

Teresa Spangler

Council Position #4

Position Statement

General Council members of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians,

My name is Teresa Spangler, and I am seeking re-election for Position 4, which I currently hold. I am proud to be the granddaughter of Dorothy Kneaper (Barrett), a person whose kindness and respect for others I strive to emulate in my own life.

Leadership Experience and Commitment

My journey on the council began with an appointment in 2013, followed by election in 2015. I ran again for council in 2022, believing that my leadership skills would be valuable assets to our tribe. Throughout my service, I have worked full time while dedicating substantial time and effort to attend nearly every council meeting and event. As I prepare to retire at the end of February, I look forward to contributing even more of my time to the council's endeavors.

My professional background includes over 21 years at Three Rivers Casino, where I have overseen multiple departments and played a role in the casino's success. I believe the leadership skills I have developed will benefit our tribe as we move forward together.

Major Accomplishments

Thanks to the hard work of past and current councils, tribal staff, and the casino team, we have achieved significant milestones, including the payoff of the casino's debt. Our next goal is to eliminate any remaining tribal debt. Now that the casino is paid off, we are exploring ways to expand healthcare and pursue new economic development opportunities. I intend to apply the lessons learned from my casino experience to support the tribe's growth in these areas. I am committed to responsible financial management and do not support reckless spending that could jeopardize our financial stability.

Challenges Faced

Each council faces its own set of challenges. During my first term, the focus was on the Jordan Cove project, while this term we turned our concerns to Wind Energy. Our council, alongside staff, devoted countless hours in meetings and workshops to carefully consider what wind energy could mean for our future tribal members. After many face to face meetings with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and other federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes from Oregon, Washington, and California, we changed our position from supporting with concerns to opposing Offshore Wind Energy because our concerns about the future of cultural and natural resources were being addressed or even considered. Currently, the project is on hold, but it may arise again in the future.

Key Achievements

- Casino debt payoff
- Hunting and Fishing agreement signed and implemented
- Formation and implementation of the new GFORB Board
- Constitution amendments underway
- Coos Head signed into trust
- Health Center and Pharmacy established
- Offshore Wind Energy project stalled in Oregon
- Two increases in Elders Pension
- 2026 General Welfare Assistance for Tribal Members
- Several restoration projects in progress

Vision for the Future

There remains much work to be done, and I am eager to contribute to our ongoing success for the next seven generations and beyond. We will be partnering with a company to identify viable economic development projects with the highest potential for success, especially in light of an uncertain economic future. The initiative is in the early stages, and more information will be available soon.

Healthcare and Housing Initiatives

Healthcare is a critical issue for all tribal members, not just those living in the five-county area. While it would be ideal for our tribal members to reside nearby, we recognize this is not always possible and are seeking ways to improve healthcare access. Housing also remains a significant challenge, and it is an area I have worked on extensively during my time at the casino.

Leadership Philosophy

I believe that effective leadership begins with listening. I am always open to hearing new ideas and perspectives. Valuable advice I received years ago includes listening carefully, hiring individuals who are smarter than oneself, and pursuing every available training opportunity. I have made these principles a cornerstone of my approach to leadership and have found them to be invaluable.

Contact Information

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I am always willing to listen! My phone number is 541-294-3477.



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