Gila River Indian Community - Election Guide



# PRIMARY ELECTION

# Special District Five Community Council Election

September 19, 2023

# POLLING SITE LOCATIONS:

Polling Site Hours: 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## PHOTO ID REQUIRED

#### **DISTRICT #1:**

District 1 Multipurpose Building 15747 N. Shegoi Road Blackwater

#### **DISTRICT #2:**

District Two Event Center 9257 W. Sacaton Flats Road Hashan Kehk

#### **DISTRICT #3:**

District #3 Head start Multipurpose Building 112 W. Seed Farm Road Sacaton

#### **DISTRICT #4:**

District Four Main Hall (old D4 Service Ctr.) 1510 W. Santan Road Santan

#### **DISTRICT #5:**

District Five Veteran's Building 3558 W. Casa Blanca Road Casa Blanca

#### **DISTRICT #6:**

District Six Learning Center 5230 W. St. Johns Road Komatke

#### **DISTRICT #7:**

District Seven Multipurpose Facility 8035 S. 83rd Avenue Maricopa Colony

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE** INTRODUCING.. 2 CANDIDATES FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE INTRODUCING... CANDIDATES FOR LIEUTENANT **GOVERNOR** INTRODUCING... 7 CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR INTRODUCING... CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR INTRODUCING... COMMUNITY CHIEF JUDGE CANDIDATE CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT FIVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT FIVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CONT.) 10 ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING **ELECTION JUDGE CONTACTS**

## **Election Day Polling Site Information**

For your safety as well as the election poll workers, the Tribal Elections Program will continue to practice safety procedures for your voting experience.

- You can vote at any polling site within the Community; be ready to show a photo identification (driver's license, tribal I.D., Military I.D., state issued photo identification are acceptable) NO ELECTRONIC I.D.'S. Once your identification has been confirmed by the Election Clerk, they will give you a pen to sign the signature pad; documenting you came to vote; the pen is yours to keep
- ✓ The District Five ballot will include the candidates running for the District Five Community Council seat
- ✓ Please do not bring children to the polling sites
- ✓ If you missed the deadline to change your name, address, marital status or district. Your information will stay the same in the database. This WILL NOT prevent you from voting. You cannot change your information on Election Day. Your District Judge will provide you with information as to when you can do so. If you already changed your name (i.e. drivers license) you must sign your name as it is shown on the signature pad
- 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-foot limit. There shall be no electioneering or other political activity within the 50-foot limit area. Election Officials, voter or others within the 50-foot limit shall not force, induce or influence any voter or attempt to do so.
- **✓** NO CAMPAIGN ATTIRE OR CANDIDATE PROMOTIONAL ITEMS; TAKING CELL PHONE PICTURES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE POLLING SITE AREA.
- Once you have voted, an election official will wipe down (sanitize) the voting booth in preparation for the next voter. This process is to assure everyone votes in the safest way possible

As with previous elections, drive-thru voting is available for your preference. Follow the driving route signs.







SHERI L. CASSA

Sheri Loretta Cassa

I am thankful and honored for the opportunity to serve my Community for two terms as Associate Judge of the Gila River Indian Community Court.

My career in the law began over 45 years ago. I received training through the American Indian Lawyer Training program, National Indian Justice Center, and Legal Services Program. I worked for Four Rivers Indian Legal Services as a Tribal Court Advocate for 38 years. There I gained experience in civil, criminal, juvenile and administrative law. I primarily practiced in the Gila River Courts and participated in the development of our Court system. I served on various committee's for code revisions in the law and procedures. I am forever grateful to all my colleagues and teachers at Four Rivers where I obtained my life experience as a Tribal Court Advocate and prepared me for my judicial role today.

My first term as Associate Judge, I enjoyed the fast pace and busy schedule of a presiding judge. We presided over hearings, prepared orders, conducted research, reviewed case files on a daily basis. It was the best experience of my life. During my first term, major events occurred, such as, the enactment of the Special Domestic Violence Ordinance which provides the Court jurisdiction over non-Indians committing offense of domestic violence in our Community. The Tribal Law and Order Act which gives jurisdiction to the Court to hear felony crimes. The Gila River Court of Appeals is now consistently issuing decisions setting precedence in Court procedures. In my second term, 2021, the Covid-19 virus caused a major disruption of Court hearings. The Judges continued to manage court hearings but a backlog of cases took time to resolve. Now the Court is back on track.

My goal as Associate Judge is to continue my legal education and maintain my judicial

knowledge. My goal is to be prepared and knowledgeable of the facts in the case before me and treat all litigants with dignity and respect.

My personal information: My parents are the Late Herbert and Mary Narcia. My oldest brother is Richard Narcia the former Governor of the Gila River Indian Community; my sister is Marcella Narcia. My youngest brother, Christopher Narcia, passed away September, 2012.

I'm married to Arthur Cassa Jr. and we live in Sacaton. I'm the mother of four children, Alicia, Anna, Kevin and Sera. My children are members of the Gila River Community and one is a member of the Quechan Indian Tribe. I have five grandchildren, Xzavien, Noah, Tommy, Ana, and Maddie.

I am running for a third term as Associate Judge. Thank you for your consideration and God Bless



CHRISTINA D. **RODRIGUEZ** 

Hello, my name is Christina D. Rodriguez, and I am running for Associate Judge. I am from Gila Crossing Village, where I grew up and currently reside with my family. I come from the Enos family, my grandfather is the late Henry Enos Sr., and my mother is the late Delilah (Enos) Yanes. I have 4 kids, 3 of which are adults now.

My education background consists of an Associate of Arts, Associate of General Studies and a Certificate of Completion in Administration of Justice from South Mountain Community College. I also obtained a BA in Healthcare Management with a minor in Human Services from Ottawa University which included courses on management and ethics.

