

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Voters Guide 2016 | Hilary Franz Full Responses

Franz is running for Commissioner of Public Lands

Do you have experience working with tribes?

I have spent my 20 year professional career as an environmental land use attorney and Executive Director of Futurewise, working side by side with tribes throughout Washington State. I have worked with tribes at the state, regional, and local levels to help improve protections pertaining to critical areas, shorelines, landslide hazards, stormwater, water quality and quantity.

If you were elected, how would you and your staff interact with tribes?

If elected, I will work closely with tribes. I will work to strengthen the Tribal Relations office of the Department of Natural Resources, so that Washington State tribes truly have an opportunity to raise concerns and offer advice. I also hope to have an annual meeting of all the tribes with myself and key leadership from Department of Natural Resources to discuss issues and opportunities as well as a meeting before Legislative Session so we can coordinate closely our legislative priorities and support each other's efforts. I fully support working collaboratively with Washington tribes, and I will personally maintain an open-door and open communication towards tribes.

What is your position on tribal sovereignty?

Tribal Sovereignty is the inalienable right of the 29 Washington State Tribal Nations, and one that I have respected and worked to support in all of my environmental and land-use management work. I would continue to honor and respect fully when in the office of the Commissioner of Public Lands.

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

Yes. I recognize the importance of sacred lands, and particularly of ancient burial grounds. I would work to ensure that irresponsible development doesn't threaten the sacred areas of Snoqualmie Falls.

What is your position on tribal curriculum in public schools?

I support Governor Inslee's statewide mandate for Washington schools to include input from Washington tribes regarding history, culture, and government. Given that we are only the second state in the nation to have such a mandate, I also recognize that we will have to put more effort into making robust tribal curriculum in public schools a reality.

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

I do not have a thorough understanding of this complex issue, and I would be interested in learning more from you about the Tribe's approach on taxation issues.

Would you support Tribal representation on boards, commissions, and committees? Yes. I believe that part of a balanced and fair system requires balance in representation, including Tribal representation.

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

Protecting Washington's natural resources, including salmon, has been the purpose of my entire 20-year

career as an environmental land-use attorney, as well as the purpose of my running for this office. With the listing of salmon in the Puget Sound region, I helped to secure updated Shoreline Master Program Guidelines at the state level, as well as work on shoreline master program updates throughout the Puget Sound to ensure the survival of salmon. I have represented tribes and sat side by side with tribes in critical litigation to ensure protection on critical salmon habitat. I am proud to have been appointed by Governor Gregoire to the Climate Action Team IWG and also to have served on the Salmon Recovery Council for over five years. I have also worked closely for years with the Puget Sound Partnership to ensure funding for PSAR and to help implement the Partnership's Action Agenda. I have also served on the following boards to address issues of protecting critical natural resources: the Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Board, the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Taskforce (funding for culvert and fish passage restoration), and the Washington Environmental Council. Protecting our natural resources, including salmon, is necessary in order to combat climate change, ensure our critical cultural and food resources, and keep our natural resource economies strong.