

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name: Margaret M. Eriacho

Position Vying For: Tribal Council

Marital Status: Single

Clans: Eagle and Child of the Macaw

Education:

Kindergarten to 8th grade – St. Anthony Indian Mission School

9th to 10th grade – Ramah High School

1972 I received my GED from the Roswell Vocational Training School

1971 to 1973 I attended the Roswell Vocational Training School and received certification as a Practical Nurse.

1974 and again in 1980 and 1981 I attended the University of New Mexico main campus where my course of study was in Communicative Disorders. I obtained certification as an Audiometrist. This was a program that was a pilot project with the Indian Health Service and the University of New Mexico.

2004 USDA Graduate School- Certified Public Manager Course- Completed the course and became a Certified Public Manager. I received a national award for my class project as the team leader. This was the first time in the history of this program that a Native American Tribe had enrolled in this school.

2009 – 20011 Certified Instructor with the National Safety Council in Adult CPR, AED, First Aid, Air Borne & Blood Borne Pathogens, Defensive Driving 4, 6, and 8, Alive at Twenty- Five.

June 2011 received certification as a DWI Facilitator from the State of New Mexico Traffic Safety Bureau.

November 2011 I became a Certified Instructor for the Driver Safety School from the State of New Mexico.

2013 I attended the Tribal Court Advocacy Training Program through the Bure system should give you some you got your book been yet so where is the election board office and he only yes and he okay so where do people drop-off their checks do you know where the priest au of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services and received certifications for all the courses I attended.

Career Experience:

In 2014 I was elected to the Zuni Tribal Council and I hold the position of a Councilwoman.

I established my own business in 2009 and provided various training programs through the National Safety Council and the State of New Mexico Traffic Safety Bureau.

During this time, I also established my business as a Lay Counselor and I became a member of the Zuni Bar. I also practiced in the Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Court and the Camp Verde Tribal Court.

I have over thirty-four years of experience as an administrator. In my years of work as a former administrator with the Pueblo of Zuni I did planning, developing and implementing new and existing

services for the community. My work was done either individually or I was part of a work group that completed these tasks.

Based upon my experience I can develop proposals that includes all the required information from the state and federal funding sources and private foundations.

As a Certified Public Manager and the owner and operator of my own business I do possess all the management and financial skills that is required to be an entrepreneur.

Through my work experience I am knowledgeable of the legislative process at both the State and National levels. I have testified before various committees at both the State and National levels to request funding or changes to legislation. I have also been designated at various times throughout my career to represent Native populations at the State and National levels for issues in the areas of health and education. At times this required meeting with the Cabinet Secretaries, State Representatives and Senators, Committee members and Congressional members and their staff.

Vision Statement:

To work diligently to help establish an effective government by upholding policies, ethical conduct of leadership at all levels, to create and maintain a healthy work environment that will offer growth, opportunity and equality for the tribal employees and our community.

My mission would be as part of the Zuni Government I would strive to work together with all entities to create and implement strategies needed to turn the vision into reality.

Leadership Experience:

2021 I became a member of the Board of Directors for the Pueblo Action Alliance organization. This a non-profit entity that is involved in opposition to uranium mining, carbon marketing, climate crisis and other national and inter-national issues that impact our inherent sovereignty and rights as indigenous peoples.

2014 I was elected by my people to be a member of the Zuni Tribal Council. During my tenure I had the opportunity to testify at the various committees during the New Mexico State Legislative Sessions on issues that pertained to tribal issues. I was also instrumental in having the vision to establish our own transit system that is now serving our people. During my tenure I was seeking new funding sources that had the possibility of creating new job opportunities for the community.

During my tenure with the Pueblo of Zuni I took the lead in establishing the first Indian Self Determination contract with the Indian Health Service for the Zuni Tribe.

I was a high level administrator for the Pueblo of Zuni. I was the Department/Division Director for Health Services and at times I was delegated to be the Acting Tribal Administrator. In these high level administrative positions there was a great deal of responsibility that included but not limited to personnel training and management, program planning, development and implementation, working closely with the

State and Federal funding agencies to secure new and continued funding for various projects and or services for the community.

I have served over twenty years as a member of the Zuni Board of Education. After my initial tenure, several years later in 2013 I was appointed to complete the term of a vacancy on the Zuni Board of Education.

