

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