

Hello, my name is Erica James. I am full blooded Hopi and a proud member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. I grew up on the CRIT reservation attending Wallace Elementary, Le Pera Elementary and graduated with honors from Parker High School.

My involvement with the Tribes began at the age of 14 while working with the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Summer Youth Program. I then worked at the original BlueWater Casino in the Moovalya Plaza and helped transition to the current casino location on the river where I served as the Assistant Personnel Director in the Human Resources Department until 2005.

From 2003 to 2015, I had the honor of serving as a proud military wife. My family and I moved around the southern United States and enjoyed our travels immensely. During this time, I met many people interested in my Native American culture. I shared with them stories of our beautiful reservation, our essential land and water, our strong people and culture, our proud native values and our productive government.

My family and I returned to the reservation, our home, in 2015. I immediately returned to work for the Tribes in the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) then transferred to the CRIT Office of the Attorney General where I am the Lease Compliance Specialist. I continue to volunteer for community events such as the Toys for Tot, and the Lower 40 4-H Club with my children. I also served as a Field Census Supervisor for the 2020 United States Census to ensure as many CRIT Tribal members were counted as possible.

During this pandemic, I served our community through CRIT Media to disseminate information on COVID-19 awareness and prevention, as well as various public service announcements. I am also the Public Information Officer for the CRIT Incident Command Response Team. I continue to volunteer at various COVID-19 testing clinics and mask giveaways in our community.

The bottom line is, I care about my community, that's why I do what I do. I want to help. If elected, I'll ensure our tribal members come first. I want our people to have what they need to take care of themselves and their families during these unprecedented times. We need access to proper health care for all tribal members. I want to work with council and the appropriate departments for better housing availability for tribal members. I want to explore new business ventures and provide better employment opportunities for our Tribal community. I want to ensure our current policies and enterprises continue to benefit our tribal population and our land.

I am a hardworking, business-oriented individual who will continue to work hard for our community. If elected to CRIT Tribal Council, I promise to allow your voice to be heard. I will make myself available to the community to hear your comments and concerns about our current health and economic climate and direction going forward. I will always place the needs of this community before my own. I work well with others and will work together with other Tribal Council members to help ensure positive growth and direction for years to come. Your support and vote is greatly appreciated. Thank you.