



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

2021 Tribal Election Information

CHAIRPERSON • VICE-CHAIRPERSON • ORICK DISTRICT



2021 Yurok Tribal Council Candidates

CHAIRPERSON

Klinton Hunsucker
Robert Seeley Jackson
Joseph L. James (Incumbent)
Jimmie V. Kinder

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Edward "Horse" Aubrey
Jewel Frank
Frankie Myers (Incumbent)

ORICK DISTRICT

Sherri Provolt (Incumbent)



PUBLIC NOTICES



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2021

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YUROK TRIBE 2021 ELECTION SCHEDULE

**YUROK ELECTION BOARD
ANNOUNCES THE CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR
CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND ORICK DISTRICT**

The following candidates were certified to run for Tribal Council Seats:

CHAIRPERSON

Klinton Hunsucker
Robert Seeley Jackson
Joseph L. James (Incumbent)
Jimmie V. Kinder

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Edward "Horse" Aubrey
Jewel Frank
Frankie Myers (Incumbent)

ORICK DISTRICT

Sherri Provolt (Incumbent)

Primary Election Day is scheduled for October 13, 2021. All Yurok Tribal Members who will be 18 years of age by Election day, must register to vote by August 30th.

Voted for and Passed on October 9, 2019:

Article III, Section 3 Staggered Terms of Office:

5) Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall not be elected in the same year, except to fill a vacant position pursuant to Article III, Section 10. The transition to staggered terms will occur following the next Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Election after this amendment, with a one-time 4-year term to the elected Chairperson and a 3 year term to the elected Vice-Chairperson.

For more information regarding the election, call the Election Department at (707) 482-1350 or the tribal website: www.yuroktribe.org.

OCTOBER 13, 2021	PRIMARY ELECTION
NOVEMBER 17, 2021	RUN OFF ELECTION

AUG 31-SEPT 2	ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS
SEPTEMBER 3	MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 10	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (34 DAYS)
OCTOBER 1	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)
OCTOBER 12	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (1 DAY)
OCTOBER 13, 2021	PRIMARY ELECTION
OCTOBER 22	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (26 DAYS)
NOVEMBER 5	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) <i>ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION</i>
NOVEMBER 16	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (1 DAY)
NOVEMBER 17, 2021	RUN OFF ELECTION

2021 VOTING DISTRICTS

CHAIRPERSON (4-year term), VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND ORICK DISTRICTS

Election Schedule is subject to change including a mail ballot only election in the event the Pandemic is still ongoing or there is a natural disaster

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON OCT. 13, 2021

Save the Date

Annual Membership Meeting

Date: October 9th

Time: 10am

At a later date, it will be decided if the meeting will occur online or in-person.

On The Cover

Roosevelt elk browse in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



Klinton Hunsucker

I would like to start out by introducing myself I'm Klinton Hunsucker Sr. I am a native that comes from a long line of proud people from the end of the road pecwan and sregon area where my grandmas house the Hunsucker, Frye ranch is. Where we had early mornings before the sun sometimes with hard work then off to school. I am also from Klamath where my mom Sheri who is a Scott and Mccovey is from. But no place would I learn more than at my grandma Pat Hunsucker house at the end of the road since she would foster me from 8th grade on raising me to be the person I am today. I sure hope I make her proud. For those who don't know my grandma Pat was one of the greatest basket makers in the world creating baby baskets that would be passed on generations at times. It is through her I learned hard work and what it meant to take care of the land, also live off the land and know what the law of the land was. I also had the great pleasure of being her gatherer a almost forgotten teaching so it pleased me to carry on tradition. But picking sticks and roots or smashing ferns is not all she taught me. She also made sure that I knew that nothing comes easy and there is no tomorrow. Now maybe she just told us this so we would get our chores done right away and not make excuses. I took it as in others words if you wants something or you want to make a change do it now because tomorrow is not promised. If you want something bad enough or really believe in it you must put your all into it and go for it. That's why I'm running because I know that we need to be heard, I'm here to make sure that happens by stepping up today and for the next years to come with an open ear for the

people and a voice that will be heard and actions that will be done. This brings another very important lesson she taught me if your going to do something do your best don't do anything half way and I never have to this day. Every job I do make sure it's 100 percent done right and done on time. I have done this in all jobs from being on fire camp crews to cleaning up the roads for elders which would be one of the most satisfying jobs I've ever had. I mean you just can't beat helping your elders and receiving the gratitude they give you and the feeling you get from it, but even just selling phone or knives I put my all into every job and represented myself with utmost pride, that's what I will do in this position presenting good communication and reaching out to the people to make sure I'm doing the very best I can do as your representative. One thing I can tell you for sure is I will not be a ghost which you can not reach or get answers from. I will always have an open ear, open mind and heart. With that let me move onto some of the main things I would like to focus on number one is our elders we must make sure we continue to gather as people to take care of them from getting them wood for winter to food, housing, or just simple cleaning around there homes. If they don't have a home let's fix that no elder should be without and it is our responsiblity to make sure they don't. Next would be getting eduction help for our children things from tutoring to supplies and other needs such as transportation and clothes this is major priority. The fishing rights are another huge one for me I feel we need to look into our rules and the way we handle them so that we are not taking right from ourselves by stopping our people from fishing or taking from them the way we currently do. I would definitely look to finances and see where we can improve. Last but not least programs to teach these old traditions such as drum making and net hanging and let's not forget gathering or weaving.

