

# JAMES RIDEOUT

Hello voters!

My name is James Rideout, Puyallup Tribal Member. I have three children that attend Chief Leschi School: James J. Rideout, high school age 16 – Joseph Rideout, middle school age 15 – Shelby J. Rideout, elementary school age 9. My mother was Gloria Rideout. My father was James Rideout. My grandmother was Elma Earl Satiacum and my grandfather was Joseph Earl.

Whether we want change or not it's up to our leaders to bring us into the future with productive decisions that consist of education, housing, fisheries, elder care, mental health, medical and youth programs.

You have to believe that you have done a good enough job as leaders in molding us as youth, so that we are capable of being leaders ourselves. My foresight for the future is that the 200 million dollar proposal in gaming that was proposed in the last membership meeting and many other critical decisions should be brought to the vote of the entire adult membership.

I would like to see the fisheries to be brought into the 21st century. Our fishermen have been waiting patiently for change in the ways of methods that could accommodate their needs such as a boom dock, ice house and perhaps marketing our fish to Safeway like our neighboring tribes. I personally have established a direct retail market in China for goosduck and fireworks contacts and presented them to council in the past.

I believe there are mixed feelings of our membership regarding the education of our children. We cannot walk away from the current issues we face as parents and tribal members. I helped build Chief Leschi School. I've been an active volunteer for years, helping children achieve graduation and other personal goals. The opportunity to raise my own children and support them academically has opened my eyes to the real needs of other children and families. Our children are talented and have the skills and desire to succeed, however, their goals and motivation is often clouded by the "percapita". By the time they get a chance to realize that the Key Bank accounts are not going to take care of them for the rest of their lives, many of our children have lost focus. Last year several students asked me to participate in a talking circle. I was honored, and developed relationships with many students and staff from the school. I quickly realized that children have a strong interest in a variety of things: cultural, spiritual, sports related activities, and others. My role was to provide input for the elementary students to help enhance their cultural related activities. I've brought fishing, diving, crabbing and other activities to the children, educating them about the natural resources historically connected to their people/tribe. Most importantly, encouraging them to complete high school and pursue higher education. I have recruited and advocated for youth participation in AAU basketball programs. I have seen an opportunity to help the Puyallup Tribes' youth programs, helping to keep kids off the streets and out of negative environments. I began coaching after school basketball for the youth program to maintain connections with the kids in school. These examples are some of the positive avenues for our children. As tribal members, parents and leaders we owe it to our children, our families, our ancestors and our culture as a whole to move forward: sharing ideas and creating positive programs that will enhance our tribe as collective people. Who knows what our future has in store if we work together. We know we can make a difference, the question is, will we?

I would love a chance to provide all I have to offer to our community.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,  
James Rideout (Jim Jim)

