



Official Sample Ballot

Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian
Commission

Self Governance Board

Community Elected Commissioner Elections

December 17th & 18th, 2018

Please see final page of Official Sample Ballot for voting locations and times.



Eligibility Requirements

Candidates

Eligible candidates meet the following criteria:

- Are 18 years old or older
- Are residents of Los Angeles County
- Are:

An enrolled member of a federally or state recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribe, **OR**
A member of an American Indian or Alaska Native community with a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) and supporting genealogical documentation, **OR** A member of a United States or Alaskan Native Community with supporting genealogical documentation

Voters

Eligible voters meet the following criteria:

- Are 18 years old or older
- Are residents of Los Angeles County
- Are:

An enrolled member of a federally or state recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribe, **OR**
A member of an American Indian or Alaska Native community with a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) and supporting genealogical documentation, **OR** A member of a United States or Alaskan Native Community with supporting genealogical documentation

Election Overview

The election of Community Elected Commissioners for the Self Governance Board is held every 4 years for the 5 positions. The elections are a plurality system.

2018 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

Self Governance Board Community Elected Commissioner Candidates

Please see below for candidate biographies and statements, provided in alphabetical order.

Cynthia Begay

Candidate Biography

Yá'át'ééh shí éí Cynthia Begay yinishyé. Kiis'áanii nishł́. Naakaii Dine'é bashishchiin. Tódich'íiníi dashicheii. Naakaii Dine'é dashinalí. Ákót'éego diné asdzáán nishł́. Cynthia Begay is Hopi born for the Mexican people. Her maternal grandfather is Navajo from the Bitterwater clan, and her paternal grandfather is Mexican. Growing up as an urban American Indian, she learned first-hand about health disparities at a young age. Her involvement with the American Indian community began from childhood with her tribe. The most impressionable experience in her childhood was her first summer spent on the Hopi reservation at age 7. She witnessed the hardships her mom grew up with and wanted to make her reservation a better place to live—and thrive. She entered UC San Diego (UCSD) as an undergraduate with the hopes that she could go on to medical school and become a medical doctor. Through her time at UCSD, she became a mentor and tutor for the American Indian Recruitment Program. In addition, as a Native American Student Alliance member, she helped plan UCSD's first pow wow, establish the first Native American student center at UCSD, and planned UCSD's first Native American high school conference (bringing out over 200 students from Tribal schools throughout Southern California).

As Cynthia continued her studies, she participated in several American Indian accelerated graduate programs: Harvard Medical School Four Directions Summer Research Program, CA-Native American Research Center for Health (CA-NARCH), Minority Access to Research Careers, and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Native Graduate Health Fellowship. Through these fellowships, she deepened her love for the health field but found her niche through research. After college she worked a senior case worker for the Indian Human Resource Center (IHRC). This was her first experience working intimately with the urban San Diego American Indian community in a social work capacity. Understanding the basic needs of the community members and leveraging grant funding was priceless; this was her first experience, outside her family, in understanding social determinants of health that affect the Native community.

After IHRC, Cynthia worked for Indian Health Service (both urban and rural). It was her time at the Indian Health Council on the Rincon reservation (San Diego, CA) that completely inspired her to pursue a Master of Public Health in epidemiology. Through the Pill Take Back project, she worked with Tribal communities in educating and understanding the opioid epidemic. During her time on this project, she began to understand the delicate balance of advocating for Native communities, working with the federal government, and navigating tribal sovereignty as it pertains to federal regulation.

As she facilitated educational workshops, administered semi-structured interviews, and conducted focus groups about prescription drug disposal and opioid addiction to Tribal youth through elders, the concept of drug addiction wasn't novel and most had experienced the repercussions from their own addiction or a family member's. Her experiences in research programs through the CA-NARCH and working for the Indian Health Service opened her eyes to the challenges and issues specific to conducting research within Indian country. Cynthia witnessed the impact of health policies and social determinants of health that have shaped disparities in our communities, but through these experiences, she realized the true power of community-based participatory research. It is the connection with her culture, community, and innate understanding of social justice and the complexities of health equity that has motivated her throughout her education – this is her motivation for pursuing a PhD in Preventive Medicine at USC Keck School of Medicine. Cynthia hopes to extend her leadership outside of academia and more closely within our community.

