

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED: 7012 1640 0001 1432 9885

January 9, 2020

Kathryn Burke
Ferry County Prosecutor
350 E Delaware Ave. #11
Republic, WA 99166

RE: Washington State Voting Rights Act

Dear Ms. Burke:

In 2018, Washington passed the Voting Rights Act (WVRA), codified at RCW 29A.92, which was established to promote equal voting opportunities in certain political subdivisions; specifically, as noted in the Legislative Intent, to address “electoral systems that deny race, color or language minority groups an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice [which is] ...inconsistent with the right to free and equal elections as provided [in the] ...Washington state constitution.”

As you know, Ferry County has both district-based and at-large systems of voting; primary elections are district based while the general election is at large. This has resulted in the dilution of the Native American vote within Ferry County.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.92.060, this letter shall serve as notice of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation’s intent to challenge Ferry County’s electoral system, on behalf of Colville Tribal members residing in Ferry County.

The Tribes proposed remedy is for the county to adopt ‘in-district’ voting and is hopeful that Ferry County will seek to voluntarily address this issue, in order to avoid the filing of an action in superior court, as authorized by RCW 29A.92.090.

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If you have any questions regarding this information, Shannon Thomas, Senior Staff Attorney with the Office of Reservation Attorney is the point of contact on this matter; she can be reached at (509) 634-2383 or Shannon.thomas.ora@colvilletribes.com

Very Truly Yours,



RODNEY CAWSTON
Chairman, Colville Business Council

Cc: Marvin Kheel, Tribal Government Chair, Colville Business Council
Lachelle Ives, Elections Coordinator, Colville Confederated Tribes