



Yurok Election

NORTH DISTRICT • REQUA DISTRICT • WEITCHPEC DISTRICT

Primary election October 8, 2008

See candidates' statements and voting schedule inside



October 8, 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION DATE

OCTOBER 1, 2008

LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (5 DAYS)

OCTOBER 8, 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION DATE

NOVEMBER 5, 2008 RUNOFF DATE

AUGUST 25-27, 2008

BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS

OCTOBER 14, 2008

LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

AUGUST 29, 2008

MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)

OCTOBER 17, 2008

MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)

SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (26 DAYS)

OCTOBER 30, 2008

LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (5 DAYS)

SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)

NOVEMBER 5, 2008 RUNOFF DATE

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The following candidates did not submit non-mandatory candidate statements:

Hector Natt Sr. (North District); John Oliphant (North District); Dave Severns (Requa District); Ron Bates (Requa District); Sam L. Gensaw (Requa District) Frankie Joe Myers (Weitchpec District).

The purpose of this election guide is to allow candidates to put forth their views to the voting membership. We hope to see you at the polls on Oct. 8, 2008.

NORTH DISTRICT



Marjorie Buckskin

Dear Tribal Members

My name is Marjorie Donahue Buckskin your North District representative. Currently I am serving my Third term. My goal has always been to have the tribe become Self Sufficient, educate our young and provide for our elders, good health care, to preserve and protect our culture, land, and see to the social well being of our Yurok People.

The Yurok Council is still facing big issues that affect every tribal member. We will

continue the fight for increase water flows on the Klamath River for us it is vital to preserve our river, fish, and culture. It is very important that the person doing the job has the knowledge of past and present issues that the Yurok Tribe faces.

I will continue to work and vote in the best interest of the tribal membership as well as the tribe as a whole.

Thank you for your continued support, I hope to receive your vote this October 8, 2008.



Jack Mattz

Aiy-yu kwee'

My name is Jack Mattz and I am asking for your support on October 8 to be your North District Representative. My family come from the village of Rekwoi, and I have spent

my life on the river. I am proud to be Yurok, proud of who we are as a people and inspired about what the future holds for us.

My life has been full of challenges; I have been through dark times, and through happy times. For the past 14 years I have been clean and sober, and for the past 11 years I have not smoked. I am not proud of myself during my darkest hours – but I am proud of the fact that I had the courage and dedication to overcome my addictions and transform my life. Alcoholism and drug abuse are so prevalent among our people – but

this is not who we deserve, or are destined, to be. If I am elected to Council, I will work with the State and the Counties to make sure that families in the north district have full access to world class social services. I realized that I owed it to my family and my community to be drug and alcohol free. I feel proud of that, and I want every person in this community to be filled with pride again.

Growing up on the river, and hunting and gathering in our ancestral territory I realize how much of our identity is tied to the land and our river. Despite this, we have no control of, or

access to, our own land. Should we really let the State of California, or a timber company based in Seattle dictate our way of life? As your tribal Council representative, I will work hard to ensure we begin aggressive acquisition of our ancestral territory so that we can exercise sovereignty over lands that have been ours since the dawn of time. By supporting initiatives like the Tribal Park, we can have direct control over our own land, our hunting places and our gathering sites. In addition, our sacred sites that are currently on public or

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Green Diamond land can be protected and cared for by our own people – and be given the respect that they deserve.

As a commercial fisherman for over 25 years I know how hard we have struggled for our fishing rights and a healthy river. Growing up on the river I know how much it has changed within my own lifetime. As your representative I will work to ensure that we continue the fight for water quality and a healthy river by pressuring for dam removal and federal funding to restore Klamath River fisheries and watershed.

As a commercial fisherman I also know how hard economically our people have lost out on since fisheries declined. More so now than ever, we need to rekindle the entrepreneurial spirit that our own grandparents and ancestors had. We have to recognize that we must take our own destiny into our hands and create a climate where tribal owned business grows and flourishes not only on the reservation – but wherever our people want it to occur. As your representative I will ensure that Yurok Economic Development is the right of our people and will work to ensure sound tribal member business

plans are resourced and supported.

I have worked for the tribal government for 8 years and I am aware that we could be doing a better job of serving the people – of making sure that less dollars are spent on administration, and more dollars are spent on the delivering true value to the people. Tribal members should have a clear career path through the tribe and as a government we should be grooming our own people to become leaders, spokespeople and policy makers for our future generations. Tribal members who invest in themselves should have an opportunity to return home and invest in the

Tribe and I will ensure that the tribal government creates careers, not just jobs. I am also committed to ensuring that the tribal government uses its resources wisely and transparently. As your representative I will mandate staff performance agreements, and annual reporting that is measurable against goals developed by the people. I will also mandate that Tribal Council present a strategic goals/plan every year at the annual meeting so people know what they are working on, and when we can expect results.

