

To the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, I would like to introduce myself, and provide you a little bit about my background. My name is William "Bill" Evans, and my Nish-Nah-Bah name is Beh-Meh-Skeh, which means Everlasting Light. I belong to the Thunder Clan. I am married; my wife's name is Ashley, and we have five children together. My parents are Mando Evans and Anita (Pahmahmie) Evans, and my great-grandmother was the late Minnie Evans. Minnie Evans was a strong advocate of the Prairie Band Potawatomi people, who fought courageously to prevent the Termination of our Tribe. The passion and dedication she felt for her people are the same feelings I carry. I hope that I can be the same type of leader that she was by bringing unity to our people. It has always been a goal of mine to contribute to the success of our Tribe. Over the years I have had the honor of listening and watching various leaders of the community. Those leaders have instilled traditional values and respect into our community, a significant foundation that our people can grow from.

An issue that has been brought to light during the pandemic is the need to diversify our revenue streams. The main source of income for the Nation is the revenue generated from our Gaming Enterprise. The Gaming Enterprise has been successful over the years and has helped progress the tribe to be in a positive position. I believe it would be in the best interest of the Nation to work towards diversification. I have been a strong advocate of the Nation exploring the different options within the Hemp industry. I also believe there is an opportunity for the Nation to enter in to the Cannabis Industry, Illinois is a Recreational Cannabis State and Cannabis Legislation has been introduced in Kansas. The profits from the Cannabis Industry are similar to that of Gaming and would provide diversification.

During my term I have taken the lead on incorporating renewable energy within the Nation. The Nation has a Strategic Energy Plan in place which creates a foundation when applying for grant funding. The dream of a renewable energy project began to grow bigger, we went from working on a small scale energy project that would supplement a few buildings to looking into creating a Tribal Utility. The Nation would benefit from establishing a Tribal Utility, where we would be able to purchase energy at a whole sale cost and potentially collect a tax to support the program. There is a substantial amount of funding being set aside from the Federal Government for Tribes specifically for energy projects. As this type of funding does not happen very often, I believe it would be in the Nations' best interest to take full advantage of this opportunity.

The Enhanced Tribal I.D. is another project that I have been working on over the past couple of years. The pandemic has really delayed the process, The Nation has officially completed the necessary steps in order to bring this program live. The Enhanced Tribal I.D. has helped strengthen the sovereignty of the Nation, with the Enhanced Tribal I.D., members are able to use the I.D. to cross the borders of Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean by land or sea. Members are also able to fly within the United States by using the Enhanced Tribal I.D. as their form of identification.

I started my higher education at Haskell Indian Nations University, then I went on to complete my Bachelor of Business Administration program at Friends University. I was offered an internship at Prairie Band Casino and Resort; I worked under various managers spending time in each department of the Casino. The internship was a valuable experience; I have a better understanding of the Tribes primary funding resource and what it takes to run a successful Company. I continued my career at

Prairie Band Casino and Resort, I become a Supervisor in the Cashier's Cage, creating a positive experience in refining my work ethic, accountability, and time management skills. I worked my way up, and accepted a promotion to become a Shift Manager in the Security Department. I was faced with adversity on a daily basis, and was required to make difficult decisions that impacted our daily business.

I moved on from a promising career in the gaming industry to work for our Nation. I worked as the Part C Coordinator at the Ben-no-tteh Wigwam Early Childhood Education Center. My role as the center was to coordinate the necessary services to support infants and toddler with special needs. I was also the Farm and Ranch Manger of the Lands Department where I was able to work with our Buffalo Program as well as the Farming program. The Nation owns a significant amount of acres, working at the Lands Department has helped gain a better understanding of how to better utilize the land within the reservation.

Working with both entities of the Tribe, I understand the importance of our Tribal Businesses and how they affect our people. The hard work and dedication of our Tribal Businesses pave the way for our services and programs of the Tribal Government. As Potawatomi people, we value our culture and family, which has no monetary value; existing programs and benefits provide that same value. The preservation of our culture and language is what makes us strong and unique. We should be working together to make sure our way of life carries on. We need to invest more time and care for our children, who will one day lead us. We need to guide them and teach them to be responsible adults, which is vital to our future. We need to care for our elders, who cared for us and continue to guide us, to make sure they don't have to go without basic needs. We need to support and honor our Veterans, who made a sacrifice to have the life we have today. We should not lose sight of what we truly hold of value as Potawatomi people.

As a devoted Tribal Member, it would be an honor to serve you on Tribal Council. I respectfully ask for your vote to represent the Prairie Band Potawatomi People. Together, as people, we can make positive change! Together, we can do it! Please consider re-electing me, William "Bill" Evans, for Tribal Council Person #1. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at [William\\_Evans\\_55@hotmail.com](mailto:William_Evans_55@hotmail.com). Thank you for your time and support.