During my tenure on the Zuni Board of Education, I have been a part of a team of leaders that built a new elementary school, the high school, a new teacher Rich and the UN M Zuni branch.

I have served three, two year terms on the Executive Board of Directors for the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools as the representative for all school board members on Indian lands and military bases nationwide. This is an elected position and it was an honor to serve all the school districts in this capacity. I was the first Pueblo woman to ever be elected to this position.

I served as the team leader for the USDA Certified Public Manager class project. My team and I received a national award for our project and I received a separate award for being the team leader. We were the first Native Americans to accomplish this recognition.

I was appointed by Gov. Bill Richardson to be the Native American Liaison to the Cabinet Secretaries for Managed Care for the State of New Mexico.

Holistic: Please state your traditional and culture values, beliefs, and philosophy:

My philosophy throughout my life has been to honor and respect all living things and to help wherever I can to make a positive difference. I believe that this philosophy is directly tied to our traditional culture values and beliefs because every living being was put here by the creator. It is our job individually and collectively to help one another and that's how our ancestors were able to meet the challenges no matter how difficult and they prevailed. Our inherent sovereignty is based upon our traditional knowledge, beliefs, culture and processes that were here and practiced long before any contact was made with the Spaniards. I believe that our language must be preserved and cherished because everything we do A:shiwi is tied to the language. When the language dies out everything else will follow.

Year 2022 is a State and County election-year: do you feel it is important for the Zuni tribe to participate in the process?

Why or Why not?

It is important for our tribal members to let their voices be known by voting in these two elections. I would encourage the young people who have become of age to register to vote. In addition, all the registered voters in the community should also be encouraged to exercise their right to vote. Remember, we as indigenous people were not given the right to vote until 1965 when the Voting Rights Act was passed. This is a right that took a long time in coming and we need to exercise that right. If all the registered voters in our community participates in these elections, we could have the numbers to influence changes that

would be beneficial for us. We also need to do our homework and see which candidates will support the Native American causes and will be willing to work with us once they are elected. I believe that I can be influential in encouraging our people to register and vote. I can also meet with the candidates to see what their views are on issues that are affecting Native Americans in general and issues that are specific to us.

If you were elected to the position you are vying for, What vision or aspirations do you have for your community? As a Tribe?

The Zuni tribal government must work together with all entities at the State, Federal and the private sectors to create and implement short-term and long-term strategies. By doing so, these resources can be used to provide the much needed growth, development, opportunities and employment for the community. We have to be innovative in our approach and seek new methods and or processes to reach these goals.

The Zuni tribal government must have fiscal accountability. They must respect the needs of all the people without undue favoritism, afford fair and equal rights to all people. The Zuni tribal government must have integrity in all their dealings to uphold the highest ethical principles, to make informed decisions, and have an open transparent communication with the people.

I believe that I have a strong background in administration and have a wide range of knowledge and experience in planning, developing strategic plans and other areas where critical thinking skills are needed. I would contribute my talents to help our government move forward in a positive way. I have the courage, knowledge and experience to help create a government that would be truly for the people. I am innovative, a hard worker, I am committed to do my best at all times, I have respect for my people, and I believe I possess the qualities of a good leader.

We must invest in the future growth of our youth. I know that one of the biggest problems facing our community is the alcohol and drug use. I believe that stronger laws need to be developed to address these serious issues. We also need to look at treatment and recovery for our people who are suffering from these addictions. We can no longer strictly look at punishment but we have to look at it from a holistic perspective and find innovative ways to help our people get out of the vicious cycle of addiction.

It is true that our youth are the future it is not just a cliché however, if we do not address the ills our people are suffering from then our youth will fall into the same pattern. There has to be better coordination, cooperation, and communication among all service providers that includes the Indian Health Service to address our needs. I believe that the tribal government has to intervene by legislation and resources to address the social problems we all suffer from because times have changed and our laws and resources have not kept up with these changes. I would like to see a healthier Zuni tribe and community that covers the physical, emotional and spiritual elements that make us whole.

The Zuni tribe needs to adopt the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Right for Prior Informed Consent. This will strengthen our inherent rights as a people and will ensure those rights are recognized and protected. This will also give us a place at the table to discuss issues that are impacting us as a tribe and to be able to bring it to the national and international levels through the United Nations.

