



KENAITZE  
INDIAN  
TRIBE

www.kenaitze.org

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P.O. Box 988 • Kenai, AK 99611

October 9, 2024

Dear Tribal Member,

At the Annual General Membership meeting which was held on Saturday, October 5, 2024, with the purpose of electing three (3) new Council members to serve a two year term, a Tribal Member called a point of order to contest the election before the election results were certified. The point of order was called following a question and answer period that took place while ballots were being counted.

The membership in attendance voted on a Motion from a Tribal Member to redo the election for the three contested seats. This motion was seconded and passed. At the discretion of the Election Board, it was announced a new voting process would occur and information regarding casting ballots would be shared with membership as soon as a plan was developed. This is a re-voting process, not a new election, so the candidate list remain unchanged. The candidates' original statements are available on the Tribe's website and included with this letter. Mary Ann Mills, Gabriel Juliussen, and Jakob Kooly will retain their positions on Tribal Council until their successors are duly elected and seated.

In addition, the Tribal Council set a Kahtnuht'ana Development Corporation (KDC) Informational Meeting for **Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Details regarding this meeting will be available to Tribal Members in the coming weeks by mail, social media, and the Tribe's Facebook page. If you are interested in KDC developments, please save this date on your calendar.

Included with this letter is a new voting ballot. Please note the following:

- Members **will not** be able to change their vote once submitted. If you complete your ballot and send it in by mail, you will **not** be able to change it in person. **All votes are final.**
- Ballots returned unsigned are considered **invalid** and cannot be counted in the Election. If your ballot is returned unsigned, Coghill will work with the Tribal Member Services Supervisor to contact you and request you sign your ballot in person at the Coghill office. If they cannot reach you, your ballot will not be counted. New ballots **will not** be issued for any reason.
- Ballots will be considered **void** if you vote for more than three (3) individuals.

Tribal Members may cast their votes by:

1. Completing your ballot and returning it by mail to the Coghill Group at the address listed below;
2. Voting in person at the Coghill Group office between the date you receive this letter and Friday, November 1, 2024; or

3. Voting in person at the Tribe's Administration building on Saturday, November 2, 2024, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**To Vote by Mail**

Ballots must be mailed or delivered in the return envelope provided to:

**Coghill Group, PC**  
215 Fidalgo Avenue, Suite 206  
Kenai, AK 99611

**Mail in ballots must be received by Coghill on or before 12 p.m. Friday, November 1, 2024.** Late ballots will not be counted.

**To Vote In Person at the Coghill Group Office**

Tribal Members may cast their vote in person at the Coghill Group Office located at 215 Fidalgo Avenue, Suite 206 on the second floor located in Kenai, Alaska.

Coghill Group Office hours are:

Monday thru Thursday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch

Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

*Members may vote at this location until Friday, November 1, 2024 at 12 p.m.*

**To Vote In Person at the Kenaitze Administration Building**

Tribal Members may cast their vote in person at the Kenaitze Administration Building located at 150 N. Willow Street in Kenai on Saturday November 2, 2024, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Election Board and the Coghill Group will count all ballots on Saturday, November 2, 2024. Results shall be announced immediately after counting, and will be posted on the Tribe's website.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jessica Crump, Tribal Member Services Supervisor by phone at (907) 335- 7204 or by email at [jcrump@kenaitze.org](mailto:jcrump@kenaitze.org).

Chiqinik!



Bernice Crandall  
Election Board Chair  
Kenaitze Indian Tribe

JUL 15 2024



My name is Gabriel Julius sen Jr. and I'm running for my second term on Council. I was born and raised in Kenai, AK where I currently reside with my wife Lisa. My parents are Gloria Wik and the late Gabriel Juliu ssen Sr.

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in 2022. During my first term I learned a lot about all the wonderful services our tribe has to offer. It's been an extremely eye-opening process to not only see how far we've come, but the immense potential of what this tribe can accomplish for our future generations.

