

CUJ Candidate Questionnaires

covered more than six pages.) Others picked and chose the questions they wanted to answer and, in some cases, only a few questions were answered.

This story summarizes most of the questionnaires that were submitted.

All of the questionnaires with full - unedited - responses can be found in a link on the Tribes' website: www.ctuir.org. Scroll down to Latest News to 2017 CUJ Candidate Questionnaires and click on Read more.

Responses are listed with incumbents listed first, unless the incumbent didn't submit a response. Remaining candidates follow in alphabetical order. If you do not see a candidate listed it means they did not respond to the questionnaire.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR

Challenger ELWOOD PATAWA, "a public servant to this tribe for 40 plus years," is the only candidate who submitted a response. Patawa served as BOT Chair from 1981 to 1993 and was chief operating officer at Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center from 1996 to 2009.

(Editor's note: The CUJ erred in its print version when it said Patawa resigned three times from the BOT. He resigned one time as BOT Chair in 2011.)

Patawa said he would decriminalize marijuana for medicinal purposes but it needs to be a decision of the people."

He said he hasn't seen any effort to address climate change, that codes should be updated yearly, and that there needs to be a drug abuse assessment to determine the extent of the problem and then identify resources to address the issue.

GENERAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Kyle McGuire's unedited version is on the webpage. Currently the General Council Vice-Chair, McGuire counts himself as "trustworthy, intelligent and optimistic." He would like to see the development of a warming station that includes laundry facilities and said he likes the "all-under-one-roof-of-learning" concept of the proposed Education facility.

McGuire would let voters decide on decriminalization of marijuana.

He finished the survey with these two responses:

What Tribal government services should be provided to non-enrolled family members of CTUIR enrollees, if any?

McGuire: "Dental. I would like them to smile as we do."

And, If one of the best ways to serve the people is giving your time, what ways have you given back to your community?

McGuire: "I gave community the name my mom choose to call me."

BOT VICE-CHAIR

Elected two years ago, JEREMY WOLF is the current BOT Vice-Chair. He also serves as Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Commission and Chair of the Tribal Farm Committee.

With a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources, Wolf has had several jobs with the CTUIR ranging from Head Start Teacher's Aide at the age of 14 to Fisheries Biologist.

Wolf, the father of three, supports a K-12 school on the Reservation and a horse arena. He thinks the larger school can eventually be part of the proposed Education Facility currently being considered by the Board of Trustees. As for the horse arena, he said it should be part of the Wildhorse expansion.

Wolf would push for a BOT code of ethics and changes to the Executive Management Policy and the Board policies to "increase the line the sights for our chain of command and accountability."

Wolf would develop and expand the July Grounds with veteran and community involvement to create a "gathering

place we can be proud of."

He would like to buy HUD housing units in segments over time "so that we can truly manage ourselves." He advocates redeveloping Lucky 7 and notes the current plans for new middle-income homes on the Bowman property. He also noted that the Tribes are working on a credit union to provide an avenue for larger home loans through the Tribes and/or 99-year leases.

Although Wolf sees the benefits of hemp as a cash crop and the medicinal uses for marijuana and, further, he disagrees with the way marijuana is classified as a Schedule 1 drug (like heroin and cocaine), he can't support decriminalization for pot possession.

"Federally we share a trust responsibility and currently possession of marijuana violates federal criminal law. Consequently, federal deputation of Tribal Police to enforce federal criminal laws is at risk if we conflict with federal law," Wolf writes in his questionnaire. "Finally, in 2016, the BOT heard reviews and opposition by the Law & Order Committee and Housing Commission with the Health Commission supporting it through a split vote. Ultimately, as a Trustee, I cannot support our decriminalization of marijuana possession on the UIR at this time.

SHANA McCONVILLE RADFORD, candidate for BOT Vice-Chair, was among a handful of hopefuls who provided detailed answers.

Among other things, Radford said she would bring an "empathy" to her decision making because to "problem solve you need to know the people and care about their lives – through listening and engagement."

She said empathy is especially needed in dealing with drug addiction.

Radford said the first way to fight the drug problem is to admit there is one and then develop a strategy to "stop the misuse, dealers and stigmas." She would advocate for a treatment facility, more trauma-informed care and less punishment.

Radford is in favor of decriminalizing marijuana and, as a former member of the Warm Springs Cannabis Regulatory Commission, says she could bring experience and expertise to the CTUIR government.