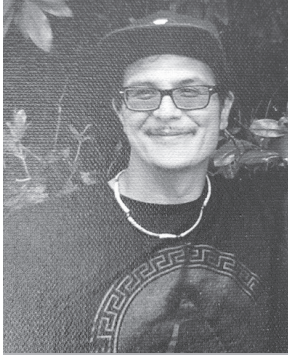
Full unedited version on my Facebook.

#votehunsucker4yurokchair2021

Sincerely,

Klinton Hunsucker Sr. ❧

CHAIRPERSON
CANDIDATE STATEMENT



Robert Seeley Jackson

Aiy- yu-kwee'. Hello.

I am Robert Seeley Jackson, my Grandfather is awak Frank Gist Sr. from Weitchpus and Grandmother is awak Gladys Spott from Requoi I am named after my Great, great Uncle awak Robert Spott and my Great Grandfather awak Seeley Griffin from Blue Creek. My Mother is Mary Jackson, who was raised by awak Minnie Spott/MacComber (Auntie Minnie). My family has blessed me with knowledge of our culture and the importance of the well being of all people. I am running for Yurok Tribal Chairman to offer an alternative option for our people.

We can see miss management of natural resources and fossil fuel abuse is making for a bleak future, we can't can't continue to allow capitalist ideals to ruin the paradise we have been entrusted to preserve. MONEY has no value in itself. Thankfully we have our culture and knowledge of how people lived in harmony with Mother Earth, combining these strengths with greener technologies, we can be a good example to industry of today and future generations. We need training facilities here. Heavy Equipment training (Dam removal, road projects), Forest Health management training,(trail crews, chainsaw, thinning, tree planting, fire fighting), DC electrical training (solar, wind, electric cars, eventually electric boats). Work skill training and turning away from seeing everything for its monetary value, can help us find the balance we need to survive. Working in the woods is an awesome way to make a living, I was fortunate enough to had the opportunity when I was young and I got to do that here, in Requa, it help me find some direction, and make that connection to the

earth, it's hard to see past the messages of a extremely capitalist society, so we are gonna have facilitate that connection to our younger generations.

Communication is vital for any group to function well. Information about events, services, education, culture and funding that is available to Tribal Members tends to be sent out too late, right before, or only makes it to some. I will propose a new position solely focused on getting all pertinent information to every Tribal Member. Funds to have a Tribal Member(s) in each District to work with the Counsel Member to consistantly keep Members up to date on what the counsel and our Tribal Corporations are planning and doing. I meet Yuroks everyday that are surprised and sometimes shocked about our Tribal endeavors. Better communication will improve Tribal Member representation and cultural adherence. Funds are tight in a lot of places but the benefits of spending money directly on our people can keep us closer together as this tribe... this family...grows.

The Yurok Tribe is a people that have strong ties to the animals, the environment and a culture that teaches us to protect and cultivate all good things. Our culture survives and is passed on to the younger generations by our elders. In the past our elders were consoled about all things, because when we are young we do not know the ways of the people. Even as we learn more we still need the voices of our elders to be heard and acted upon. I will not stand by and allow our elders to feel disrespected and disregarded. We have culture, land and resources thanks to them and will continue to be a strong people by lifting up our elders and giving them the respect due to the true leaders of the Yurok People.

Wo-hlklaw'

Robert (Bob) Jackson ❖

CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE STATEMENT



Joseph L. James
(Incumbent)

Aiy-ye-kwee'

My name is Joseph L. James, Yurok Tribal Chairman and I come from the village of Sregon. I am the son of aawok Becky James, grandson of aawok Jimmie and aawok Josephine James, and nephew of aawok Dewey George. I am the proud father of three children, Joseph, Noo-me-koy, and Trevor.

It has been a privilege and honor to have served the Yurok people this past term as Chairman and the Yurok Economic Development Board President. I'm excited to announce my candidacy to continue this dynamic and innovative work for a second term as Chairman in the upcoming 2021 Yurok Tribal Elections.

Please allow me to share the reason I'm pursuing the Tribal Chairman seat and provide a brief summary of what we have accomplished during my current term. As the Yurok Tribal Chairman, I committed to growth through vision, expansion, and action. I believe we are accomplishing these commitments due to the hard work, long hours, and results of this establishment's efforts, including the Yurok Tribal Council, Tribal staff, Yurok Business entities and many initiatives supported and carried out by our team. I love our river, our people and our cultural lifeways in all that we do. These are the things which guides my leadership and work every day in all that we do.

Additionally, my previous experience as Yurok Tribal staff has provided me the expertise and skill sets to work with our local, tribal, state, federal and international partners to advocate and provide leadership in the following areas; dam removal, economic development, water policy and law, natural resources management, transportation and infrastructure, health and human services, disaster relief and emergency management

operations, fire resiliency and protection of ancestral lands, educational programs and funding, tribal public safety and justice, and maintaining our cultural lifeways. I have worked for Tribal governments for the last 23 years. More importantly, I am determined and committed to continue these critical movements, initiatives, and projects into the future for generations to come. In many ways, our tribal communities have been impacted by the global pandemic and COVID-19. Under my leadership, the Tribe recognized the immediate threat that the COVID-19 pandemic posed to the welfare of Tribal members and their families and took urgent action to ease the burden of the negative impact of the pandemic. The Tribe immediately mobilized our Incident Command System (ICS) to protect and minimize the devastating effects of this pandemic. With the enactment of the ICS we developed an aggressive strategy, including closing our reservation borders, providing direct cash aid to the tribal membership and business owners. We initiated a food box delivery program, elder generator program, health and safety welfare check program and provided iPads/computers to students, and invested in overall infrastructure of our communities including water systems, broadband and telecommunications. We enacted effective and efficient work accommodations to ensure the Tribal government, businesses and services continued to provide critical support to our communities, including establishment of a Public Health Office, construction of two Yurok Emergency Operations Centers (Klamath and Tulley Creek), Yurok Police Station for upriver communities. We confront these challenges each day and continue to develop innovative ways to serve and protect our communities.

