

Jonelle Grady (DeCoteau) Council Member IV letter of Intent to Run:

Hello family, friends and fellow tribal members, please accept this as my notice of Intent to Run for Council Member IV. I'm an enrolled member of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and have lived on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Reservation my entire life. I am the daughter of John DeCoteau and Sharon & Rudy Purser, granddaughter of Millie & Warren DeCoteau and Rose & Rude Purser.

I earned my Bachelor of Arts Degree (Business Management) in 2004 through The Evergreen State College. I have worked for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe in a number of roles that have provided me with not only work experience but knowledge and insight of how our tribe is run, from customer service roles at Gliding Eagle Market and High Point Cannabis, to accounting and other clerical position within the tribe's administrative department. I currently work as the Tribal Development Program Manager for Noo-Kayet Investments, our tribe's economic arm. In this role I am building a program that focuses on empowering our tribal members by providing them with economic resources, opportunities, and support needed to achieve sustainable economic prosperity and self-sufficiency. I believe in our members and feel they need the encouragement and skills to become our future leaders. My goal is that one day every role within the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal organization will be held by a tribal member, and can be accomplished by establishing a successful Entrepreneurship program for tribal members with the desire of becoming business owners, as well as, establishing a clear Upward Mobility plan of action policy for tribal members who are interested in becoming executive members of our tribal organizations.

I'm an active member of the tribe's Higher Education Policy Committee. As a lifelong learner I believe knowledge is power. I also served on the Higher Education Committee for 10 years (1994-2004), until I was hired as the Career & Education Advisor. While serving as Higher Education Committee member I became familiar with the process of serving on a committee and was mentored by tribal elders Rose Purser and Ruth Martinez who taught me due diligence and service work are essential in being an active community member. I also currently serve on the S'Klallam Worship Board as Co-Treasurer, my experience working in finance has allowed me to be a productive asset within our community church and to God.

As a commercial harvester I've done everything ranging from Clam Digging, Oyster Picking and Geoduck Diving to Deck Hand for Crabbing, Shrimping and Fin Fishing. I understand the need to focus on natural resources and will dedicate my time on council to protecting and preserving our current catch areas, as well as, establishing new areas and rebuilding sustainable U&A. Hunting and Gathering are at the heart of our people. This practice along with reclaiming our culture through song, dance, language, beading, weaving, gathering, and canoe journey are essential to breaking generational trauma that has plagued the S'Klallam Nation for far too long. I believe we need to support cultural revitalization for many reasons. One of them being as a form of trauma and addiction therapy. Many who have struggled with addiction lose who we are in the downhill spiral of addiction. Rising up from that spiral has to include finding who we are. One of my visions for our community is to have a Shooting Range for both Archery and Gun enthusiasts. Here tribal members will be able to learn and practice gun safety, it can also be utilized for learning and/or therapeutic needs.

Childcare is a topic I hear often within the community. As Council Member IV, I'll advocate for appropriate changes that administer to the needs of tribal children and families who currently utilize the childcare center, tribal families who need but aren't receiving childcare services, and the tribal staff who work for our childcare center. Our children are our future, we must invest in our youth, so they will be able to care for our members when the time comes.

Tribal elders are an asset that need to be nurtured, cared for and respected. If elected, I will devote the necessary time, energy and finances needed in order for our elders to receive the care, honor and love they so desperately deserve. I feel the same about our vulnerable adults and tribal children with disabilities, these areas are close to my heart and should be a priority when evaluating needs and providing services.

I have a heart of service, I love my tribe and community and will serve you to the best of my ability, with knowledge, determination, communication, transparency, and above all else integrity. I give you my word, if elected I will go above and beyond to fulfill every duty required of Council Member IV. I humbly request your vote on December 15, 2023, I thank you for your trust and confidence, may God bless you this holiday season.