My primary goal for running for Council in 2022 was to get funding for KOC so it's Board of Directors can get to work on creating a sustainable, for-profit, economic development arm of the Tribe. Doing so would be a giant step forward on fulfilling the long standing mission of making sure the Tribe doesn't remain completely dependent on money from the federal government. For most of my term this has proven to be quite difficult because most of the money the tribe generates is restricted. However, as of last week (July 10<sup>th</sup>) Council committed to making a significant financial contribution to KOC. More information on this exciting news will be shared at the annual meeting.

There is a lot of work that still needs to be done at our Tribe. Primarily, we need to fix the billing/revenue cycle problems at DWC. Nearly all of the revenue the Tribe generates comes from DWC. As the Tribe's Treasurer, I first learned of significant revenue losses in November of 2022. The estimate at that time was a loss of thousands of dollars per day; as we dig into this it's possible the losses are even greater. We've contracted with two different companies to correct the situation but we have a long way to go. I'm confident we have the right person leading this effort today, but my goal as your councilman is to make sure Council is providing adequate resources to address this problem in a timely manner.

I can't overemphasize the importance of fixing the problems at DWC. Many tribes across the country make millions or even billions of dollars with their casinos; money they use to reinvest into their tribe to provide better services for their members. That is not an option for our Tribe. The primary way our Tribe can grow and provide additional services is by leveraging revenue generated through our medical system. Two examples of how this is beneficial are first, the Tribe paying \$9.5 million to eliminate the debt to build DWC and secondly, providing \$20 million to build our new school (total cost \$32 million).

If re-elected as your councilman, my focus will be to ensure the Tribe is maximizing its potential so we can continue to offer all tribal members high quality services. Additionally, I will work with Council to make economic development a top priority so we can provide all these great services (and more!) for our future generations.

Thank you!

Gabriel Juliussen Jr.

My name is Jake Kooly. My grandparents are Glenn and Carol Kooly; my parents are Darryl and Trena Kooly. I was born and raised on the Kenai Peninsula. I am a Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) Board Member and a Kenai Natives Association (KNA) and Cook Inlet Regional, Inc. (CIRI) descendent.

I have dedicated over 7 years towards harvesting salmon and moose for our Tribal Members. Many of you know me as the Harvest Manager at the beachfront property where I operate and oversee the Tribes Educational Fishery. We incorporate the net into summer fish camps for our youth, and invite our Elders to practice traditional methods of setting the net, while learning how to clean and preserve fish. I also captain the Tribes fishing boat, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina, where the salmon and halibut we catch is distributed to our Elders and Tribal Members.

If elected to serve the Tribal Membership, I will focus on advocating for food sovereignty, expansion of our healthcare facilities, improve the quality of care and increase the amount of services we provide, and reduce the Tribes reliance on grants and federal funding.

I will also build trust and increase transparency by fostering accountability, explain decisions, share information and align the Tribe's goals with the vision of the Membership. My vision **as a** Council Member is to solely represent those we serve, by providing opportunities, leading by example, and creating a long term strategic plan for future generations, and that is what I intend to do if elected.

Thank you for your support,

Jake Kooly

Yagheli Du! My name is Mary Ann Mills, and I am a proud descendant of the Kahnuht'ana Dena'ina. Born in Anchorage and lived most of my life on the Kenai Peninsula. My mother, Mary Kvasnikoff, was born in Ninilchik, Alaska, and my father, Britton Crosley, is from Douglas, Wyoming. My grandfather is Lawrence "Ahada" Kvasnikoff from Kenai, and my grandmother is Sophie Bayou from Seldovia. With my husband, Bill Mills, I've been blessed with five children and 13 grandchildren. Currently, I serve as the Vice Chair of our Tribal Council.

For over 20 years, I have dedicated myself to the Kenaitze Tribal Council, working tirelessly to expand and enhance the services we provide for our Tribal Citizens, Alaska Natives, American Indians, and community members. I sit on the TDHE Housing Board, which includes emergency housing and other vital services. As Vice Chair of the Kahnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board, we oversee our Behavioral Health, Chemical Dependency Programs, Primary Health Care, and the Wellness Program.

Our Education Program is a cornerstone of our community, offering Head Start, Early Head Start, summer youth activities, the Yaghenan after-school program, scholarships, and internships. We are working towards establishing a Charter School that will provide a culturally based, academically rigorous education rooted in Dena'ina values, language, and traditions. We are dedicated to nurturing responsible community members who are critical thinkers and who are compassionate.

