



Good day everyone,

It is truly an honor to be nominated for the Lower Elwha Tribal Council. Many of you know me as Reba; my given name is Ralena Cornelson. I am an enrolled member who has lived on our reservation for most of my life. I am the daughter of Phillip L. Charles Jr. and Garnet V. Charles, and the granddaughter of Phillip Charles Sr. and Rosalia Thompson, and LaVerne “Lovey” Hepfer, and the great-granddaughter of Sam Ulmer. My family has a long history of service to our people—I am proud to continue that legacy. I love to serve. I am married and the proud mother of three adult children—my two sons are enrolled Elwha, and my daughter is

Snohomish.

I hold a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management and have been a Tribal commercial fisherwoman since the age of 18. I owned and operated Living Spirit Massage for 12 years and currently run Elwha Klallam K-9’s, which I have led for the past 6 years. I am a member of the Elwha Assembly of God, where I sing on the worship team, actively participate in our tribal singing and drum group, and teach Sunday school for children ages 3–12. My life motto is simple: “Live to serve.”

Serving our community through the various roles I have held has been a true honor. In each position, my focus has been on helping families—supporting them, recognizing their strengths, and building them up for success. This is what I want for our community. I want to continue strengthening our Tribe by lifting one another up and walking forward together as the Strong People we are—the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

Honoring our traditions while building a strong tomorrow is deeply important to me. This past year, as our Tribe hosted Tribal Journey, I was honored to serve in many ways—working as a seamstress sewing shawls, cutting wool and fabric, and creating necklaces and salves to support our people. During the Journey, I helped by driving vans and carts, serving lunches, and making sure vendors had what they needed. I also opened my home to guests, continuing the tradition of hospitality that defines us. I was grateful to sit in the stands and witness our canoe families, and to dance with Elwha as we took the floor on the final night—an unforgettable moment of pride, culture, and unity.

Through these experiences, I have been fortunate to work with many of our families and gain a deep understanding of our community’s strengths and needs. With my background in social services and business, I believe I am well-prepared to serve on Tribal Council. Guided by my faith, I hold myself to a high moral and ethical standard in both my personal and professional life.

“Live to serve” is not just my motto—it is how I live my life. I am loyal to my family and friends, honest in my words, and trustworthy in my actions. I carry deep respect for our elders and the knowledge they share, and I believe in treating everyone with kindness and respect. We never

know what someone else may be going through, and sometimes a simple smile or a hug can make all the difference.

It would be a great honor to follow in the footsteps of my great-grandfather Sam Ulmer, my grandmother LaVerne "Lovey" Hepfer, and my father, Phillip "Skipper" L. Charles Jr.

I encourage everyone to register and vote.

Vote for "Reba" Ralena Cornelson



Thank you, and God bless.



My name is Melissa Gilman. I am the daughter of Nicholas Gilman Sr. and the late Kimberley Charles, and the granddaughter of the late Marjorie Johnson and Donald Gordon McCallum. I carry my family and our ancestors with me in the work I do for our people.

It has been an honor to serve our community over the past three years. During this time, I have worked alongside our leadership, tribal departments, and our state and federal partners to support the needs of our Tribe. I have remained committed to showing up, listening, and advocating for our people in every space I represent us.

I have had the privilege of learning from strong mentors and working with many dedicated community members. Those experiences have shaped me into a leader who is committed, accountable, and focused on the well-being of our people.

I am proud of the work we have done together, and I know there is still more to do.

If re-elected, my priorities continue to be:

- Supporting growth from our tribal businesses so they continue to benefit our members
- Strengthening policy for services to ensure fairness and access for all
- Investing in our youth and creating opportunities for the next generation
- Continuing to work at the state and federal level to be sure our needs are heard

I believe leadership is not about making promises, it is about being present, listening, and doing the work every day. That is what I will continue to do.

My goal is to continue building on the strength of our Tribe, honoring our legacy, and creating a better future for our children and future generations.

For those who know me, you know I am always available. I will continue to be someone you can call, visit, and rely on. That is who I am, and that is the kind of leader I strive to be.

I humbly ask for your support and your vote so I can continue serving our community.

With love and respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Gilman".

Melissa Gilman

April 2026

Dear Lower Elwha Tribal Voters,

I, Russell N. (RAZZ) Hepfer, have accepted my nomination to the Lower Elwha Tribal Council. This is an honor and humbles me. I feel this nomination is also a calling.