I look forward to continuing to grow the political, economic, legal, social, and cultural areas for the Yurok people. Through collaboration and commitment to move the Yurok Tribe we can uphold our constitutional objectives and ensure the frontline action is maintained in order to have the strategic actions implemented. This has always been my priority and a top objective and continues as the core of serving as the Yurok Tribal Chairman.

Finally, I'd like to express my deep appreciation for my staff, Tribal Council members, and community members for their dedication and commitment to working tirelessly for our communities. I come from a village mind-set and know that when we work together, care for each other and stand together, we are

Chairperson candidate James continued on next page

stronger. I look forward to serving the Yurok people again for a second term as Chairman with passion, humility, integrity, and commitment. My track record is proven, and I respectfully ask for your votes this election. **Vote for Joseph L. James for Vision, Expansion and Action.**

Highlights:

- Economic Development
- Yurok Agricultural Corporation
- Acquisition of Mad River Brewery, Lindgren Mill, Weitchpec Nursery

- Hemp Pilot Project
- Yurok Economic Development Corporation
- Acquisition of Shoreline Gas Station
- Redwood Canoe Tours
- Upgrades to Pem-mey/Pek-tah Fuel Stations and campgrounds
- 2021 Leadership Award, National Center of Economic Development 🌲

CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE STATEMENT



Aiy-ye-kwee' Nee-kee-chue! I would like to ask for your support and vote for chairman in this coming election. My education includes an MBA from SFSU with a double major in finance and accounting. Also, I am a currently licensed certified public accountant by the State of California Board of Accountancy. My father is Buddy Bear and Sam Jones, my great uncle, was on the Yurok Transition Team and the first Weitchpec district council member. I served 4 years in the military [Army-Honorable Discharge] and 5 years, off and on, in the Bering Sea, as a commercial fisherman. Recently, I started my own business as a tribal accounting consultant [Red Power Consulting] just before the pandemic started and continue to succeed in that business endeavor. I have worked for and with several tribes over the years [10+ years now] and have reached expert level in Tribal and grant accounting and picked up forensic accounting to resolve tribal business profit and operational issues along the way.

There are many reasons that I am running for Tribal Chair:

1. Our Tribal workplace—Harassment and hostile work environments or even the appearance of such should never be tolerated, albeit supported by deliberate inaction. Ever.
2. Tribal businesses--I have also, like you, seen the fish building at Klamath, built new several years ago and yet to see a day of service. The Tribe's existing businesses need to be retooled to become profit-making entities by adoption of the correct business models for those businesses. Acquiring new businesses means nothing if those businesses are just inking out a bare living for its employees. In addition, our Tribal businesses need business and marketing plans with performance milestones laid out in a critical path timeline for those businesses to set them on the road to greater profitability.
3. Tribal member communication & collaboration--I have also seen how the council does not communicate openly with its Tribal members like I have seen other Tribes do. There are way too many instances that come to mind of our Tribal council leaving members out of the decision-making process. If elected, I will do my best to implement open and transparent communications that keep members informed and able to actively participate.
4. The Salmon--The worst damage to our Salmon being done right now may be occurring on the high seas of international waters, where poachers are able to use modern tagging and tracking technology to pursue and take our Salmon. Our Tribe needs to sue our Federal Government [As our fiduciaries, they are supposed to have our best interests, and therefore the Salmon's, in mind] for not implementing a more aggressive salmon protection policy through NOAA

Chairperson candidate Kinder continued on next page

(The National Oceanographic & Aeronautic Administration).
5. Other issues...I worked for one Tribe that declared all its members, regardless of blood quantum, were full bloods if they were born before 1959 [Red Lake Band of the Ojibwe]. I believe we will have to move from the words "Yurok Tribal member" to "Citizen of the Yurok Nation"--one supports the government's genocidal blood quantum Tribal member requirement and the other supports the Yurok Nation's right to recognize its citizen's based on its own discretion. I also worked for another Tribe [Meskwaki Nation of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa] whose native aboriginal territory was in Canada, yet they have a casino in Iowa on their tribal land in Iowa, which is not a reservation [it is called a "settlement"]... the implication here is to have a Yurok Casino on Yurok "Settlement" land purchased in the Bay Area. My point here is that the Yurok Tribe should be successfully exerting the same rights these other Tribes have realized.

If elected, I will do my best to advance our tribe's interest and welfare and will need your support and input to do it. If you are interested in contacting me to talk about my views or issues that you think are important, please join my facebook group page @ "Kinder for Chairman." If you are wondering whether you should vote for me, ask yourself this, "Wouldn't it be nice to get someone in there that has the appropriate training, experience and qualifications coupled with an indefatigable desire to turn visions into reality??"

I believe that I am that person and hope that you will choose to elect me as your next Yurok Tribal Chairman. Working together, we can do this. Wok-hlew',
Jimmie V. Kinder, MBA, CPA

VICE-CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



Edward "Horse" Aubrey

Aiy-ye-kwee Tribal Members,

My name is Edward Horse Aubrey. I come from the villages of Pecwan and Notchko. My parents are Aawok Sherrie Lee (Reed) Reece and Awok Calvin Henry Aubrey III. My Grandparents are Awok Lawrence Reed & Aawok Delores Ethel (McCovey) Reed.

