



Damon Clarke
Hualapai Tribal Chairman
First elected 2020



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

The most pressing issue that is nearing its peak is our water settlement with the federal government. This will allow Hualapai to obtain water from the Colorado River. In addition, changing our Constitution to become more self-governing, purchasing more water, allowing for our use of lands in Nevada-Truckee, and development of the lands.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?

The jobforce. We send students to college, and it has grown to over 70 students per year, but we do not have the jobs for their career path. The students have to go off into a city or town, and thus they are not working for the tribe per se.

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

Learn the lay of the land, the different departments, what we are here for, and how to provide services to the people. Work with people in the state, local and federal areas and work with the educational systems. Work with the other tribal leaders, and learn from their governments. You will need to read and research a lot of issues. Keep up with the local, state and national issues, legislation and policies.

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

Funding for the Indian Health Service. We were hit hard with COVID. We need better medical treatment and hospitals, and this should be an “entitlement,” not an issue to be overlooked.

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?

We need to upgrade the mining laws. Our lands are very sacred. We have to follow all the rules, but when a mining operation comes in, they do not. They have avenues through this outdated law that allows them to not follow the rules.

