

## Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Voters Guide 2016 | Dave Reichert Full Responses

Reichert is running for U.S. House of Representatives, District 8

***Note:** Congressman Dave Reichert chose to answer the questions posed to him for the Voters Guide in the form of a letter to the Tribe, as follows:*

From the Desk of Congressman Dave Reichert:

As the Congressman of Washington's Eight District I have had the great opportunity to build a strong relationship with the Snoqualmie Tribe and tribes across the state. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the tribe and learning about the rich cultural history of the People of the Moon including one of our region's most beautiful natural sites, Snoqualmie Falls.

Protecting our natural resources is one of our biggest shared goals. Along with the tribe I remain dedicated to preserving clean water and protecting salmon and fish habitat throughout Washington to go along with the victories we've already shared throughout my time in Congress. We successfully fought to protect our natural resources through legislation like the *Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act* which finally became law in 2014, seven years after I first introduced the bill.

The U.S. government should never fall short of its treaty obligations to tribes. Unfortunately, in some cases it has, and tribal governments have picked up the slack. With the Snoqualmie Tribe's support I helped pass a law to prevent the U.S. government from taxing tribal citizens on benefits received from the tribe like healthcare, education, housing, and emergency assistance. Just like U.S. citizens don't get taxed on government benefits, tribal members shouldn't either.

I firmly believe the federal government should not force tribal workers to unionize on sovereign land, and I have supported bills in congress to prevent that from happening. To promote job growth and economic development on tribal lands I sponsored a bill with my colleague Congresswoman Suzan DelBene to give tribes business tax credits and direct the U.S. Department of Commerce to help tribes identify opportunities to create new jobs and economic success for members.

With a new President about to take office, I am dedicated to working together to ensure tribal rights are respected and tribal members' voices are heard by the federal government. I look forward to building on our strong relationship in the coming years.