I have served as Yurok Tribe North District tribal council member from 2017-2020. My goals this election is to follow

through with the last 3 years of voter approved referendums, initiate strong economic growth, continue the development of completed projects, improve services for tribal members, and keep fighting for our salmon & dam removal. The reason I ran and continue to run for council is that I personally understand the struggles of not being able to receive services through grant funded programs. In this day and age of uncertainty with climate change and Covid our tribal members are being greatly affected within the job market, such as losing homes due to fires and health issues. Therefore, I am pushing for economic growth so that all tribal members regardless of income and where they live will be able to receive services. I believe with the 20% of profits coming back to the tribe from the corporations after paying off the loan, the tribal members should be able to vote and decide on what to do with the funding.

Economic Growth- With the advent of new tribal economic activities, such as hemp, and the brewery; coupled with existing business, jet boat, campgrounds, habitat restoration, and hotel/casino, these varied employment opportunities are not enough to hire members on a large-scale basis. We need to make positions in the workplace for our people.

When I was North District council member, I was privileged to initiate three projects, of which, two are still in intermediate stages, while one has reached full fruition. In all three instances I researched tribal needs and feasibility. I provided shared researched information through direct council communication

Vice Chairperson candidate Aubrey continued on next page

that can be easily verified or vetted.

Tackling clearly a seemingly impossible undertake, to improve the lives of Yurok people, in addition to my normal council duties, I believe it is the right thing to do. Tribal members in opposition to new thought-out ideas are ultra conservatives, who are resistant to dynamic change. Tribal progress is slowly advancing. Do we need to depend on 95% federal grant funding the status quo to exist?

Yurok Agriculture Corporation, Cannabis/Hemp; the U. S. Department of Agriculture has designated the Yurok Tribe, through the 2018 Farm Bill; the seventh such designation nationally to receive USDA Hemp Regulations to regulate this industry on tribal lands. With this designation we are equal to states. We need to create a regulating authority to oversee environmental and enforcement issues that will be outlined in the permitting process.

When serving as council member I placed 3 initiatives on the ballot that were passed by the people. We can go out for public comment to continue the process of making it legal to grow, process, and have a marketplace to distribute and sell cannabis/hemp on reservation land.

Building Construction: I worked in the construction trade for 30 years. Started out as a laborer, then moved to apprentice, journeyman, foreman, supervisor, estimator, then obtained my contracting license and started my own roofing company. I then started to do custom woodworking & native designed caskets. That I learned from my stepfather, Awok David Reece, artist

and cultural wood carver. I am a founding board member and continue to sit on Prey-go-neesh 8A Construction Corporation Board, I am Vice President of, Yurok Agriculture Corporation, Er'-Nerr' Land Fund Board and a founding board member of the Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation. We have tribal members with skilled hands and college degrees. We need to find beneficial jobs for our people to fulfill our building needs as well as competing in the local building markets, like dam removal, salmon and prairie restoration, tree thinning, housing projects.

Tribal Services: After a couple years of planning, negotiating, & purchasing, under my leadership the tribe has obtained a building in Crescent City. The principal purpose is to better serve our tribal members because of last chance grade road construction and closures. The building was named the Marjorie Buckskin North District Office.

My primary focus is direct investment in the Yurok People. The membership has been underserved in tribal programs and the job market. A sustainable economy will bring about economic, social and environmental justice, which will benefit the Yurok people.

Stay Safe & Healthy

Wok-hlew

Edward Horse Aubrey ❖

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
CANDIDATE STATEMENT



Jewel Frank

My platform is safety, balance, and health to invest and serve you as a Yurok Tribal Member. Vote for Jewel Frank as your Yurok Vice Chairwoman.

Safety: regarding covid19 and crime, currently the delta variant

has caused a spike in positive numbers rising. The crime, its most likely, going into chaos of keeping our Yurok families in fear, due to our systems being overwhelmed and frustrated. I do understand, [Why?] work place harassment regards power and control. Its time we vote out the powers that be, and work towards safety at the workplace. Workplace harassment has caused life changes where past Yurok employees lost confidence, resulting of competent employees having to move on to other jobs away from the Yurok Tribe. I attended the public hearing where the favortism went from an resignation to a rehire to another high paid position, I was upset/hurt that favortism happened to all of us. Resulting in unnecessary hardships for families and our communities/districts on and off the Yurok Reservation.

Balance: of our financial budgets are/is extremely important for each tribal members' whom are NOT having services available to them due to favortism or complete unprofessionalism. Yes, its time to have balances in services to meet the needs of Tribal members

Vice Chairperson candidate Frank continued on next page

& families working towards stability in our home lives. Regarding our finances, I would work for scholarships, ammunition start up kits for business, ocean fishing allotted 12% of annual harvest to commercial fishing standards, and of course beekeeping! I am excited to see all the new businesses that were purchased with federal dollars, our money. I am excited to see financial budgets to see where we stand, I would work to put in place 5 year to or 10 year plans to see us successful. Did you know, the fuel we purchase from Oregon for \$2.00 a gallon, and profit at \$4. + per gallon – we are making money at our fuel stations of Pey-mey and Peck-tach. How much are we making there as a profit? Exactly where does these profits go? Numbers are interesting our membership is 6,000+, a guess-a-mation of voting members are maybe 1,057 votes. Therefore, Yurok Tribe receives federal dollars for tribal members who have not gotten any kind of services, that's the grim reality. 76/45/36 Millions of Federal Yurok Dollars, October 13, 2021 Vote for financial balance.

