



Gila River Indian Community Council Election May 4, 2021

Article XV - Powers of the Gila River Indian Community Council

Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community

Section 1. The Council shall exercise the following powers, subject to any limitations imposed by the applicable statutes of the United State and subject further to all expressed restrictions upon such powers contained in this Constitution

(a) Powers not subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior, except where specifically required by Law,

- 1) To negotiate with the Federal, State and local governments on behalf of the Community.
- 2) To employ legal counsel, the choice of counsel and fixing of fees to be subject to approval of the Secretary of the Interior, so long as such approval is required by Federal Law.
- 3) To prevent the sale, disposition, lease, use or encumbrance of Community lands, interest in lands, or other Community assets.
- 4) To advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Congress of the United States of the wishes of the Community with regard to Federal projects or appropriations for the benefit of the Community.
- 5) To appoint subordinate officials, committees and boards, and to prescribe their duties and powers.
- 6) To provide for the manner of conducting elections.
- 7) To regulate its own procedure.
- 8) To regulate the domestic relations of members of the Community
- 9) To promote and protect the health, peace, morals, education, and general welfare of the Community and its members.
- 10)To expend money in conformance with an adopted budget.
- 11)To expend for any public purpose for any fiscal year an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the anticipated net

- revenue according to the current budget.
- 12)To act for and on behalf of members of the Community at the request of such members.
 - 13)To administer all Community property.
 - 14)To transfer or convey tribal assets to the incorporated Community and to contract with the incorporated Community for management of tribal assets.
 - 15)To recognize any district committees, associations or other organizations open to the members of the Community and to approve such organizations, subject however, to the provision that no such committee, association or organization may assume authorities specifically granted to the Council unless by a proper delegation of authority by the Council.
 - 16)To levy dues, fees, and taxes on members of the Community.
 - 17)To provide for the maintenance of law and order and the administration of justice by establishing a Community Court and police force and defining the powers and duties thereof.
 - 18) To do such other acts of governmental or public nature as are not prohibited by specifically applicable Federal laws or by this Constitution
 - 19) To pass ordinances necessary or incidental to the exercise of any of the foregoing powers.
- (b) Subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior
- 1) To provide by ordinance for the appointment of guardians for minors and mental incompetents
 - 2) To prescribe rules of inheritance which shall not be in conflict with specifically applicable Federal laws.

- 3) To levy dues, fees, and taxes on non-members residing or doing business within the Reservation.
- 4) To provide by ordinance for removal or exclusion from the territory of the Community non-members whose presence may be injurious to the peace, health, or welfare of the Community.
- 5) To regulate the use and disposition of property of members of the Community, insofar as such use and disposition affects the welfare of the Community at large.
- 6) To establish and relate subordinate organization for business purposes.
- 7) To purchase or otherwise acquire property of members of the Community for public purposes and to acquire same under condemnation proceedings in courts of competent jurisdiction.
- 8) To enact criminal and civil codes or ordinances governing the conduct of members of the Community and non-members on the Reservation.
- 9) To prepare and adopt budgets.
- 10) To pass ordinances necessary or incidental to the exercise of any of the forgoing powers.

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When you skip **VOTING**
It's not **rebellion**
It's **SURRENDER**



NOTICE

The campaign articles printed in this newspaper were written by each candidate in their own words; unedited. Tribal Elections is providing you - as the VOTER; the opportunity to make your own decision based on the information printed; not to promote the candidate, but to promote the privilege of VOTING

District 1 Candidates

GRIC Community Council Election, May 4, 2021



**CRUZ
YUCUPISIO**

Hello Gila River Indian Community, my name is Cruz Yucupisio I reside in District 1, and I will be running for District 1 Community Council Representative for 2021, I was born in Sacaton Arizona in 1975, to my father the late Margarito Cordova Yucupisio and my mother Bernalene (Smith) Yucupisio, who had 6 children Mathew, Margarita, Anthony, Cruz, Christine, and Dolores Yucupisio.

I moved to Blackwater AZ. In 2009 by way of Coolidge AZ. I have been employed with the Gila River Indian Community since 2009, currently employed with the District 5 service center as their Facility Maintenance Supervisor.

The reason I put in my Declaration for Council Rep. in District 1 is to give back to the community, community that has help me become who I am today. I have learned a lot working and volunteering for the community and I know that there is still a lot to be learned if becoming Council Rep. I know that I can be a productive member.