I have worked in a supervisor capacity for many years, and know all organizations have procedural policies, regulations and ethical standards that must be upheld. Not all organizations are the same, but similar when it comes to procedures and ethics. I would like to work for and serve my community in the Justice system. I want to ensure that everyone is given their rights and a fair hearing. I am confident that I can do the job and be fair and impartial for our com-

Therefore, I am asking for your vote to elect me as an Associate Judge of the Gila River Indian Community on election day.

Thank you,

Christina D. Rodriguez



DANIELLE B. ALLEN

Hello Fellow Community Members,

My name is Danielle Allen, currently residing in District Three with my family. My parents are Carol Eschief Allen and the Late Harlan Allen. My paternal grandparents are the late Ralston Allen and the late Rosalie Allen of Casa Blanca, my maternal grandparents are the late Clayton Eschief Sr., of Blackwater and the late Hazel Johnson Eschief of Sacaton. My great grandparents are the late Joe Allen of Green Wells, the late Daisy Sampson Lopez of Casa Blanca, the late Dorothy Thomas of Casa Blanca, the late Frank Johnson and the late Isabelle Davis Johnson of

I am running for Associate Judge here in the community. My educational background consists of an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Central Arizona College 2009, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Dubuque 2020, and Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma 2023. During my master's program we learned about Federal Indian Law and how the law is applied for the federally recognized tribes. I would like to use what I have learned as an Associate Judge for my people.

For instance, Gila River Indian Community has adopted and revised the Criminal Code to incorporate the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA, 2010). This includes enhanced sentencing that includes felony offences, and procedures relating to felony offenses. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA, 2013) was adopted by Gila River Indian Community and this added revision let's Gila River prosecute Non-Natives for Domestic Violence offences.

The two main issues that need to be addressed in the Community are:

Mandatory Counseling- There may be repeat offenders within the Community and as part of their sentencing the individual must attend mandatory counseling. As Indian peoples we have been through many traumatic events, either as a group or individually. Counseling can help individuals deal with the trauma that they faced as a child, teenager, young adult and also in Thank you for your time and support. adult life. By going into counseling, the Individual can identify the root of their

problem and deal with the problem in a controlled setting. The individual can learn to let go of the problem or past and lead a better life for themselves and their children.

> Truancy- Working in the Education sector, there seems to be a high rate of Truancy within the Community. The K-12 Advisor's and Probation department can only do so much within the Community. The solution is to hold the parents accountable for not sending their child (elementary) to school. If a child (middle to high school) refuses to attend school, then the child should be held accountable. The parents need to take responsibility for their child or children's education.

Danielle B. Allen



**STARLET JONES** 

My name is Starlet Jones. I currently reside in District Four, Upper Santan. My parents are Jonah Jones of Sacaton and Melissa Howard of Upper Santan. My paternal grandparents are the late Charlie Jr. and Virginia Jones of Sacaton. My maternal grandparents are the late Philbert and Naomi Howard of Upper Santan. I am a single mother of two children, Ryan-Ray and Nova with a bonus child, Dannielle.

I studied at Central Arizona College. I have over 15 years of experience in the Gila River Justice system as a court clerk and working my way up to my current position of Court Clerk Supervisor. I have served in various courtrooms in the court, including traffic, criminal, children's court, civil and felony cases. I have worked with numerous Judges and have learned from each of them. With close to 15 years of being in a courtroom setting, I can say that I have learned so much from the process to the codes that GRIC has to uphold, and I believe that I have gained the knowledge to uphold the position of Associate Judge for the Community. I will take this previous experience and put it into practice in the courtroom.

My goal has always been to be a Judge of the Community and serve my people. I have been committed to improving the court system and feel that my goal should I be elected, is to work with the Chief Judge and Associate Judges to address the concerns of repeated offenders, matters of child support, and treatment/rehabilitation while including our customs and traditions.

I humbly ask for your support in this election. If elected I will continue to learn and find ways to improve my knowledge of the court for our commu-





RICHARD CACHOLA

Hello, my fellow Gila River Indian Community members. My name is Richard Cachola. I was born and raised in District 2 Hashan Kehk, where my family and I currently reside. I am the proud father of 6 children and husband to my wife, Sylvia. My parents are Alison and David Anderson. My Grandmother is Connie Jackson, and my grandfather is Rayburn Brown. My Maternal grandfather is Clifton Jackson.

I am running to be your next Associate Judge of Gila River Indian Community Courts. I have worked for the Gila River judicial courts for over 7 years. Most of my time with the judicial system has been as a bailiff officer. My newest experience as a probation officer, where I have continued to grow and learn for the past six months. During my time working within the courts, I have gained extensive knowledge of our community's court system. I believe I will bring a new perspective and fresh ideas to our justice system, while preserving our traditional O'odham values.

My hope is to bring more focus on a rehabilitation centered approach for our community's substance abuse issues, while also adhering to our court's laws on punishment. Our community members who suffer from substance abuse will benefit from this approach by receiving the proper education and care for their issues while simultaneously being able to serve their time. I believe discipline and rehabilitation is the best approach for the community growing substance abuse issues and can help to create model citizens.

For civil and family court cases, I would like community members to be more involved so that they may be heard on issues that are important to them. I encourage the community to have input in finding the best solutions to resolve their conflict.

I will be a judge that is fair. I will serve our people without prejudice and guarantee justice to all victims and defendants. I will ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. The community may have peace of mind knowing that justice will be passed fairly.

In closing I humbly request your vote for Richard Cachola as Associate Judge in the Gila River Indian Community courts. Thank you and God bless you.



