



Jefferson Greene

We must be concerned about the Wasco (Wasq'u) Chieftainship, the future of our community, the efficiency of our tribal organization, and the survival of the Wasco culture, language, identity and heritage. The quote 'Everyone wants to be Chief' is not true in my case. Seeing how things are going, there are no clear requirements, obligations, or Wasco Customs clause to become the Wasco chief, and for this I am running for the Wasco Chief position to assure these obligations, stipulations, community services, cultural responsibilities, and expectations are adhered to. These were once well known Wasco customs and responsibilities documented in the Treaty, the Declaration of Sovereignty, and the Constitution and By-Laws for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

We must develop a clearer Wasco Chieftainship process going forward for the Wasco people and families to have a unified power. I feel it is important to establish the first Wasco Leaders Circle consisting of two representatives from every Wasco family (thirty-four) to govern and oversee the development of the Wasco Chief role, obligations, reporting and responsibilities. We can assure the Wasco Chief can be recalled, resign, and or be removed at the majority request of the Wasco Leaders Circle and by then we would have established together the requirements, stipulations, pre-requisites, and terms for any nomination to be made from here on. I would be the first to assure this is established for Wasco voices, people, and families to be united, heard and empowered.

There might be assumptions as to who will 'win' this election. Do not sit back and watch, as many elections have been decided by two or even one vote, and it most certainly could be yours. We can assure the Wasco Chief has quarterly or annual meetings specific to the Wasco peoples' economics, culture, heritage, language and ceremony.

A Wasco Chief must work with all the Wasco families to assure the Wasco Chieftainship is passed to all Wasco families into eternity. We need a chief capable and willing to include and bring all Wasco families

together throughout his or her life to assure we are strengthening our nation together. We need a chief capable of representing the Wasco people culturally, ceremoniously, professionally, humbly, and friendly amongst families, communities, and sovereign nations. We need a Wasco voice at the table to speak to our needs, understand our struggles, and connect with our people.

We can assure the Chieftainship position is required to nurture and sustain a working relationship with all Wascos, tribes, villages, communities, and Confederated Tribes operations going forward into eternity. We can assure the Wasco Chief has a physical cultural presence on the Columbia River to monitor water and habitat health, cultural subsistence, and strengthen fish and wildlife populations. We can assure the Wasco Chief is capable of providing cultural assistance and funeral support in helping with grief, faith and spirituality to the Wasco people and community.

The Wasco Kiksht language is near a sleeping state, but thanks to the Kiksht language teachers and warriors at the Culture and Heritage Department this issue continues to be at the forefront for these Wasco teachers. These teachers and students must be worked with for the life term of the position to speak culturally on behalf of the Wasco people having had positive working relations and or lifelong attempts to work with all the Wasco families for the entire life-term of the position. Our Wasco Elders must be taken care of and assisted with monthly check-ins with noted assistance, requests and services. Our community suffers from addiction and abuse.

My background check shows my drinking and driving infractions I have gratefully recovered from and remain happily sober. Our Wasco Chief must remain completely sober for the remainder of their life-term to assist our addicted community members through cultural assistance, spiritual guidance, mentorship, motivation, and a sense of hope, pride and identity. Wasco youth must be nurtured and mentored into adulthood with a stronger sense of place, purpose, and perspective that encourages and supports sobriety, growth, and role modeling. We must provide our people with more traditional food and medicinal knowledge to reclaim our sovereign health, connection and living.

Our population exceeds our ability to house our people. Our Wasco Chief must work to provide and maintain housing, structures, sustainability, and safety.

The dog population far exceeds the community's interest to have such pets, and therefore have become unsafe for youth and adult walkers and joggers seeking healthy activity. We must enforce the ordinance immediately before more lives are lost on reservations due to out-of-control stray dogs.

Our tribal employees are viewed as expendable, devalued, and unappreciated. Our Wasco Chief must assure we keep employees appreciated, educated, supported, and promoted. Turnover of staff and leadership stalls economic developments and it is worth keeping staff and tribal leadership in place to assure we are not re-educating and bringing-up-to-speed when working to move forward faster. We must bring more people in rather than subbing people out. All-hands-on-deck is where we must go together.

We must seek more grant dollars to support community and economic development. Five collaborative grant writers shall be sought to partner with programs, departments, and enterprises quarterly. Since graduating from college, elders and I have raised over \$1 million for language, culture, and ceremony.

We must seek stronger investments that produce jobs and experience, maintain and increase revenues, diversify our investment portfolios, and partner with viable operations and enterprises nationally and

internationally. As we work to bring our people back to work, we need a strong volunteer base of community members working for positive community change including but not limited to cleaning, fixing, landscaping, and maintaining a positive community presentation and welcoming environment all community members and visitors can be proud of.

We need more traffic coming off of the local highway to support our events, businesses, tourism and artists. We must work humbly, respectfully, and culturally together to bring unrelated families together in an attempt to strengthen our bloodlines so that future chiefs aren't but a fraction of Wasco.

A personal concern is a healthy balance with my family, the tribal organization, the community, and cultural services. I want my children and all Wasco children to have supportive present parents and family units to encourage and strengthen their educational development. I have strong healthy relationships with my three Wasco children and my beautiful supportive wife Misty Greene (Lummi).

I hope all candidates and Chiefs have a respectable and loving family base they contribute to and nurture. Although I am 40 years young, I believe we still have elders able and willing to contribute to the development, preservation, responsibilities, and heritage of the Wasco Chieftainship. I have a great interest in working with these elders and families before it is too late. Years from now I too will be an elder and much time would have passed then to learn from the elders to help steer, guide, and solidify requirements to uphold such a cultural political position for the Wasco people. I truly believe this can all be accomplished.

Jefferson Greene - Wasq'ú, Táchshpash, Nimiipuu, Paiute, ku Shiwanísh