My father always told me to never be afraid to learn and have and show respect, I always tried to live by his words. So while growing up I became a Certified Firefighter out of Coolidge Fire Department in 2008, Trained as EMT for the Gila River in 2010, I also served for the Holy Family Catholic Church as Building Maintenance and Chief. I have been receiving traditional mentorship by learning how to do Smoke Blessings. Working with kids as the District 1 Recreation Coordinator for approximately 5 years, I have a passion for helping people, so I would be humbly honored if you would give me the chance to serve for you the Community, my deepest condolences to all that have been impacted by Covid 19, Thank You and God Bless



**ARZIE T.
HOGG**

Hello Uhs Kehk Village,

I hope you are all well. My name is Arzie Hogg and am your current District One Council Representative. Currently I sit on the following Standing Committees: Government and Management, Health and Social, Legislative and Education. I also serve on eight additional boards and committees for the Community. My objectives have always been advocating and securing for the needs of our members of the village and the Community as a whole.

With the support of you, the District One members, the District One Service Center staff and District One Council Rep Joey Whitman we have been able to secure funding for road improvements for North Blackwater, solar streetlamps and sidewalks in the central village and construction of the Elderly Center, which is scheduled to open soon. We have also assisted with obtaining funding for the construction of the Blackwater Community School. In addition, we have worked steadily with the Administration to secure the old Blackwater Store land into federal trust.

The onset of the Corona Virus pandemic introduced us to additional challenges with our operation and daily lives throughout the past year. We as a community have suffered greatly with positive cases and the loss of many members. My condolences to the family and friends affected by this virus. While working with the Administration and COVID Taskforce we were able to assist with providing COVID-19 testing, food boxes, stimulus payments, hazard pay for employees and communication access thru WiFi for our students and elderly utilizing federal funding from the CARES Act. Currently our main goal is to provide COVID vaccinations for those members 18 years and older to assist us in returning to some state of normalcy in the future.

I have highlighted some of the issues and events I have been involved with as your Council Representative. With the knowledge and experience gained, I will continue to advocate for the best interest of the members of our village and the Gila River Indian Community to the best of my abilities. I humbly ask you, the District One community, for your continued support to serve you as your District One Council Representative in the upcoming 2021 Council election to be held on **May 4, 2021**.

Thank You Sincerely,



**CYNTHIA
RUTH
ANTONE**

Skeg Tash. My name is Cynthia Antone. My parents are Lester and Carmelita Antone. I have two children, Diana and Joshua.

My father always taught me to be humble, but I would like to share some information about myself so you can get to know me. I am a lifelong resident from Uhs-Kehk/Blackwater. I attended school and graduated from Coolidge High School, Central Arizona College and Northern Arizona University. For most of my career I worked in the health field on and off the reservation and have worked for Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) since 1992. I currently work for Elderly Services under the Community Services Department.

I previously served on the Gila River Health Care Board of Directors during 2001-2004 and 2016-2019. I enjoy being active and serving in my community as I have served as D-1 Community Vice Chair, Blackwater Community School Board Member, Holy Family Catholic Mission Sub-Chief, District 1 Council Representative, District 1 Election Judge and I am currently D-1 Treasurer.

In this time of uncertainty, it is critical that we have leadership that is committed to the well-being, safety, growth and sustainability of our Community members. Leadership that is transparent, accountable, responsive and able to make difficult decisions, be objective and be an honest representation of our district and Community.

As we all know, together we are facing one of the greatest dangers in current history not only to the Community, but globally, the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are fortunate to have a COVID-19 Taskforce working on keeping the Community safe. I know there are a lot of people with questions about the available COVID-19 vaccines and with my experience in health; I encourage all that are old enough to get vaccinated. The more people we get vaccinated the sooner we can get back to some normalcy. This will allow us to get back to business and tackle many other issues that are important.

We have many issues that are in need of attention such as interruption of housing construction, infrastructure, healthcare, education opportunities, lack of employment opportunities, lack of accountability and homelessness.

These areas are all subject to improvement by listening to you and advocating for the best interest of our District. In a successful government, communication is key. As your Council representative, I will address all issues as a priority and be transparent to the people.

More specifically, in District 1 violence is on the rise, which is alarming and in need of immediate action. If elected I will ensure that our ordinances and laws are updated and enforced. I will work with Governor, Lt. Governor and the Community Council for the betterment of our Community as a whole.

In closing, it is my intent to use my education, experience and skills to work toward the continued advancement of our District and Community. I understand the leadership that is needed and as previously stated, I will do my best to be accountable, transparent, honest and intentional. I humbly ask for your support by voting for me, Cynthia Ruth Antone on May 4, 2021 as your District 1 Council Representative. Thank you and may our Creator bless you, Sapo.

