



District 2 Candidates



Jewel Whitman

DISTRICT 2 - HASHAN KEHK

My name is Jewel Whitman and have been a resident of District 2 , Hashen Kehk for 20+ years. I am the son of Dayton and Jeanette Whitman and the Grandson of Leonard and Ina Whitman, A.P. Luna, Iva Luna and Matlida Luna. My interest in running for Council Representative stems out of concern for the future and longevity of our Gila River Indian Community. I have previously served four(4) terms, over a 12 year period, on Council and have witnessed our Community Council's transparency slowly fade since that time, as we continue to grapple with economical, health and social ills in our Districts and Community as a whole.

Now, more than ever, we need to be proactive and keep our Community members informed in our approach to what is going on with the Federal Government's Executive Orders and how it affects our funding sources for programs such as our schools, healthcare, public safety and cultural language programs, just to name a few. I am fluent O'odham speaker and feel our O'odham language, culture and traditions should have more of a presence and influence in our decision making process, keeping in mind our "himdug", as it was meant to be. Too often it appears that we get caught up in western colonial standards of practice for our government that don't necessarily align with our traditional ways of life. As your Council Representative, I believe we need to get back to taking care of our members first and foremost and it is my responsibility to represent you, your interests and concerns with care, respect, open dialogue and more importantly, follow up.

Some of the immediate concerns I'd like to address is the violence that has taken over our Community by enacting laws and ordinances to be imposed and adhered to; addressing the needs and deficiencies in our tribal departments, enterprises and entities; assisting and addressing our homeless members; lack of housing and efficient, sustainable processes of building; addressing generational trauma and its effects on our members; supporting our Urban members and their needs; looking at alternative measures at addressing our diabetes epidemic and working collectively with all Council Representatives to get back to the true roles and responsibilities of Council to reestablish to our Legislative Branch.

Along with the institutional knowledge I carry from past Council experience , I also bring business management experience having served on the Wild Horse Pass Development Authority Board of Directors and currently on the Sand & Gravel Board of Directors, both for a period of six (6) years, twelve (12) collectively. I understand the distinction between government and business. The technical experience of qualified board members is imperative to continuing to build our revenue for our Community and the benefit of ALL community members.

Thank You for taking the time to read my point of view and I look forward to discussing further during my campaign. Your favorable consideration is appreciated, as well as, your vote of confidence as your District 2 Council Representative.

2025 Community Council Election - Tuesday, May 6, 2025