

Janeen Connolly (D)

I care deeply about the indigenous communities of Arizona. I have not worked with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. I am aware of the community's programs in groundwater recharge and the 101 corridor development. Both are remarkable. As a Salt River Project Government Representative, I worked with the Gila River, the Ak Chin and the Navajo. These opportunities helped me gain respect for tribal communities, their true goals and processes. I am the best candidate because I employ a fiduciary mindset. I will set personal agendas aside and move good policy forward that considers the needs of all Arizonas. I have stated many, many times and written in my campaign literature that the word represent is in the title of this job. My first priority will be, to the best of my ability, to represent all constituents of Legislative District 8 as well as the people of Arizona. I am dedicated to learning from you all how to truly represent the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. A perpetual lack of representation at the legislature is an issue for all Arizona tribes. Currently one Senator and two Representatives are tribal members. I'm not certain those legislators can advocate for all tribal needs. I believe the legislators representing Arizona tribes have advocates among the senate and house members. I also believe much more might be done in terms of relationship building and gaining insights to support tribal legislative needs. As a legislator, I will be a strong advocate, and a relationship builder, and will work with the tribal community housed within LD8 to meet your specific needs. I am reading that youth survival (foster care, substance abuse and cultural identity) is an issue that is clearly important to the SRP-MIC Community. In addition, adequate housing and affordable healthcare for all community members. I would welcome an opportunity to talk with community members and tribal leaders to gain a more in depth understanding of the community's most pressing issues. Let's talk. I have lived in Arizona for 42 years and have watched gaming become established then expand. I believe Arizona residents, as well as the tourists who visit Arizona, are going to participate in gaming or are not going to participate in gaming. In my view, as long as we can work to hold gaming participation to appropriate and legal age limits, I'm fine with what is outlined above. My door will always be open to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community people, leaders and their legislative representatives. While I have some knowledge, I would very much appreciate the opportunity to gain insight regarding your tribal needs, and all tribes of Arizona, at the state and federal levels. Please know, I will be open to and will encourage discussions that help me develop as a good legislator who considers the needs of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community