Health: of our Klamath River is currently experiencing polluted water with blue algae causing toxins that can kill dogs and is attacking our food chain of salmon. How, when, and what are we going to do to 'Save Klamath River'? Currently, as a newbie I have finally become a humble beekeeper of honey bees. Healthy honey bees tells me a lot of our natural environment. Finally, after graduating C/R I was learning about autobody paint and collision repair, then covid19 happened and I experienced death of family members. If you want to talk to me please call as I will be grateful to talk about my experience, strength, and hope for our future. Social media (Facebook) has become toxic, and misleading so you will not find me participating in that forum. I'm "Old School" I prefer phone calls, emails, and I do like zoom meetings to a certain degree. Communication is key to good health, good relationships, a closed mouth doesn't get feed. Like our Klamath River we are all stressed and this can and will heal up with healthy leadership.

Qualifications:

I have worked for 7+ yrs at Mission Linen, laundry and this employment was humbling. I have work experience in casework, as I was legally trained and served the Hoopa and the surrounding

areas as a legal advocate for 10 years, this employment was satisfying in providing hope, safety, and security. I have graduated from C/R and that has been the most rewarding experience that I lived. My family is of Jones's from Weitchpec, I am the great granddaughter of Domingo Jones. She never spoke English, only Yurok. If elected I will work to keep our language alive and well – Wok-klow. As a personal description of me the words I love and live by are of Bullet/Bees/Bigfoot, to me that is synonymous with LOVE/LOVE/LOVE.

At this time, I want to 'Thank you' for reading my 750 and if elected I promise to promote you as a tribal member.
Chuu' (Happy Trails) ❖

***Vice-Chairperson statements cont'd on next page.**

YOUR VOTE • YOUR CHOICE YOUR VOICE

Primary Election - October 13, 2021

Run-off Election - November 17, 2021

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
CANDIDATE STATEMENT



Frankie Myers
(Incumbent)

Aiy-yue-kwee Ohl,

Nak-now Frankie Myers from the village of Sregon and I am the current Vice-Chairperson of our Yurok Tribe. I was raised on the Hehlkeek'We-Roy (Klamath River) learning our language, culture and ceremonies. In my life and in my career with the Yurok Tribe I have been fortunate to have worked with many elders and incredible mentors.

I am proud and humbled to represent the voice of the Yurok people as your Vice Chairman and it has been in this capacity that I have fully come to realize how truly strong and resilient our Yurok Tribal Community is. My 1st term as Vice Chairman is what now drives me to run for a 2nd term- not only because of what I have seen our community do, but what I see our community has the potential to become.

I want to first acknowledge our Yurok frontline workers, families, and community members who have fought this past year and half to protect our communities. It is important that we recognize these members because these values are at the foundation of who we are as a people.

In my tenure as Vice Chairperson the three main areas that I have focused my energy to work on are our Natural Resources Protection, Economic Development and Community Health. Our Natural Resources are connected to the health and prosperity of our community and as one improves, so does the other. Economic Development is the key to creating our own tribal economy and the path to truly realizing our historic Sovereignty as a Tribal Nation. Community Health is why our tribe was formed and is the center of our tribal government.

Dam Removal, Land Acquisition and Salmon Restoration are the three areas that we must succeed at to bring balance back to our ancestral landscape. Negotiating to bring California, Oregon and Pacificorp/Berkshire Hathaway in the new agreement has been key to getting dam removal back on track and heading towards a 2023 start date. Continuing negotiations to include Tribal Membership in the actual decommission is now the task at hand. The acquisition of nearly 3,000 acres of what is called the Ka'pel track brings another milestone, along with successfully negotiating almost another 1,000 acres from previous cannabis cultivation properties. With the creation of Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation we have improved our ability to implement salmon restoration and created a path to leverage additional lands into our restoration areas. Working with our Yurok Tribe Fisheries and Environmental Program we have a vision of protection of our current land as well as policies to follow that allow access and use of those properties by our membership as we have since time immemorial.

Over these past three years the Tribe has experienced one of the largest growths of our Economic Sovereignty ever seen in our Tribes recent history. Working with our dedicated staff and membership we have been able to create several cornerstones of our tribal economy including the creation of the Yurok Agricultural Corporation, Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation, Per-Geesh 8(a) Construction Corporation and the newly formed Yurok Connect Corporation. These economic ventures have had tremendous growth and have already tripled our gross economic revenue.

Taking care of our village is a traditional value that is now more important than ever before. Community Health must continue to be the bedrock foundation of our Tribal Governance Structure. We need to continue to support our Social Services, as well as our Tribal Court system, to not only bring restorative justice to our people, but also to regenerate wellness. We must always look to create paths for our community to find rebalance.

As Vice Chairperson, I am proud of the work we have accomplished. We have made enormous strides forward in Self Determination and Self Governance. Together we have nearly doubled our tribal annual budget. These additional revenues from grants, federal funding and other awards are providing direct service to our membership through our 4 divisions and 20 distinct tribal departments. It is important that you, the Yurok People, vote for leadership that understands our issues and can represent them with the heart and passion they deserve.