District 1 Candidates

GRIC Community Council Election, May 4, 2021

My name is Lynelle Blackwater and I am a candidate for District 1, Uhs Kehk, Council Representative. I was born in Sacaton and grew up in Blackwater. I am a 57 year old elder, a mother, and a grandmother. I lived off the reservation for 27 years in Mesa, AZ, returning in 2014 to north Blackwater where I currently reside with my 3 youngest sons.

My parents are Oreen Johns and the late Daniel O. Jackson, Jr. My maternal grandparents are the late Josephine and Vincent Blackwater and my paternal grandparents are the late Isabelle and Daniel O. Jackson, Sr. I have 6 children, including 5 sons and 1 daughter, and 3 grandchildren.

Education has always been my strength. My education began at the historic Blackwater Day School and I attended Theodore Roosevelt Boarding School in 7th grade before returning to graduate from Coolidge High School in 1981. Afterward I attended Bacone College in Muskogee, OK and lived there until 1984. Eventually, I earned my Bachelor of Science (1986) and Master of Science (1990) degrees from ASU in Tempe, AZ, graduating from the College of Public Programs with both degrees in Justice Studies. My master's thesis was titled "O'odham A'al Ha Niok: Pima Adolescents' Perceptions Toward Their Tribal Government and Culture."

My employment history includes working for Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Prosecutor's Office, Fort McDowell as a prosecuting consultant, Four Rivers Indian Legal Services and Gila River Indian Community in various capacities. In 2016, I started a small business called Blackwater Professional Services, providing professional administrative services and legal advocacy and advice. Today, I enjoy being a member of the Blackwater Senior Citizens group, where I serve as secretary and masa maker (pre-Covid, when we had our tamale sales). Plus, I enjoy playing chair volleyball with the Blackwater Jackrabbits.

My decision to run for council came from observations in 3 main areas. One of those is public safety, which includes law enforcement, emergency medical services and the fire department. I noticed the human element is lacking in the delivery of these services. By that, I mean the employees of these departments need to realize how our lives are affected by different types of trauma and react accordingly. Some employees are not fully invested in protecting our people 24/7 every day of the year. Our emergency needs do not occur Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. Some of these employees don't realize that when we experience health issues, loss of loved ones, domestic violence and other social problems, we are human beings first. Hence, my second issue is the accountability of tribal departments. Many of our tribal department directors are non-members who have been in their positions for years yet have no vested interest in the Community. They are free to recruit, hire and promote their friends, relatives, college classmates, etc. and overlook qualified Community members. It leads to discouragement and low morale in the workplace, which trickles down to poor delivery of service to the end client: the Community members. My past attempts to address these types of issues of unfair treatment toward Community employees fell on deaf ears.

The last area I see missing from our tribal government is simply listening to the community members' needs and concerns, e.g. youth programs, education, crime, etc. Years ago, the tribal council wouldn't act on important issues until they were brought to the district first for its input. This practice needs to be reinstated. Nowadays, when the elders ask for council-related information or provide a recommendation about important council business, we are ignored.



**LYNELLE
BLACKWATER**

Good day everybody, my name is Carlos Moreno. I am from the community of U'uhs Kehk, Blackwater district one. I am 35 years old, my maternal grandparents are Carlos J. Moreno from the Pasqua Yaqui Reservation Tucson Arizona and Imogene Moreno from U'uhs Kehk. My mother is Claudia Gonzales from U'uhs Kehk. I am the oldest of six siblings. I currently work for the Gila River gaming enterprise as the Lone Butte Casino Building Manager. I am currently serving on the Blackwater Executive Committee and the District One Housing Committee. I respectfully ask for your support as I seek the position of District One council representative. I wish to represent my community and do all I can for the people. The betterment and safety of the district will be my main focuses. Thank you very much for your time. Good luck to all the candidates across the community, I encourage everyone to register and go vote on May 4th 2021.