As many of you may have heard, I am battling liver cancer right now. I am in my third month of treatment. My doctors say it is treatable and I am progressing toward beating it. It didn't start there. I had a hoarse voice for five months back in 2025. I finally got to a specialist, and it was diagnosed as right vocal cord cancer. I underwent radiation treatment for twenty-eight days successfully. Upon CT scans to make sure it was gone, the doctors discovered liver cancer. I am grateful for the throat cancer now. LOL. I have been treated at Fred Hutch in Seattle for the last three months now. I am not in the hospital. I take three cancer pills daily at home. My wife and I call them, Warrior Pills!"

I am telling you this because during my treatments I have been working on my current council duties. I attend meetings in person when I can, by phone, by e-mail and zoom. I feel I am keeping up on my duties and responsibilities. I will know soon how well the treatment has gone. Doctors feel good about my progress and will take pictures to confirm this month.

I try to make well informed decisions that are a benefit to our tribe. I refer to the Strategic Plan, I listen to people that are immersed in the issue, I listen to all sides of issues. I also do a lot of reading on issues. I feel my experience also helps me.

I encourage all of our voters to VOTE!!! It's your right and responsibility. Please vote for me.

Thank you,

Russell N. (RAZZ) Hepfer

Greetings, Blessings, and thank you everyone for this opportunity to run for council this year. Many of you may or may not know me but I'll introduce myself anyways. I am Reverend Jake Aaron Sullivan (my friends call me Wolfman) and I am the youngest and only son to Dennis and Arlene Sullivan. I graduated from Port Angeles High School in 2010 and was even voted Most Inspirational by my football team my senior year when I played and for the past 13 and 1/2 years I've been working at the Lower Elwha River Casino as a porter (janitor). For over a decade my father served as councilman, vice chairman, and even chairman for our Tribe. And he did many many great things during his time in council. We now have a casino thanks to him. And I know I am not my father, but if elected I still promise to do my best and do great things as he once did. Such as get better housing for our tribal members who are homeless as well as our Veterans who served our country and had it not been for them we probably still wouldn't have our rights and our reservation. I also promise to do my best to clean house around Elwha and that includes her businesses too. I also want to be sure our elders and our youth are better taken care for. And that being said we need to build a community center somewhere if not across the street from our casino where we had that big tent for our recent canoe journey, because our gymnasium at the tribal center only offers so much room. Sometimes we can't even seat everyone during an event or even a funeral even with all the chairs and bleachers out. And in closing I acknowledge that there's lots of things we need done in our community even to numerous to put down on this paper. Just know if elected I understand and acknowledge that at the end of the day I am a tribal member and a normal human being like the rest of you. You guys won't be working for me, I'll be working for you. The Tribal Members, The People, and those that saw fit to elect me as a council member. And if elected I'll be sure to remind the rest of my brothers and sisters in council that you all don't work for us, we work for you. And any decisions we make it you all should have a say in it as well cause the final decision should be up to you, the people...not us. My Name is Jake Aaron Sullivan, and if elected I will do great things for us all. God Bless Each And Every One Of You and thank you for this opportunity to run. Peace and Blessings to all of you.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jake Sullivan

April 8, 2026

Dear Tribal Members,

My name is Anthony Charles. I am the son of the late Karen and Conrad Johnson, the late Edward Charles and grandson to the late Toni (Josephine) Williams. I'm asking for your vote for the 2026 Tribal Business Committee position.

My Family and Klallam Culture are very important to me. My Grandmother Toni (Josephine) Williams was one of the last recorded Teacher of the Klallam Language and huge inspiration as a culture bearer. I have been married to my wife, Jennifer Charles for 29 amazing years and we have raised two biological children, Brody and Paisley. We have also been blessed to raised three brothers from extended family; Sonny, Tony and Woody. In addition, we have opened our home to 41 children through state and tribal foster/respice care.

I am proud to carry on our traditions of hunting and fishing, as our ancestors did before us. I participate in crab, shrimp, halibut, chum salmon & geoduck fisheries. I've been a part of the Lower Elwha fishing fleet for 30 years now. I'm also the owner/operator of Anthony Charles Trucking, a dump truck business established in 2008. I have been proud to and supportive of employing many tribal members in both businesses over the past three decades. From 2008 to 2024, I had the pleasure of serving on the Lower Elwha Tribal Business Committee. During this time, I have been a part of and witnessed many wonderful things, including the removal of the Lower Elwha Dams, construction of Kacee Way, building the Lower Elwha River Casino and Rediscovery of the Klallam Village čix'wícən, to name a few. I believe I bring 30 years of experience to the Business Committee. My heart is in this community and I'm asking for your vote. It would be my honor to serve as a Tribal Council member. With your vote, I would like to continue to help make changes that are beneficial in moving the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe forward.

If you have any questions, please call me at 360-460-8027.

Sincerely,



Anthony S. Charles