

Brian Garcia (D)

I think it's incredibly important for our elected representatives to understand why tribal sovereignty, self-sufficiency, and self-determination is important for our tribal communities. Additionally, I understand the complexities with state law, federal Indian law, and tribal law. As a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, it is important to me to ensure that our tribal communities are represented – especially SRPMIC in Legislative District 8. I have a record of working with tribal communities on the school board and I intend to continue doing so to respect tribal sovereignty. My top priorities include: public education, reproductive freedom, democracy, and protecting tribal sovereignty, among others. The AZ Legislature, as a governmental body, has a duty to engage in government-to-government relationship with SRPMIC and all tribes in Arizona. Additionally, it is important that all governmental entities engage in meaningful consultation with tribes and ensure tribal voices are included in all levels of decision-making. I believe investment in tribal communities is critical to address various issues that impact indigenous people. I believe we must protect Indigenous voting rights, our cultures, traditions, and ways of life. It's important to protect our environment, our resources, our sacred sites, increase advocacy for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and People, and tribal sovereignty. I am in support of expansion of off reservation gaming with consent of geographically impacted tribes. Generally, I am in support of off reservation sports and mobile sports betting. As a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, I recognize the importance of increasing visibility and issues tribal communities face. When I served on the Tempe Union governing board, my advocacy raised awareness around the need to engage and include tribal communities in our decision-making. As a result, we re-established ties, fly each of the surrounding tribal flags in the governing board room, passed policy (before statute) to allow Native students to wear tribal regalia at graduation, and now offer Yaqui language courses