

Tribal Council election 2019 - Candidates

Valerie Switzler - Agency District

It has been an honor to serve our community as one of the Agency representatives. I would like to say thank you for the nomination.

My focus has not changed in the three years working as your representative: Language, culture and education have been the driving force in the work that I do.

With support from a great team of people who nurtured me before this journey that started three years ago, we have made great strides to bring language and cultural education to the Warm Springs community.

It was good news for all of Indian country when the Obama administration signed the Every Student Succeeds Act. We worked closely with the Oregon Department of Education in government-to-government meetings to work towards legislation, now referred to as Senate Bill 13.

Senate bill 13 provides for the production and distribution of culturally specific curriculum about the nine tribes and for the nine tribes of Oregon. This fight has been fought since the 1970s, to have a presence in the school system and to revitalize the language. We can count many successes for education that will benefit our children for generations to come.



This does not hinder the planning of endeavors to create a school-based curriculum centered on our way of life. While basic teachings that stem from the home still exist: Respect for elders, a keen interest in our natural environment, and self discipline. With the exception of a few who are hurting because of what's happening to them, these are evident in the language classes taught at the Warm Springs Academy.

Health has had its share of hills and valleys. Alcohol and drugs are a continuous battle—One that has touched every home on the reservation including mine. We look to find that one answer to cure our people and yet sometimes the most important one of all—for some of us—is relying on our spirituality. We believe in and call upon our Creator in many different ways, but the important thing to remember is to call upon him. Our community continues to work towards healthy hearts, minds and spirit. Our way of life has more strengths to draw upon than weaknesses.

Some people were deeply disappointed when Kah-Nee-Ta was shuttered,

and I was one to vote to shutter the enterprise. With the current management structure it was not generating money and had not been ever. The last few years it drew millions of dollars—funding that was meant for financial stability for tribal services—but Kah-Nee-Ta operated with no strategy to make it a stable enterprise.

When I was elected, the people wanted more accountability from our enterprises. And after several investigations it became apparent that action was needed and taken. Business development and economics is a great task to take on. We all must work towards making this a thriving community. We take our money off the reservation, evident by the line of cars that drive across our borders every payday. We need to keep our dollars here. Look for opportunities to promote and capture other dollars that drive past on Highway 26 everyday.

For several years we took our eyes off the young. We need to focus our energy on them, to educate them in a relevant and cultural way for them to carry themselves on a good path in whatever direction they choose to take.

'Be still like a mountain and flow like a great river.'

Valerie Switzler

Olney Patt Jr. - Simnasho District

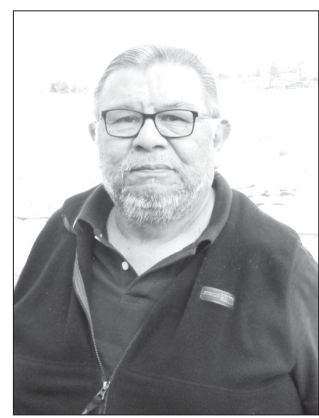
As the 2019 tribal council election approaches, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs finds itself facing serious challenges on a number of fronts—both fiscal and social.

In the past three years we have witnessed the closing of two major enterprises and the failure of two other enterprises to get off the ground.

Unemployment is at an all-time high, senior citizen pensions were reduced from \$435 a month to \$300 (roughly 33 percent), monthly per capita payments are \$25, down from \$100. Where will it end?

I point out these disheartening facts not to pin blame, but to remind voters that this has been the tribes' fiscal trajectory for the past several election cycles. We tribal members cannot afford to continue down this path.

Business as usual will



not suffice. Now, more than ever, the people of Warm Springs need decisive and motivated leaders in the tribal council chambers to address these and other issues:

- Devise and carry out a plan to reopen Kah Nee Ta Resort.

- Restore Senior Citizen Pensions to \$435.

- Carry out the downtown plan to provide grocery shopping, hardware, and entrepreneurial opportunities to tribal members.

- Get the cannabis project going, as approved by referendum, and hire tribal members to key positions.

- Require written reports to tribal members for ALL tribal council and committee travel, plus a running tally of travel costs.

- Provide clean and safe drinking water for Warm Springs and all reservation communities.

