

Friends Of Tacoma Weekly

Let's Get You Elected

We have 12 weeks to brand your name as the best candidate for the job!

Here's how it works: This offer is limited to only 4 candidates based on space available.

- (12) 1/4 Print Ads
- (2) Full page Ads
- (4) Front Page Ads
- (1) Mega Block Ad 12 Weeks
- (4) 8 1/2 by 11 Inserts
- Weekly Editorial
- A Cover Story
- Tacoma Weekly Endorsement
- Cost \$2500

BRUCE TITUS
ADVISORY BOARD
www.bruce Titus.com

TACOMAWEEKLY NEWS
FREE • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 2020 WWW.TACOMAWEEKLY.COM
BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS 37 YEARS SERVING TACOMA | ALWAYS FREE

ELECTION RESULTS REVEAL MAJOR CHANGES IN PUYALLUP TRIBAL COUNCIL

BY JOHN WEYMER
weymer@tacomaweekly.com

Aug. 1, was voting day at the Puyallup tribe of Indians, and the results in this special election for tribal council are as final as they are surprising.

The membership made its collective voice heard loud and clear that they want change and they want it now. At a time when the tribe is facing its most critical crossroads in modern Puyallup tribal history, it's obvious that the membership view that bringing a major shift in power to the council is the smartest move they can make. Their very futures are on the line in this one of COVID-19.

In total, 15 candidates put themselves in the running for two council positions as were up for re-election, leaving four candidates that survived the June 6 primary to move on to the Aug. 1 general election: incumbents Jim Ridout and An Bryson, and newcomers Monica Miller and James Miles.

Ridout received the most votes, with 75 tribal members voting for him, and timing the most absentee ballots, showing that the membership in the heart of reservation and around the country wants him and wants him to stay in leadership. But in a major upset, Miller received the second highest number of votes, an impressive 63 votes, which means that she has effectively unseated Jim Bryson who has been on the council for years. Miller represents the ray of hope that the entire tribe needs right now.

and council member, always there for the membership and without being attached to the power, glory and money that some other council members embrace. Miller is also respected among the general membership for her work as longtime director of the tribe's Per Capita Representative Payee Department. She is sister to current council member Sylvia Miller and to Teresita Miller, who is executive director of the tribe's Elders Wellness Center and involved in the tribe's gaming enterprises. As someone brand new to the council, Monica Miller represents the ray of hope that the entire tribe needs right now.

tensions and infighting among the council members have been going on ever since David Bean was chosen as council chairman last year. This was another startling upset in tribal leadership, as Bean replaced Bill Sterud as chair after Sterud's more than 40 years of serving on the council in various positions, including chairman, compared to Bean's 13 years on council.

With these new election results, however, the council is now poised to experience a major change in power balance, as the chairmanship will again be decided by the full council in keeping with election year protocol. Looking at who's who on this "new" council, Sterud has a good chance to return to the chairman's seat. Traditionally backing Bean are his sister and current tribal council member Anna Bean, and council member Annet Bryson. Bryson used to be part of the group too, but now he is out. Sterud has typically been supported by Jim Ridout and Sylvia Miller and now Monica Miller is in the picture, creating a very good likelihood for a nomination for Sterud as the vote for chairman to wobble in his favor.

Under Bean's leadership, the tribe has been flourishing in numerous ways. First there is the impact of the coronavirus as how the tribal council has responded to the membership demands transparency and straight answers about tribal finances and a clear plan of action, but Bean doesn't seem to want to go that way even though he championed transparency of the council when he first ran, leading to him being elected. Local media can't get any clear answers either, with Bean taking a cue from Donald Trump to establish code of silence when the media, like the Tacoma Weekly, asks pressing questions.

► See TRIBAL COUNCIL / page 5

Big WINNER

Help Us Create a Dementia Friendly Pierce County
Become Dementia Friends TODAY!
Call to schedule a FREE one-hour, virtual, dementia information session. Our sessions are perfect for individuals, businesses and organizations. Learn the signs of dementia and how to help those who live with it.

253-272-8433 dementiafriendlypc.org

Contact:
John Weymer 253-405-4893
jweymer@tacomaweekly.com
Matt Nagle 253-267-3276
matt@tacomaweekly.com