

**Biographical Sketch of
Dr. Ned Norris, Jr.
Chairman – Tohono O’odham Nation**

Ned Norris, Jr. is an enrolled member of the Tohono O’odham Nation from the remote village of Fresnal Canyon, Baboquivari District, Tohono O’odham Nation. In May 2019, he was elected to serve a four-year term as Chairman of the Tohono O’odham Nation. Prior to his election he served as Director of Governmental Relations for the Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise. He previously served two four-year terms as Chairman of the Tohono O’odham Nation, from 2007-2015.

In May 2003 he was elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Tohono O’odham Nation. Prior to this election he worked with the Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise as Director of Marketing & Public Relations (Nov 2000 – May 2003); Casino Manager (June 1994 – Nov 2000); and Director of Community Relations (Nov 1993 – June 1994). The Enterprise operates three casino and entertainment facilities in Southern Arizona near Tucson, Sahuarita, and Why, and one casino in the West Valley of Phoenix near Glendale, Arizona.

Dr. Norris has served the people of his Nation for over four decades. In addition to working with the Enterprise and holding the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman, he has also served as the Assistant Director of the tribe’s Children’s Home; Court Advocate; Children’s Court Judge; Court of Appeals Judge; Indian Child Welfare Specialist; Assistant Director of Tribal Social Services and Director of Tribal Government Operations. On February 1, 1993 Dr. Norris completed a six-year Tohono O’odham Legislative Council appointment as (non-attorney) tribal Judge, the last three of those years as Chief Judge for the Judicial Branch.

In October 2011, Dr. Norris was elected to serve a term as the Western Area (Arizona, Nevada and Utah) Vice President for the National Congress of American Indians and has served as a board member of Chicanos Por La Causa in Tucson, the American Indian Association of Tucson Inc., the University of Arizona – Arthritis Center Advisory Board, the Tucson Airport Authority-Advisory Board and Pima Association of Governments. He is the former Chairman of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association, and a former Chairman of the Pima Association of Governments, and served as Co-Chair of the National Congress of American Indians Homeland Security/Border Issues Workgroup. Additionally, a former board member of the Tucson Urban League, the Tucson Metropolitan Education Commission, KUAT Communications Group-Advisory Board, and the Sunnyside Unified School District Governing Board. He was inducted into the Sunnyside Unified School District Hall of Fame. He’s also a former Commissioner for the Tohono O’odham Nation’s Tribal Employment Rights Office. Dr. Norris previously served on the Homeland Security Advisory Council (2015 – 2017) appointed by former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh C. Johnson.

In May 2009, Dr. Norris was conferred an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Humane Letters from the University of Arizona.