



# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

## TRIBAL ELECTION EDITION

# ELECTION GUIDE

**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 15, 2026**

Brought to you by:

**The Tribal Elections Program and The Communications & Public Affairs Office**

### GOVERNOR CANDIDATES

Regina Antone  
Stephen Roe Lewis  
Joseph Manuel, Jr.  
Monica Antone

### LT. GOVERNOR CANDIDATES

Franklin Pablo, Sr.  
Brian E. Davis, Sr.  
Amanda Mitchell  
Miguel Valencia  
James De La Rosa  
Jewel Whitman

### CHIEF JUDGE CANDIDATES

Brianna L. Rhodes  
Anthony James Hill

### ASSOCIATE JUDGE CANDIDATES

Darren Pedro-Martinez  
Lorina Allison  
Christina D. Rodriguez  
LaQuinta Allison  
Salvador De Luca  
Kyle Hill  
Charles W. Aragon

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**DRIVE THRU  
VOTING  
AVAILABLE  
AT EACH  
POLLING SITE**

PLEASE HAVE ID READY  
PROCEED WITH CAUTION IN THE  
DRIVE THRU AREA  
BE CAUTIOUS OF ELECTION  
OFFICIALS IN DRIVE THRU AREA  
YOUR PATIENCE  
IS APPRECIATED  
PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THE  
VOTING AREA UNTIL AN  
ELECTION OFFICIAL CONFIRMS  
YOUR BALLOT HAS  
BEEN ACCEPTED



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
2026 PRIMARY ELECTION  
**September 15, 2026**

**TRIBAL ELECTIONS PROGRAM**  
P.O. Box 2204 • Sacaton, AZ 85147  
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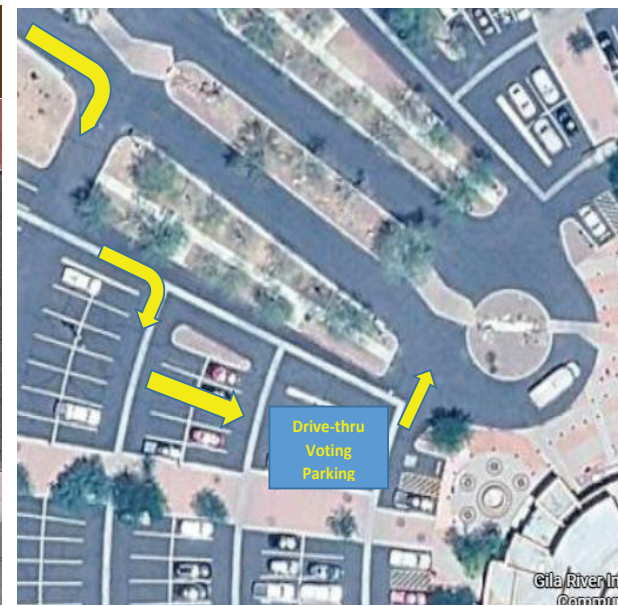
**District 1: Multipurpose Building**  
15747 N. Shegoi Road BLACKWATER



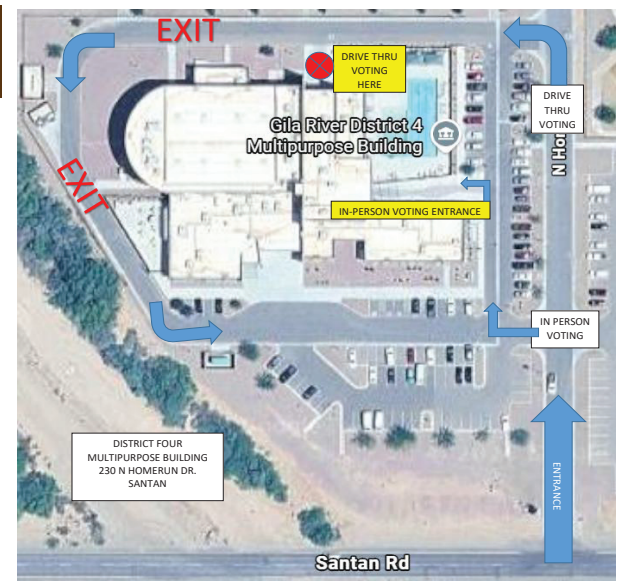
**District 2: Event Center**  
9257 W. Sacaton Flats Road



