held one (1) work meeting during the FY26 Fourth Quarter regarding this legislative matter.

Uniform Commercial Code
This item was sponsored by Jameson Wilson during the 2023-2026 legislative term. The Legislative Operating Committee held two (2) work meetings during the FY26 Fourth Quarter regarding this legislative matter.

Vendor Licensing Law Amendments
This item is sponsored by Jonas Hill during the 2023-2026 legislative term and the 2026-2029 legislative term. On August 13, 2026, the Legislative Operating Committee held a public meeting regarding the Vendor Licensing law amendments. Two (2) individuals provided oral comments during the public meeting. The public comment period was held open until August 20, 2026.

FY26 Fourth Quarter Legislative Operating Committee Meetings

All Legislative Operating Committee meetings are open to the public and held on the first and Fourth Wednesday of each month, at 9:00 a.m. in the Norbert Hill Center's Business Committee Conference Room and on Microsoft Teams.

The Legislative Operating Committee held the following meetings during the FY26 Fourth Quarter:

- July 1, 2026 – Regular meeting;
- July 15, 2026 – Regular meeting;
- August 5, 2026 – Regular meeting; and
- August 19, 2026 – Regular meeting.

The September 2, 2026, and September 16, 2026, Legislative Operating Committee meetings were canceled due to the Oneida Business Committee 2026-2029 transition.

In addition to attending the Legislative Operating Committee meetings in person, individuals provided the opportunity to attend the Legislative Operating Committee meeting through Microsoft Teams. Anyone who would like to access the Legislative Operating Committee meeting through Microsoft Teams can provide their name, phone number or e-mail address to LOC@oneidanation.org by the close of business the day before a meeting of the Legislative Operating Committee to receive the link to the Microsoft Teams meeting.

For those who may be unable to attend the Legislative Operating Committee meeting either in person or on Microsoft Teams, an audio recording of the Legislative Operating Committee meeting is made available on the Nation's website after the meeting concludes.

Goals for FY27 First Quarter

During the FY27 First Quarter the Legislative Operating Committee will focus its legislative efforts on the following matters:

- Transition into the 2026-2029 Legislative Term;
- Review and Development of LOC 2026-2029 Strategic Plan;
- Development of 2026-2029 Active Files List;
- Adoption of the Safe Neighborhoods Law.

Legislative Reference Office

The Legislative Reference Office's mission is to provide support for the Legislative Operating Committee in developing clear and consistent legislation that reflects the Nation's values, builds upon the Nation's strong foundation, and reaffirms our inherent sovereignty.

In addition to assisting the Legislative Operating Committee with the development of legislation, the Legislative Reference Office also:

- Drafts statements of effect for Oneida Business Committee and General Tribal Council resolutions;
- Drafts statements of effect for General Tribal Council petitions;

- Drafts and provides other assistance to various department and entities of the Nation with administrative rulemaking; and
- Manages all other administrative duties and recordkeeping for the Legislative Operating Committee.

During the FY26 Fourth Quarter the Legislative Reference Office was staffed by the following individuals:

- Clorissa N. Leeman, Senior Legislative Staff Attorney.
  - Contact: cleeman@oneidanation.org
- Carolyn Salutz, Legislative Staff Attorney.
  - Contact: csalutz@oneidanation.org
- Grace Elliott, Legislative Staff Attorney.
  - Contact: gelliott@oneidanation.org

Legislative Operating Committee Contact Information

The 2026-2029 Legislative Operating Committee was sworn in for this term on August 28, 2026. The Legislative Operating Committee unanimously choose Aliskwet Ellis as the Chairwoman and Jonas Hill as the Vice-Chairman.

Feel free to contact the LOC at LOC@oneidanation.org with any questions or comments, or individual LOC members at the following:

- Aliskwet Ellis, LOC Chairwoman
  cellis1@oneidanation.org
- Jonas Hill, LOC Vice-Chairman
  jhill1@oneidanation.org
- Jennifer Webster, LOC Member
  jwebste1@oneidanation.org
- Kristal Hill, LOC Member
  khill@oneidanation.org
- Lora Danforth, LOC Member
  ldanfor4@oneidanation.org