

# Omak School Board Candidates

## POSITION 1

### WENDELL GEORGE

**OCCUPATION:** Retired  
**WORK/CAREER HISTORY:** I worked for Boeing for 15 years as an engineer/manager in Seattle, Huntsville, Ala., and Washington, D.C. The highlight of my career was putting a man on the moon with the Apollo Program. I returned to the Colville Indian Reservation to work for the Colville Tribes as a planner, Tribal Councilman (Omak District) and CEO of the Tribal Enterprises. Concurrently I developed a cattle/alfalfa ranch in Kartar Valley.



**EDUCATION:** Attended grade school at Nespelem. Graduated from Wenatchee High School. Graduated from Washington State University with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Served on the Wenatchee Valley College Board of Trustees from 1992 to 2003, several years as chairman. Served on the Paschal Sherman Indian School Board from 1997 to 2004 including a term as chairman. Served on the Omak School Board since December 2005 as vice-chairman and now as chairman.

#### **WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD?**

I have always been interested in education and work toward improving the system. When my children were in high school at Lake Roosevelt, I helped bring in a computer-programming course from Big Bend College. It was the first in the area. I am now working on on-line courses for our school to offer the students more at less cost. My wife Barbara and I have created an environment for learning with our children and now our grandchildren. Our six children have seven degrees between them in medicine, computer programming, accounting, management information systems and business management. Our grandchildren are doing well at East Elementary and we stay in close contact with their teachers.

### LOUELLA ANDERSON

**OCCUPATION:** Employed by Colville Tribes TANF program for five years

**WORK/CAREER HISTORY:** Colville Tribal Council 11 1/2 years, Colville Tribal Social Service Program 10 years, DSHS-Omak Office, 8 1/2 years.

**EDUCATION:** Attended school in Okanogan and graduated with the Class of '57 (a very good year). WSC (now WSU) for one year. Continuing education: Wenatchee Valley College North night school while working days and raising a family.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** I was on the Indian Policy Board for the State of Washington, the Board for the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations in Spokane, the Mid-Valley Hospital Foundation Board, and last but not least, the Paschal Sherman Indian School Board. I have been part of the Relay For Life fundraising for many years and have walked miles around the Okanogan football field. I have been part of the fund-raising for our new rodeo arena. I did get donations from the Colville Tribe for the PAC Foundation, also donations for the bus to take our Omak football team to the state tournament.

#### **WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD?**

I want to be on the Omak School Board to help our schools grow and continue to provide the best facilities, administration and teaching staff that our very diverse population of youth need in our world today, and the education they need to be self-sufficient.



## POSITION 4

### MIKE THORNTON (unopposed)

**OCCUPATION:** Mortgage Advisor with Eagle Home Mortgage

**WORK/CAREER HISTORY:** Worked as a mortgage advisor in Omak for eight years. Have been a teacher and business manager in the past

**EDUCATION:** BS from CWU in Finance, Master's in teaching from EWU

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Church Finance Committee, Church Leadership Council, School Bond Committee chair.

#### **WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD?**

I think education is an equalizer for our children. It gives them hope for the future. I want to be active in making our local decisions for local school problems. Many people have an idea of how they want kids to be educated and I want to be a part of the solutions for educating our local youth the best we can. Fiscal responsibility is very important to me. By using my finance background, I can help keep us in the black and financially prudent as a district. My teaching experience helps me understand the teacher perspective on school issues. I want to be on the school board to make the Omak School District one of the best school districts in the state. If we educate local students well, then more people will want to live in our community.



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## POSITION 5

### KATHIE BROWN

**OCCUPATION:** Retired

**WORK/CAREER HISTORY:**  
Worked for Omak School District for 32 years as secretary to the superintendent (under five superintendents), retired 8/1/08.

**EDUCATION:** Graduate of Omak High School (Class of 1964), attended Eastern Washington University.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

Volunteered on several past school levy and bond campaigns; member of the Omak Performing Arts Center Foundation Board (serving as secretary) for the past year; was appointed to school board as of July 27, 2009, board meeting to fill position vacated by resignation of Greg Grillo.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD?**

A position on the school board will provide me an opportunity to give back to the community and students, whom I am still passionate about supporting.



### CARY L. TONASKET

(Mr. Tonasket's statement will be posted as soon as it becomes available.)