**District 3: Governance Center**  
525 W. Gu u Ki', Sacaton CCSO Wing



**District 4: Multipurpose Building**  
2230 N. Homerun Dr. SANTAN

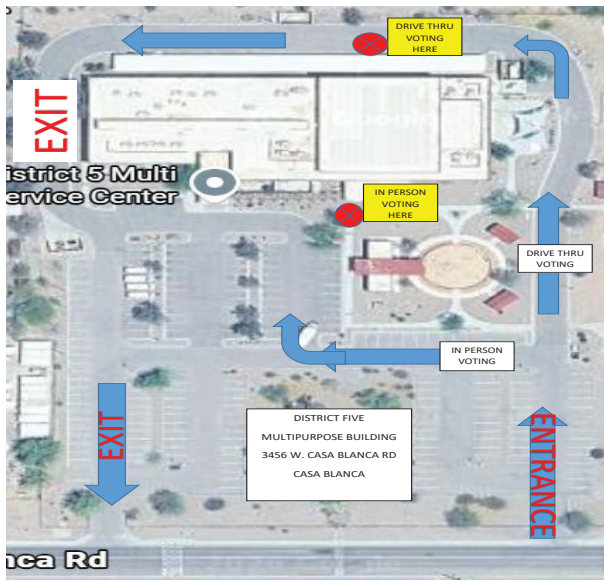




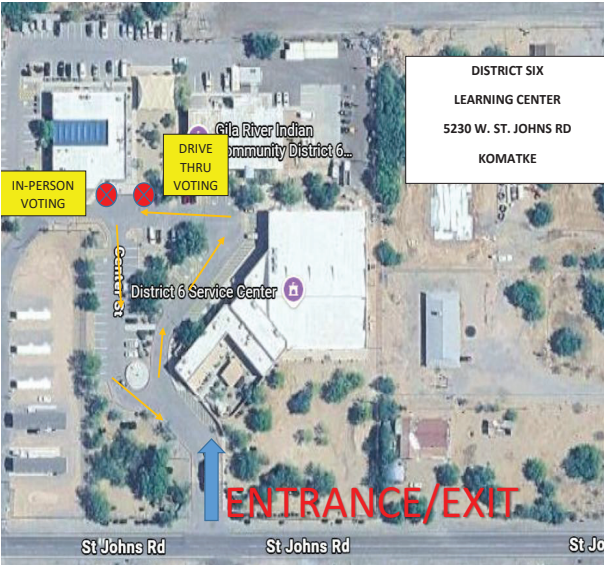
POLLING SITE LOCATIONS: DISTRICT 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

ALL POLLING SITES OPEN 6A.M. – 6P.M.

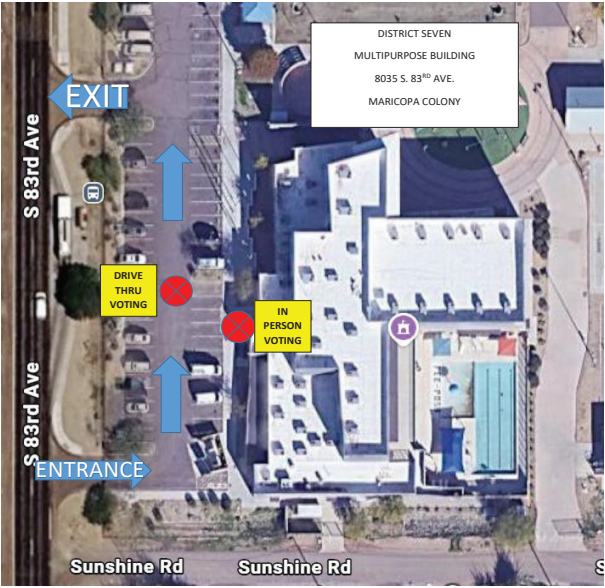
District 5: Multipurpose Building  
3456 Casa Blanca Road. CASA BLANCA



District 6: Learning Center  
5230 W. St. Johns Road KOMATKE



District 7 Multipurpose Building  
8201 S. 83rd Ave. MARICOPA COLONY



SEPTEMBER 15  
VOTE



# GOVERNOR CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



Regina Antone

Blessings to you,

My name is Regina Antone, and I respectfully ask for your trust and support in my candidacy for Governor of the Gila River Indian Community.

My lineage is in District 5; I was raised in Districts 3 and 4, and I have a large family with roots throughout all districts. I am the daughter of former Governor Donald Antone Sr. and Betty Enos, a mother of three, and a grandmother to eleven amazing grandchildren. It's been a privilege to serve our people as Lieutenant Governor of the Gila River Indian Community.

My journey has included nearly four decades of professional and public service experience. These experiences have allowed me to work directly with our people, hear their concerns, and better understand the responsibility of leadership by advocating at the state, federal, and tribal levels for the needs of our people.

I believe our Community has the strength to honor our traditions while creating new opportunities for the generations that will follow us. Our ancestors laid a strong foundation through leadership, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication. It is now our responsibility to carry that legacy forward.

As Governor, I will promote open

and accountable government through clear communication, responsible financial stewardship, respectful collaboration, and measurable follow-through. Trust is earned through honesty, transparency, and keeping our commitments.

I will continue to advocate at the highest level for improved access to healthcare, behavioral health services, education, housing, and programs that support our Elders, veterans, families, and youth. Community members should know where to turn for assistance, receive clear information, and be treated with dignity and respect.

The future of our Community rests with our youth. We must uplift the next generation of leaders through mentorship, scholarships, leadership development, vocational training, and career pathways so they can build futures within the Community and sit in these roles.

I support responsible economic development that diversifies our economy, strengthens our workforce, and creates sustainable opportunities. Strategic partnerships must generate long-term value while protecting our cultural values, land, water, and natural resources.

Agriculture is deeply connected to our history, culture, land, water, and future. Tribal government can better

support our farmers. Together, we can strengthen agricultural infrastructure, improve coordination, protect our water and natural resources, and create opportunities for youth to learn from experienced farmers.

Leadership is about listening before acting. Meaningful progress happens when we combine our skills, cultural knowledge, and commitment to one another. True leadership is not carried by one person. It grows from many voices coming together and guiding our path forward. All of these efforts will help secure resources and ensure a strong future for our people. We must ensure that our Community has a meaningful voice and our priorities remain centered in every policy, partnership, and investment we pursue together.

I will continue to serve with a humble heart, protect what has been entrusted to us, and work alongside the people of the Gila River Indian Community. I ask for your vote for Regina Antone for Governor.



Stephen Roe Lewis

I am Stephen Roe Lewis from District 3 Sacaton.

It has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as your Governor as we have gone through some of the most challenging times in the history of our tribe. Today, we continue to face unprecedented challenges to our tribe and our future. More significant than we have ever faced — from our sacred shudag(water), to preserving our economic opportunities, to encroachments on our sovereignty. Over the course of the past 12 years together we have accomplished so much, and today we see much of that progress is in jeopardy. I humbly ask that we continue this journey together so we can meet these current challenges. So, I am respectfully seeking your vote to continue to serve as Governor of the Gila River Indian Community — your Governor.

With each obstacle, from drought to COVID, we have worked to find the right path forward. And we have had great success. We can rightfully be proud of what we have accomplished. Our new schools for our children, our

new police department and public safety building to enhance our safety, our fight for our missing and endangered, and our success in protecting our water and developing our water systems. This is our legacy together.