I am excited to be your representative.

Wok-hlaw'

Yvonne Miller

On October 8th 2008 I am encouraging our voting Yurok Tribal Members to vote for me, as your North District Council Representative.

For this election year I have decided to Represent not only myself as a Tribal Member but for you and your family as well. Hi, my name is Yvonne Miller and I am running for the North District Council and am asking that you vote for me this election.

For those of you who aren't familiar with me, I am the mother to three beautiful daughters, and in September 2008 will be my twenty-fourth anniversary. I am the daughter to Betty and Don Brown. I grew up in the Fort Dick area, just north of Crescent City, with my seven brothers and sisters.

I have been an active Tribal Member by attending the regular meetings, I have worked in some of the Yurok Tribe's departments, from the Yurok Indian Housing Authority to my current position with the Yurok Tribal TANF Program, and for over the past ten years, if I'm not participating in the elections process, I enjoy just being at the elections, anticipating the results to each district.

This past year I worked hard attending each of the meetings to the Hoopa Yurok Settlement Act. At each location I would let the Council hear that I, as a Tribal Member, wanted all of the funds to be disbursed to each member. This allowed me to meet our people in the other districts and hear what they also had to say.

Currently the Yurok Tribal Council has a full agenda

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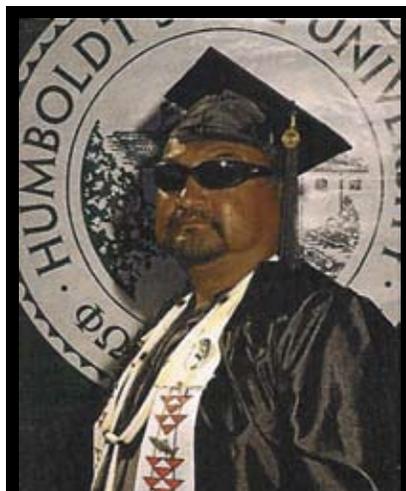
with the removal of the Klamath's Dams, the final stage to the Hoopa Yurok Settlement Act called phase two, constructing a casino, and many other endeavors that each department is working diligently on. As your next North District Council Representative I will take any concerns you may have and let them be known.

This year lets have a Record Voting Year - if you're unable to make it to the polls, get your absentee ballot request in and vote.

Thank you

Yvonne Miller

REQUA DISTRICT



David Gensaw Sr.

Hello, my name is David L. Gensaw, Sr., and I am running for the position of Tribal Council Representative from the Requa District. My mother, Alma (Nova) Gensaw, is from Moreck Village and my father, William Gensaw, Jr., is from Requa Village.

I have fished, hunted and gathered all my life in Yurok Territory, from up the Klamath River to the ocean shores. I share a tribal connection, as we all do, to this wondrous

place Creator made for the Yurok people. Even as a young boy I understood how important the Klamath River, mountains and forest lands are to the people.

As a young man in my twenties, I began attending tribal meetings. I soon became aware of the many sovereign issues we, as a people, faced then and still confront today.

In the early 1970s, the Jessie Short Plaintiffs won, but it was twenty-six years before the first payment was made. In 1978 the federal government started the Klamath River Salmon Wars by sending Federal Marshals downriver in full riot gear with M-16 rifles to stop Indian people from fishing. We held them off and are still fishing today because we believed in fighting for our sovereign powers to the very end!

In 1988, the Hoopa/Yurok Settlement Act split the reservation in two. There were no Yurok Tribal representatives on the Hoopa Council when this decision was made for us. In 1993, we approved the Yurok Tribe Constitution, forming our new government. The Yurok people brought legal action against the United States government for allowing Hoopa to decide the future of the Yurok people without Yurok representation. Note that it was the Yurok people, not the tribal council, who voted to file the lawsuit against the U.S. government. In 1996, the first Jessie Short payment was made to Yurok Plaintiffs.

In 2003, Simpson Timber Company, now Green Diamond Resource Company, offered the Yurok Council a land swap, which included the north and south side of the Klamath River. The Yurok people voted it down because it would have made the Yurok Indian Reservation a one-legged reservation and we might have lost our fishing rights.