Respectfully, Carlos Moreno



**CARLOS
MORENO**

Greetings, my name is Keith A. Williams Sr., My parents were the Late Roy Williams Sr. and the Late Agnes Williams (Scoffer). I am the youngest of fourteen children. I am a husband, father, and a grandfather. I am running for District One Council Representative. I have been working for the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) for the past twenty-six years. Eleven of those years, I spent working with Department of Community Housing (DCH) under HUD in the construction field of rehabilitation and new construction. The remaining fifteen years, I have been employed with Department of Housing Development (DHD) as a Project Manager and served as Acting Director for DHD on various occasions. My experience has been with managing housing projects, providing coordination, oversight, and communication between the contractor and various stakeholders and the home applicants. In addition, I attend council, district housing and departmental meetings for the districts I am assigned to, and collaborate with various GRIC departments, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and outside utility entities such as Salt River Project, Southwest Gas, Northern Pipeline, and Arizona Public Service and various building contractors. As a result of coordination, it resolves issues and concerns that arise to avoid any unnecessary delays within the project. One of my greatest satisfactions is working with the families and to hear them shares stories of their fond family memories and the place they called home for many years and their expressed joy of receiving keys to their new home. My employment for last twenty-six years with GRIC has provided me with essential management and leadership skills and have become knowledgeable of the ordinances, policies and procedures set forth by our community that are used daily to complete work assignments and projects; and that I can apply towards making sound decisions for District One and the Community. I am respectfully asking for your support and trust to serve as your District One Council Representative. Please do not forget to Vote on May 4, 2021. May God Bless you and continuous prayers for our community.

Thank you.



**KEITH A.
WILLIAMS, SR.**



District 4 Candidates



CHRISTOPHER MENDOZA

I'm humbled to announce my candidacy for the Office of Community Council for District Four of the Gila River Indian Community.

My name is Christopher Mendoza, the son of the late Joseph and Brenda Mendoza. I reside in the village of Goodyear located in District Four of the Gila River Indian Community with wife Deanna, three sons Kevin, Darin, Steven, daughter-in-law Dolores Flores-Mendoza and granddaughter Kelani Antone-Mendoza. I have five brothers: Brian, Anthony, Gregory, Angelo, and Danny.

I welcome the opportunity to continue building a greater tomorrow for the Gila River Indian Community. I have been a dedicated worker for over 23 years. Some of the capacities that I have held are: District Service Center Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management Planner II, Cultural Resources Survey Technician, Community Services Director and District Four Council Representative. During my tenure on Council, I have obtained a wealth of knowledge in Tribal Government.

As a past District Four Council representative I served on the Government & Management Standing Committee as Chairman, President of Pima Leasing and Finance Corporation and Chairman of Casino Expansion Owners Team. I also served on Economic Development Standing Committee, Gila River Indian Community Litigation Team and the El Paso/ Kinder Morgan Negotiation Team.

As a worker, a parent and a member, I am concerned about the absence of structure and functionality of services for our community. Having being raised in our Community as well as receiving the support and encouragement from relatives, friends, and past elected leaders, I have come to this decision to help move our Community forward with innovative ideas and principles learned through my experience in Tribal government. I'm committed to improving elderly services, housing, homelessness, and jobs for our Community members. Also my focus will be the Community Water Rights, Tribal Gaming Compact Negotiations and restricting the Tribal government.

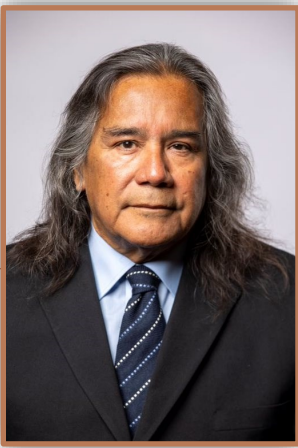
District Four Community needs a leader with a vision to all branches of government and Community members. Effective leadership should encourage and guide Community members to face critical issues, opportunity, and challenges that exist for them. It's in our best interest to reestablish and reaffirm our expectations of leadership. We must hold Tribal Administration accountable to ensure all members of Gila River Indian Community needs are met. Communication and transparency is key in addressing Community needs and we must listen to our Community members.

The most important responsibility a council representative has is to listen to the people. I will always be available to hear your concerns and provide a solution to your problems. I've spent my working life helping people and will never grow tired of putting the needs of the people first. In spite of our many problems, we need to maintain a positive outlook and realize that working together we can meet our challenges.

District Four Community has blessed me over the years and your support is the greatest gift you have given me. I once again ask for your support during this election. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Christopher Mendoza



JOHN A. ANTONE

John A. Antone

My bid for the district four council representative is Based on *public opinion*, the role as tribal council (legislators) by constitution, is to represent all its enrolled members, that their needs don't fall on deaf ears, whether they live on or off our boundaries. That conflict of interest, nor nepotism doesn't under mind our written process. I speak with a broad brush, departments, district levels and other tribal structures, that special interest are evident by the community. I believe that a Code of Ethics needs to be revived to our elected officials, approved for people by the people.

