

My name is William Gary Mitchell, and I am running for Tribal Council Person #2. My father is Eddie Joe Mitchell and my mother is Mary Wabnum Mitchell. I have two sons, Andrew and Samuel Mitchell, who are named after my late grandfather and their maternal uncle to honor each of them following family tradition.

Having grown up on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservation, I was able to learn our Tribal traditions and culture by participating in Big Drum ceremonies and sweat lodge, and have attended various community events hosted by the Tribe. I have lived on or near our PBPB reservation my entire life. My family still resides on the original allotments, and this community is where I want my kids and grandkids to grow up. Because of this, I will always be connected to this land and understand the needs of our people. I am proud that my sons live in this community, and will be able to benefit from all of the Tribal programs and services as I have.

We are fortunate to have had many great Tribal leaders fight to preserve our rights of self-government, our lands and cultural identity. We should insist that our elected officials continue their efforts and expand upon our programs and services to provide more economic opportunities for our children and grandchildren.

In 2013, I graduated with my Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from Haskell Indian Nations University. I am currently 8 credits away from receiving my Masters in Business Administration from the University of Kansas. I have also completed certification in industrialized hemp from America's Hemp Academy in my spare time. Education is very important to me and continues to be a major part of my life. As an avid reader, I keep current with local, state, and federal policies that affect Indian Country.

My professional experience includes various employment opportunities from Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Prairie Band, LLC, Kickapoo Housing Authority, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation government. I held positions in management in the Cashier Cage and Security Departments at PBC&R, as well as internships at the Prairie Band, LLC and PBC&R that has given me valuable experience within the Nation's businesses. My most relevant experience was my position as the Assistant General Manager and the interim General Manager of Tribal Operations for our Nation where I was able to learn an intimate knowledge of operations, the tribal, state and federal laws that apply to the Nation, and how to maintain budgets for each of the Tribe's unique departments.

Our Tribal programs rely on supplemental revenues generated from our casino, and funding from state and federal programs which are in a state of decline due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. This event has shown us that PBPB needs to diversify our economic opportunities to keep our programs and services solvent. Also, it is equally important for us to make strides to become a food sovereign Nation.

I believe that the Nation should explore the use of new technologies, such as renewable energy, industrialized hemp, and aeroponics farming, to provide additional sources of income and provide more employment opportunities for our people. Through my experience and education, I can help lead this effort.

When combined with my understanding of our Tribal Culture and Community, I believe that I can bring a unique perspective to our Nation. If elected, I would be proud to represent the cultural views and government interests of our Tribal Nation and people. I ask for your vote to be the Tribal Council Person Elect.

Igwien,

William Gary Mitchell "Sektuk"