In 2004, council and staff proposed the Yurok Tribal Park. The DVDs they sent painted a rosy picture, but showed only one side of the coin. In order to make an informed decision, the tribal membership must know the entire picture so we can vote on the park issue.

In 2001, the government shut off of the water from upper Klamath basin irrigators, I attended federal court hearings, which included Yurok, Karuk, Hoopa and Klamath Tribes and governmental agencies. In 2006, the

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Klamath River Dam removal talks favored the Klamath Basin Irrigators and guaranteed their water flows; that issue has never been resolved. These decisions must be looked at carefully because they might waive our tribal sovereignty and water rights. Our grandchildren's futures may, once again, be at risk.

Finally, the Yurok council held a special election to decide how to pay out the \$90 million to the membership. The election happened because a 'few tribal member' submitted a petition signed by many Yuroks. I was one of those people that helped to file those petitions that forced the council to put the issue to a vote.

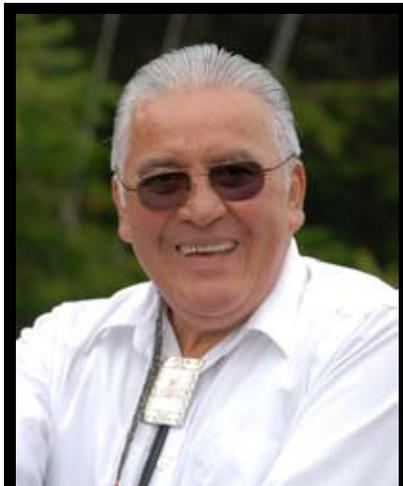
Since 1992 I have prepared myself to represent the Yurok People. I earned my GED in 1994 and my AA Degree in 1998 from College of the Redwoods, Del Norte. This year I received my Bachelors Degree at Humboldt State University, with a Major in Native American Studies and a

Minor in Natural Resources. My College studies covered Advanced Federal Indian Law, Tribal Sovereignty, Tribal Government, Tribal Water Rights and many other courses concerning tribal issues.

Yurok people have the right and responsibility to become informed and make decisions concerning our future. They deserve to be heard when they or family members have been wrongly terminated or accused of wrongdoing. Council Members and Directors must be accountable when they step out of line. I will work for due process and accountability from our government.

Our Ancestors fought and died so we could live like Yuroks. We possess tribal sovereignty, water and fishing rights and I will always work to protect them. I will serve the Yurok people, specifically the Requa District, and I will ensure your voices are heard among our Council.

Thank you for your vote on Election Day, October 8,



Ray Mattz

Growing up on the river has taught me many things – not only about being Yurok, but also about how important it is to fight for our sovereignty, our culture and, ultimately, our dignity as the first people of this land. The creator placed us here with everything that we need to live a good life. Along the way we have met people who want to bring us down, and people who want to help us. We will always be faced with new challenges and allies. During my term on Council I have worked to ensure that

those things that are special to us are always preserved.

We are not seeing more resources come into the tribe – resources we can use to reclaim land and rights. I have worked hard during my term to ensure we make good decisions around how we use those resources. During my term I was Council liaison to Redwood National Parks and to the Historic Information Center. I also acted as alternate to the THPO office and to NAGPRA. As a cultural person I fought for an allocation of funds towards a Yurok Cultural Center. During my next term I will continue to lobby for cultural way of life on our own terms. I will also continue to advocate that the tribal government has no place in dance matters – I voted against government intervention in dances because I firmly believe the government's role is preserving, enhancing and promoting culture.

I grew up on the river and have always fought for the river. I could never imagine when I took our fight to have our land and fishing rights recognized all the way to the Supreme Court in *Mattz v Arnett*, that we would one day see a tribal government start to reclaim our sovereignty. I have worked hard during my term to protect our rights,

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most notably as Council liaison to the Fisheries and Public Safety Departments, and to the Natural Resources Committee. Through these positions I influenced policies that saw an adequate in-season adjustment for tribal fisherman resulting in an increase in sturgeon catch and an increased quota, adoption of the Fall Harvest Management Plan and cash only payment to tribal fishermen by fish buyers. I will continue to work on aggressive land acquisition on the reservation so that we can exercise full sovereignty over our lands and create laws and policies that reflect our values – not those of the State of California or a timber company. I will also continue to fight for dam removal on terms that benefit the tribe and not a power company.

I am proud of the work that has been accomplished as Council liaison to the Tribal Court. Under the leadership of the Yurok Chief Judge we are building one of the best tribal court systems and tribal CASA's in California. More importantly, our court represents our beliefs and our cultural values – more ways that I am working to protect and enhance our sovereignty.