This past year, **pandemic** (covid19) became disastrous to this community as it took many lives. Our health care officials have done an excellent job. I know extreme measures were taken by our government, now that we know of these threats, what other improvements can this community expect. The three Mortuaries that service our community were back logged and prolonged in burial. In some cases, the beliefs are going against the time period by tribal tradition. Is it possible for the tribe to establish its own mortuary in the near future?

How do we measure employment and management in our community, what warrants new structures with their financing, employment, and maintaining these areas? Do directors have an obligation to train tribal members as a part of their contract here? My personal experience in the military at the age of 17, during the Vietnam Era, was *discipline and training*, then station at Ft. Leavenworth Kansas. Where I was detailed to the military prison for a year and half, I feel this concept can be implemented in some form or other, to provide the necessary steps of achievement. The ultimate objective in my mind, is to function as nation rather than a community. With a major artery (I-10) through this community, there should be no reason why we couldn't pursue. I guarantee the outside would have developed this land with a vast return.

As a resident of Santan, we haven't completely solved the traffic issues, in spite of the three new traffic lights, public safety still a factor. Accidents on I-10 are results of heavy trafficking in the community, what other options can we explore to relief this burden. This is only going to get worse as population growth is on the rise in the state. Another issue is the roads through Upper Santan, Lower Santan, and Stotonic, I consider these roads hazardous and in dire need of repair. These roads are vital to the safety to wear and tear to the residence, school buses, as well as tribal vehicles.

A reminder, as elder of the community, let us not forget those who paved the way in this community. **Chief Azule** who knew how to handle outsiders and prevented this community to relocate to Oklahoma as many tribes did. Whom secured this community and its people, as we are so fortunate in remaining here, on our aboriginal land. **Alexander Lewis** as Governor led our community with high moral standards, his leadership was strict and ethical for the people he served, and was noted for those qualities. In 1994 the community experienced a major turning point as we were struggling then. Governor **Thomas White** and the tribal council focused on this opportunity, a chance to advance the community. The intent is and will always be to maintain our Pima/Maricopa heritage without disruption of any kind. To recognize eminent threats that will hinder future generations.

Looking forward to be a team player for the tribe once again, continuance for progress

Respectfully, John A. Antone



JAYSON ANDREW MICHAEL ENOS

Hello District Four and community member's reservation wide! My name is Jaysun Andrew Michael Enos. I reside in District # 4 Upper San Tan Village. My Parents are Michael Pratt and Betty Anne Enos (Baht). My Paternal Grandparents are Burton Pratt (Baht) and Inez M. Pratt (Baht) all of Upper San Tan Village. My Maternal Grandparents are Ella Melinda Enos / Terry (Baht) of Upper San Tan Village and Benedict Benito Soos (Baht) of Santa Cruz Village, District # 6. I have my nephew Emmettrieo B. DeCora, 2 sisters Mandy M. Enos and April Pratt, 1 step-brother Tim Terry all residing in Gila River Indian Community.

I am seeking your support and vote in the upcoming elections for 2021 Council representative for District # 4. I feel I am a good candidate ready to take the new experience and open to educating and acquainting myself to the responsibility as a council representative.

What I feel qualifies me for this upcoming seat for council representative is I have served in various positions of leadership and have had many personal and in depth encounters with many individuals that I have been humbled to be entrusted with their many thoughts, opinions and directions regarding family life, being able to build trust, and being able to work together to make our community stronger. I speak and write the O'odham Language fluently.

I've had the honor of being elected by parish members to serve several consecutive two (2) year terms as a Parish Chief and Sub Chief for St. Anne's Catholic Mission of Upper San Tan Village, District # 4. I feel my serving as the Parish Chief helped me develop certain skills indicative to a council representative. I was commissioned to serve 3 years minister of Holy Communion / Minister of Care, Through the Phoenix Roman Catholic Diocese.

I held a position as a Shift Supervisor for two years with our local shell service station / Safety Seat Program Coordinator for Pinal County; Gila River Casinos where I received trainings and certifications in public service and safety for our community. I received my G.E.D in 2000, 2001 I held a position as Unit Clerk / Customer Service at Gila River Health Care. In 2007, I became more involved in our community serving as a Same Day Voter Registration Assistant for our Per Capita Distribution elections; 2006 - 2009, I received my certification as a B.I.A Wild Land Firefighter; 2015 employed with Gila River Indian Community for seven years. I also serve the community as a traditional singer. It allows me to connect through our cultural traditions.

