



Jordan Dresser
Northern Arapaho Business Council
Tribal Chairman, Wyoming
First elected 2020



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

I would like to lay the groundwork for Northern Arapaho to have a foothold in the areas of renewable energy, and I count hemp farming as part of our sustainability goals. I also want to start a feasibility study to figure out the best places for us to have solar panels or wind turbines and things of that nature so we can start laying the groundwork for projects.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?

COVID-19 is a battle that continues to hit our community hard. We have medical meetings to ensure that we stay informed on how to keep our people safe.

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

My advice for people who are running for the first time is to not have expectations, because the job of a tribal leader is a very demanding role that has a lot of moving parts to it. You have to be able to switch gears all of the time between subjects. For instance, you could be talking about natural resources issues one minute, and the next minute you're talking about dealing with COVID-19 in the community. You have to be comfortable switching topics at a moment's notice constantly. I recommend not having too much expectations of a set structure for how things will be consistently, because things change constantly.

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

I went to school in California where recycling was the norm, and I think recycling is something we really need to implement a program for here within my community at the tribal, local and state level as well.

WHAT CAN TRIBES AND COMMUNITIES DO TO HONOR AND AMPLIFY NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH? IS THERE ANYTHING YOUR COMMUNITY IS DOING TO CELEBRATE?

I think as tribal people, we can celebrate who we are every day and be proud of who we are every day and that's also through telling our stories and not being ashamed of the tough journeys that we sometimes have. I think being honest creates healthy communities.