- Reassert and protect off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

- Commence a cleanup plan for the WSFPI mill site and use the site for retail development and a possible permanent riverfront casino site.

- Develop business spaces along the Highway 26 corridor, from milepost 84 to the Deschutes River.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of priority issues, but it would be a good start. Be sure to get out and CAST YOUR VOTE.

Olney Patt Jr.

Levi VanPelt - Simnasho District

Hello district members,

I am Levi VanPelt. I am 61 years old, married for 28 years with our daughters, five grandsons and one granddaughter.

I am a displaced millworker, now employed at IHS as

groundskeeper.

I serve currently on the Timber Committee. This is my third term, and second term as Chairman

I try be informed on what our reservation is dealing with. I go to most district meetings, Justice

Team meetings, and Natural Resource tours. I have also helped out with youth sports for over 30 years.

I hope I will learn more on this and other matters at upcoming candidates' forums.

Aurolyn Stwyer - Simnasho District

Aurolyn Stwyer ~ Nak'ishayat

Our ancestors have prepared us for the economic and other challenges for the next few years. This will require each Tribal Council member to put every effort toward our economic development and job creation. We must include the input by tribal member stakeholders as well as regular communications.

During my term on the Twenty-Fourth Tribal Council in the vice chairman capacity, I provided a written quarterly report for anyone who had an interest. It was common for me to drop by the tribes' media office to offer updates.

My goal is to create 100 jobs per year, after we secure grant funds to address the infrastructure needs. My suggestion is to come up with the top three ideas for business development and host General Council meetings to gain an understanding about the wishes of the people.

My educational experience of two Master's degrees in Business Administration and Human and Organizational Systems is paramount to my background as an entrepreneur. I have owned the



Red Sky LLC business for 16 years, during which time I provided business consulting services for such clients as Portland Public Schools, the City of Portland, and St. Charles Hospital.

My store, the Red Sky Trading Post, has been providing marketing and sales of local arts and crafts for the past six years. We have processed over 1,200 micro-loans, and this has assured for items to stay on the reservation.

When my store isn't busy, I get to enjoy my passion for the arts, beadwork and painting. Last year I was honored as a 2018-2019 National Artist-Mentor Fellow by the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation.

This grant award is a generous amount of \$30,000. This has connected me with additional sources of funders. As one of the co-founders of the Potlatch Fund, my expertise is fundraising.

We have some exciting

developments taking place with new policies for education. It's good to know that meetings are taking place for tribal member input.

This certainly resonates with my experience as a co-author of *Indianpreneurship*, an award-winning curriculum. Plus, I have seven years of experience as an Adjunct Professor for Business classes with Heritage University at Toppenish, Washington.

Other civic duties include serving as a traditional food gatherer, serving on the Museum Board of Regents as vice chairman, the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors as Secretary-Treasurer, the Jim Pepper Native Arts Council as vice chairman, the Warm Springs Horse Network Board of Directors, the Jefferson County Democratic Party as vice chairman.

Most of these board meetings are quarterly and we have the capacity to participate via Skype or telephone. I am more than willing to withdraw from these board positions to focus on service for the people.

Naii. Aurolyn Stwyer

Raymond Tsumpti - Simnasho District

I want to thank Janice Clements for nominating me, and Eliza Jim seconding that nomination to be the district representative.

It's been an honor and a privilege to have the confidence of the district to be selected as their representative.

I appreciate the district members of handing down from generation to generation the values and principles held high by past members who



have gone now.

These values and principles are embodied in our

major documents. It has been difficult to communicate this thinking to others who don't understand who we are.

I am glad to see other Simnasho nominees who have the same teachings to be considered by the district, to be a strong representative, whatever the outcome

I respect the districts decision.

Raymond Calica-Tsumpti Sr.

Ron Suppah - Simnasho District

I have but one request, and that is that you get out and vote for whomever you feel will best serve you.



Agency District Candidates

Eugene Austin Greene Jr.

Simnasho District Candidates

Charles 'Jody' Calica

Raymond Moody

Lincoln Jay Suppah

Priscilla Frank



Tribal Council Election ~ April 4, 2019 ~