She moved to Los Angeles after graduate school and worked with the United American Indian Involvement Center (UAI) as a program evaluator, and worked as a project manager for the CA Native Vote project. Currently, Cynthia is a PhD student in Preventive Medicine at USC Keck School of Medicine working under the mentorship of Dr. Claradina Sota (Navajo/Pueblo) on a state funded Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program and the California Department of Health Services funded Tribal MAT (Medicated Assisted Treatment) statewide assessment. They work with tribal communities (rural and urban) throughout the state to implement and assess various interventions. She has previous experience working with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission through attending the City Council vote for Indigenous Peoples Day, conference calls about removing the Columbus statue, and assisting Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia's projects (Native American Access to Affordable Healthcare in LA and the assessment of Native American Homelessness.) Working with UAI and Commissioner Chrissie Castro, as her mentor and supervisor, in a public health and civic engagement capacity has been the catalyst for Cynthia's interest in serving as a member for LA City/Council Native American Indian Commission.

Candidate Statement

One of my goals as a public health researcher and epidemiologist is using evidence-based research to inform funding. As a commissioner, I would provide my perspective as an American Indian woman, a former case worker (under the Workforce Investment Act Grant and Community Service Block Grant) coupled with my experience as a researcher using a community based-participatory research design and mixed-methods approach within tribal communities throughout California (both urban rural) to help relay our communities needs to inform funding.

Allison Hicks

Candidate Biography

Allison Hudson Hicks is an enrolled member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation and is also of Choctaw descent. She is an actor, mother, wife and community member. She is a Trustee on the Board of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Hicks also served as a co-chair of the National Council of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. She recently performed at the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., Theatre for Young Audiences New Visions/New Voices Festival, where she appeared as Mom/Susette Primeau in *Return to Niobrara* by Mary Kathryn Nagle, and as Maricela in *Forever Poppy*, by Jose Cruz Gonzalez. Los Angeles credits include *Behind the Ides* (Lounge Theatre, Hollywood), the world premiere of *Bingo Hall* (Native Voices) and numerous other roles at Native Voices at the Autry, where she is an ensemble member. Regional credits include lead roles in *Stories from Indian Boarding Schools* (touring) and Mary Kathryn Nagle's *Sliver of a Full Moon* (touring). She holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of California, Irvine.

Candidate Statement

I am interested in serving on the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission because I feel that I can contribute to the mission of advocating for Native Americans residing in Los Angeles County. I am an enrolled member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, and I have deep ties to the Native American community here in Los Angeles County, where I have lived my entire life. My parents moved to Los Angeles from Arizona during the BIA Relocation Program in the 1950s, and I am now raising my children (enrolled citizens of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and also descendants of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi) here in Los Angeles County. I worked for the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of California as the Statewide Administrator for many years, serving as a liaison between Tribal governments, corporate and governmental agencies and American Indian business owners. Currently, I am proud to be a Trustee on the Board of the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, located both in Washington, D.C. and New York City, NY. Our mission is to advance the true history of Native Americans and promote the understanding of Native American cultures. We support Native artists, education initiatives for K-12 education, cultural activities and the repatriation of important cultural objects back to tribes. In Los Angeles, I am currently pursuing my career as an actor and writer, while concentrating on amplifying the Native voice in theatre. Traditionally, actual Native American actors rarely have the opportunity to portray Native Americans on stage. My aim is to help create a vibrant, active Native American artistic community in the local, regional and national theatre. My overall goal is to assure that Native Americans have a growing presence in Los Angeles and that our community programs are supported.

Shawn Imitates-Dog

Candidate Biography

Shawn Imitates Dog is a human resources leader with over 20 years of experience in fitness, restaurant, hospitality, sports and entertainment industries. Shawn has led national multi-discipline teams responsible for employee relations, recruiting, training, compensation, benefits and HRIS.

Shawn is currently the Vice President, Human Resources for Live Nation Entertainment. Shawn is a member of various professional organizations including Society of Human Resources Management, Professionals in Human Resources Association, Entertainment Human Resources Network where he serves as a member of the Advisory Committee.

A member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Shawn is active in the Native American community, serving as the Treasurer of the Los Angeles County/City American Indian Commission and member of the National Congress of American Indians. He was an Advisory Member for the Red Cloud Heritage Center; Vice President of the American Indian Children’s Council; and the Southern California Indian Center where he has participated in education and fundraising activities. Shawn received the “40 Under 40” Native American Leaders Award in 2010.

