

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Voters Guide 2016 | Marc Hennemann Full Responses

Hennemann is running for U.S. House of Representatives District 2

Do you have experience working with tribes?

I do not have direct experience working with tribes. The closest I have some was doing a series of interviews with officials and members of the Creek Nation while conducting research for my Master's thesis at the University of Oklahoma. The title of my thesis was "Intergovernmental Relations between the Creek Nation and the United States." While conducting the research, I learned a great deal about relations between the United States and not only the Creek Nation but about federal/tribal relations in general.

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

If elected, I will appoint a member of my staff in D.C. with the specific duty of liaison with the tribes, and another person in my district office(s) with the same duty. I will always make myself available to meet with both the leadership and the members of the tribe on tribal-specific matters as well as issues of a more general nature.

What is your position on tribal sovereignty?

The Native American tribes are semi-sovereign nations within and under the protection of the United States. The exact relationship between each tribe and the federal government is defined by the treaties between those parties and also by a series of federal laws and U.S. Supreme Court decisions dating back nearly 200 years. These treaties and laws need to be strictly enforced, with any differing interpretations of either being generally resolved in favor of the tribes as against the United States and the various states.

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

Sacred land is sacred land. Developers have no more right to bulldoze sacred Tribal land than they would any other land deemed sacred. If necessary I would support federal intervention to protect the sacred lands of the Snoqualmie Tribe from inappropriate development.

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

Treaties between the United States and various Native American Tribes are legal obligations, just as are any other treaties signed by the U.S. I would support full adequate funding of any treaty obligation entered into by the United States with the Snoqualmie Tribe and any other Tribe.

What is your position on tribal curriculum in public schools?

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

Presuming you are referring to the collection of state and local taxes on tribal lands, the tribal lands are not technically a part of the state wherein they are located nor do they, in general, fall under the jurisdiction of the state or the county. As I mentioned in my answer to question three, states and their subordinate jurisdictions (counties, cities, etc.) would not normally be able to collect taxes on Tribal lands.

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

I would certainly be supportive of some form of Tribal representation on the federal level. The final form of such representation would have to be determined by agreement among the various tribes themselves and the federal government.

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

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