In closing I like to say that I have a genuine respect for our community as well as my own district and our members. I was raised from a young boy to have respect for all peoples Himdag and especially the culture of our people, through discipline, respect and participation which helps me understand the real community, the people, who live, work and ultimately die among us. I have been taught by many well respected elders it's their wisdom that I hold in high regard. All of their wisdom has helped me to learn and grow into the person I have become today.

I will make no promises, what I will do if elected to council is do the job responsibly, according to our constitution make myself available to the community, represent the people of district 4, and the community as a whole with pride, honor and respect.

Please vote! Your support is greatly appreciated!

District 5 Candidates



WAHLEAN J. RIGGS.

I am Wahlean J. Riggs and a lifelong resident of District 5 residing in West Camp Village. I am the proud daughter of Brenda L. Robertson and the late Dayle C. Robertson. I have three children and one grandson, and I am employed at the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality in the Air Quality Program.

As a candidate for the District 5 Council Representative position, I would first like to extend my condolences to all those who have lost a loved one during this pandemic. My heart goes out to you and I know Father God is with all of us.

My platform is based on working not for the people but with the people. None of us is above or below another. By truly listening to my fellow neighbors of my District, I will learn what is important to them and how they envision the future. My duty is to be the people’s communication channel to bring their concerns and voice to the table of the Community and to inform my District of the progress or roadblocks to their vision. I am also able to understand the Akimel O’odham Neok language so that every voice is heard. This open and fluid communication is about working with everyone because we all have a stake and responsibility in our Community. Together we are stronger and together we can find the solutions.

Our Elders supply the wisdom and the culture, our Youth provide the inspiration and the hope, while we supply the stability and strength of our families and community. Each of us is vital and intertwined in our Community and by working together under Father God, we can achieve many accomplishments.

I would be honored to truly serve all my fellow residents in my District. I will keep my word and do my duty to all of you by keeping communication open, being transparent, calling for accountability, and keeping District 5 informed and involved.

I humbly ask for not only your support but your input and vision of a better District for ourselves and the future of our Community.



SERENA M. JOAQUIN

Greetings District 5 Members:

I am Serena M. Joaquin and I hope to be your District 5 Council Representative.

This is a critical time in our Community and District, and we need an individual who can listen to our District and work hard to solve problems. More importantly, we need an individual who will weigh differing opinions, listen to the facts and study issues before making a decision. I will protect the District and its people and not champion a special interest group or a narrow perspective.

We need an individual who will ask the hard questions: Why have no new houses been built? Why do we have more police officers, but (we) do not feel safer in our neighborhoods? Why are our families being torn apart by drugs and alcohol? How do we protect our children and elders from becoming victims? I know our District members are asking the same questions, yet we get no answers from our elected officials.

If elected:

- I will represent you and the District at the Council level, ensuring your ideas and opinions are given top priority when decisions are made. Council should hear the views of professionals such as lawyers and department heads, but when is the last time an elected official asked YOU what your ideas and opinions are?
- I will keep you informed of Community affairs as well as activities that affect our District on an on-going basis. Elected officials should not appear only around election time. Officials should be in constant contact with their constituents. Communication is key.
- I will support our Community’s activities such as gaming, education, health care, economic development and housing. These activities provide much needed jobs and programs that assist our District members.
- I will ask questions on issues that impact our District such as crime, domestic violence, child abuse, drugs and alcohol, health disparities, inadequate emergency services and many other issues that affect our families. At times, it appears that our elected officials are silent and take no interest in the issues that affect us. I will be your voice.
- I will ensure self-accountability by answering your emails, phone calls and requests for assistance. Our District members should not have to contact other District’s Council Representatives for help. I will take responsibility to help actively solve problems while remaining ethical, honest, and transparent.

I worked in Indian gaming (operations and regulatory), Community housing, emergency management, Community services, former member of the District 5 Community board and Executive board, current telecommunications board of director and current school board member for a bureau grant school. All my experience has made me a hard worker, multi-tasker, team player, problem solver, critical thinker, decision maker and policy driver.

In closing, an election is a time when the people decide who will best represent them. I want to be a voice for our District during these difficult times. I want to make a difference in our Community and District. Together we can be the change our Community and District needs. Always remember a Council representative is put into power by you - the people, and a Council Representative’s purpose is to serve the people. Thank you for your support.



District 5 Candidates



PAMELA J. VEGA



FRANKLIN PABLO, SR.

