

Bozho,

My name is Theresa Jessepe Murray. My Indian name is Wa-we-mo-quah. I am running for Tribal Council seat #1. I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election. If elected my goals are to ensure that we help meet the needs of our tribal members.

We are now in a time of upheaval on a national level. After the wall is built on the southern border of the United States, the Veterans Administration, and insurance has been privatized the focus may be on Native American issues. It won't be long before native country will be under the microscope regarding federal funding, IHS appropriations, and services provided in the past may be cut. It will have a devastating effect on our tribal members. We need to be vigilant in our efforts to become business oriented to maintain what the tribes now have and secure a future for our children and grandchildren.

I have traveled across most of the United States over the years and have stopped at many tribal casinos. I can say that the Prairie Band Potowatomi Casino is one of the best. It's important that we continue to keep our casino profitable and competitive since there are multiple casinos operating within the state. We have benefited from its success and have become dependent on the revenue it generates but we cannot rely solely on the casino to meet our needs. Competition with other casinos within the state have had a negative impact on our profits. The tribe has money allocated for business ventures through the Economic Development Board. I will work with the Tribal Council and the Economic Development Board to help develop entrepreneurial enterprises which will generate revenue to help fund tribal programs.

The Tribal Council has other issues that need our continued support. It is important that we retain our tribal sovereignty, land acquisition from Cobell fractionalization sales needs a plan of action, health needs for all tribal members regardless of where you live needs to be funded, construct more housing, housing renovation for all tribal homeowners, and education are some of the issues that we need to maintain and fund. It will be my goal to continue to help improve our reservation.

My qualifications include:

- BA in Elementary Education, Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT
- MA in Educational Leadership, University of Montana, Bozeman, MT. I am certified as a Principal and Superintendent.
- Completed course work toward a PhD in Educational Leadership from the University of Montana, Bozeman, MT. Currently writing my dissertation.
- Twenty-Two years in city politics-served as a councilmember five terms, then as mayor six years.
- Currently an educator, I have taught school twenty years, and I am currently an adjunct faculty member for a community college. I was also an adjunct faculty member for the University of Mary, Bismarck, ND.