As Chair of the Tribal Court Code Committee, I have played a key role in establishing our court codes and the Henu Wellness Court. I work closely with our Na'ini Family and Social Services on Violence Against Women, addressing Alaska's high rates of missing and murdered women. Na'ini is integral to our Tribal Court and Title IV-E program, providing foster care services and support.

Climate change poses a significant threat to Alaska, and our Environmental Committee is actively addressing issues such as water, land, and air pollution, as well as subsistence and food security. I am honored to serve on this committee, advocating for a healthier environment for our future generations.

I serve on the SAMHSA Technical Tribal Advisory Committee, improving policies and procedures in behavioral health and substance use. My appointment to the Alaska Pacific University Elders Council allows me to influence curriculum and processes, while my role on the NCAI International Committee enables me to advocate for Alaska on a global stage. My goal is for Tribes in Alaska to receive land in accordance with the 1946 United Nations Charter and Treaty.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe is recognized statewide, nationally, and internationally for our progressive services and infrastructure. As a Tribal Council Member, I have researched and testified at numerous federal, state, and international hearings, driving essential changes in policy and law to better serve our People.

It has been a profound honor to serve our Tribal Citizens, ensuring that the Kahnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever. As we look to the future, I humbly ask for your support and vote in the upcoming Tribal Council election. Together, we can continue to build a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

Chiqinik!

David Segura

#### 7.14.24 - Letter of Intent

Hello my name is David Segura, and I am wanting to run for council. So we can go back to our roots, and traditional values, and be a family based organization again. My parents are Jim Segura Sr.. and Donna Poget. I also have 6 wonderful amazing children. I also have worked for the Tribe for 14 years. As you know the Segura family has been an active family in the tribe for a long time since the two room building at Wildwood until now where we have grown expenecially. I started out at as an Elder Advocate, then a PCA, the supervisor of Elders, Social Services Director, Community Director, and have been on many different boards for 20 years. I believe that as a tribe we need to get back to being a family oriented tribe again, that we need to go back to our original roots and traditional values. Focusing on healing our families and community as a whole.

In my opinion, Tribal Members need to be involved more in information gathering and wants. I.e. council meetings should not be behind locked doors where the members are screened as to who can attend. Agendas should be put out so members can attend for their informational input. Council should set scope for the tribe and let the directors and managers do their jobs. Stay out of day to day business and trust that our tribal members and people we've hired can do as such.

The council also needs to refocus on understanding issues as to why the Tribe has such a high turnover rate for our qualified employees and qualified employees that are also Tribal Members who should have priority. We need to operate off of our tribal values as that is our supreme law.

We need to get back to our values and work toward strengthening and healing our tribal families', such as council interfering in the courts. We need to set our own style and get away from the broken model that is so easily followed like the OCS model that is ripping our kids, our next generation from our homes and care and our traditions and putting them into homes so people can profit off our children. We need to ensure these kids are placed with caring family's and tribal members first. To ensure our children and next generation stay in our tribe and that the following generations will continue to have our traditional values and ideals.

We need to develop more apprentice programs to better our tribe and hire from within the tribe and ensure a better future for ourselves and future generations to come.

Start for profit programs that have high third party funding opportunities such as Construction Company, electrical companies. These are services needed in the community and if we are sending our youth to Seward for schooling we shouldn't let it stop there, we need to encourage them to higher education levels to then hire into these companies to work under a professional in the field to get their hours. And make a better future for not only themselves but also our tribal community as a whole .I also believe that all tribal members should have a chance to vote no matter as to where they live, that should not dictate if you may vote or not because we are all still one tribe.

We need to take care of ourselves, our family, and our tribe. To ensure we have a future for generations' to come.

To Assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Thrive Forever.

