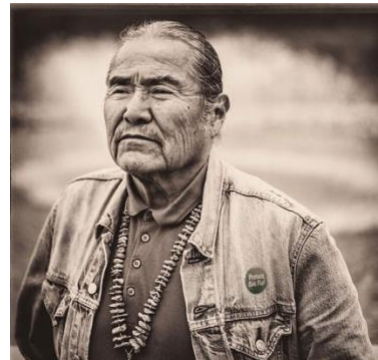




## CHILI YAZZIE

Former Navajo Nation Shiprock Chapter President  
New Mexico



### WHAT FIRST INSPIRED YOU TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE ON THE NAVAJO NATION?

I first ran for public office in 1975 upon the urging and request by my community elders. In retrospect, their urging was actually an appointment to office, an appointment I could not refuse. From my early days, I have always had the intention of helping my people, those who experience challenging times that I can relate to.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL?

Becoming an established voice of the people in defending their civil and human rights and protecting our Earth Mother from continued desecration and destruction. I am retired after 45 years of public service to my people, community, Tribe and Indigenous Peoples.

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

Addressing the legal and political conditions of our Tribe where the dominant society and governments have colonizing constraints that complicate having clarity of our identity. That stymies achieving success on our terms.

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

Know your history, listen, be compassionate, maintain integrity and honesty, and work hard for the people and community.

YOU HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN ADVOCATING FOR REGULATIONS TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR. CAN YOU TALK ABOUT WHY CUTTING METHANE IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR COMMUNITIES ON THE NAVAJO NATION?

Methane is proven to be a dangerous, aggravating contributor to the climate crisis and is a primary culprit in damaging the condition of the earth. That endangers the future of the grandchildren.

NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH. IS THERE ANYTHING YOUR COMMUNITY/TRIBE IS DOING TO CELEBRATE AND HONOR THE MONTH?

No celebration in particular other than the continuation of raising awareness of the causes of our modern-day circumstances of need, with emphasis on what we must continue doing to secure a comfortable survival of the grandchildren. In my case, that is working with my farmers to achieve food sovereignty and to make an impact on the food insecurity being experienced by too many families.

