



Amber Torres

Walker River Paiute Tribal Chairwoman, Nevada
First elected 2010



WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

I want to create job opportunities, economic development ventures and self-sustainability for our people today and for the next seven generations to come.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

I think the biggest challenges ahead for us will be containing COVID-19 and planning for the new normal, along with making sure to be at the table to advocate for the new administration to fulfill their trust and treaty responsibilities to our people, and not just my reservation but all of Indian country. In the first 100 days, we have seen significant changes already and we want to build a better relationship going forward.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

I would encourage them to share their good medicine, their thoughts, ideas and feedback for the greater good of the community. Enhance what they can bring to the table to help make sound decisions for the membership as a whole, step outside of their comfort zone and go for it, and remember it is always a learning process; we are never done learning.

IS THERE A CONSERVATION-RELATED RULE, POLICY OR IDEA YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

We have implemented a big game hunting ban on our reservation for the past two years, so we can conserve our wildlife on the reservation such as deer and antelope. We were seeing significant impacts to the populations, and we are excited to see them coming around once again. I would also like to see meaningful consultation and flexibility regarding areas in which tribes are most impacted, especially regarding climate change, water rights,

hunting and fishing rights, and environmental protection, just to name a few. We also have to have the proper funding to combat all these issues, with no competitive grant applications, as I feel this pits tribes against one another. All 574 of the tribes are all unique yet face similar challenges. Tribes also absolutely have a seat and a voice at the table regarding the decisions that are made regarding their respective nations. We are still here and need to be recognized.