Her ideas about community development would include community-use facility, student and senior-living housing, areas for youth and elder activities, and a skate park. She said she would rely on the already-in-place CTUIR Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan.

Radford also suggests the possibility of a minimum wage for tribal citizen, increased higher-education scholarships, and changes to the loan-repayment fund. In the answers she gives in her full on-line questionnaire, she explains the predicament young families, particularly single mothers, find themselves in when they try to afford child care.

If elected, Radford would like to see more attention paid to climate change.

"I believe we are hindering our tribe when we underestimate the realities of climate change," she writes. "We cannot escape climate change; we must adapt to it."

Radford said the community needs to be more aware of the CTUIR Comprehensive Plan. She'd like to take it on the road with the rest of the Board, key program managers and staff to share at community meetings and town halls.

Radford would like to see "greater coordination of blending of funds, resources" for programs that currently provide "overlapping" services.

BOT SECRETARY

N. KATHRYN "KAT" BRIGHAM is seeking re-election to a position she's held five times. Her expertise has been in fisheries issues; she served on the CTUIR Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and the Pacific Salmon Commission. She's been tracking water issues in the last two years and now serving on the Water Commission.

Brigham said she is hopeful any new Education facility will include a new high school. She said the CTUIR needs their own water-treatment facility.

Brigham said she would measure the success of the Wildhorse expansion by repayment of the loan, an increase in visitors to the casino, and an increase

in revenue.

Brigham said she'd leave the question of marijuana up to the community, reminding the community that it needs to understand the "pros/cons short-term and long-term of decriminalizing ... and then if the CTUIR membership wants a change [then] plan for it."

She said the Tribes can do much more about climate change by "working with other Tribes and states."

CEDRIC WILDBILL has experience in public relations, gaming management and social services as a former alcohol-and-drug counselor. Now he's a small business owner.

Noting the CTUIR has no tax base, which is the standard way by which municipalities and other government entities pay for services, Wildbill said a tribal economy will have to rely on a middle class developed by small tribal business owners.

Employment is the key to a healthy economy, Wildbill said, adding that tribal members should be able to establish long-term careers in tribal government, at Wildhorse, at Cayuse Technologies, or at Yellowhawk.

Wildbill said he could support decriminalization of marijuana but he doesn't think the Tribes should be in the business of growing or selling pot on the reservation.

As for drug addiction, Wildbill points out that at least half the onus has to be placed on the person with the addiction.

"As a former alcohol and drug counselor, it has been my experience that it's not about us the treatment providers," he wrote. "It's about the person with the addiction who may or may not want to make a change in their lives ... What I have learned is the addicted person has to want to change to stop using and the counselor is there to provide appropriate counseling towards work, education, health and family. It's 50 percent on the client and 50 percent on the counselor to make change."

Read more at ctuir.org.

BOT TREASURER

Running through the questions, EUGENA STACONA would encourage completion of sidewalks, trails and lighting - already outlined in planning department documents - designed to keep community members safe. She wants to build more houses and stores on the reservation.

Stacona said a school for kindergarten through high school is needed.

"We have already increased at Nixy-aawii School to capacity and shouldn't turn students away because the school isn't big enough to accommodate potential students who wish to attend the school," she wrote in her responses that are posted on the CTUIR website.

Stacona would decriminalize marijuana for medicinal purposes and she advocates for solar and wind power.

She would create a middle income economy by hiring and providing on-the-job training so Umatilla Indians can eventually take over employment through a "succession planning scenario" implemented through the Tribes' Human Resources Department.

And she believes Mission needs "true community policing that includes the Neighborhood Watch and tribal police cruising the reservation to be a visible presence." She wants an alcohol-and-drug rehabilitation center, transition housing that includes employment opportunities, plus Alcoholic Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous meetings seven days a week with counselors available.

BOT MEMBERS AT-LARGE

Seven of the 11 candidates for BOT member at-large responded to the questionnaire. That list includes two members of the current Board – Woodrow Star and Rosenda Shippenator.

Two incumbent BOT at-large members – Aaron Ashley and Armand Minthorn – did not submit questionnaires for inclusion in this story or for the ctuir.org website.

The five challengers that submitted answers include Jill-Marie Gavin, Sally Kosey, Johnny Sampson, Bob Shippenator, and write-in candidate Shawn Joseph.

After election history and government service, the third

[Questionnaire on page 11A](#)