Yet, despite all this progress, we remain in unprecedented times that require experience, leadership, and listening. The Colorado River drought alone is a once-in-a-century challenge. We have made great progress in our fight to protect our rights, but our work is far from done. The same is true for our gaming, with internet gaming and prediction markets challenging the very source of our prosperity. Without steady, experienced stewardship, we risk losing the greatest gains of our sovereignty and self-determination.

This is not a job where you can succeed alone. Through each challenge, through each achievement — it has been your strength, your vision, your stories of our ancestors — that have inspired me and sustained me. Through this, I have endeavored to represent the Community to the best of my abilities, knowing the strength of

the Community was with me.

This election comes down to four key principles:

1. Strong, Effective, Proven Leadership;
2. Leadership that is guided by our People and for our People. For our youth, our elders, our families, our Veterans, and all of our relatives residing both on the Reservation and in our urban centers;
3. Facing the fights head-on and providing consistent and stable leadership based on experience; and
4. Leadership that honors our PAST, understands our PRESENT needs, and makes decisions for our FUTURE.

It has been the honor to serve as your Governor. I feel our work together is not done. That is why I humbly ask for your vote to be re-elected as your Governor with the commitment that I will dedicate myself to bringing my experience and unwavering dedication to our Community to each day in office.





Joseph Manuel, Jr.

Shapai masma. My name is Joseph Manuel Jr. My parents are Joe Manuel and Nadine Manuel. I am honored to serve as one of two District 3 representatives on the Community Council. The most important reason I am running for Governor is that I feel a powerful calling to serve the people. For me, genuine public service effectively addresses the various needs of our Community. In order to achieve that, there must be careful thought behind every decision. Many don't have the opportunity to hear the discussions at the numerous meetings Council Representatives attend, but those who have seen me in action can attest to my ability to articulate and engage in critical thinking in a professional manner.

Many people mention that I bring unique and effective solutions to the table. For example, when I sat on Natural Resources Standing Committee, I suggested that the Community establish a realty office. The realty office would administer things like probate and allotted lands to better serve our Community Members and exercise our tribal sovereignty. Although the discussion had been brought up years ago, GRIC was not ready to take on such a substantial endeavor at that time.

It was March 2025 when the shift in the US Presidential Administration made me realize that it was finally time to start our own realty office. Even before the federal budget cuts started happening, I foresaw the difficulties we are currently experiencing due to decreased allocated resources to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). These decreases lead to staffing shortages that are increasing the time it takes for BIA to service our members. BIA simply does not have adequate staffing numbers to finish the laundry list of probates that was already too long to begin with. Thankfully, Community Council decided to start looking into a realty office as a result of my efforts. Although it will take many years and substantial funding, the Community is well on its way to effectively helping its members as well as exercising its sovereignty.

In my experience, it is extremely rare for a single Council Representative to put an item, that they initiate by themselves, through a Standing Committee and get the item passed at the following Council Meeting. I accomplished that within my first term. It is not my intention to boast, rather, to give you a real example of my effectiveness, foresight, and unshakable will to help the people.

Throughout my first and current terms on Council, I have shown steadfast consistency making decisions in the best interest of the people, especially when those decisions are not in my own best interest. I place the needs of the people above my own without question. Many times, I have sacrificed my own reputation to do what is ethical. That is the key difference between a public servant and a politician; self-sacrifice for the greater good of all.

I am a servant of all that is sacred and holy, and I will continue to serve wherever I am called.



Monica Antone

Skeg Sialig, my name is Monica Antone, and I am running for Governor. My name is Monica. My grandparents were the late Edison Allison, Coast Guard, & Agnes Antone (Ba at) Upper Santan in District Four. My father is Edward Allison (ba at) 82nd Airborne. My mother is Lupe Hernandez. I respectfully want to honor all Veterans serving and those who have served our Country, as we go through difficult times.

I am not new to the Tribal government landscape, serving as a two-term Lt. Governor with determination and, most importantly, experience. As I left office, I never put the baton down. I continued work at AZ State Housing to present culture and funding to the State. I advocated on the AZ Advisory Council Healthcare and provided impacts to Indigenous communities. Lastly, I submitted my final recommendations to the AZ State MMIWP task force, via the governor's executive order.

I am a proud graduate of U of A, with an MPS in Indigenous Peoples Law and certifications in Family Advocacy Law and Environmental

Law. I use this experience to help families when they need impact statements for judicial proceedings or guardianship. Following the GRIC Tribal Codes.

If elected Governor, my 1st point of order would be to start with a Governor's plan and evaluation of departments and services to the people and provide a timeline. That means bringing a structured plan for key areas that lack services, developing a compliance team. Balance the community's needs as we continue to see conflict-of-interest factions. Identify a data-sharing website that includes an emergency response plan. I learned this while navigating a major power outage in 2020. The key need is to bring the tribe back to stability

Work with schools to help children understand the need for cultural preservation, support language, and establish classes on water preservation and conservation. While addressing self-governance topics such as BIA concerns for homesite land development and revisiting with the council the need for a Tribal realty department.

In 1997, I came from IHS as an intern within the Executive Office. I came at a time when the tribe became 638 self-sufficient and provided financial budget implementation to Law Enforcement. It was the best thing to see BIA officers become Tribal as we developed payroll. I witnessed the hospital GRHC become the next milestone for healthcare. In 2018, I worked with the Law Office and helped to strategize and implement the VAWA enactment, providing Federal testimony to the Department of Justice. Mental Health and Recovery programs are very important, and we partner with support services for people who are not strong enough to advocate for themselves.

I continue to stay active in my district on the Executive Board, C-terc and Housing Advisory Committee. I never put the baton down. Our community has a lot of work to complete together. But we need a strong person with a vision and a blueprint.

I humbly ask for your prayers & support to Elect Monica Antone for the 2026 Governor! Sapo



# LT. GOVERNOR CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



Franklin Pablo, Sr.

My name is Franklin Pablo Sr. I come from District Five Village of Vah-Ki. My father was the late Chester Pablo, and my mother was the late Wanda Pablo. My first language was our Pima language, so I speak and understand it fluently.