-David Segura

Jeffrey A. Swan  
PO Box 571  
Kasilof, AK 99610


Kenaitze Tribal Election Board  
PO Box 988  
Kenai, AK 99611

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter to declare my candidacy to the Kenize Indian Tribal Council. I am Jeffrey Allan Swan, the grandson of Victor Segura and Madrona Darien-Segura. My mother, Clare M. Segura is the eldest of nine siblings from their marriage. Clare Segura married Van Swan and had four children in which I am the youngest. I was born in Seward, AK March 27, 1958. Over the years I have been involved with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. In 1983-1984 the Kenaitze Indian Tribe hired me to work in the garden program at Wildwood. In 1985 the Kenaitze Indian Tribe sponsored me at the Vocational Technical Center for building maintenance training. In 1986 I was hired by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe to manage their Agriculture Program located at 255 N. Ames St off Beaver Loop Rd. In 1987 the Tribe sent me to the Master Gardeners Course sponsored by the State of Alaska's Cooperative Extension Service in which I obtained my certificate as a Master Gardener. In 1990, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe sponsored me to attend the State of Alaska Spill Response Training taught by Alaska Mining and Diving in which I obtained my certification in hazardous waste operations and emergency spill response.

The involvement the Kenaitze Indian Tribe had in my early adult years helped me to develop life-long skills and set me on a path of continuous self-improvement. Serving on the Kenaitze Indian Tribal Council would not only allow me the opportunity to contribute and teach others what I have learned but also increase my learning as an elder and a leader within the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. It gives me a sense of pride when I meet some of the youth who worked with me in the 1980's at the Summer Agricultural Program. Several of those teenagers have grown up as adults working successfully in our community, even with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in different capacities. I have served the Kenaitze Indian Tribe for a combined total of 16 years of my life and feel I have much more to give. In 2014 I began working for the Tribe at the Dena'ina Wellness Center in Shipping and Receiving then, in 2019, I transferred to the Green House Coordinator position to work in the Greenhouse which is where I work to this present day.

I am available for comment at (907) 690-0714 for any questions you may have. You may also contact me at [jswan@kenaitze.org](mailto:jswan@kenaitze.org).

Sincerely,   
Jeffrey A. Swan

Hello, I am Maria Wilson Sweppy, and I am running for a seat on the Kenaitze Indian Tribal Council.

### **Background**

My dad was Alexander W. Wilson. For those who may not recognize his name, some of my close cousins include Gloria Wik, Jennifer Showalter Yeoman, and Rudy Wilson. I have lived in Alaska, mostly on the Kenai Peninsula, for most of my life. I currently live on my dad's Native allotment just outside Soldotna.

### **Education**

- Alaska Business College (Anchorage), medical secretary, 1973.
- Kenai Peninsula College, Associate's degree in general business, 2014.

### **Experience**

In 1990, I started working for the Kenai Peninsula Borough (**KPB**) as a temporary. I retired from KPB in 2019 as a platting specialist.

I currently serve on the Finance Committee, Health Board, and Housing Board. I have also served on the Election Board. I served on the Council several years ago; however, the Tribe has changed so much, I do not feel it is right to say I am a seasoned Council member.

### **Tribal Projects**

Charter School: I support the Tribe having a charter school **only if** our children have priority in enrollment.

Housing: I look forward to providing housing for elders and hope we can build as many units as needed for our people. I support the Tribe constructing or remodeling a building for transitional housing, which I envision as temporary shelter for those exiting jail/prison, rehabilitation facilities, women's shelters, or homelessness.

Wellness: I support building or remodeling an existing building for the Wellness Department. In order to continue to work for the best health for our people, we need a large facility dedicated to *preventive* health care.

Child Care: I support constructing or remodeling a building for a day care center for our tribal members and employees.

Why me?

I am running for the Council because I enjoy being part of the decision-making process and doing what I can to help and/or improve our Tribe. I believe we will continue to succeed (thrive forever) as long as we hold fast to the values set by our ancestors.

I respectfully ask for your vote on October 5. Chiqinikl



Logan Wik  
36355 Cork Line Dr  
Kenai, AK 99611

7/11/2024

My name is Logan Wik, my grandma is Bonnie Attleson and my grandpa was Harold Wik, my parents are Ricky Wik and Amy Peikert, and I was born and raised in Kenai, where I continue to reside. I am writing to express my Declaration of Candidacy for the 2024 Tribal Council election. I have been an active member of our Tribe since 2017, and over the years, have had the privilege of contributing to various committees and commissions, including the Constitution Committee, Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Commission, Research and Review Board, and Election Board. My experience serving as staff support for the Council and Committees has provided me with valuable insights into our Tribe's operations and decision-making processes.

