

Write-In Candidates



Geraldine Jim (Seekseequa)

Dear tribal members of the Seekseequa District,

As you all know, voting is coming up on March 31 for the Tribal Council nominees. It is very important that you vote and vote for the two people that you feel will represent you to the best of their ability.

I, Geraldine W. Jim, decided to campaign as a write-in for Tribal Council. I feel I have the knowledge and ability to represent not only you, but all tribal members; therefore, I am requesting that you vote for me as a write-in.

I have served on the Plan-

ning Committee, Health and Welfare Committee, and the Culture and Heritage Committee. We have traveled with the senior citizens to conferences.

I have lived here, Warm Springs, my whole life. I am married to Wilfred Jim Sr. We have seven children, five natural children, Wendell, Mona, Manny, Maynard, Cyril and two that we consider our sons, Virgil "Bird" and Everett "Daffy," as we have raised them from very young. Wilfred and I were foster parents to numerous children. We are also raising two grandchildren, Salena and Venus. We love having and taking care of our other grandchildren. Thank you.

Jeff Sanders (Agency District)

Dear Agency District member, Time is drawing near for another Tribal Council election. This year's nomination and election is important, but this election is one of the most important decisions that you as a tribal member will make.

I have decided to run for Tribal Council as a write in candidate for the Agency District this year because the stakes are so high. There are many issues that must be addressed now. If not addressed, they will have profound impacts on our people for generations to come.

I have been employed by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for more than 44 years. In that time I have witnessed the good times and now, increasingly, the not so good times. I went to work for the Confederated Tribes after completing my three-year enlistment in the United States Army in 1957. I served with the 68th Armored Division in Germany.

The tribal organization was much smaller back then. It was an exciting time with our leaders taking a decisive role. The Round Butte Dam was being built, the Oregon State Study had just been completed, and in the next few years, many positive changes altered the lives of tribal members forever. Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Warm Springs Forest Products, Warm Springs Power Enterprise, and the log-



ging industry gave our people steady jobs and provided money for tribal government to fund services and programs. It was during this time that we became a leading tribe in Indian Country. Our leaders were revered throughout Indian Country and our Secretary Treasurer became the top Indian in the land during President Reagan's first administration (The assistant secretary to the Interior on Indian Affairs).

During the last decade we have experienced a down turn in our economy. It has become so severe that it is threatening our scholarship program, senior

pension fund, per capita, and tribal jobs. Our elders talk about providing for the next seven generations. At the rate we are going the next generation is even in doubt.

Things have changed and the change didn't occur overnight. We must take charge of our own destiny and carefully guide our finances and both human and natural resources through this troubled and stormy time. The priorities as I see them are:

Economic Development. Creation of businesses for jobs.

Jobs. Creation of enterprises, tribal government, BIA, IHS T/M training and skill develop-

ment.

Housing, Education. Substance Abuse [drug dealers, users, gangs, burglaries, etc.]

Strategic Plan for Tribal Government. This will layout short- and long-term strategies and direction for tribal government to follow.

Accountability for Tribal Government Programs and Services. Tribal Council must hold the Secretary Treasurer, Chief Operations Officer, General Managers, Directors and line supervisors more accountable and responsible for their programs and services outcomes.

Communications. The people are entitled to know what their tribal government and monies are being spent on and the results of the programs and services being provided. The need for more communication between the Tribal Council representatives and the tribal membership is needed.

Responding to the people's issues and concerns must be respected and an open line of two-way communication is essential.

Open and public access to Tribal Council representatives and their meetings must be improved upon immediately.

I think our current Tribal Council means well and wants the best for the tribal members. I think they are concerned about the challenges we face and are doing the best they can.

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Lonnie James

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Third, we have our tribal enterprises that are tasked to both make a profit and employ our people.

In fulfilling their mission, they must accomplish the first goal in order to keep their doors open to fulfill the second goal. In addition, they must maintain working capital in order to adapt in the hard times and must be positioned to take advantage of the favorable market in the good times.

The preservation of capital is a common business problem because the owners of the capital (in our case, the tribe) require a return on their capital. We must adopt fair standards that recognize our need to maintain our public infrastructure and support mechanism that takes care of our people while allowing for expansion of our enterprises and identifying prudent goals for excess funds. On top of this, we need to find a way to put more money in the system - we need to develop more business on the reservation to be able to take care of our expanding population and needs as we age and life becomes more expensive.

We cannot continue to refuse to accept that expenses increase, we must proactively prepare for a more costly future.

Fourth, we need to address our health and safety. I feel that we are behind the norm in our investment in both our health and safety infrastructure. Even so, that seems to be common these days because of the rapidly rising cost of healthcare and the intensive focus on security and police issues. I believe we must maintain or expand our efforts in securing all the financial help we can get in supporting our health and safety efforts. We can't allow either competition for money or efforts to decrease the funding pool stem our efforts to maintain standards. If we do, the cost to close the gap between funding needs and resources will be even larger when we do realize that the lowered standards are no longer ac-

ceptable.

Finally, the efforts of the Tribal Council in past years, while often successful, tend to happen without knowledge of the tribal members.

We are often the last to know about major legal settlements that are extremely important to our future. Even so, our Tribal Council is responsible for leading the fight to defend our sovereignty as well as outlining our position in various legal issues, and should be afforded the opportunity and resources to do so effectively.

While it seems that only a few are privy to the workings of Council, causing frustration among the tribal members, I hope to find a way to open up the proceedings of Council in a regular report that would be edited for privacy and tribally sensitive issues, but still exhibit that Council is acting in the best interest of the people and restore confidence in the actions of Council.

Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to express my feelings to the tribe and hope that after consideration, you will allow me to work for our community as a representative of the Agency District. Respectfully submitted, Lonnie James

Leona Ike

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This can be done in many ways: giving someone a job, helping someone with a few dollars, or just listening when someone needs a shoulder to lean on. An act of kindness got me where I am today. Someone hired me when others would not. This opportunity set me and my children on the road to self-sufficiency. This person is a non-Indian named Dale Cochran, and every day I thank God for

him. The same was true for my mother, and the kindness of this one person led our family to walk the road we walk today. This person was Irene Wells who was the Chief Judge and believed my mom had the ability to speak up for others and appointed and hired her in training program as a legal advocate.

I grew up very poor and I had little. As a teen I worked in the fields for farmers in our county as a rock and potato

picker. I have picked berries for school clothes. During the times of summer youth program, my earnings went to family needs, such as the light bill, food, phone bill and gas. Not until my junior year in high school did I have more than one pair of shoes to last me the year. I went barefoot in the summer. These hard times I don't regret, because it developed me into the woman I am today. My mother, my father, and my elders also said,

"God never gives you more than you can handle. You may not understand right now, but he is giving you character. One day you will understand." Today I understand this teaching as I walk in my mother's and father's steps as a public servant.

We need each other to get through our hard times, so please vote, vote for change. Thank you for your time and I am honored to be a candidate for Council.

Barbara Jim

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I will make time to listen to concerns or issues that people may have.

I have learned by my exper-

iences both professional and personal, to keep issues separate and deal with them in a fair and responsible way.

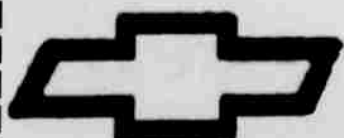
An open mind is what is lack-

ing today. A person with an open mind and heart is what will satisfy the needs of the people. I will not only be open minded, but also honest with my people,

and do the best for my people. I want also to encourage the young people to get out and vote. Your vote is important, you are important.

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