**CHARLES ARAGON** 

Hello, fellow Community members, my name is Charles W. Aragon. I grew up and currently reside in District Six. I am humbly asking for your continued support in this year's election to continue to serve as an Associate Judge. My training and experience as an Associate Judge has equipped me with the necessary knowledge and ability to understand, interpret and apply the laws of the Gila River Indian Community and look to federal, state and various other tribal nations' laws when the Community's laws are silent. In addition to my current experience as a Judge I have first-hand experience in Tribal Employment Rights Law, Indian Preference Law, the Indian Civil Rights Act, the Gaming Ordinance, the Gaming Compact as well as other relevant federal regulations.

I am seeking re-election as Associate Judge to continue to serve our Community and to help change lives for the better. I understand that crime, especially, can be a complex issue. As a Judge, it is important to consider all aspects of the law and to make the best decisions that further the interest of justice. So often, crime is a symptom of other issues such as addiction, grief, and lack of resources. I want to be able to attempt to understand the challenges that defendants face in order to craft punishments that are not only punitive, but truly rehabilitative. In cases with victims, I certainly want to be sure that their vision of justice is also part of the calculus by listening to victim impact statements with care. As a judge I am able to balance individual rights with community safety.

In civil cases, I want to be sure that Community members find the Community Court to be accessible so that they can find practical ways to address issues that are important to them without feeling overwhelmed by the legal process. During my current term, I have presided over hundreds of cases involving criminal law, civil law, family law. No matter the area of law, it is critical that I pay special attention to detail, listen intently to arguments, and take time to make decisions that are thoughtful and in the interest of justice.

My mother has always told me to by my absolute best. In each case I preside over it is incredibly important to me that I do my absolute best to ensure that each party is treated with respect and that I execute my duties in the most fair and impartial manner possible. I understand that the integrity of our justice system depends on it and I am committed to carrying that principal through each case that comes before me. I would be humbled to receive your vote, thank you.



BRIANNA L. RHODES

My name is Brianna (Sneed) Rhodes and I am running for the office of Associate Judge. I have been with my husband for 13 years and we have 6 wonderful children. We currently reside in District 6. Ever since I was a young I always wanted to help people, especially children. I became a Children's Church teacher and taught the little ones about Jesus and the Word of God. When I turned 16 and attending Chandler High School, I joined the Akimel O'odham/Pee Posh Youth Council as an At-Large Member to get involved in the Community. My Senior Year in high school I was President of our Cooperate Office Education Class and I attended Seton Hill College taking advanced classes that were not available at CHS. After graduation I attended the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM and a year later attended Arizona State University. My studies were always focused on Pediatrics and Native American Studies.

I first started working at the Gila River Tribal Courts in 2003 where I got to work with many wonderful judges and staff. My positions accelerated rapidly and I became one of the youngest Clerk Supervisors by 2008. My experience gave me the knowledge I needed to succeed in the legal fields. In 2013 I went on to other legal avenues as I could not climb the ladder any further in the Courts. From 2016 to 2022 I was a Paralegal III for the Protective Service Office where I continued my passion to help the Community. I was able to work alongside with the Gila River Police Department, Law Office, Defense Services, Four Rivers, Gila River Health Care and Tribal Social Services. Understanding and gaining knowledge from those entities had opened my eyes as to what the Court needs to do to have better outcomes for Community Members that come through the judicial system. I was elected as Associate Judge and took office in June of 2022 and if re-elected I would like to keep engaging with all the legal entities and tribal administration to learn how we, as Community leaders, can try and resolve certain issues within the judicial sys-

I have over 20 years of knowledge and experience. I have taken many courses and training programs from the National Judicial College to advance my knowledge as a Judge. I am constantly working hard for Our Community and always willing to do what is Right and Honest.

Therefore, I am asking for your vote to Reelect me as Associate Judge of the Gila River Indian Community. Thank you and God Bless.







LUCINDA M. NEZ

Greetings Akimel O'odham & Pee Posh,

LUCINDA M. NEZ Candidate for Associate Judge from the Village of Kwiva (Santa Cruz) District #6. I am married to Wilson Nez, Jr., my late parents, and grandparents: Lloyd Oliver, Pauline (Peters) Oliver; Maternal grandparents William Peters Sr., Ellen (Thomas) Peters; Paternal grandparents Howard Oliver, Ollie (Lee) Oliver. My late father and mother in-law: Wilson Nez, Sr., Marie (Sleuth) Nez.

South Mountain & Mesa Community College Judicial Studies

.Prior term served 12 years as Associate Judge.

•Tribal Court Bailiff under the leadership of the Honorable Chief Judge Dallas DeLowe-1991; Children's

Court Liaison under the leadership of the Honorable Jay Pedro Children's Court Judge-1992 to 1996.

Juvenile Probation Officer 6 years, 2 years as Juvenile Probation Officer/Supervisor, Gila River Indian

Community Court 1997 to 2002.

Former colleagues and under the leadership of the Late Chief Judge William R. Rhodes; Chief Judge(s)

Sheri L. Cassa, Annette J. Stewart, Victor Antone, Joseph Manuel, and Anthony J. Hill.

National Indian Justice Center, Native American Indian Court Judges Association, Juvenile Drug Court

Training, National Judicial College Reno Nevada, State

& Tribal Court Judges training, member of the Pascua Yaqui Bar Association (prior).

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court 2006 to 2008 Juvenile/Adult Probation Officer

under the leadership of the Late Juanita K. James, Honorable Chief Judge.