I was born at IHS, Sacaton Hospital. While in grade school I attended Casa Blanca Day School and Pima Central School. I then attended Casa Grande Union High School where I graduated.

During my sophomore year of High School, I decided to sign up and join the Military. I signed up with the United States Navy in the delayed entry program. Upon completing High School I started in San Diego, California to begin serving in the Navy.

I completed my Military career by retiring in 1995. I decided to return home to Gila River and started my employment with the Community. I worked in various positions serving the Community for the next 26 years.

I have encountered the wrongdoing in the tribal system. With it being a two-fold administrative non accountability of Directors' and Executive Level.

Tribal Bureaucracy has been created to provide a check and balance system by upper-level management. It has created CHAOS in the decision-making process. Almost like saying DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO. The proper protocol in Policy Procedures and Ordances is not being followed. Council approved for our Tribal Directors and for all employees to ADHERE by.

Teamwork, unity, and strong work ethics, is a must for us to work for a common cause to reduce the amount of time fighting amongst ourselves. Happy employees make productive workers and positive workplace environment.

The future of our younger generation lies in the hands of parents, grandparents and our Community. I say this being Gila River Indian Community is a Sovereign

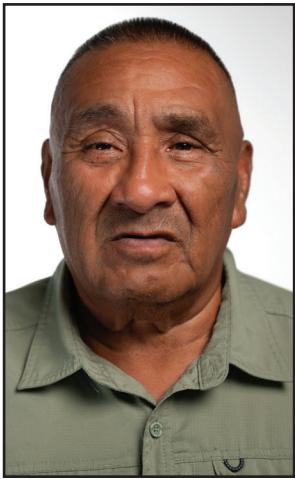
Nation. Our way of life being our water, boundaries, language and culture, to sustain our self-governance.

Look around at our Veterans prior and to those who are serving now. Remember those who have given their lives to be away from home and family to protect our Country but most of all our community. Please let us not forget those who did not return home.

A veteran's level of success is determined by their level of discipline and PERSEVERANCE. Our Community is a great result of this from our past Leaders and Elders to where we are today.

We are at a crucial time under the Trump Administration. We must work together for our Gila River Indian Community to Prosper.

I am asking for your support in helping me in my endeavor to be your Lt. Governor.



Brian E. Davis Sr.

My name is Brian E. Davis Sr., I am a candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor for the Gila River Indian Community, I humbly ask for your vote! I was raised in District 5, Casa Blanca, where I still reside with my family. My parents are the late Brenda (Gibson) Mendoza and Joseph Mendoza Jr. My maternal grandparents are the late Myra (Davis) Darrell and Harold Darrell. I have many years of work experience within the community: Represented District 5 as a Councilman for 11 years. Gila River Police Department, possess a background

of 10 years in Law Enforcement. Gila River Farms and BIA, I have an extensive background with Agriculture, Water and Irrigation Systems. Gila River Headstart. Gila River Casinos- Security (Employee & Management). I have also served on many committees for the community: Natural Resources Committee, Economic Standing Committee, Legislative Board, Gila River Farms Board, Litigation Committee (for water and other issues concerning the community), SWIAA-Southwest Indian Agriculture Association, Gila River Development Board, Gila

River Casinos Interim Board. I am ready to serve you, THE PEOPLE, as your Lieutenant Governor and continue making and being a part of the changes for our community.

“Our Community is as strong as it's Members”



Amanda Mitchell

My name is Amanda Mitchell, and I am a candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

I'm from Vah-Ki. My mother is Leslie Mitchell, my grandmother is Patricia Lewis, and my great-grandparents are Luke Lewis of Vah-Ki and Regina Enos of Komatke.

I bring over 10 years of experience working within our tribal government, including the Community Manager's Office, Tribal Social Services, and the Office of the General Counsel. Today, I am an entrepreneur and tribal governance consultant. I hold master's degrees in Public Administration and American Indian Studies Tribal Leadership and Governance. I also serve our Community through the District 5 Executive Board and the Chemical-Tribal Emergency Response Commission.

I see an opportunity to bring greater direction and long-term planning to how we govern. We must prepare for where our Community is going by building the people, systems, and capacity to get us there. My priorities focus on strategic government and operations, workforce and economic development, Community wellness, and responsive, people-centered services.

Strategic Government & Operations: We need greater continuity between planning, decisions, and implementation.

I will focus on clear priorities, aligning departments, identifying operational barriers, assigning responsibility, and measuring progress. Housing is one example: we have homes awaiting repair, but not enough workers to complete the work. Addressing housing instability also requires addressing workforce capacity. This is how I will approach our major priorities: identify what prevents progress, address gaps in capacity, and align government around a plan for moving forward.

Workforce & Economic Development: We need to plan for the workforce our Community will require in the years ahead. That means identifying retirement trends, staffing shortages, hard-to-fill positions, and skills we risk losing, then building pipelines before those gaps become crises. Education, training, apprenticeships, mentorship, and career pathways should connect to the needs of our government, enterprises, and Community. We must also create opportunities for Community entrepreneurs and businesses to grow and contribute to our economy.

Community Wellness: Mental health, substance use, domestic violence, incarceration, and family instability are interconnected, and our response should reflect that. I aim to build a coordinated approach to wellness that supports the

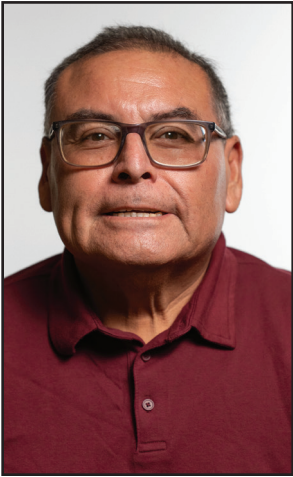
whole person, from prevention and early intervention through healing and long-term support. By bringing together government programs, cultural practices, Community-based resources, and local wellness entrepreneurs, we can create stronger pathways toward sustained wellness for individuals, families, and our Community.