Moreover, I will fight over this next term to make sure economic development is supported by the tribal government. I know how hard the decline in fisheries and

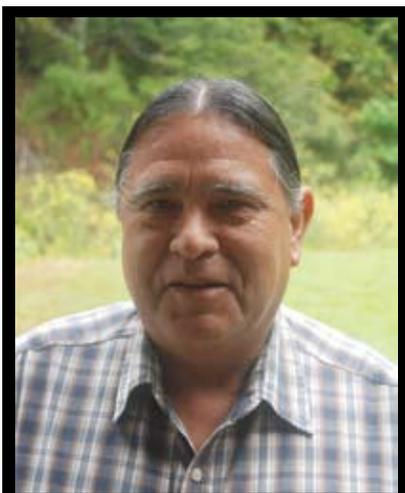
the loss of jobs has affected our people. The last 20 years has taught us that nothing comes easy and that we can only build a strong tribe one family at a time. I will work hard to ensure we build a strong economic development base by creating links to local agencies who can resource tribal member businesses and to create successful economic development programs that will reward us for generations to come.

Lastly, I have seen too often opportunities pass us by because we are so caught up with bickering and fighting between ourselves. While we fight, the world moves on – as reservation based tribal members that means we lose out on roading, broadband and essential infrastructure. During my next term I will continue to build relationships to bring essential development to the reservation. Over this last term we have seen an increase in roading development in Klamath and we will continue that development.

I am honored to continue the fight for our culture and our people. As Requa representative I will make sure that your voice is heard. Call me at 482-5204 to discuss your ideas and hear my future initiatives.

Vote Raymond Mattz on October 8.

WEITCHPEC DISTRICT



Sid Nix

Aiy-yu-kwee'

Once again I am looking to the Weitchpec community for support in the upcoming election. Some of the goals for the District have been met. However, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done.

One of the major aspects of my job as your Council Member is to be a strong advocate for the Weitchpec District. As community members, you know that you can rely on me to speak up for your

interests. I will either do what I can to help you, or know who to go to for help. There is not one issue that I am afraid to take on in your behalf, as most of you are aware.

The people of the Weitchpec District deserve a Council Member that is proven to be a strong advocate for our District. Your Council Member also needs to be a person of vision, as well as having strong determination in order to work for the whole Yurok Tribe. You are only able to

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gain these life skills by opportunity and experience. I am proud to say that I have been alcohol and drug free for over 30 years. I have been a Union Electrician since 1969 and am still a member today. I served in the Army. I have worked in the construction trade. The knowledge I gained in the construction industry has helped me with the struggles we face in our district. Among those issues are housing, alternative energy, and telephones. When you add the experiences I had prior to becoming a Council Member, plus the years I have served you as a Council Member, this amounts to the sum total of who I am today.

I have been a strong advocate for people with my years of experience. When I took this job, few had electricity or telephones. Our roads were in bad shape. We had no firehouses. We were meeting in a church. We have seen a lot of changes and I am proud to have been a part of those changes.

The Tribe is facing many critical issues. One of them is water. In the years to come, water will be a major issue. As a District Representative, I have had a direct part in fighting for the survival of our river. We have dams on the Klamath River that need to be removed. This is an ongoing struggle that I look forward to being a part of in the future.

We have ongoing issues. I look forward to being a part of acquiring 47,000 acres for our parks system and sustainable forest. Our BIA road budget was approximately \$37,000 in 1994. For 2007 and 2008, it was \$2.3 million. Our roads are getting better every year. Soon we will have bus transit services upriver.

For the future, we need to continue to work on infrastructure. We need to expand our health clinic. Bald Hills Road needs to be paved. We need cellular coverage for our whole reservation. We need wild land fire crews and better jobs for tribal members. Most of all we need input from our tribal members, and the council needs to respond to that

input.

As for the tribe as a whole, gaming continues to be an issue. We need to try and access the tourist economy to create jobs and businesses. We need to look at our resources and see how we can use them to benefit the whole tribe. One of our richest resources is our tribal members. We need to continue to educate our members. This includes on the job training, as well as formal education. We need to address social issues such as unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse.

This has been one of the most satisfying jobs I have ever had in my life. It has given me the opportunity to meet people and give something back to all of you. By being re-elected, I bring continuity along with experience. With your support, I will make your issues, as well as the ones I have been working on, priorities. I would appreciate your support in this upcoming election.

**Wok-hlaw'
Sid Nix**



Yurok Today

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