



**Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC)**  
**U.S. Senate candidate questionnaire**

**1. Why are you the best candidate to represent tribal communities in the U.S. Senate?**

I have dedicated my years in Congress to protecting tribal sovereignty as the former Chair and current member of the Subcommittee for Indian and Insular Affairs and pushing legislation to address issues that are central to Arizona's Tribal communities, such as the large number of missing Indigenous women. In response, I introduced the bipartisan *Bridging Agency Data Gaps & Ensuring Safety (BADGES) for Native Communities Act*, which would increase tribal law enforcement and public safety capacity and resources. In addition, I wrote and passed the bipartisan Native American Child Protection Act, carrying on the project that Arizona's own Senator John McCain championed for decades to keep Native children safe. I also introduced and passed into law the Coverage for Urban Indian Health Providers Act and the Urban Indian Health Facilities Improvement Act to make sure that tribal healthcare systems have the resources they need. I have fought to lower prescription drug costs and to address the need for more affordable housing everywhere in Arizona, including on Tribal land. Additionally, I have done significant work in securing protections of water rights for Tribal communities. These issues and policy stances speak directly to topics that impact Arizona's 22 federally recognized Tribes.

**2. What priorities will you have if elected to the U.S. Senate?**

I will continue the fight for preserving tribal sovereignty and my campaign has committed to visiting each of Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes to elevate the policy priorities of tribal communities. Kari Lake promoted Project 2025, an extreme right-wing agenda which directly attacks historic treaties that uphold tribal sovereignty and programs that provide resources for Arizona's Tribes. I am committed to fighting for legislation to directly address the gap in income and economic opportunity for members of tribal communities living on and off reservation. Additionally, I authored and signed into law the PAVA Program Inclusion Act to make the ballot more accessible to disabled tribal members in the four corners region of Arizona. I will continue



to advocate for protections of voting rights and uplifting the issues and concerns of the tribal communities to the federal government.

### **3.What is the relationship between tribal communities and the Congress of the United States?**

It is Congress' responsibility to both be a partner to and representative of the interests of tribal communities in the United States. This means simultaneously respecting tribal sovereignty while also fulfilling our responsibility to support tribal needs and work for the interests of our tribal constituents. .

### **4.What is the most important element(s) that members of the U.S. Senate should understand about tribal communities?**

The primary element that members of the U.S Senate should understand is the importance of tribal sovereignty. The support of established treaties is crucial in maintaining a collaborative and respectful relationship between the federal government and tribal communities. Tribal councils and government must be engaged with in the same manner in which the federal government interacts with other sovereign nations. A robust understanding of tribal agency over territory, water and natural resources is necessary to understand a more complex depiction of tribal leadership and structure. An excellent example of this understanding can be seen in the work I have done to protect water rights for tribal communities in Arizona. With issues such as water scarcity, there is a need for robust protections of this resource for tribal communities. For example, my work on the *The Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024* has been vital in supporting the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe in their efforts to secure their water rights and protect their water resources.

### **5.What are the most important tools that Congress can utilize to better address the needs that exist in tribal communities?**

Elevating voices from tribal communities and councils in the federal government is crucial in order to directly communicate with federal representatives and to best advocate for change and needed legislation to meet the economic disparities and inequities head on. Congress should



prioritize listening to tribal voices when crafting legislation that directly impacts issues on tribal land such as water rights, sovereignty, access to health care, and more. These are policies I have incorporated in my own outreach to tribal communities. I am elected to work on behalf of Arizonans, and I am committed to being mindful of the needs and goals of tribal voices and communities.

**6.What will you do if elected to the U.S. Senate to improve the visibility and issues facing tribal communities?**

I have served as the Chair of the Subcommittee for Indian and Insular Affairs, during which I have worked to expand healthcare for tribal communities. I wrote the Coverage for Urban Indian Health Providers Act to insure Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs), and the Urban Indian Health Facilities Improvement Act, to support their infrastructure – successfully securing votes to sign both bills into law. I will continue to advocate for impactful legislation to directly improve the lives of tribal communities across Arizona, both in rural and urban areas. During my campaign, I have traveled across the state to visit our federally recognized tribes and met with those who were willing to discuss the issues most important to them and ask how I could best represent them and advocate for them in the Senate. I intend on keeping a close relation to tribal communities in order to fight for policy that is informed by their direct needs and not the opinion of outsiders.