In the United States are Communities, Nations, Pueblos, Villages comprised of the Indigenous history and land base. TRIBAL COURT SOVEREIGNTY is principally important within Indian Country, the safety and welfare of its members. My ability and insight of our Tribal Court serves as an asset in respect and duty gained through employment, education, and training I have attained in 25 years. Due Process and the Rule of Law is paramount for all seeking the legal mechanism based on authority and conduct. My knowledge of Criminal, Civil, Traffic, Rules of Criminal Procedures of the Gila River Indian Community Code and Ordinances is comprehensive. The Court accepted and adopted into TLOA, Tribal Law and Order Act, the tribe's ability to exercise jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit crimes against American Indian and Alaska Native Women as well as enhanced sentencing. The Gila River Indian Community Court is a misdemeanor and felony Court which includes an Appellate, Children's and soon to be Adult Wellness Court. The application and utilization of the Rules of Evidence are in place (codified 2013). Currently I serve as a Judge Pro Tem when requested, and I am the Clerk of the Session for the Gila Crossing Presbyterian Church. In conclusion, I accept the encouragement to seek the Office of Associate Judge, if elected by the people I will honor your vote.

Thank you and God Bless all and the Candidates.



DARREN PEDRO-MARTINEZ

Dear Community Members,

My name is Darren Pedro-Martinez. I have lived in Sacaton for 16 years and worked for the Community for a little over 30 years now. I am a mother of five (5), a grandmother, an aunt, a niece and a wife. I have enjoyed living within the Community and I have always looked and found ways to be active within our Community and the District I reside in.

I have served/serve on the following: (Gila River Indian Community)

- District 3 Community Board (Chairwoman)
- Akimel O'odham/Pee Posh Youth Council Advisory Board (Chairwoman)
- District 3 Community Board (Secretary)
- Law Enforcement Citizen Advisory Board (Vice Chair/ Chairwoman)
- Casa Blanca Community School Board (Secretary)
- Suicide Gap Analysis Task Force (Member)
- Domestic Violence Task Force (Member)
- Gila River Fire Department Crisis Response Team (Member)

I have worked with the Community in the following:

- Land Use Planning & Zoning
- Department of Rehabilitation & Supervision
- Gila River Tribal Court

I am currently serving a term as an Associate Judge for the Community and have been very dedicated to my position. Now, that I have had the opportunity to gain experience though out my term, I would like to continue to serve as an Associate Judge.

I am very enthusiastic and eager to continue on this journey in serving you as an Associate Judge for the Gila River Indian Community, therefore, I am seeking your support and vote in the upcoming election.

Your Vote Matters.

Respectfully,

Darren Pedro-Martinez



LAWANDA PABLO

No article submitted.







GARREN MANUEL

GREETINGS,

My fellow Community members, my name is Garren Manuel, candidate for the Office of Associate Judge. I come from the District 2 Community of Sacaton Flats formerly known as Hashan Kehk. Born & raised in the Gila River Indian Community, I come with 22 years experience in the Probation Officer field in the Tribal Courts system. Enforcing the laws of Court supervision handed down to many of the people who come through our Criminal Justice system. In adult pretrial services, adult & juvenile probation services, diversion probation services. I have provided the Court with many recommendations in presentencing hearings, probation revocation proceedings and commutation of sentences. I believe the Judge must be consistent when it comes to alternative sentencing of defendants. The role of the probation officer is also a mentor in the redirection of defendants willing to seek change of their personal lives or for the benefit of their families. The role of the Judge comes with several basic tasks, to preside over proceedings and to see that order is maintained. Another is to determine whether any evidence presented in a proceeding is illegal or improper. And the Judge must advise a jury of their peers of the law that applies to the facts of a case or determine the facts and decide a case with Sentencing. It is vital that we have a confident and competent Judiciary in performing the proper functions of our Courts in Criminal proceedings, Civil matters and Traffic. The Gila River Indian Community Court was once considered the role model for Indian Country because the full operating functions of the Courts pertaining to each divisions of the laws. That recognition has come and gone once given to the Court but YOU the voters can give that recognition and require your elected Judges to know and carry out the duties of their office adequately.

My experience & training comes with many opportunities afforded to me in my career:

- Interim Deputy Chief Probation Officer-Gila River Indian Community Court
- Probation Officer Supervisor- Gila River Indian Community Court
- Probation Officer-Gila River Indian Community Court
- Probation Officer- Ak Chin Indian Community Court
- Process Officer- U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Services
- Alumni, U.S. Probation Officer Academy,
   District of Arizona,
   ALETA/COTA- Tucson, Arizona
- Alumni, Tribal Probation Officer Academy, Washington State Patrol District- Shelton, Washington

I humbly ask for your VOTE, in this years Election, and I will serve you well.



**GLORIA OSIFE** 

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself my name is Gloria Osife a tribal member. I reside in District 3 the capitol (Sacaton). My education consists of: High School graduate Phoenix Indian High School. I also attended Central Arizona College taking courses in criminal justice. I also attended the Blackwater FACE program with my 3 grandchildren, assisting them in their education and continuing my education at CAC.

This present time I'am retired, however I have the desire to get back into the legal arena. Prior to retiring I was employed with the Gila River Indian Community, employed with the Tribal Courts as a Court Clerk III. My expertise was in the Civil Department handling of civil documents filed, such as Child Support, Marriage and Divorce, Monies Owed, Torts, Gaming, Mental petitions etc., to name a few. I also prepared my Judgment orders by my minutes, recordings, etc. I've worked closely with all the elected judges, gaining my experience from them all. At this present time I serve on the District 3 Housing Committee as a member, advocating for district 3 community members in regards to housing issues. I also serve on the Elections Committee for District 3 an Elected Official. Assisting with the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Elections.