Greetings District 5 Community Members. My name is Pamela Jeanne Vega. I reside in the Village of Sweetwater. My grandparents were the late Ida and Enos Paul. My mother was the late Mida Paul.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, I had been attending the District 5 Community meetings regularly since 2015. I serve as a member for the Housing Committee, Election Board, Recreation Committee and the GRIC Law Enforcement Citizens Advisory Board. I previously served as a volunteer with the GRIC Fire Departments Crisis Response Team for 7 years, and Hospice of the East Valley for 1 year. I also volunteer my time with the GRIC Crime Victims Services and dance with the Vah-Ki Traditional Dance Group.

I was employed with GRIC Department of Public Works for 23 years serving in various positions. During that time, I’ve done my best to serve our Community and the needs of our people. While working for our Community I have seen firsthand some of the issues that need to be addressed regarding our Elderly, College Graduates and Tribal Department Consistency.

Our Elders are the keepers of our history and traditions. They have so much knowledge that we can learn from them to keep our O’otham Himdag alive.

We tell our Children to go to school, get an education, and come back and work for your Tribe. We as a Native Community need to give them the chance and teach them the skills needed to be successful in the workforce.

All GRIC Departments need to be on the same page when it comes to our Tribal employees and how we operate our Departments to better serve our Community members.

These are some of the issues that I would like to bring forth and see addressed. I humbly come before you and ask for your vote as your District 5 Council Representative. If elected, I will fulfill the duties and serve the position with integrity.

Thank You

FRANKLIN PABLO SR.

These past couple of months while not being in office I have experienced and saw a tremendous amount of distrust from our community members. Our Executive Administration suffers from Accountability from Departments dealing with Political Self Issues from our Executive Administration and no Transparency.

Community Members have gone through pain and suffering for the past year, not only with the Pandemic, but Our Traditions as well that we speak of many times which has been torn apart slowly but surely. Through an Executive Order mandated to Community Members on how to lay their loved ones to rest and who, how many could attend. It was also disrespectful for a deceased Veteran not to be given proper Honors due to Executive Orders Limit.

To Community Members of District Five and, Community Members of Gila River I can be the voice once again to bring issues, concerns to the table and to question which I have done in the past for the Community Members if given the opportunity.

I have heard the comment that God’s presence is in all of us. However, it is difficult to see when people do so many negative things that they seem to willingly ignore.

Therefore, As voters it is time again, your time to take your turn in voting and hope by voting for the candidate who you feel will help to make our community a better place to live.

Thank You.



District 6 Candidates



ANTHONY "Chris" VILLAREAL, SR.



RHONDA WHEMPNER

Greetings,

I am grateful and humbled to declare my candidacy to continue serving our people of District Six on the Tribal Council. It is truly an honor to have served these many years for you all and it comes from people who believe in my ability to continue to be a “Voice for the People”.

I made a strong commitment to serve our district community and to do what I can within my ability to continue making improvements to the services and projects that benefit our community. This comes with having a vision for a better tomorrow for our community. This vision comes from talking with our elders, those who have wisdom and can guide us and advise us as we move forward to making our district a better community. The vision comes from talking with fellow members of our community and talking with our youth. Finally, the vision comes from having a genuine care and concern for every tribal member. Life is important. We must do what we can within our power to make our community a safe community.

In the years that I served our community, we have seen great improvements such as roads improvements, street lighting to make our streets safer; flood control to minimize the impact of flooding; providing free water to our homes, schools, and churches; and continued busing transit services; a police substation and a community owned Boys & Girls Club of Gila River. We saw housing development to provide decent, standard homes for our members and a continued plan to build more homes for the future of our community. We built a new long needed Gila Crossing Day School to support the education of our children. All these services are not easy to receive. It takes commitment and the ability to work together as a team with your fellow Councilmen.

The past year has been challenging and many hard decisions had to be made as a result of a pandemic; however, technology has allowed us to continue to work and seek out the necessary resources to avoid disruption in services. In support of the Cares Act Funds, our community members received general welfare assistance, food distribution, personal protection equipment (PPE), improvement on internet service for our children virtual schooling, computer devices for elders and children. This has helped us continue to work virtually with the Tribal Council, Executive, departments and especially keeping our members informed. I am proud to say we have been working hard to address more homesites for our district and are in the preplanning stages of engineer and construction designs of a 160-half acre lots. I am always willing to continue to work hard for your interests.

I appreciate your continued faith and trust in me. I seek your support for re-election as your District 6 Council Representative. I look forward for the opportunity to continue serving this position. Let’s strive together to build a better Community for all of us.

Thank You and Be Safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Villareal".

