

Joyce Kitchkommie Guerrero (Sog-mah-quah)

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation will vote to elect representatives for the Nation. I am a candidate for the #3 Tribal Council member position. I am asking for your vote.

My parents: Joe Kitchkommie and Agnes Wabski Wamego, both raised on the reservation, moved to Topeka after my dad's service in the army. My Grandparents: Joe Wabske and Mary Ship -she-qua. Dora Naquabe Gokey and Francis Wabshaw Kitchkommie. We were raised and attended Topeka schools. I also attended Washburn University as a single mother, working full time. I've lived in same place for 24 years. I am blessed to be an active great grandmother!

Employment: worked within the Topeka area at various government agencies, Shawnee county, city of Topeka and Blue Cross Blue Shield, worked for BNSF railroad for years before coming back to work for PBPN.

Considered a baby boomer, I'm influenced by growing up in uncertain times for the PBPN, familiar words: termination, relocation, agency, BIA superintendent, lease payments. "big money" coming soon. (finally got in 1967/68!) the suspension of the PBP constitution, self-determination, activism. Organizing groups, relatives, friends, Indian Centers, events, pow-wows, (monthly pot luck dinner dances) and community action boards, was what held Indian families together to sustain a way of life remembered, culture, language and traditions.

This year the PBPN celebrated a 20-year success with the Prairie Band Potawatomi casino operations. Many more benefits and opportunities are available to the PBPN because of this prospering success. I've been privileged to work for the nation, during this time. On the Gaming Commission during Harrah's management years, including the transition period after the PBPN voted to self-manage. I've served as Tribal Council Vice Chairperson from 2008-2016. I continue to actively participate in the General Council meetings as a voting tribal member and attend other events and activities.

I will work toward keeping our businesses successful and continue to assist council, committee members, staff and tribal members for positive communication, seek and support endeavors for new enterprises and current programs to be successful. I am aware that with all the advancements made, with that comes new challenges for today's Prairie Band Potawatomi. There has got to be attention focused on social service issues. There continues to be concerns of family preservation. Family domestic issues and children separated from loving parents who struggle to find balance is heartbreaking, we can do better. We must do better! We are fighting years of this cycle.

We are hearing more from seniors at meetings requesting assistance as they cannot meet their health needs. Hearing aids, sleeping devices, dental needs, rehabilitation services if they've had serious surgery. I support the assist and attention, seeking funds that will help, local on reservation and off reservation senior tribal members. With some requirements. There are third-party billing revenues that are collected diligently by the health center. There are some tribes that self-insure. I'm no insurance expert but I think we could have someone research possibilities.

The General Council was asked to approve a \$55ml dollar casino expansion at the January meeting. I've some concerns that this was hastily done and would have liked more discussion on the PBP capital requested, and how plan could potentially impact government services and future per capita payments. Improvements help us stay competitive, there are also issues that could be addressed re casino

management, customer marketing, services, tribal development and retainment. There were other options that should have been discussed thoroughly before asking for a vote on the \$55ML proposal. It will be some time before we see how much we gain from this expansion.

Progresses made in Tribal Jurisdiction issues, Tribal Sovereignty, land issues, trust responsibility to tribal nations, government to government relationship with other governmental agencies could be in jeopardy with this current United States administration. A cohesive, committed tribal council working together is important. A fragmented tribal council that occupies their time with egotism, gossip, anonymous letters intimidation is not helpful to the PBPN's future. We've had numerous removals/resignations of elected officials. This last General Council's meeting heated discussions indicate a lack of trust and transparency in our processes. Issues, requests from tribal members to consider: constitution, enrollment, land, economic development are not being discussed because of these other issues. We can look to history to see how discord within doesn't serve the PBP well. I believe in the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and I will speak and represent all in a positive, respectful manner always. I believe I have the maturity to be fair and open to new ideas. I am always willing to discuss issues.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Guerrero PBP member

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