



# TANYA LEWIS

## Chairwoman

### Yavapai-Apache Nation

Tanya Lewis is the Chairwoman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, born and raised in Clarkdale, Arizona. Elected to a three-year term as Chairwoman in September 2022, she has brought strong, visionary leadership to the Nation, navigating complex issues and advancing economic, cultural, and social initiatives.

Before her current role, Chairwoman Lewis served as Vice Chairwoman from 2019 to 2022, including during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this position, she led the Nation through one of its most challenging periods, managing the public health crisis, addressing severe economic impacts, and guiding strategic decisions on the allocation of CARES and ARPA funds. Her leadership during this time was instrumental in building the Nation's resilience and setting a foundation for post-pandemic economic recovery.



Since her election as Chairwoman, Lewis has continued to make a lasting impact. She successfully led the resolution of a multi-decade administrative land exchange, adding nearly 3,200 acres to the Yavapai-Apache Nation, which will support its cultural, social, and economic sustainability. She skillfully rallied regional support to advance the land exchange, ensuring the inclusion and engagement of key stakeholders across the Verde Valley.

In 2024, Chairwoman Lewis spearheaded the drafting of legislation for the Yavapai-Apache Nation Federal Indian Water Rights Settlement, addressing a negotiation process spanning over 50 years. Her commitment to protecting the Nation's water, land, and cultural resources demonstrates her dedication to long-term tribal sustainability. Chairwoman Lewis also brings extensive knowledge and experience in community and economic development, Indian education, Indian gaming, and is highly regarded by federal and state agencies for her expertise in consultation and advocacy.

A respected voice in Indian Country, Chairwoman Lewis has actively participated in influential organizations such as the Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona, Arizona Indian Gaming Association, National Congress of American Indians, and National Indian Gaming Association. Her work with these groups reflects her commitment to advancing the prosperity and sustainability of Indigenous communities nationwide.

Chairwoman Lewis is a devoted wife and mother. Her family is deeply involved in the sport of rodeo, including professional Indian rodeo, and they proudly uphold their traditional culture and participate in their ancestral ceremonies.