



**Austin Nunez**  
San Xavier District Chairman  
Tohono O'odham Nation  
First elected 1987



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

I'd like to ensure that our community has a reliable source of water for consumption, farming and riparian restoration.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?**

The biggest challenge is the looming water shortages brought about by climate change.  
What advice would you give someone considering running for office for the first time?  
Realize that you cannot please your constituents 100% all the time, and be prepared to give your all in all that you do to serve them. You must have compassion for your constituents and a desire to improve their lives and their lands.

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

I'd like to see a requirement for all businesses and homeowners to use Xeriscape gardening, which reduces water consumption in desert and semi-desert areas.

SENATOR HEINRICH AND CONGRESSMAN GRIJALVA RECENTLY INTRODUCED TWO BILLS TO REFORM THE HARD ROCK MINING INDUSTRY. HOW WOULD THIS LEGISLATION IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY, AND ARE THERE PARTICULAR COMPONENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDED OR APPROVED?

The proposed legislation will reign in the hard rock mining industry and get them to be held accountable, thereby helping us counter the current and future proposed mines in our area. The mining industry must provide a reclamation plan in order to continue mining, or to obtain approval to start mining.

