

## **Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Voters Guide 2016 | Tony Ventrella Full Responses**

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

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

I've had the pleasure of interviewing officials from various area tribes on a program called "Newsmakers," on Comcast. I met with officials from the Muckleshoots, Tulalip, Puyallup and Lummi tribes and each time learned a bit more about their issues and concerns.

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

My office door would always be open. My staff would be available to deal with any concerns dealing with tribal issues. I would invite an open dialogue.

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

I support Native Americans' parity, sovereignty, dignity, and right to justice in Washington State.

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

Snoqualmie Falls is the birthplace of the Snoqualmie people and as such is sacred and should be protected. I would honor this position and uphold the Snoqualmie Tribes rights to this sacred site.

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

Although this is a state legislative issue, I would support House Bill 5160 that would create an office of Native early childcare and education within the department of early learning.

I would also support Senate Bill 5159, and House Bill 1027 which agrees that sovereign tribal governments are in the best position to determine what will work best for the dental needs of their tribal communities.

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

I am in support of Washington House Bill 1287 and the Advisory Vote 9 as it strengthens tribal sovereignty by ensuring that federally-recognized tribes are treated the same as state and local governments when it comes to tax rules for land owned exclusively by tribes.

### **Would you support tribal representative in the Federal level?**

I am unsure what Federal level is being referred to, but currently, as American citizens, the tribal members are represented by their Representative, and both Senators.