During the covid of February 22, 2020 my family was a victim in relation to the missing and murdered indigenous women. During this period of time I had questions about the law and still have the desire to research areas of the Federal Law, issues regarding indictments, status conferences when someone is held per indictment. There are issues regarding the history and probation status of the defendant(s). In part this is my decision to submit my declaration of candidacy for associate judge.

Quote: Tina Turner said she wasn't happy in her younger life, not until she got out of a bad relationship and moved on in her life. Her older life she says is a time to prepare for your ending life, but in older life she was happy and that's how I feel, there's more to life. We all encounter personal trials during our life time, but we learn from them and make the necessary corrections then move on. It's like the scale of law, we balance what comes before you then you render your decision. With all that was said please as a community member exercise your right to vote on September 19, 2023

Thank you, Gloria Osife





GWENDOLYN P. MORAGO

**Greetings Fellow Community Members!** 

My name is Gwendolyn P. Morago, a life-long resident of District 3, Sacaton. My parents are Bruce Morago and Fernanda Reams, paternal grandparents are Dallas Morago-Baht and Myra Wellington-Morago-Baht, maternal grandparents are Alfred 'Freddie' Reams-Baht and Peggy Milda Reams-Baht. My significant other Leo Harrison and I have a blended family of 8 children.

Upon my Associate Judge Declaration of Candidacy in the upcoming Election, my education, experience, and knowledge of interest in the Judicial Branch had begun in my commitment of Education in 2007 Majoring in Business Law/Criminal Justice at Chandler-Gilbert Community College with a pathway to Arizona State University.

Additionally, I have attained knowledge and understanding of our Sovereignty, the Codes and Ordinances of the Gila River Indian Community, and Tribal, State and Federal Laws.

My continued dedication and commitment in my education of two classes per semester to acquire/process knowledge, balancing life, employment and family has given me the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills in an Honest and Ethical manner in the Judicial System. I am an accountable and dependable individual who has compassionate Work Ethics for Our Community, Encourages Utilization of the Positive Resources our Community provides (i.e. Rehabilitation, Counseling, Services for Victims, Intervention and Treatment.)

I have attained knowledge in the areas of Functions of Judicial System, Court Room Procedures, Rules of Evidence, Discovery review, Sentencing, Corrections Functions, Police Functions, Victimization, Psychology/Mental ill offenders, that will assist me to ensure everyone is treated fairly and equally in the areas of Civil and Criminal Hearings, Gila River Indian Community's Codes and Ordinances.

Currently, I am employed as the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council Coordinator, I have been with the department since 2011 as the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council Secretary III. Positively impacting many youth, team worked, networked, built relationships with youth and families Reservation wide, planned and assisted youth throughout the Community in a positive aspect ensuring members adhered to the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures.

While seeking your support to serve our Community, utilize my knowledge and skills to help Protect the members and Enforce the Codes and Ordinances of the Gila River Indian Community, apply the necessary types of Restoration, Rehabilitation, Equality, Enforcing the Repetitive Offender sentencing to the best of my ability, for a safer regulated Community.

Vote Gwendolyn P. Morago for Associate Judge September 19, 2023.

"It's your choice that will make the difference in Justice."

Good luck to all candidates.

Respectfully, Gwendolyn P. Morago

# INTRODUCING... CANDIDATES FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR





DAVID ANDERSON

Hello everyone. My name is David Anderson, I reside in Hashan Kehk, District 2 with my wife Alison. We have eight children and many grandchildren. My parents are the Late Charles Anderson Sr. and Pricilla Pancott Anderson, from Sacaton, District 3. My maternal grandparents are the late Antonio (the "Colonel") and Jessie Porter Pancott.

I am a 20-year veteran of the US Army Special Forces with twenty plus years of experience in supervising, experience in crisis management, analysis, coordination, planning and problem solving on large-scale projects. I am a past (Sacaton) and currently a School Board Member of Blackwater Schools.

Education is an area I feel strongly about with educating our members for a stronger community. starting with early childhood development to give them a firm foundation which they can use from K-12 grades and go on to hire education or get into the workforce. And create an internship to college bound to get experience in their field of studies.

Housing is another area of concern, where the community is behind on their lists for people who are eligible to receive housing. I will look into the processes of moving housing forward to keep up with our growing community.

Economic Development is another area to revisit as far as missed opportunities or opportunity for bringing companies to the community for another source of income for the community and job creation.

These are a few areas that are at the center of our government. Things don't change overnight but I believe it's a step in the right direction to change the future for a stronger Community for its members.

I humbly seek your support and vote in running for Lieutenant Governor in the coming elections. If elected, I will work with the Governor, Tribal Council and Departments in current initiatives, short- and long-term community plans and make the necessary changes to sustain, protect our boundaries, natural resources and the sovereignty of the Gila River Indian Community.

Sincerely,

David Anderson



**REGINA ANTONE** 

Skeg Tash, my name is Regina Antone, from District Four Community. My parents are Betty Enos, from District five and my father is Donald Antone, Sr. from District Three Community. I am seeking your support to be the next elected Gila River Indian Community Lieutenant Governor.

As the Lieutenant Governor, I would assist in supporting and developing our tribal departments and entities to build and have the growth to carry us into the future. By working together with the Governor- elect. I have the ability to be a strong strategic planner and possess the organizational skills to complete any task or project with a solution. This allows me to have the leadership skills, to work together to build a strong foundation for this Community. We can always build bigger and better things needed for our Community but, if we do not have a strong, solid foundation to start with, then it's like building on sand and eventually it falls.

