

## **Gilbert "Bert" Vega**

I am writing this letter to let you know that I am seeking the position as Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson. I believe that a position on Tribal Council is an important position within our government structure because it is through the responsible fiscal management of the Nation's finances that we are able to provide the programs and services that allow us to continue to improve the quality of life for all tribal members. I understand and respect the responsibilities that come with a position on Tribal Council and will uphold these responsibilities with integrity and pride. I have a varied background that I believe provides me with the skills, education and experience to successfully hold the position. First, I served in the military with 3 years as a Fixed Station Technical Controller in the US Army, 3 years with the Kansas National Guard in Communications, 3 years in the Kansas Air National Guard as a Driver and received an honorable discharge at the end of my service to our country. Through the assistance of the Nation's Education Program, I have obtained a bachelor's degree from Friends University. In addition to my service to our country and my education, I have had the honor of working for the Nation's Casino for 22 years. While at the Casino, I worked in the Slot Department working my way from a Slot Technician to becoming the Slot Performance Manager.

This background and work history provides me with first-hand knowledge of casino operations which I believe are beneficial to the success because our casino revenues directly fund the major portion of our tribal programs. Understanding how the Casino and Nation are connected and interdependent is important in understanding the roles, responsibilities and functions of the position as Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson. I believe that we have done a good job of managing the Nation's finance and at the same time, I also believe that there is always room for improvement. I believe in the next few months that the Nation will have to make some hard decisions when comes to the Nation's future. I have heard concerns of the membership regarding the Minor's Trust Fund, the Nation's investments, and Economic Development progress. I believe that there are ways to improve these areas and am willing to listen to the membership and the current staff to find solutions to the concerns that continue to resurface regarding these issues. I know that there are solutions and I believe that through a coordinated effort we can find those solutions. If I am elected to the position of Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson, I promise to always work for what I believe is in the best interests of the Nation and all its members and to listen to those members when they have concerns or suggestions. We are all Prairie Band Potawatomi and I believe that by working together, there is nothing we cannot achieve. Your vote in this year's election would greatly be appreciated.