

# WESTERN LEADERS VOICES | PROFILES | westernleaders.org

## **DAVID TOLEDO**

Governor of Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico Appointed 2009, 2019, & 2020



#### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

I would like to build some much-needed homes for our Pueblo and to work closely with our tribal community on all levels.

## WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

One big challenge that we face is having adequate funding to build these homes, to upgrade infrastructures within the Pueblo, and to find funding to renovate existing ball fields and build playgrounds, basketball courts, and a brand new track field for our people.

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

Listen to ALL the people, and respect the people – especially the Elders. Everyone in the community has equal value.

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

I believe everything starts at the local level within your communities, and people need to be educated of the importance of protecting the environment. Global warming is a reality. We need to explore renewable energy, solar panels, recycling and water preservation. Communities and cities all need to participate to make a difference.