Responsive & Community-Centered Services: Public service should feel like service. Community members should not encounter more barriers than help. We need clear service expectations, employees equipped to navigate systems, better coordination across departments, and Community feedback that drives improvement. How we serve and treat Community members matters.

As Lieutenant Governor, I will support the Governor in advancing our Community's interests and protecting our sovereignty, water, and resources, while building the internal capacity needed to carry our priorities forward.

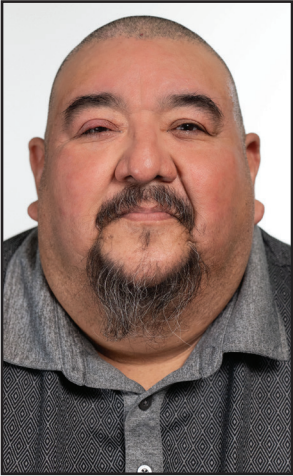
I'm Amanda Mitchell, and I'm asking Community members across all seven districts, our Pee Posh and urban members, for your vote for Lieutenant Governor on September 15th.





Miguel Valencia

No Bio Submitted



James De La Rosa

To the Members of the Gila River Indian Community, My decision to seek the office of Lieutenant Governor of the Gila River Indian Community comes from a simple belief: our responsibility as leaders is not only to address the needs of today, but to prepare our Community for tomorrow.

Serving as a District 5 Representative has given me the opportunity to listen, learn, and work on issues affecting our people. It has also given me a greater understanding of the opportunities before us, the challenges we continue to face, and the work still left to accomplish.

I am running for Lieutenant Governor because I believe we are entering an important period in our Community’s history. Decisions concerning economic development, education, infrastructure, water, agriculture, workforce development, government services, and our enterprises will shape Our Community for generations. A central principle of my platform is simple: Prosperity must have a Purpose. Economic development cannot be measured only by buildings constructed or revenue generated. It should be measured by whether Community members have greater opportunities because of it. I want us to strengthen the businesses, lands,

agriculture, infrastructure, and other assets we already possess while becoming more willing to pursue responsible investments and business opportunities beyond our boundaries. Diversifying our economy can create additional revenue, strengthen our financial independence, and reduce reliance on any single industry. These are complementary approaches: building strength from within while creating new opportunities beyond the Community.

But creating businesses is only part of the equation. We must prepare our own people to operate them, manage them, own businesses that serve them, and eventually lead them.

That begins with our young people. I support creating stronger pathways connecting education directly to opportunity. College and professional careers should be one pathway, while skilled trades, apprenticeships, technical certifications, technology, construction, agriculture, healthcare, and entrepreneurship provide another equally important pathway.

Economic independence also means strengthening our ability to provide for ourselves. I want to advance food sovereignty, modernize agriculture, support Community entrepreneurs,

strategically develop our lands, protect our water, and find ways to keep more Community dollars circulating within our own economy. A stronger internal food economy alone could connect agriculture, processing, distribution, retail, healthcare, schools, hospitality, and traditional foods while creating jobs and productive Community-owned assets. As Lieutenant Governor, I would work to turn these ideas into measurable action. I believe the office should be an active partner with the Governor, Council, districts, departments, employees, enterprises, and, most importantly, Community members. Leadership also requires accountability. We must be willing to ask difficult questions, determine whether programs are producing results, protect Community resources, and change direction when something is not working. I am not running because I believe one person has all the answers. I am running because I believe leadership can bring people together, establish direction, and turn ideas into action. My commitment is to honor what previous generations built, strengthen what we have today, and create greater opportunity for those who come after us.

With Respect, James De La Rosa



Jewel Whitman

My name is Jewel Whitman, and I have been resident of District 2, Hashen Kehkfor 20+ years. I am the son of the late Dayton and Jeanette Whitman and Grandson of Leonard and Ina Whitman, A.P. Luna, and Iva Luna and Matlida Luna.

My interest in running for LT. GOVERNOR stems out of concern for the future and longevity of our GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY. I have previously served on the Tribal Council for (4) four consecutive terms, over a 12-year period. Along with the institutional knowledge I carry from past Council experience, I 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 continue to build our revenue for our community and the benefit of ALL community members.

I 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 in keeping 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 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 who we are as people.

As your LT GOVERNOR, we need to get back to taking care of our tribal members first and it would be my responsibility to represent you, your interests and concerns with care, respect, open dialogue and more importantly, follow up.

The immediate concerns:

1. Violence that has taken over our community: enacting laws and ordinances to be imposed and adhered;
2. Address the needs and deficiencies in our Tribal Departments, enterprises, and entities;

3. Assisting and addressing our homeless members; lack of housing and efficient sustainable processes of building;
4. Addressing generational trauma and its effects on our members;
5. Supporting our URBAN MEMBERS and their needs;
6. Looking into alternative measures for diabetes epidemic and collaborating collectively with all Council Representatives to get back to the roles and responsibilities of our duties to the health of our Tribal Members;
7. Reestablish our Legislative Branch;
8. Establish a Successful MENTORSHIP program for our Tribal Members through resources establish through our Enterprises and Corporations.

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 for LT GOVERNOR

Jewel Whitman.



# CHIEF JUDGE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



Brianna L. Rhodes

Greetings Community Members,

My name is Brianna Rhodes, with deep gratitude and a profound sense of purpose, I announce my candidacy for Chief Judge of our Gila River Indian Community.

My family - the Sneed family - with roots from District 6, Komatke, is my home, the place that shaped my life, values, and ultimate commitment to our People. My husband of 16 years and I are blessed with six children.

In 1999, during high school, becoming a member of the Akimel O'odham/Pee Posh Youth Council changed my life, teaching me how to lead the GRIC way—maintaining accordance with the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures; displaying respect for our elders, uplifting youth of the Community, and working together as young leaders. Those lessons stayed with me throughout life during studies at Seton Hill College, the University of New Mexico, and Arizona State University. Currently, I am a student at the University of Arizona working on my Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

23 years ago, I began my journey with our legal system in the Gila River Tribal Courts, learning from exceptional judges and dedicated staff. With their

guidance, I learned the duties of Clerks and became one of our youngest Court Clerk supervisors for 6 years, gaining an understanding of the inner workings of our Courts from the ground up.