In March 2020, I transitioned into a learning role within the Education Department as part of the department's succession planning. This move was driven by my desire to deepen my understanding of our Tribe's functions and background processes, with the ultimate goal of contributing more effectively to our community as a Council Member.

I firmly believe that the active participation of the younger generation is crucial for the continued prosperity of our Tribe. As such, I am committed to being a role model for our youth by actively engaging in the Tribal political system and advocating for youth involvement. My previous experience Chairing the Election Board and serving as Election Judge, and now Vice-Chairing the Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Commission, has further solidified my dedication to serving our Tribe in a leadership capacity.

I have always valued the wisdom and guidance of our Tribal Elders and had the privilege of learning from their experiences. I am eager to collaborate with those who represent our Tribe, to address the challenges and opportunities facing our community.

In conclusion, I am honored to submit my Declaration of Candidacy for Tribal Council. I am committed to serving our Tribe with integrity, dedication, and respect for our traditions and values. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of our community.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two large, overlapping loops that resemble the letters 'L' and 'W'.

Logan Wik

*Yaghali du? I hope that all is well with you and your families.* I am Diana Zirul, and many of you know me as a family member as well as a prior Tribal Council Member. I have been married to Jim Zirul for the past 38 years and together we established a medical practice in Kenai. My parents are Leona and Alan Blohm. My grandparents are Pauline and Clarence March, and Edna and George Blohm. My family lineage also includes Wilson, Panshin, Demidoff, Pomfilov and Myshiakov. It is through this heritage that the traditional values of **honor and respect, integrity and trust, strength and culture** have been passed on.

*While working with the Tribal Council,* I was able to use my financial, medical and administrative experience to assist the Tribe and other Tribal Nations in the successful pursuit of additional COVID funding through testimonials provided at Federal, State and Local levels. Through our joint efforts, our Tribe received over \$59M in funding that was used to address the challenges that our Tribe faced during and after the pandemic. **Goals** include the following:

- **Revision of our Tribe's Constitution in a manner that protects the rights of all Tribal Members** to ensure that their individual voices are heard whether you live in Kenai or elsewhere. I believe that **a Nations' citizens (Tribal Members) should have the right to vote and truly be represented.** There are now over 2,000 Kenaitze Tribal Members which are included in each of the Tribe's funding resolutions. Well over half of our Members live in other parts of Alaska and the lower 48 which include many of your family members. Family members who live outside of the state are among those who do not have a voice in approving the proposed revisions to the Constitution as they are not considered voting members (citizens) or, as in the case of minor children, future voting members. They also do not have a voice in selecting our elected Tribal Council Members who make decisions on their behalf. As I understand it, the current proposed version of the revised Constitution that was presented on June 17, 2024 does not include any consideration to expand the Tribe's voting membership. Let the Tribal Council hear your voice!
- **Support the administrative team in a manner that would allow the team sufficient independence** to ensure the expertise of the Tribe's workforce through recruitment, credentialing and retention for the health and well-being of those who use the services provided by the Tribe. The Tribe is dependent on accurate third-party insurance reimbursements and grants. While the Tribal Council is responsible for hiring the Executive Director, their focus must be on the development of the Tribe's ordinances and policies which support the administrative team in its endeavors while **avoiding interference** with the day-to-day management.
- **Advocacy on behalf of the Tribe** should be the Tribal Council's focus. Working with our federal and state partners as well as pursuit of other private opportunities is imperative to ensure the growth of the Tribe's resources and services when the current funding mechanism becomes vulnerable.

I began my journey as a Tribal Council Member in 2016 with the desire to provide transparency of Tribal Government, equity of Tribal services and employment opportunities. I did my best to keep in mind the best interest of all Tribal Members and our Tribe. **I feel strongly that your success is the Tribe's success.** I would respectfully request your support whether you vote by absentee ballot, which is due on September 30th, or in person at this year's annual meeting on October 5th.

Duk'idli (Respectfully), V

L. ZlYuL