



## **Biography of Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez**

Jonathan Nez currently serves as the ninth President of the Navajo Nation. Born and raised on the Navajo Nation, his family is from Shonto, Arizona and he is Áshjiihí (Salt People), born

for Ta'neeszahnii (Tangle clan). His maternal grandfather's clan is Tódich'ii'nii (Bitter Water Clan) and his paternal grandfather's clan is the Táchii'nii (Red-Running-Into-The-Water Clan). He and his wife Phefelia Nez have two children.

President Nez began his political career after being elected as Shonto Chapter Vice President. He was later elected to serve three terms as a Navajo Nation Council Delegate, representing the communities of Shonto, Oljato, Tsah Bi Kin and Navajo Mountain. President Nez was also elected to the Navajo County Board of Supervisors for District 1 and served two terms (he had to resign after he was elected Navajo Nation Vice President) in the state of Arizona.

President Nez believes strongly in education. He is in pursuit of a doctoral degree in political science and has completed research on local empowerment and mobilizing local communities of the Navajo Nation to reinstate their inherent local governance. Most importantly, President believes that education and leadership should be guided by the Navajo Wellness Model grounded in the Diné principles of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahat'á (planning), Iná (life), and Sihasin (stability of restoration of balance and harmony through reflection).

He is an alumnus of Northland Pioneer College and Northern Arizona University (NAU). He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a Masters of Public Administration from NAU.

President Nez is an avid runner and advocates for healthy living. He enjoys training for and participating in long-distance events and has participated in multiple marathons, including the Black Canyon 100K Ultra. President Nez participate annually in the Running for a Stronger and Healthier Navajo Nation and Just Move It series to encourage families to be active and promoting physical fitness and living a healthy lifestyle. Nez dedicates most long distance runs to the resiliency and strength of our ancestors in hopes of revitalizing the Diné Way of Life and teachings.

After serving as Vice President, he became the youngest President of the Navajo Nation on January 15, 2019. As President, he continues to promote the teaching of "T'áá hwó' ajit'éego," which encourages individual self-resiliency in all aspects of life. He strongly believes that this powerful teaching is what drives us as individuals to work hard every day and pursue what we want in life. Working together, he believes we can create the positive change for us as Diné people and to benefit the future of our communities.