Shawn has also played an active role in the social justice and HIV/AIDS movements. He is a member of the Red Circle Project Fundraising Committee which supports AIDS Project Los Angeles and former member of the Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Commission. He also served on the Liberty Hill Foundation annual dinner committee. Shawn has been a guest lecturer for UCLA and USC’s Diversity Program as well as FOX Indian Summer Program. He was also a panelist for Diversity and Inclusion Conference in 2010.

Candidate Statement

I have lived in the Los Angeles area for 25 years, and during my time here, I’ve sat on various boards with Native non-profits. It’s always been in my blood to work with and for our community. My goal as a commissioner is to continue to secure funds and resources to help our community prosper.

Dawn Jackson

Candidate Biography

Throughout her career within the entertainment industry, Dawn Jackson has established herself as a liaison to the American Indian community. She is an enrolled member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and has served as an elected Los Angeles City/County American Indian Commissioner since 1994. As one of the five community-elected Commissioners, she also serves on the Self Governance Board.

In her twenty-four years of service as a Commissioner, she has served in a variety of capacities including press liaison during the White House Urban Policy Initiative (during the Clinton administration), graphic designer and community-hearing officer. More recently, Dawn curated the Bridge Gallery art exhibit at Los Angeles City Hall, featuring the art of local community artists and served on the steering committee of the inaugural Indigenous People's Day.

Early in her career, Dawn served as the Chair of the American Indian Registry for the Performing Arts, providing script approvals, casting and cultural consultants for films & TV productions. In 1992 she co-founded First Americans in the Arts (FAITA), serving as Chairman of the Board and Producer of an annual awards show to showcase and empower American Indians in the entertainment industry. For over seventeen years FAITA gave out over 300 outstanding achievement awards, as well as filmmaking scholarships to American Indians in film, TV, music and theatre.

Dawn joined The Walt Disney Company (TWDC) in 1993 working in product design, brand marketing and creative development. In 2005 she took on the role of Executive Director of the American Indian National Center for TV & Film, a historic partnership between the ABC, CBS and FOX TV networks to provide access and opportunities to American Indians. For over twenty-five years Dawn has continued to work with business units throughout TWDC utilizing her knowledge of tribal cultures to provide culturally authentic products, talent casting, language translations and inclusion filters. She is currently the Studio Manager of Story Development at Walt Disney Imagineering.

As an independent film producer, Ms. Jackson has served as a producer on three documentaries for PBS, including MANKILLER (2018) and the feature film, NATURALLY NATIVE, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 1999 and aired on Turner Classic Movies (TCM) in 2010. In 2015 she served as a curator of Through Indian Eyes: 100 years of Native Cinema, a two-year retrospective and traveling film program, in association with the UCLA School of Film & Television.

Ms. Jackson serves as a board member of the American Indian Scholarship Fund of Southern California and was recently appointed to the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative Advisory Committee of the LA County Arts Commission.

Statement on Desire to be a LANAIC Commissioner

Serving as a community-elected Commissioner over the past twenty-four years has been a rewarding experience. My commitment and desire to empower and give voice to our community has never wavered. I have always considered my service to the LA Native community a blessing and responsibility that my ancestors would expect of me as a Chippewa woman. Whether I am in Michigan on my reservation or in the LA urban community, I look for ways to meet the needs of Native people from all walks of life, and ensure we have a culturally rich community to pass onto future generations.

Tracy Perez

Candidate Biography

Tracy has worked in the Los Angeles Native community for the past 15 plus years assisting as a volunteer and advocating for the community whether it be with healthcare, housing, education and other resources to better assist the needs of the community. She has participated and currently sits as a board member of several organizations to provide support in efforts to bring more funding to serve the needs of community members.

Candidate Statement

I am currently a member of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission because we all need to advocate, educate, assure and support our communities so that our cultures are preserved, to address the disparities in the needs of our people that are often overlooked in urban Indian populations. I can continue to inspire a new generation to pursue the goals of helping address the issues of our communities. With my work and educational background, it is my hope to support the continued effort to rally policymakers and other advocates to search for more effective ways to address the disparities of our native communities.