Eventually, I was eager to learn and working hand in hand with the Community's legal departments, G.R.P.D, Law Office, Prosecutor's Office, and Office of General Counsel, expanding my knowledge of the Community's Legal system.

These experiences have opened my eyes to a vital truth: our departments cannot operate in silos to truly serve our people; we must consult, cooperate, and be transparent with respective departments.

Since 2022, I have had the distinct honor of serving you as an Associate Judge. Every day on the bench, I ensured that fairness and integrity ruled my courtroom. Through more than two decades of service, one truth has remained clear: meaningful change requires partnership. True justice is not just a legal process; it is a path toward healing, stability, and restoration for our families.

If elected Chief Judge, my commitment to you is unwavering:

- Fairness and Accessibility: Ensuring the Courts remain respect-

ful, transparent, without Bias or Prejudice.

- Community-Driven Leadership: Maintaining Public Confidence, actively listening to the ideas, hopes, and concerns of Community members; upholding Integrity and Impartiality.
- Systemic Collaboration: Cooperate with other Judges and Court Officials; remain patient and courteous. Bridging the gaps between tribal departments to create a unified support system for our people.
- Cultural Preservation: Protecting and honoring the sovereignty, traditions, and values of the Gila River Indian Community.

I am asking for your support in the General Election.

Elect Brianna L. Rhodes for Chief Judge for the opportunity to continue working for you with fairness, dedication, and heart. I am not just asking for your vote; I am asking for your trust. Together, we can build a justice system that honors our past and protects our future.

Thank you, God bless you, and the Gila River Indian Community.



Anthony James Hill

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your Chief Judge. I ask for your support once again as we continue to transform our Community Court. The changes over the years are significant. Elders over 65 years of age are exempt from jury duty. The law was changed to allow the court to garnish the per capita of juveniles who commit crimes. The Community's customs are being incorporated into the court through Traditional Counselors. Probation officers are stationed in Community schools to prevent students from entering the juvenile system. The court calendar was changed so that people did not have to wait weeks for a hearing. Our judges have kept criminals off the streets by keeping repeat offenders in jail and rejecting soft plea agreements. Those on probation are held accountable by making sure defendants complete their counseling services and probation officers are in the Community making home visits. The court launched a Community Service program so offenders can repay their debt to the Community. A Parent Evaluator

program helps judges make better child custody decisions. A guardian ad litem program provides volunteers to represent children in court. The framework exists for an Adult Drug Court and Domestic Violence Court.

These changes are not the result of one person but happened because of the dedication of the Community Court staff and professionals in other Community departments. These employees remain committed to ensuring justice for all. Our court system needs more positive change. Work continues on laws to further protect our children and those suffering from mental illness. Programs to hold parents accountable for children's curfew and truancy violations are being developed. A system to protect unborn children from substance abuse and help mothers is needed. The court must provide a greater voice to victims and allow victims to participate in the justice system from beginning to end. The law must provide greater protection for vulnerable adults and elders so they are not abused or

exploited. Banishment of violent criminals is being discussed. Our judges should have minimal education qualifications. The court must use technology to allow for greater access to the justice system.

Education and qualifications are important as Chief Judge. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Classics 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. You elected me as an Associate Judge and now Chief Judge. Our Community Court must continue to make positive changes to address the challenges we face. Over the years I have heard the voice of the people and the changes you want in our justice system. This election is not about an old Chief Judge or a new Chief Judge, but the right Chief Judge. Thank you and God bless you.

# SEPTEMBER 15 VOTE







Darren Pedro-Martinez

Hello Community Members,

I have lived in Sacaton for 18 years and worked for the Community for 32 years. I'm a mother of five (5) adult children, a grandmother, an aunt, a niece and a wife.

My husband and I have been together for 19 fantastic years.

In my spare time, I cherish traveling and making memories with my family. When I am not spending time with my family, I invest in our youth by coaching girls' volleyball, as I have been a coach for three (3) seasons now. Coaching has been a way for me to mentor our youth and give them a sense of confidence and build their self-esteem. I love being a Coach!

As far as being active in the Community, I have served on the following Boards and Task Forces';

- District 3 Community Board (Secretary/Chairwoman)
- Akimel O'odham/Pee Posh Youth Council Advisory Board (Chair-

- woman)
- 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 (Volunteer)
- I have worked with the Community in the following Departments:
- Land Use Planning & Zoning/ Department of Land & Water Resources
- Department of Rehabilitation & Supervision
- Gila River Tribal Court

Currently, I'm serving my second term as an Associate Judge for the Gila River Indian Community and continue

to be dedicated to my position. Being involved in the Community and being a part of the above Boards and Committees have helped me tremendously while being on the bench. I continue to seek online training and am always searching for ways to learn more to ensure I serve you with the highest level of competence and integrity. Now, that I have had the opportunity to gain experience though out my terms, I would like to continue to serve our Community as an Associate Judge.

I am very eager to continue on this journey in serving you as an Associate Judge for the Gila River Indian Community Judicial Court, therefore, I respectfully seek your support for Re-Election.

Your Vote Matters!

Re-Elect Darren Pedro-Martinez for Associate Judge November 6, 2026.

Sincerely,  
Darren Perdo-Martinez



Lorina Allison

Skeg Sialig ani an on chegic Lorina Allison. Man ki am Komatke village am. En og an chegic Cecil Richard Allison Sr. (Ba'at)

Kumuthum moovak, my mother is Barbara Kelly Belvado from Ft. Yuma-Kwatsaan. (Quechan) My parents both instilled hard work & determination. Do your job to the best of your ability is what we were told. I have worked for Gila River Indian Community for 25 years. My positions were all in security for Districts 6, 7 and District 3. Gila River Healthcare (Sacaton and Komatke health care)

During these years I also went to school for medical assistant and Radiology.