With over 20 years of experience working for the Tribal Government and Community Organizing I am asking you to join our tribal members who are working towards a better future. ❖

ORICK DISTRICT CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



Sherri Provolt
(Incumbent)

‘ Aiy-yu-kwee’ 'ne tom'-meyr. Nek-new Sherri Provolt. Ne kue-chos wew 'aawokw Mabel Hodge es-see ne peech-o-wos wew 'aawokw Irving Hendrix. Ne chek wew Susie Long. Ner-er-ner' es-see Pue-lik-lah mey'-wo-me-chok'. My grandfather was a well-known stick player, and my grandmother was known as a strong woman able to navigate the river. I come from the village of Chah-pek (across from Stone Lagoon) as well as Tu'rip along the Klamath River. I was raised in Trinidad by hard working family, and it is the place I still reside.

Over these past three years, I have been honored to serve as the Orick District Representative. I have learned so very much about our Yurok Tribe government and how to use my voice to share the concerns, thoughts, and hopes for the members of Orick District. There is much to celebrate and so much yet to be done.

I am committed to serve the Yurok Tribe with a focus on protecting our **natural resources**, supporting all levels of our **education programs** from Head Start to College, building operational and **financial accountability** for our programs and enterprises, developing **affordable housing** within the Orick District, and ensuring our **cultural values** and language are foremost in all we do.

Immediate areas that I will focus on include:

- Creating regular operational and financial reporting for the Yurok Tribe's corporations.
- Prioritize communications regarding programs, services, and events.
- Build a reputable Public Health Department with priority services to elders.
- Advocate for affordable housing.
- Work with National and State Parks, Cal-Fire, and other entities to restore our traditional practices.
- Emphasize vocational training and programs, including Yurok language programs.
- Improve social services programs and response to tribal member needs.

A few activities supported by the Yurok Tribe within the Orick District over the last three years:

- Acquired economic enterprises in Orick to support responsible economic growth (Shoreline Deli).
- Joint operating agreement with State Parks for Stone Lagoon Visitor's Center.
- Continued support for the sustainable growth of the Condor Program.
- Advocated for the Redwood Creek Estuary Restoration Project.
- Agreement with Save the Redwood League for protecting and restoring the Orick Mill Site land and Creeks and improving fish habitat on Prairie Creek.
- Active member of the Trinidad Coast Land Trust to protect Yurok aboriginal lands and culturally sensitive areas.

I remain steadfast and working hard to serve the Orick District and the Yurok Tribe. Please make your voice heard and VOTE to support me as the Orick District Representative. Wo'khlew 🍄



IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

The Sample Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on September 3rd, 2021. The actual Ballots will be mailed on September 10th with a prepaid postage envelope.

You may choose to do one of the following:

- Mail in your ballot using the envelope with prepaid postage
- Drop it off or designate someone to drop it off at the Elections Department in Klamath prior to Election Day.

Why are we doing this?

We want to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19.

*The Elections Department has installed Ballot Tracking Software, which scans and verifies signatures. It also counts ballots as they come in. Ballots will not be opened until Election night. Election staff and the Election Board are also certified in signature verification.

***The vote count will be livestreamed on the primary Yurok Tribe Facebook page, which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/TheYurokTribe>**

Yurok Court aims to prevent MMIWG2

Yurok Tribal Court, SBI release progress report on MMIWG2 project

The Yurok Tribal Court and the Sovereign Bodies Institute recently released the second progress report on a paradigm-shifting project aiming to establish a significantly more effective response to existing and future missing and murdered indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people (MMIWG2) cases in California.

The Yurok Tribal Court's To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek' (I will see you again in a good way) Project report represents nearly two years of bringing together the voices of survivors, family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women & girls and two-spirit people, tribal court staff, and researchers to fight for justice and safety for Indigenous women and youth in California. The groundbreaking report contains a series of updates on the development of California's first MMIWG2 database and the creation of a comprehensive protocol to address these complex cases.


"The goal of this project is to build tribe-centered systems of investigation and stronger circles of protection, so that deaths and disappearances of Indigenous people will be accounted for and someday prevented entirely," said Yurok Chief Justice Abby Abinanti, who is also a former San Francisco Superior Court Judicial Officer. "As you will see in the report, we have made much progress toward achieving these objectives."

Led by the Yurok Tribal Court, the To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek'

Project's year-two progress report focuses on five new priority areas, including: foster care & violence against youth, mental health impacts, intergenerational trauma, culturally informed ideas of justice and healing, and family and survivor centered justice and healing.

In the last year, the number of MMIWG2 cases since 1900 increased from 165 to 183 in California, which is 1.3 times higher than the average number of cases per year. None of the new 18 cases have been resolved. Due to several factors, such as barriers to data collection, it is believed that these statistics represent a small fraction of actual number of cases. "If the rate were applied to each year since 1900, it is likely there would be over 2,000 cases across California, not accounting for likely spikes due to slavery, massacres, forced removals, and boarding schools," according to the report. Nearly 60 percent of the cases originated in Northern California, between San Francisco to the Oregon border. Of those cases, 22% are missing, 62% are murdered, and 16% are status unknown. As reflected in the year two report, the data represent thousands of people, the majority of whom were murdered. "It is impossible to quantify the impact of their loss, what they meant to their family and community, and all they could have contributed," according to the authors of the report.

A trio of databases presently track missing persons cases, including the federal government's National Missing and Unidentified Persons



System (NamUs), which until only recently did not have the capacity to include victims' tribal affiliations, and to this day lacks such information for the majority of the cases in the database. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is equally flawed as is the State of California's version of this digital tool. Through community-based data gathering practices, Sovereign Bodies Institute has been able to create the most thorough data source on MMIWG2 statewide and internationally, documenting the data points that are informed by partners such as impacted families and the Yurok Tribal Court.