Denise Rosete

Candidate Biography

Involvement

- Students Run La – Leader – Training Native youth to complete the Los Angeles Marathon
- United American Indian Involvement, Inc. (UAI) – Leader – Training with our Native Youth to complete the Los Angeles Marathon
- Walking Shield – Volunteer
- AICC – Los Angeles Marathon
- Department of Child and Family Services American Indian United
- Southern California Indian Center American Indian Families Partnership (AIFP) – Leader – Training Native youth to complete the Los Angeles Marathon
- Active in the Los Angeles County pow wows

Candidate Statement

I have worked with the Native American community in Los Angeles for over 16 years. I am big believer in understanding and respecting the cultural needs of our community. If elected, I will be able to do more for my community and advocate for our people; in hopes to guide and witness our community towards self-sufficiency and prosperity. I would like to promote and develop programs for our elders, youth and community in need, such as education, housing, transportation, and employment.

Victoria Solis-Lira

Candidate Biography

Victoria is involved with the promotion of higher education and overall education for Native Americans. Volunteering for and with Walking Shield on various events, including the Annual Golf tournament fundraiser. She is committed to promoting unity among all Native American tribes.

Candidate Statement

I would like to serve as a catalyst between the City, State, County and Federal governments and private agencies in order to serve the many communities and groups within the Los Angeles Native American community. I would like to use my 32 years of work experience with the City of Los Angeles to assist in accomplishing this.

Sunnie Whipple

Candidate Biography

I have been an active member in his community since he arrived from his reservation at 19. Whether attending or planning Native American events like pow wows or spiritual gatherings, he continues to represent his community in multiple projects with various faith and service organization to increase visibility, bring awareness and find solutions to the barriers observed and encountered in Indian Country. Examples include partnering with Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to find resource homes for Indian children involved in ICWA, attending stakeholder gatherings like ICWA Task Force, and Los Angeles County ICWA Roundtable Stakeholder meetings. In the Department of Mental Health I have been part of the AI/AN Underserved Committee to plan conferences, and speak on panels that address historical, generational and social trauma. I have been a member on their monthly System Leadership Team to represent the Native community to bring awareness and address issues, while also emphasizing accountability, accessibility, and policy reassessment. I am also currently a co-chair on their Cultural Competency Committee. I am particularly interested in ensuring the Native American voice is heard, especially when important decisions are being made, and I continue to work diverse partners in many places to build a stronger and healthier Native American Community.

Candidate Statement

I want to be more involved in bringing positive change to the Indian community, to be an agent of change and empower my people, and set an example for the younger generation and get them integrated as change agents. I am particularly interested in closing the gaps of disadvantage and negative stats that reveal how underserved and unserved our community is in LA County and in the nation as a whole. I have been building inter-relationships with the Native community and "outside" world for now well over 20 years, and seek to partner with other like-minded individuals to return dignity and health to our community. I bring to the table the value of my own diverse lived experience, as well as a unique worldview. I hold fast to extended family and many friendships, as well as my own traditions and seek to collaborate with others to find effective solutions to problems rather than just talking about them. I want to see spirituality and identity strengthened and want to get other Natives involved to ensure their voice gets heard. My broad connections with many organizations including the family community can potentially be a great asset, to build a strong AI/AN Commission and stronger working relationship with the County and the many priorities that the Supervisors have set forth to engage in. Increasing cultural competency is one example.

**Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
Self Governance Board**

Please select up to 5 candidates by marking the bubble to the right. If your votes for candidates total more than 5, then all of your votes will not be counted. So please ensure your votes for candidates do NOT exceed 5, including write-in candidates.

Community Elected Commissioners	Cynthia Begay	<input type="radio"/>
	Allison Hicks	<input type="radio"/>
	Shawn Imitates-Dog	<input type="radio"/>
	Dawn Jackson	<input type="radio"/>
	Tracy Perez	<input type="radio"/>
	Denise Rosete	<input type="radio"/>
	Victoria Solis Lira	<input type="radio"/>
	Sunnie Whipple	<input type="radio"/>

If you want to write in the name(s) of a candidate(s) not listed above please write the name(s) in the spaces below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Voting Locations & Times

American Indian Counseling Center

17707 Studebaker Rd # 208, Cerritos, CA 90703

Monday December 17th, 2018 – 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Tuesday December 18th, 2018 – 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

(Note: Parking is located across the street and all visitors will have to go through security in the building.)

Pukuu Cultural Community Services

1019 2nd Street #2, San Fernando, CA 91340

Monday December 17th, 2018 – 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

United American Indian Involvement, Inc.

1125 W. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Monday December 17th, 2018 – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Tuesday December 18th, 2018 – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

(Note: Validation will not be provided for lot. Street parking is available. Voting will take place in the 1st floor Community Center.)