I began my employment at Gila River Judicial Center (Akimal O'otham Lodi Kud Ke) in 2019 in which I have 7 years court experience. I'm knowledgeable in courtroom procedure, affidavit process, court jargon, security training, first aid and CPR.

In November 2025, I began putting myself through school at South Mountain Community College to obtain my Associate's degree in Criminal Justice. I am continuing my education until I

complete my goal to serve the Community.

I am running for candidacy for Associate Judge to help our community understand the judicial process whether it be criminal or civil. Communication is key. Understanding the many different situations and the people that come to the court is especially important to me. I hold my integrity high when it comes to decisions and will continue to do so in following the criminal and civil codes of our Community. I believe in Accountability, it needs to be consistent and fair.



Christina D. Rodriguez

Hello, my name is Christina D. Rodriguez, though many know me as Tina or Tina R. I am running for Associate Judge of the Gila River Indian Community. I am from Gila Crossing Village, where I grew up and continue to live with my family. I am a member of the Enos family; my grandfather was the late Henry Enos Sr., and my mother was the late Delilah (Enos) Yanes. I have four adult children—Ciera, Carlos, Jessica, and Rafael—as well as grandchildren. I am grateful to everyone who has supported me throughout this journey. I would not be here without my faith in God and the encouragement I have received from so many people.

My education includes an Associate of Arts, an Associate of General Studies, and a Certificate of Completion in

Administration of Justice from South Mountain Community College. I also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Healthcare Management, with a minor in Human Services, from Ottawa University, where my coursework included management and ethics. I am currently pursuing a master's degree in legal studies with a concentration in Indigenous Law and Policy through the University of Arizona Online.

I have served on the Gila Crossing Community School Board for about five years, which has been a valuable educational experience. In 2024, I was appointed as the alternate Community Appellate Court Judge for the Gila River Indian Community. Since then, I have completed courses through the National Judicial College and other online

platforms approved by the GRIC court.

I have worked in a supervisory capacity for several years and understand the importance of upholding organizational policies, regulations, procedures, and ethical standards. While organizations may differ in structure, they share a common need for fairness, accountability, and ethical practice.

I support restorative justice and believe everyone should have their rights protected and be treated fairly, equally, and without prejudice. I am confident in my ability to serve our community with fairness and impartiality.

I respectfully ask for your vote for Associate Judge of the Gila River Indian Community on Election Day.



LaQuinta Allison

No Bio Submitted



ASSOCIATE JUDGE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



Salvador De Luca

Good day to all members of the Gila River Indian Community, My name is Salvador De Luca, and I respectfully ask for your support as I seek the opportunity to serve as an associate judge. I have worked in the legal field for the last seven years, and I bring both professional experience and a deep personal understanding of how court decisions affect individuals, families, and the future of our Community.

My father was the late Henry David Smith Sr., and my grandmother was the late Phyllis Hilda Smith, both from Blackwater. I have also been blessed with the opportunity to serve the Community courts, first as a WIOA worker through the Employment and Training Department and later as a full-time employee, initially as a Court Clerk and later as a Court Clerk Lead.

My life experiences within the child welfare system in state courts, together with my work in the legal process, have shaped my belief that judges must be competent, fair, and firmly committed

to confidentiality, integrity, and public trust. A judge does not serve for personal recognition or personal power. A judge serves the people, the law, and the dignity of the Community.

I understand that the decisions made in tribal court affect real people, real families, and the path forward for our Community. Every person who comes before the court deserves to be heard, treated with dignity, and given a fair opportunity to present their side. That responsibility is not just legal; it is personal, and I take it seriously.

The values that guide me are respect, consistency, accountability, careful listening, and fairness. If elected, I will carry those values into every hearing, every decision, and every responsibility entrusted to me by the Community.

Education is another principle that I stand by because preparation matters in the courtroom. Tribal court judges must have the tools to understand legal arguments, evaluate the facts, and apply the law with care. That is why I made the

decision to go back to school, and in May 2026 I completed a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona with a major in law. Previously, I completed a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of the People, graduating with honors.

If given the opportunity to serve, I will bring fairness, preparation, respect, and ethics to every matter before the court. I will listen carefully, review the facts, apply the law accurately, and make judicial decisions with integrity. The judiciary must remain a place where people can trust that decisions are made based on facts, law, and fairness rather than favoritism or outside pressure.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my background, my values, and my commitment to serving with competence, consistency, and confidence. I would be honored to earn your trust and respectfully ask for your support as I seek to serve as associate judge.

Salvador De Luca



Kyle Hill

Hello Gila River allow me to introduce myself, my name is Kyle Adam Hill and I ‘am running for Associate Judge. I come from District Six, Co-Op Village. My Mother is the late Janet Hill and my brother is Anthony Hill. My maternal grandparents are the late Louella Mark and the Late Adam Mark. My father’s side is from the San Carlos Tribe. I currently reside in District One, Blackwater Village with my wife of 6 years Ronica Martinez-Hill. I have 4 lovely daughters Jaime, Kenzie, Kylie and Kasey Hill and a stepdaughter Nikki Kyyitian. I have been working for the

community for almost 14 years in the past as an Elderly Van Driver and a Recreation aide at District Six Service Center and now, I’m currently with the courts for almost 7 years, where I started off as a court bailiff then moved over to the Probation Department as a Probation Officer. In my position that I am now I have been able to talk to victim’s of crimes and hear the frustration that nothing will happen to their assailant or they be out committing the same offenses over again because that’s how the system works. That’s where the court system needs to step up and make the right decision.

I feel if elected as an Associate Judge I can help improve the process by being a fair and impartial judge and bring good sound judgements. I come to you asking for your vote in this upcoming General Election so I can help improve the judicial process and make the community feel safer you and me and our children. Again, my name is Kyle Hill and I ‘am running for Associate Judge. Thank you for your time and thank you for your vote.



SEPTEMBER 15  
VOTE

ALL POLLING SITES OPEN 6A.M. – 6P.M.

