

2001 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

☐ TOM LENO



My name is Tom Leno and I would like to represent you on council. I go to General Council meetings and I am quite outspoken when I feel something isn't right. I do speak up for all the membership. I feel everybody should be treated equally. Everyone in the Tribe should have equal benefits and rights to every benefit within our Tribe. That means: in town, out of town, in state, out of state and whatever country you're in now. Council should find a way to handle our members' concerns.

I feel the chairperson could assign a concern to each councilman — instead of saying they will take our concerns under advisement. Then, we never hear anything back about our concerns. If each councilman took one concern per general meeting then brought back a good honest answer the next Sunday, it would help out a lot. I think we deserve answers to our concerns.

I think we need to start planning on what we're going to do with the money when our endowments are full in the next couple years.

I believe 20% should keep going in the endowments when the goals have been met. I also believe the other 80% of the money should go to the people in their per capita payments. We could take 5% of the 20% and start a youth endowment fund; it would be there to do something special for our kids that graduate. To honor them!

I also feel something needed to be done about enrollment issues. There are families that split because one is enrolled and the other cannot be enrolled. I've been told about brothers and sisters where one is enrolled and the other cannot be enrolled. How can that be when they have the same blood in their veins?

We honor Elders at all times and honored they should be at all times. There's one place I feel that they are not honored properly and that's on the Elders' van. I believe the word "Seniors" on the sides of the van should read "Elders."

Our youth need things too. Our youngsters could use a skateboard pit, a place to ride bikes, a swimming pool — something they can have fun doing. As a Tribe with all of our money, we should be able to build something for our kids.

All of the above are some of my thoughts and concerns.

Some information about me:

I've been involved before the Tribe was restored. I chaired the fish and wildlife at the very beginning. We had a campout every year for the kids. Then I went to the Timber Committee and I'm still with the Timber Committee. I was in the Army for three and a half years and served in Vietnam and two years in Alaska. I received campaign ribbons, purple heart, air medal and accommodation medals.

My grandparents were Dave and Emma Leno, and Tom and Elvira McKnight. My father was Arnold Leno and my mother is Maxine Leno. My brothers are Dave Leno and Bob Leno. My sisters are Denise and Dorothy. My uncles are Russ, Bud, Merle and Orville Leno, and Wayne, Corky and Rick McKnight. My aunts are Tootie Peters, Ramona Leno, Dorothy Law, Barbara Feehan and Judy Olsen.

This is some of my thoughts, concerns and my family. It would be an honor to represent all of you and my family on council.

Tom Leno

P.S. I thank our creator for my kids: Tara, Lacy and Lisa Leno.

☐ MARGARET J. PROVOST



Greetings Tribal Members,

My name is Margaret Provost and I accepted nomination for Tribal Council so that I could share my knowledge and experience to benefit our Tribe. Many of you know that I have been deeply involved with our Tribal government since 1972 when I and others worked to get our Tribe federally restored and stand as other Indian Tribes throughout the United States.

My background in our Tribal government began as the first chairman in leading our Tribe to Restoration. I also served on our Tribal Council several more years after Restoration.

During this time I made the motion to begin our gaming venture because I knew gaming was a growing industry and the revenues would help meet our members needs. However, we need to proceed conservatively in what we spend as a government but NOT when it comes to helping Tribal members. Good programs like the Elder's pension, education, medical coverage, housing assistance and per capita all increase the quality of life for our members.

I STRONGLY BELIEVE that every Tribal member, no matter where they live, should have equal benefits and opportunities. This belief motivated me, when previously serving on Tribal Council, to lead the way to make per capita payments to each of you.

I believe that a Tribal Council member should be a servant to the people. As a Tribal member, you have the right to know what is going on. You should not have to ask questions to get information, it should be provided. I am motivated to see that our membership has access to information that is important to keep you informed of the business of the Tribe. I will work to see that timely publications and reports will be routinely communicated, including the minutes of each General Council meeting.

Our Tribe operates several businesses and I will diligently focus on our businesses to assure that they are profitable. I join this effort with our heritage because I believe that our ancestors had wisdom that led us through the generations to today and those cultural, traditional and spiritual ways will continue to lead us. I pledge to incorporate our beliefs and practices into our decision making process.

I ask that you look into your heart and see that what we have today is because of my contribution to our Tribe. In doing so, you will see that I have the experience, commitment and vision to lead our Tribe. I have demonstrated my leadership throughout three decades and remain committed to anticipate problems, meet each challenge and make the best decision so that a prosperous life and future continues for our people. I respectfully ask for your vote in our upcoming Tribal election.

With respect,
Margaret Provost
Roll #645

Editor's Note:

☑ **VOTE** — It's your right and your opportunity to do something other than talk about the way you think things should be.

☑ **VOTE** — not only because it's the right thing to do, VOTE because it is your opportunity as a Tribal member to validate the Tribe's pursuit of integrity and self-sufficiency.

We edited your Tribal Council candidates' statements for spelling and grammar. Other than those types of changes, these statements are the true representations of the actual statements provided to us.