

Candidate Name: Agripina "Lona" Johnson

Council Position Running for: Council Position B

My name is Lona Johnson, I am an enrolled member of the Nooksack Indian tribe and very proud to descend from the Sulkanum family. My Indian name is Hysaleetsa, which was given to me by my paternal great-grandparents, the late Morris and Bertha Dan. I am running for re-election of my current position on the Nooksack Tribal Council, which is **Position B**.

During my time on Tribal Council I have focused on the importance of maintaining the vitality of our Tribe. What does Vitality mean for our people?

The capacity for survival or for the continuation of a meaningful or purposeful existence.

- Upholding inherent rights to strengthen and utilize the power of sovereignty.

Power to live or grow.

- The growth of our tribe will directly influence the progress of our government, including the financial stability of our businesses and tribal administration.

Vital force or principle.

- Our principles as a Tribe are defined in the Preamble of our Constitution and Bylaws, which outlines how we establish our tribal organization to protect our tribal property, develop our common resources, establish justice and ultimately promote the welfare of our people for generations to come.

How will I honor the past Vitality of our Tribe?

- Our ancestors provided us with the foundation we needed to sustain our traditions and culture and ensure they were preserved and protected. My commitment to you is that you are provided quality healthcare. I understand my role as a Council Member and know I must have the knowledge needed to communicate our needs and health priorities to various Tribal Advisory Committees, I.H.S., and Congress. I understand the importance of holding the U.S. government accountable for the federal trust responsibility for health.

How will I protect our Tribal Sovereignty?

- I will be the leader you can count on to uphold our Tribal Constitution. I will continue to honor our elders, honor our veterans, and honor you my people. As a leader I will continue to uphold our code of law and ordinances, which will secure the protection of our sovereignty. Our constitution is a living document. I will ensure that our tribal constitution reflects the voice of the people. I believe it is my obligation to protect our sovereignty and tribal rights as we look to preserve our resources for our future generations.

How will I ensure the goals for the Vitality of our future are met?

- As a leader I will work to continually hold the US government accountable to their fiduciary responsibility to our people and its trust responsibility to our tribe; a responsibility that our ancestors fought, struggled and sacrificed for. As your leader, I will become your voice at the policy level through my representation of you on the boards and committees that I am appointed to.

While on Council I have worked hard to ensure that our tribal government strengthens health promotion and disease prevention activities for our tribal members. I am very passionate and dedicated to improving quality and access to health related programs and services for our Nooksack people.

My professional experience includes serving as the Health Director for the Nooksack Indian Tribe. Prior to that I was the Clinic Manager. My work experience also includes: Medical Business Office Manager, TANF Caseworker, HR Manager, among several other managerial positions. Currently, as the Health Director I strive to ensure that our policies reflect the quality of health services we provide. We work to continually improve our health care system so we can provide the necessary care today and have the capacity to identify and adapt to emerging needs and challenges of tomorrow.

My education includes an AAS Degree in Public and Tribal Administration from Northwest Indian College and a two year-certificate in Continuing Health Care Administration from Malaspina University. My undergraduate degree is in Human Services from Western Washington University and my Master's Degree is in Public Administration in Tribal Governance from the Evergreen State College. My graduate work focused on Constitutional Reform, which was very helpful in our recent constitutional amendment in the removal of Section H.

I have served on many committees and organizations such as the National Congress of American Indians, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Vancouver Island Aboriginal Trust Committee, Chemainus First Nation Housing Board, Chemainus First Nation Education Board, Nooksack Indian Tribe Parent Advisory Committee, and The NACTEP Policy Board. I was recently voted the Vice- President of the Northwest Washington Indian Health Board and serve as the delegate for the Portland Area Indian Health Board and the American Indian Health Commission. If re-elected I will continue to work hard at this policy level and am very proud to be the voice and representation of you the Nooksack people.

I am married to Joseph Johnson and we have 4 beautiful children: Hamilton, Alec, Shoshanah, and Moses. I enjoy competing competitively in traditional war canoe races as well as participating in outrigger competitions nation-wide. Through paddling I have learned the meaning of dedication, commitment and teamwork.

Please support me and vote to re-elect Agripina "Lona" Johnson for Nooksack Tribal Council **Position B**.

Vote Elouise M. Zapata

For POSITION B

Hello, my name is Elouise Zapata and I am running for Tribal Council Seat B.

My Indian name Cetasiye - given to me by my grandmother Helen. I am from the brothers and sisters of the WHAHOLICH family. My parents are Lila & Phil Zapata, my grandparents Bernard Ernie & Helen Paul and great grandparents Richard & Louisa George Whaholich. I am a widow, have two children Jerami-Jerome and he has one son Cain and my daughter Lahaina has one 4-year-old son named Petelo.

I am running for the Tribal Council Seat B because I think I can help and know that I should. I strongly believe we need to strengthen communications. I am want to advocate for our tribal members. I welcome the opportunity and the challenge to be the bridge for the communication. Based on fairness and the needs for our people, from the youngest to oldest, I will fight for what is right and fair across the board. We have a fiercely passionate an active community, made up of an amazing collection of tribal community members.

I am very friendly and very competent individual that has the ability to organize/manage projects and customer service oriented. I get along with everyone and I apologize if were not the case, for I am renewed and with positive outlook can do good. I have worked at Nooksack Tribe for over 30 years and am well experienced in tribal government grants and contracts, Indian Health, and state funding agreements. I understand how tribal programs are there to service our community. And because we are all related, and at times nepotism can fall into play, I have the ability to maintain professional boundaries making sound judgement when family is involved; excuse myself from the matter. I have the ability to manage several tasks at one time, ability to operate standard office equipment, communicate orally and written format, active listening skills showing sensitivity and respect and more importantly maintaining confidentiality.

I am an excellent candidate for tribal council member Seat B because we *all* want the same common goal and vision of providing a wealth of information of resources available to *all* tribal members and their families sensitive to your/their needs.

Having written this summary, please vote for me for tribal council position SEAT B.

Thank you all, Elouise Zapata