



## Questions to Consider Before You Vote!

**1. Does the candidate know and understand the U.S. Constitution?**

*The Constitution is the legal foundation that recognizes Indian Nations as sovereign governments, so it is critical that your representative will fully understand and respect its importance.*

**2. Does the candidate understand the constitutional relationship between the U.S. Federal Government and federally-recognized tribes?**

*American Indian and Alaska Native tribes have a unique government-to-government relationship with the U.S. government that has existed since the formation of the United States.*

**3. Does the candidate understand what tribal sovereignty is?**

*An understanding of tribal sovereignty is vital for adequate representation. Tribal sovereignty allows tribes to regulate tribal land, taxes, zoning, resources, and the conduct of tribal members.*

**4. Does the candidate support tribal sovereignty and self-determination?**

*Self-governance is essential if tribal communities are to continue to protect their unique cultures and identities. In order to move forward, tribal communities need representatives that will honor and support tribal sovereignty in the national arena.*

**5. What is the candidate's motivation for running?**

*Is the candidate running because they want to bring good to the community? Will this individual be the most cohesive voice that will represent the entire community? Be cautious when assessing whether the candidate is running for you or for him/herself.*

**6. Has the candidate visited your reservation or tribal community?**

*It is almost impossible to truly realize the unique challenges and obstacles that Indian communities face without witnessing it in person.*

**7. Does the candidate have personal integrity to keep specific campaign promises related to Indian Country?**

*Although it may be unpopular, will the candidate support and defend tribal interests?*

**8. What about the candidate or their past behavior makes you confident they will keep their promises?**

*Candidates tend to make promises, so it is important to look at their history. Do they actually follow through with their promises or do they just say what the voters want to hear?*

**9. When has the candidate been true to their word even to their own harm?**

*Actions speak louder than words. If the candidate has stood up for Indian issues in the past, then there's a good possibility that he/she will do it again.*

**10. If the candidate has already served in office, what was their voting record? (Did they support or oppose the Indian Health Care Improvement Act? Tribal Law and Order Act?)**

*Indian Country needs representatives who will support and advocate on behalf of tribal members!*