Currently, 62% of all missing Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people in the state are not documented in any of the state and federal data repositories. Of the cases documented in the report, 41 involve mothers of children, who must carry the lifelong impact of the theft of their mother. In the words of Christina Lastra, daughter of Humboldt County MMIW Alicia Lara, "When is this going to stop? When are you going to recognize that we count? When are you going to speak the truth? When are we going to have closure? When are we going to have justice? What is it going to take?"

Most commonly, non-Indians perpetrate the murders and abductions of Native women, girls and two spirit people. Frequently, these crimes are committed far from tribal victims' homes because the perpetrators intentionally capitalize on minimal multijurisdictional coordination. For example, California's MMIWG2 victims represent 48 different tribes, and more than half (52%) of tribes are located far from the state. This crime takes place within a massive area with many political boundaries, which supports the call for a coordinated multijurisdictional response protocol. The Yurok Tribal Court's procedure proposed would connect personnel and resources from tribal, federal and state courts, victim services as well as police and social services departments.

"There is an especially urgent need for more federal participation in these cases because so many involve multiple states and jurisdictions," explained Judge Abinanti. "This holistic, multidisciplinary approach is required because families of victims need services in real-time and victims need assistance if or when they are able to make it home."

Mentioned in the year-one report, additional advancements have been made in expanding concurrent jurisdiction arrangements, such as the joint Family Wellness Courts led by Yurok Chief Justice Abinanti and the presiding judges of the Del Norte County and Humboldt County Courts.

In the 2021 report, the To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek' Project team extended the scope of the data collection component of the project to include missing and murdered indigenous boys and men, who are also disproportionately represented in the statistics. Thirty-three cases in Northern California were selected as a preliminary sample. In year three, these cases and others will be fully analyzed, the results will be included in a final report on the project.

The Yurok Tribal Court initiated the To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek' Project to improve outcomes of MMIWG2 cases in the state and eventually the entire United States. The Project is a collaboration between the Yurok Tribal Court and Sovereign Bodies Institute. In this effort, the Court has contracted with Yurok tribal member Dr. Blythe K. George who holds a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from Harvard University and currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at UC Merced. The US Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) grant is the primary funding source for the three-year undertaking. A final report will be released in 2022 when the project is completed.

Tribe opposes settlement for opioid producer

Proposed bankruptcy agreement is inconsistent with Tribal view of justice

The Yurok Tribal Council unanimously voted to oppose a proposed bankruptcy settlement agreement and restructuring plan for OxyContin manufacturer Purdue Pharma. The settlement is part of Purdue Pharma's proposed bankruptcy plan, which seeks to resolve thousands of lawsuits brought against the company and members of the Sackler family for fueling the opioid crisis by intentionally misleading doctors and patients about the numerous risks associated with taking the highly addictive OxyContin. If White Plains, NY bankruptcy court judge Robert Drain approves the agreement, the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma will have to pay approximately \$150 million to all Tribes in the United States over nine years. The Yurok Tribe's portion

is roughly .5 percent of the tribal allocation. While the Sackler family is contributing approximately \$4.5 billion to the bankruptcy settlement, due to the family's vast fortune and investments, it is likely they will recover that contribution over the same time period. Furthermore, the Sacklers will not have to admit any wrongdoing and they will be permanently shielded from future opioid-related civil lawsuits. "There is no justice in this settlement," said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "The Yurok Tribe is incredibly disappointed with the agreement because it does not hold Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family accountable for the damage they have caused in our community and across the continent. Everything about the ability of this family

to escape consequences and responsibility for premediated actions offends the world view of the Yurok people.” “In the absence of the Sackler family’s insatiable greed, the abuse of prescription opioid narcotics on tribal lands would never have become the crisis it is today,” added Yurok Chief Justice Abby Abinanti. “According to our world view, perpetrators of wrongs must do everything possible to make the victim whole in order for justice to be achieved. That is why Yuroks cannot support this sweetheart settlement for the Sackler family. They need to publicly take responsibility for their actions and invest every penny they made from selling OxyContin in restoring the individuals, families and communities ravaged by their purposeful

greed.” The Yurok Tribe joined the litigation against Purdue and the Sackler family as a means of pursuing justice for the disproportionate number of Native American lives that have been lost to the opioid crisis. Believed by many to be a driving force behind the widespread public health emergency, the Sackler family has amassed billions in wealth from selling OxyContin, a drug that closely resembles heroin. From OxyContin alone, Purdue Pharma generated approximately \$35 billion in revenue. The Tribe’s participation in the case made it eligible to vote on this inadequate settlement. The federal bankruptcy court judge will take the vote into consideration when making a final decision on the settlement.

Yurok Tribe launches telecoms company

IS Director Jessica Engle picked to run Yurok Telecommunications Corporation

The Yurok Tribe recently launched a telecommunications company to bridge gaps in access to digital and terrestrial communication services as well as initiate new economic development opportunities within Yurok ancestral territory.

“We formed the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation to resolve longstanding disparities in access to internet and phone services on tribal lands. The standard telecom providers have failed to serve our community, so we decided to create a company to provide these essential services,” said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “The company will also support the growth of our economy in a manner that is consistent with our values.”

The Yurok Tribal Council selected Yurok Information Service Department Director Jessica Engle to serve as the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation’s Chief Executive Officer. During the last four years, Engle has more than quadrupled the size of the Information Services Department, optimized the Tribal government’s use of technology and led the effort to increase access to high-speed internet on the Yurok Reservation.