We need to invest in securing our Community's Development. We are a strong Community and have a wealth of resources and the opportunities to excel. We can start with implementing and bringing back mentorship programs and providing opportunities to bring our people back to the Community after they have completed their education. Ultimately this will result in creating entry level positions, to allow them to get the experience needed. So, we don't lose them to the outside areas when our Community finds it difficult to fill positions, to provide the services for our Community's needs. We need to create a streamlined process for all departments and businesses to work together to move matters that are needed forward swiftly. But also provide accountability and support as leadership to make this happen. Also, investing in our youth with after-school, programming skills and flexibility in work hours to allow parents to drive their children to school. I began working with our Community as a WIOA worker. Like so many, I was honored to have worked with all the dedicated employees and have seen all the challenges that our Community faces. This allowed me to obtain the knowledge & foresight by working for Employment & Training, Tribal Recreation & Wellness, Community Service Departments & programs, Department of Community Housing & at the Council level. I enjoy continually volunteering in our community and church events. I understand the many needs and have experienced firsthand the struggles our Community, the employees, our Urban members, and our tribal businesses have had to endure every day. I ask for your vote for the future of our Community to unite as One.

I will serve all from:

- · Veterans to Employees
- · Grassroots to Urban members
- · Youth to Elders
- · Faith-based to LGBTQ



DEVIN REDBIRD

No article submitted.

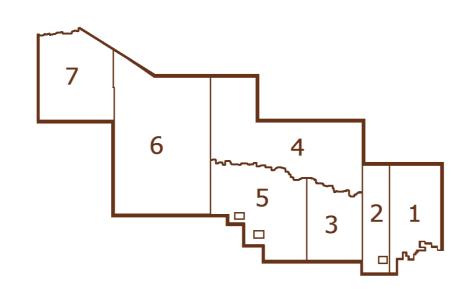
Tribal Elections would like to thank Roberto, Gina & CPAO staff for all the candidate photos.

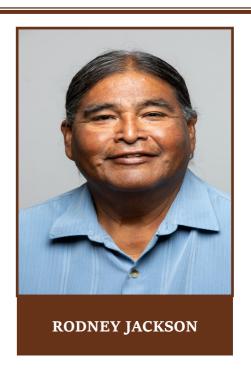


## CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR









VOTE Joseph Manuel GOVERNOR AUTHUM YOK'

Scuk Tash! I am from Gu u Ki' Sacaton. My parents & grandparents were all from Sacaton. I am Full Blood Authum. I sat on Council D3 Rep 1981 - 1986. I was Lt. Governor 2009-2011. I've served as Judge in various communities for 7 years. I have been Community Manager. Was TERO Director 23 years. I've served on WHPDA, GRTI, GRICUA, Law Enforcement Commission, Insurance Trust, Investment, Chair of AZ Indian Gaming Association, Secretary Intertribal Council of AZ, Chairman CTER. I have a Bachelor of Science Business Management & Master's in Business Administration Degree. I have been in Sobriety over 40 years. I am married & have 4 boys.

The following is my platform of issues, projects, & plans that I will work on & implement in Office

- All Members are created equal
- 3 Separate & Equal Branches of Government
- Term Limits on Elected Officials
- Implement Constitutional Reapportionment- Equal Representation for All
- Members Residing Off Reservation need to be allowed to run for Office
- Members Residing Off Reservation & OWN homes need to be serviced by Districts for major appliances
- Gaming Per Capita needs to increase to 25% (from 11%)
- Need for GRNN (GR Native News) Radio (Emergency Response)
- Quarterly Town Hall Meetings. oodham can speak with Free will
- Water Issue We have qualified Members to administer water rights!
- Let them direct & lead Need Employee re-classification & Merit Increases
- We have Governance, Business, & Labor: But Private Indian Businessman's dollar is missing in Our economy
- Emphasis on Culture, Education, & Health Care
- Housing We built 495 houses as Lt. Governor: Need for more.
- Need for Personal Water Wells for Members
- GRFarms gives lemons, grate fruit, & oranges in winter. Need for watermelon & corn in summer

Elected Officials have become too complacent being satisfied with where their at & no plans for good social change. Change is inevitable. I call upon all my Hajun in Districts 1-7. With wise wisdom & direction from our Creator, together we can set the example for our generation & generations to come. NASAPO.

Joseph Manuel 520-610-3291 eagleheartofaz@gmail.com Hello, my name is Rodney Jackson. I am a lifelong resident of District 3 – Sacaton. I have been married to my wife-Enez for twenty-one years. We have five children; Kristan, Arthur, David, Rheanna and my late son Ryan.

Currently I am retired after twenty-seven years working within the Gila River Indian Community where I had served in several different capacities such as a Juvenile Detention Officer, Youth Home Counselor, Land Surveyor. Most recently I was the District Three Council Representative, for which I served fifteen years. I also own a Landscaping business for the last twenty-five years.

Serving on the Gila River Indian Community Council has afforded me the opportunity to see areas of concern that continue to be an issue by many of the community members. These topics of concern mainly center around; accountability, communication and transparency. These areas can be addressed by strong leadership that will work for the people. Accountability and communication should not only fall within the Government functions, but on all members of the community to enhance the livelihood of all. By working together our youth and children of our future will benefit from the decisions made by a transparent Administration.

This short biography may not be what you expect of someone running for the position of Governor, I would like to encourage you to attend your District candidate forms when they are scheduled, so that you can ask me questions that are most important to you. I am down to earth, I am upfront and dependable, I am a hard worker and will do my best to earn your trust and vote.

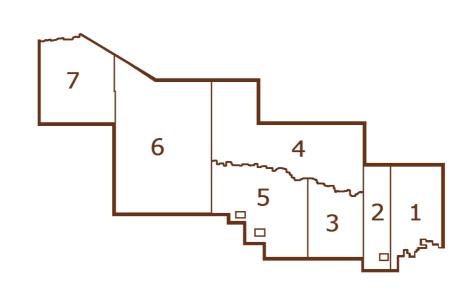
A question to ask yourself as a voter – Do you prefer the status-quo or, would you like to seek a new direction? It will be your decision. With that said. Respectfully, I am seeking your support for the position to proudly serve as your Governor. Please go out Vote in the upcoming Primary Elections on September 19, 2023.



## CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR









My name is Stephen Roe Lewis and I am running for Governor of the Gila River Indian Community.

I am from D3-Gu-u-ki Sacaton. My parents are Rod Lewis-baht and

Willardene Pratt Lewis of Sacaton.

My son is Daniel Lewis.

I am running for Governor because we are living in challenging times that threaten our Jeved (land), our Shudag (water), our Families, our Sovereignty, our Future, and our very existence as O'otham and Pee Posh.

Serving as your Governor has given me the experience, skills, and insight necessary to meet these challenges head-on to protect our Community.

I assured you that I would never stop fighting for our Community or for our right to a seat at the table and a meaningful voice when decisions are made about the welfare and future of our Community, and as your Governor I never have.

I have fought and advocated for education for our children, services for our veterans, funding for our roads and infrastructure, protection for our precious Shudag, and innovative ways to conserve our water including the MAR 5 and now the solar over canal project (the first of its kind in the western hemisphere) that will protect against water loss and provide energy to the Community.

While I have been in office 3 new schools have been built: Gila Crossing Community School, Casa Blanca Community School, and Blackwater Community School. We also opened a new Veterans Affairs Office and a new Service Center in D3. We are in the process of completing construction on our new Police Department building, and are about to launch construction of a new Public Safety building in D4. And, if elected, we will push forward with more new buildings to serve our People using this innovative financing model that I helped to develop, which forces the federal government to live up to its trust responsibility to us and to all of Indian country.

The mega-drought we are facing is another difficult challenge, and I have successfully defended against all efforts from those who would take our Water, allowing us to fund half of cost of our expanding housing program through our Water Fund.

We have ongoing needs in our Community. And the fight never ends. We must constantly be prepared with experienced, competent, and hard working leadership.

In the face of these challenges, it is important for our leadership to work together respectfully for the good of all our People. All we have been able to accomplish over the years, I have done in this way and if elected again as your Governor, I will continue to Put the People First! Sapo!

My name is Monica Antone and I am honored to present myself as a candidate for Governor. I have a desire to continue working on priority projects that impact housing and improvements to infrastructure. To be clear-cut accomplishing any topic will take a dedicated team that will work for the people. As Lt. Governor, I stressed the need for a Compliance/Project Mngr who can evaluate services with feedback. Communication is key not only to employees but to the Community as a whole. With digital divide now in play there is effective ways to get key information out. There will always be challenges. During COVID-19 we faced a huge electrical outage. In D6 the elder complex had experienced an outage as well. I made myself accessible to families trapped in homes and saw that media outlets was a form of communication to keep the people updated. These where challenges, however I stayed steadfast and showed up on the ground to support the people during these challenging times. Keeping you informed is crucial. I continue to advocate for Healthcare & Mental health needs.

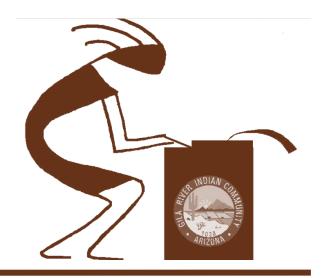
My background consists working for PIMC as a Medical Asst, coordinating healthcare. I interned for the late Mary V. Thomas, (ba'at) her strength, compassion & care for the people has driven me. I have dedicated 26 years of service for GRIC in various management positions; Dept. of Corrections, D4 Asst. Coordinator, Project Manager Housing & Land Use Planning; developing working relationships with the BIA officials to retrieve right-of-ways & utility corridors. Every position required budgetary skills, strategic planning & identifying gaps in services.

In 2020, I received my Bachelors in Government & Public Policy Affairs-Grand Canyon University. During this time I was re-elected as a Council Rep D4. serving 11 years in public service. Education is vital pursuing it is a dream.

My passion is to work with AZ State Governor on the MMIWP task force and fight the inequities of the Sober living homes crisis. I am proud to be part of her team. I serve as a Board member for Phx-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority.

I am married to Victor Antone, I have 6 children, 14 grandchildren & one more on the way. My grandparents are the late Edison & Agnes Allison. My father the late Edward Allison. My mother Lupe continues to encourage me.

A call for action to VOTE for the candidate that will take us forward as there is much work to be done. Thank you for giving me the support as Lt. Governor. Humbly with Gods grace, I am ready to take the next journey in the role as Governor. I appreciate your support & prayers for all candidates in this upcoming election.



### INTRODUCING... GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CHIEF JUDGE **CANDIDATE**





ANTHONY J. HILL

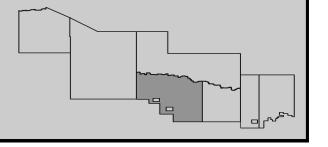
The Community and our justice system face great challenges. There are too many repeat offenders. Probation must work to hold people accountable. Many people are in the grip of alcohol and drug addition or in an endless cycle of domestic violence. Parents are not taking responsibility for their children. The Community Court has the responsibility to face these issues and I have heard your voices and concerns.

