

S'Klallam Family,

Hello, my name is Bethany Swift. I am the Daughter of Francine Swift and William Swift Sr., the Granddaughter of the late Gerald Jacob "Jake" Jones, and June "Tiny" Jones. I am putting my letter of intent to run for your Council Position IV currently held by Amber Caldera.

I have my Bachelors Degree in Native Studies Leadership and graduated with high honors from Northwest Indian College. I am hoping to further my Education with my Master's Degree in Education.

I am the Mother of 5 children, Isaiah Pondelick, Harmony Tyson, Lillian Pondelick, Charity Tyson and Lenaya Pondelick. I am the Fiancee to Raymond Pondelick. I am also employed with our Tribe within the Career and Education Department for the last 12 years. I am holding the position as the Special Events and Outreach Coordinator.

I am new to learning policy and guidelines that our Tribe has put in place. I would love to learn the extent of the laws and guidelines that our Tribe continues to put in place. I believe that we have a smooth system here for our people. There are some laws that I believe can be amended without too much punishment of our people. Growing up, we as Royalty were responsible for having good grades in school, attending gatherings, answering to council and if in trouble, answering to council and our Elders. I would love to see these things be put in to place again as it is a part of our culture and teaches our young ones how important it is to carry yourself in a good way, as we are a part of the image of our people.

I believe that treatment is a beautiful thing for those addicted. I feel like we could create our own treatment facility as we grow with our Welcome Home Program. I also feel like some of the laws for those who commit serious crimes, should abide by stricter punishment, such as taking rights away for a year or two as well as getting help away from home. I believe we could create a system where we offer help to those ones by "tough love".

I love our Culture. I have been a part of the Canoe family since 1989 at the age of 3, as the Kloomachin was being created. I have done my capstone on carrying on our arts and culture for my Bachelors Degree.

I have been involved heavily in the Education system with the North Kitsap School District and would love to see that partnership continue to grow. My dream however is to see us have our own Education system here on our beautiful reservation. I would love to see more of our students feel happy and comfortable by learning by their means. I have been so proud seeing our young ones and adults alike, gaining their diplomas, degrees, and trading school certificates. I believe each Tribal Member has a gift, and I would love to see them utilize it in the way they learn to their capacity.

I am ready to learn and grow within our community and make an impact on those around me. If chosen, I will carry myself in a good way and show others that we are The Strong People. I will let my voice be heard and listen to the community members alike. I feel like this is where we can gain more ideas and come together to make our community a greater place.

Thank you all for your consideration, and taking the time to read my letter of intent.