“I am extremely excited about this new role because it will enable me to dedicate my full skill set to serving the Yurok people by improving digital and land-based communications in the region,” says Jessica Engle, the CEO of the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation. “I look forward to working with the Yurok community on shaping this new company’s short and long-

term objectives. The corporation was established to meet the Tribe’s present and future needs.”

“Jessica’s strong management skills, combined with her technical aptitude and ability to solve complex challenges made her the ideal candidate for the CEO position. We could not have found a better person to run the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation,” added Chairman James.

The corporation will take over the operations of Yurok Connect, a tribally owned wireless internet service provider. Incubated within the tribal government, Yurok Connect is currently in the final stages of a project to make an affordable, high-speed internet available for the first time on many parts of the Yurok Reservation. One of only a handful of tribally owned internet service providers, Yurok Connect is installing cutting-edge wireless broadband equipment and new towers between the coast and the Tribe’s inland border at Weitchpec. To further fortify Yurok Connect’s network, Engle is working with the Karuk Tribe to install nearly 104 miles of fiber optic cable from Orleans to Wautec and Tulley Creek to

Orick then heading south to McKinleyville. The project is currently in the environmental review stage, which is one of the last steps before construction can begin. In addition to improving emergency communications during and after the COVID-19 crisis, these projects will offer many community members an ability to participate in



IS Director Jessica Engle to manage Yurok Telecommunications Corp.

distance learning, virtual healthcare and e-commerce.

During the pandemic, the federal government made its first attempt to address enduring inequalities in the quality and quantity of telecommunications infrastructure on tribal lands. Developed by the Biden-Harris Administration and passed by congress, the American Rescue Plan Act included \$1 billion for tribal broadband projects. Each federally recognized tribe in the US is eligible to apply for broadband use and adoption projects ranging from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million and infrastructure projects ranging from \$1 million to \$50 million. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation CEO Engle is applying for much-needed, American Rescue Plan funds to expand the Yurok Connect network and address unresolved communications needs in Yurok Country. For example, there is no landline telephone service on the upriver half of the reservation and businesses along the US Highway 101 corridor from Orick to Wilson Creek have never had access to reliable high-speed internet.

If approved, the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will use a portion of these funds to construct a fiber optic line from Orick to Crescent City. Once it is complete, local enterprises owned by Yurok citizens and non-Indians on Highway 101 will be able to take advantage of the Yurok Connect-administered, fast internet service. The corporation also plans to use the funds to create Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the Yurok Reservation, a low-income internet assistance program and a training to teach more local people how to install broadband infrastructure. The federal funds will be invested in several other important initiatives too.

Coupled with increasing internet access, the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation was established to enhance cellular and landline phone services and electrical infrastructure on the reservation, much of which lacks cellphone and standard phone services. While the last big villages received electricity in 2018, many homes are still not connected to the conventional power grid, which is another injustice the Yurok Telecommunications Company was created to correct. Initiated by Engle when she was the Tribe's Information Services Director, the recently built Yurok Connect towers were designed to hold cellular carrier colocations.

As the Information Services Director, Engle also introduced many new and emerging technologies to make the tribal government more efficient. She created a virtual server environment with off-site disaster recovery and regular backups, which enabled nearly 600 tribal employees to maintain maximum productivity while working remotely due the pandemic. Ranging from its new industry-standard equipment to its customer service, Engle also significantly expanded the Yurok Connect business and established a program to make high-speed internet free to nearly all reservation residents for an entire year.

"I chose this line of work because I believe everyone should have access to quality internet, power and phone services, not

to mention meaningful employment opportunities. The Yurok Telecommunications position will allow me to be a part of the solution to these longstanding issues. It is truly a privilege to do this work in such a beautiful place, with such amazing people," concluded Yurok Telecommunications Corporation CEO Engle.

Protecting Your Family From

WILDFIRE SMOKE

Safety Tips to Protect Yourself and Your Family

- Pay attention to air quality reports. These will be found on radio, TV or in the newspaper and will include instructions about outdoor activities and safety measures. They can also be found at www.ncuaqmd.org or by calling the NCUAQMD Air Quality Information hotline toll-free at (866) 287-6329.
- Keep indoor air as clean as possible. Close all windows and doors. If it is too hot with the windows closed, consider visiting a place with air conditioning for relief. Avoid smoking tobacco inside, frying food, or burning candles.
- Use common sense. If it looks smoky outside keep children occupied with quiet indoor activities. Keep car windows closed while driving and run the air conditioner on the inside air setting.
- Contact your doctor now if you have health concerns. For example, if your child has asthma, discuss what you should do if the air in your neighborhood becomes smoky.
- Closely monitor your health during smoky conditions. If you or members of your family have lung or heart disease, contact your doctor immediately if symptoms get worse.

Air Conditioning and Swamp Cooler Information

- Run an air conditioner if you have one, but keep any fresh air intake closed and filter clean to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside. If you see heavy, visible smoke outside, don't use a swamp cooler. For More Information: NCUAQMD Air Quality Hotline: 1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329) or www.ncuaqmd.org.

www.fire.ca.gov Wildland fire information from the California Department of Forestry. www.inciweb.org/state/5 Wildland fire information for fires managed by a Federal Agency.

Source: NCUAQMD



EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON OCT. 13, 2021





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BULL ELK POSE FOR A PICTURE IN PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK, YUROK ANCESTRAL TERRITORY.