Anthony “Chris” Villareal, Sr.

RHONDA SANDERSON WHEMPNER

Greetings District 6 Community Members

My name is Rhonda Sanderson Whempner, I am running for District 6 Council Representative. I am the daughter of the late Byron Sanderson and Melinda Sanderson Thomas.

I would appreciate your support in this upcoming Community Council Election.

I have committed and invested much time toward my career that I want to give that same obligation back to my Community as your Representative. To promote and protect the health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Community and its members.

Working for our Community over the past 24 years, I gained rewarding opportunities that were invested toward my professional and personal development. Through that tenure 22 years of this work experience has been in management position’s which continues to be very rewarding. Currently, I am the Assistant Coordinator for District 6 Service Center, I assist with the daily functions and activities which may include administrative, supervising staff as well as provide service to those who need some assistance through programs that we provide. While working for the Tribal Gaming Office, as a Commissioner our work was to regulate and monitor gaming on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community. Then, I dedicated ample years of gaming experience toward being a department manager for Gila River Gaming Enterprises.

In recent years our Community has experienced dramatic growth. As a Council Representative, this would allow me to utilize my substantial years of experience as a department manager. I’m deeply committed in sharing the sense of purpose in providing optimal service to all. My track record indicates I adhere to the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and confidentiality.

My contribution is commitment and dedication to strengthen our Community.

I respectfully ask for your vote,
Thank you



Absentee VOTING Information:

If you cannot make it to the election polls on Election Day, May 4, 2021 casting an absentee ballot is available to you;

APRIL 1 thru MAY 4, 6:00 p.m.

If you requested an absentee ballot through the mail and couldn't mail it back by the deadline date, you have the option of voting at a polling site. But you must bring and surrender this ballot at the polling site before you can vote. OR if you have already cast your absentee ballot and sealed the envelope; you can drop it off at a polling site, Election Day.

Please do not request an absentee ballot through the mail, if you prefer to have your District Judge to assist you. They will have absentee ballots on hand.

The District 1, 4, 5 & 6 Election Judges will be available from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at their District Service Centers for any voters registered within their districts to cast their absentee ballot.

DISTRICT JUDGES:

- District #1 - Victoria Quintero - 480-242-7056
- District #4 - Sharon Miguel - 520-610-0670
- District #5 - Verna Sunna - 480-737-1584
- District #6 - Lorina Allison - 602-882-487

Tribal Elections office: 520-562-9735

POLLING SITE LOCATIONS:

DISTRICT #1: District 1 Multipurpose Building
15747 North Shegoi Road, Blackwater

DISTRICT #4: District 4 Multipurpose Facility
2230 N. Homerun Drive, Santan

DISTRICT #5: District 5 Multipurpose Building
3456 West Casa Blanca Road, Casa Blanca

DISTRICT #6: District 6 Learning Center
5230 West St. Johns Road, Komatke

While you are at the Polling Site...

Please remember:

- ★ You can vote at any polling site location; provided you present proper photo Identification;
- ★ Each district in this election has only one (1) Community Council Representative vacancy; one vote is required on your ballot;
- ★ If you come with another voter, you will be required to wait outside the 50-foot limit, once you have voted;
- ★ If you missed the deadline to change your name, address, district; your information will stay the same in the database; it **will not** prevent you from voting;
- ★ Please notify the Elections office immediately if you were told you cannot vote due to your address being outdated/incorrect @ (520) 562-9735
- ★ You cannot change your information at the polling sites; changing your information begins the day after this election. If you've already changed your name (i.e. drivers license), you are still required to sign your name as it is shown on the signature pad;
- ★ We ask that you please refrain from bringing your children to the polling sites; per GRIC Community Election Code, Section 2.109 (H), *During the time the polls are open; no one shall loaf or loiter within the 50-foot limit area. No one except voters who have not voted and the Election Officials, may be inside the 50-limit. There shall be no electioneering or other political activity within the 50-foot limit area. Election Officials, voters or others within the 50-foot limit shall not force, induce or influence any voter or attempt to do so;*
- ★ ***NO CAMPAIGN ATTIRE, PROMOTIONAL ITEMS, ETC., TAKING CELL PHONES PICTURES INSIDE THE POLLING SITE AREA IS NOT ALLOWED.***
- ★ *Safety standards will be in place: wear a mask, stay 6 ft. apart*
- ★ *Drive through voting will be available; please follow signs*
- ★ *Absentee Ballots can be dropped off at polling sites; look for designated site or let Election Official know you are dropping off your ballot.*