September 21, 2018

Dear Tribal Membership:

I write to encourage all tribal members eligible to vote, to get out there on November 6, 2018, and exercise your right to vote in the General Election. There are many important issues and elected positions to vote on this year, including several ballot initiatives and determining who will be the next governor of Idaho.

The Tribe has officially endorsed Paulette Jordan, a Coeur d’Alene tribal member, who is running for Idaho Governor. The NPTEC has met with her and officially provided her with our support. For more information on Paulette Jordan, contact: www.JordanforGovernor.com. While NPTEC has not officially endorsed any other candidates, I can provide below, information about whether the candidates have met with the Tribe, have established a positive relationship with the Tribe or has included tribal issues in their platforms.

In addition, there are two propositions in Idaho that you will have an opportunity to weigh in on. Proposition One is an effort by the horse racing industry in Idaho to install slot machines at race tracks in Idaho, even when live races are not occurring. Proposition One would authorize non-government gaming throughout the state, so we have supported the Coeur d’Alene Tribe and many others in opposing Proposition One. A “NO” vote would be a vote opposing the expansion of non-governmental gaming in Idaho.

Proposition Two is an effort to expand Medicaid coverage for Idaho citizens, including tribal members. A yes vote is a vote in favor of expanding Medicaid eligibility to those under sixty-five years old, whose income is 133 percent of the federal poverty level or below and who are not eligible for other state insurance coverage. This expansion would provide additional coverage to many tribal members and be beneficial to Nimiipuu Health. A “YES” vote would be supporting health coverage for more people in need, including Nez Perce tribal members.

In Washington, there is also a ballot initiative known as Initiative 1631 or I-1631. This initiative proposes a tax on carbon polluters. The money raised from the tax will be used to
fund projects to restore natural resources. A "YES" vote would provide revenue to combat the effects of pollution and climate change.

Listed below are some, but not all of the races you may be voting on November 6 depending on where you live. An asterisk below is an indication that this particular candidate has made positive effort toward or is in alignment with Nez Perce tribal issues.

**IDAHO**

**Governor**
Brad Little, Rep.
*Paulette Jordan, Dem.

**Lieutenant Governor**
*Kristen Collum, Dem.

**Congress, District One**
Gordon Cunisil, Ind.
Paul Farmer, Ind.
Natalie M. Fleming, Ind.
Russ Fulcher, Rep.
W. Scott Howard, Lib.
*Cristina McNeil, Dem.
Pro-Life (a person formerly known as Marvin Richardson)

**State Senate, Dist. #5**
Dan Foreman, Rep.
*David Nelson, Dem.

**State Rep., Dist. #5 – A**
*Margaret R. Gannon, Dem.
Bill Goesling, Rep.

**State Rep., Dist. #5 – B**
*Laurene Sorensen, Dem.
*Caroline Nilsson Troy, Rep.
Idaho County has two “Advisory Votes” on their ballot, both pertaining to the Nez Perce Tribe’s request that the federal government honor the unique cultural, historical, and spiritual significance of the Lochsa River corridor to the Nez Perce people by designating it as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the National Register of Historic Places:

QUESTION: Do you support adding more acres of wilderness to Idaho County? (In addition to the current 2,192,495 acres already Congressionally designated as wilderness.)

QUESTION: Do you support adding more wild and scenic river segments in Idaho County? (In addition to the current 348 miles already Congressionally designated as wild and scenic.)

The way these questions are posed, with the language in parenthesis following the question, suggests very clear bias against supporting federal designations that benefit the Tribe and all Americans. Voting “YES” on these two questions would support the Tribe’s effort to designate the Lochsa River corridor as a TCP.
I hope this is helpful to tribal members, and again, I encourage you all to exercise your right to vote on November 6, 2018.

Sincerely,

Shannon F. Wheeler
Chairman