POLLING SITE LOCATIONS: DISTRICT 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7





Charles W. Aragon

Hello, my name is Charles W. Aragon, a lifelong resident of District 6, Komatke. I am humbly asking for your continued support in this year's election. I strive to continue bringing experience, compassion and justice to the Community. My training and years of legal experience as a sitting Judge, has equipped me with the necessary knowledge and ability to understand, interpret and apply the laws of the Gila River Indian Community. Where the Community's laws fall silent, I am able to apply federal, state and other Tribal Nations laws. In addition to my experience as an Associate Judge, I possess first-hand experience in Tribal Employment Rights Law, Indian Preference Law, the Gaming Compact and other relevant tribal, state and 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

can be a complex issue. As a Judge, it is important to consider all aspects of the law and to make the best decision that furthers the interest of justice. Often, crime is a symptom of other issues such as addiction, grief, and lack of resources; I want to continue understanding the challenges that defendants face. This will allow me 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 they can find practical ways to address issues that are important to them without feeling overwhelmed by the legal process. During my current terms, I have presided over hundreds of cases involving criminal

law, civil law and 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 best interest of justice.

My mother has always taught me to do my absolute best. In each case I preside over it is incredibly important to me that I do my best to ensure that each party is treated with respect and dignity. I vow to continue to 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 principle through each case that comes before me.

I would be humbled to receive your vote.

Thank you.  
Charles W. Aragon

***While at the Polling Site, please remember:***

- ✓ You can vote at any polling site location with proper photo identification, (driver's license, tribal I.D., Military I.D or state issued identification are acceptable) NO ELECTRONIC I.D. or photo copy will be accepted.
- ✓ If you arrive with another voter, you will be required to wait outside the 50-limit, once you have voted.
- ✓ Please do not bring children with you, they will not be permitted to enter the polling site.
- ✓ If you have missed the deadline to update your name, address, or district; This **will not** prevent you from voting. You cannot change your information on Election Day. If you have already changed your name (i.e. driver's license) you must sign your name as it is shown on the signature pad.
- ✓ During the time the polls are open, no one shall loiter within the 50-foot limit area. Except voters who have not voted and Election Officials.
- ✓ **NO CAMPAIGN ATTIRE, CANDIDATE PROMOTIONAL ITEMS, RECORDING OR TAKING PICTURES ARE ALLOWED INSIDE POLLING SITE.**
- ✓ **KEEP YOUR PHONE IN YOUR PURSE OR IN YOUR POCKET, IF YOU ARE SEEN USING YOUR PHONE YOU MAY BE ASKED TO REMOVE IT FROM THE POLLING SITE.**
- ✓ If you are prevented from voting due to any of the reasons listed above; please notify the Tribal Elections Office immediately (520) 562-9758.
- ✓ Tabulation of votes at the end of the Election Day is not considered official until the Gila River Indian Community Council certifies these results at their first regular council meeting in October.

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## Gila River Indian Community

# 2026 GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULE



### Districts 1-7

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 24, 2026      | GRIC members who possess the qualifications defined in Article VI of the GRIC Constitution and Bylaws, may file a <b>DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (DOC)</b> for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge or Associate Judge |
| July 15, 2026      | <b>DEADLINE DATE</b> to submit a completed Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) forms to the Tribal Elections Office by 5:00 p.m.                                                                                                             |
| July 16, 2026      | Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) forms are routed to ascertain qualifications to Enrollment, Law Office and Human Resources Departments.                                                                                                  |
| July 21, 2026      | Special Election Board meeting to verify candidate residency requirements                                                                                                                                                               |
| August 5, 2026     | At the first Council meeting in August, the Community Council shall certify that all candidates for General Office meet the qualifications set forth in the Community Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community        |
| August 10, 2026    | <b>VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES</b> 5:00 p.m. for the Primary Election                                                                                                                                                                    |
| August 13, 2026    | <b>ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS</b> for the Primary Election; absentee ballots will be available upon request from your District Judge or the Tribal Elections Office.                                                                         |
| September 14, 2026 | <b>ABSENTEE VOTING CLOSSES</b> for the Primary Election all absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 p.m.                                                                                                                   |
| September 15, 2026 | <b>GRIC PRIMARY ELECTION DAY</b><br><b>Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7; ALL POLLING SITES OPEN 6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.</b>                                                                                                            |
| September 16, 2026 | <b>VOTER REGISTRATION OPENS</b> for the General Election November 3, 2026                                                                                                                                                               |
| September 21, 2026 | <b>PROTEST PERIOD ENDS</b> any registered voter can file a protest to the election in writing to the Election Board Chairperson, by 5:00 p.m.                                                                                           |
| September 22, 2026 | <b>VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES</b> 5:00 p.m. for the General Election                                                                                                                                                                    |
| October 7, 2026    | <b>Certification of the Primary Election results</b> shall be conducted by the Community Council                                                                                                                                        |
| October 8, 2026    | <b>ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS</b> for the General Election; absentee ballots will be available upon request from your District Judge or the Tribal Elections Office.                                                                         |
| November 2, 2026   | <b>ABSENTEE VOTING CLOSSES</b> for the General Election. All absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 p.m.                                                                                                                  |
| November 3, 2026   | <b>GRIC GENERAL ELECTION DAY</b><br><b>Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7; ALL POLLING SITES OPEN 6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.</b>                                                                                                            |
| November 6, 2026   | <b>DEADLINE TO PROTEST THE ELECTION:</b> any registered voter can file a protest in writing to the Election Board Chairperson by 5:00 p.m.                                                                                              |
| December 2, 2026   | <b>Certification of the General Election results</b> shall be conducted by the Community Council                                                                                                                                        |
| January 1, 2027    | Newly elected candidates for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge and Associate Judges are sworn into office.                                                                                                       |



For questions regarding this schedule, call the Tribal Elections office at (520) 562-9735, 9758, or email at [TEP@gric.nsn.us](mailto:TEP@gric.nsn.us)