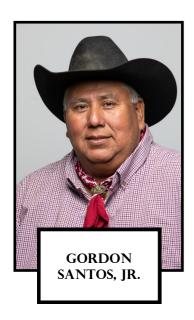
The Court is developing an adult drug court and domestic violence court to address the largest problems in our Community. By addressing these issues through treatment, we hope to end addiction and violence in our families. A guardian ad litem program will soon represent children in the Court system by giving them a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. A new juvenile court program allows probation officers to serve a resource centers in the Community's schools. The Court has worked with other departments to support laws that crackdown on firearms and stop the senseless gun violence that plagues our Community. Our justice system needs a new approach to felony crimes and violent offenses that require harsher penalties and giving victims a voice. The Court is starting a program to make sure crime victims receive the restitution they deserve without waiting years. A new jury system will make the process easier with less paperwork and less useless trips to the courthouse.

These innovations are not the work of one person, rather they represent the tremendous efforts of the Court staff. The dedicated employees of the Gila River Indian Community Court recognize their role in the justice system and their responsibility to serve the Community. Our Court has much work to do and there are many areas for improvement, but the staff and I remain committed to ensuring justice for all.

My education and work history gives me unique experience. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Classic Studies from the University of Arizona and a law degree from Arizona State University. I served with the Arizona State Land Department and Department of Economic Security. I am from Co-Op Village and have served the Community on various boards and committees. I thank the people of Gila River for allowing me to serve as an Associate Judge and now Chief Judge. I have tried to lead the Court recognizing the challenges the Community faces with a vision for the future. Thank you for allowing me to serve you over the years and thank you for your support.

## **INTRODUCING** DISTRICT FIVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL **CANDIDATES**





No article submitted.

I Melinda Boehme am running to be one of the candidates for District 5, some of you might know me as Mrs. Bubba. I would like the communities support of hopefully being your new District 5 council member. I will try to help the best that I can. I believe in family values and that we should do what we can to help those that need it. For example like doing what we can for are elders, are youth, and those in between who need a helping hand. Thank you





Greetings, I am Verna M. Sunna, a lifelong resident of District 5 residing ture, Housing Advisory, and Tribal Elections Board as District 5 Judge ra (Davis) Sunna.

As a candidate for the District 5 Council Representative my platform is based on working not for the people, but with the people of my District and the Community as a whole. By listening to my fellow Community Member of District 5, I have learned what's important to them and how they envision the future. My main goal is to be the people's communication channel to bring their voice to the table of the Community. The Community faces many challenges such as Health Care, Public Safety, Economic Development, Gaming, Water Rights, Farming, and Housing, these are just a few to mention. These concerns will always affect the Community in many ways as economic growth expands throughout GRIC. I will keep the communication open, being transparent, call for accountability, and keep my District 5 informed and involved.

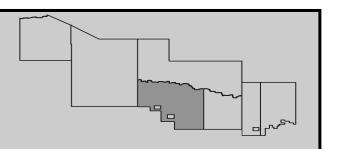
I feel I can be the voice of the people; I've been involved with my District 5 Community for the past 10 years. I've sat on committees, C-TERC (Chemical Tribal Emergency Response Commission), Agricul-

in the Vah-Ki. I am the proud daughter of Vernon and Gloria Sunna. My position. I am currently employed for District 5 Service Center as the martial grandparents are the late Herman Williams and Grace (Juan) Bookkeeper. In 2007 I was an Accounts Manager, promoted to Project Williams. My partial grandparents are the late Iver E. Sunna Sr. and Flo-Manager in 2011 for District 5 Service Center. Contained my employment at District 6 as an Assistant Coordinator for another 3 years in 2015. Then in 2020 became employed at the Community Council Secretary's Office as a Standing Committee Assistant.

> With the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout the year of my employment and being involved with my Community I feel I can bring your voice to the table. As a candidate for District 5 Council Representative, I would like to take this opportunity to seek your support. I believe I am the person who will proudly represent District 5 and GRIC. I humbly Thank you for your time and hope you will exercise you Right to Vote. Good Luck to all the Candidates.

Respectfully. Verna M. Sunna

# INTRODUCING DISTRICT FIVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES (con't)





I've always been taught that leadership is the outcome of initiative, and unselfishly putting others before yourself. Leadership is not an opportunity to validate yourself with a glorified title. Leadership is a decision you choose to live day in and day out by continuously showing up with the mentality to make your community better. It is because of that mentality I've been able to develop genuine relationships within our community with members who share a common goal and whom I have a deep appreciation. Working with Agricultural, Housing, Recreation, Elders, Community Services and Executive representation has been both rewarding and inspiring. Whether it's finding productive ways to assist our farmers, promoting our community garden, strengthening relationships with tribal educators, advocating for road maintenance, or supporting subdivision development.

Advocating for the needs and concerns of our district is always at the forefront of my dedication to service. And the reason I continue to show up.



## ABSENTEE VOTING INFO

## Absentee Voting available: August 16 - September 18, 2023

All Districts will provide a polling site. If you requested an absentee ballot through the mail, but couldn't mail it back in time. You can drop it off at a polling site nearest to you. Inform the Election Judge you are dropping off your absentee ballot; they will sign off on it and drop it in a box to be counted at the end of the election day.

If you plan to ask your District Judge for assistance, do not request an absentee ballot through the mail. The Judges will have absentee ballots on hand.

You can either call the Tribal Elections office or your District Judge to assist you in voting by absentee.

DISTRICT #1 Election Judge - Valentina Moreno, 520-517-2142

DISTRICT #2 Election Judge - Francisco Osife, 520-610-5422

DISTRICT #3 Election Judge - Olena Hutchinson, 480-217-6285

DISTRICT #4 Election Judge - LaQuinta Allison, 520-993-0940

DISTRICT #5 Election Judge - Veronica Rivers, 480-593-4211

DISTRICT #6 Election Judge - Lorina Allison, (480) 404-5184

DISTRICT #7 Election Judge - Leah Parra, 480-204-1176

Tribal Elections Office - (520) 562-9735 or (520) 562-9758

