

## **Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Voters Guide 2016 | Darcy Burner Full Responses**

Burner is running for State Representative Position 2, District 5

### **Do you have experience working with tribes?**

I have been enjoying working with the Snoqualmie Tribe to save Snoqualmie Falls.

### **If you are elected, how will you and your staff continue working with tribes?**

I will be happy to meet regularly with Tribal leadership to ensure that I understand the tribe's issues and can advocate for them effectively in Olympia.

### **What is your position on tribal sovereignty?**

The tribes are sovereign nations with whom we have treaties under the Constitution of the United States of America. I will work to respect and protect tribal sovereignty.

### **Would you support the Tribe in its duty to protect sacred Snoqualmie Falls? If so, how?**

Yes. I will work to protect Snoqualmie Falls under state law, to extend the area defined as tribal sacred land to include more of the area around the Falls, to raise public awareness, and to stop the proposed development near the Falls.

### **Do you support increasing funding to tribes for treaty-guaranteed services such as education and health care?**

Yes.

### **What is your position on tribal curriculum in public schools?**

I think the recent change making coverage of tribal history a mandatory part of the curriculum in Washington schools is good progress. It is not possible for students to understand Washington's history, present, and future without understanding the tribes and their roles.

### **What is your position on the collection of tax, on tribal lands?**

Because the tribes are sovereign, other local governments should be precluded from collecting tax on tribal lands.

### **Would you support Tribal representation on boards, commissions, and committees?**

Yes.

### **If elected, how will you work to protect and preserve Washington State's natural resources, including salmon?**

There is a lot of work that needs to be done, but the tribes are arguably the single most important ally in these fights. Treaty rights provide significant legal leverage to protect natural resources, including salmon. While the culverts case is the largest legal obligation apart from the McCleary decision currently facing the state, the legislature and the public have largely been ignoring the issue and have no plan for completing the work the courts have said must be done to protect salmon. Beyond that, just as treaty rights made it possible to block the proposed coal terminal in Bellingham on environmental grounds, it may turn out that the impact of climate change on treaty rights gives the tribes unique standing to force action at the state and federal levels.