

Hello PBP Nation,

My name is Laura Abeyta. I am running for the position of Vice Chair of the Ethics Commission. It has been my sad experience to witness the need for this Commission throughout my 30 years of coming back home.

I am a graduate of a Catholic Boarding School, at Marty, South Dakota both of my parents had gone to school there, and at that time, they decided it would be the best thing for us. The book education was excellent, while the real-life education lacked somewhat, in the real world.

After a too young marriage and divorce, I worked for both Southwestern and Northwestern Bell for 5 years. I soon realized that in order to support myself and my sons, I needed a degree. I went back to school, first Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Then, on to SIPI. SIPI had a program to FastTrack minorities for the new Equal Opportunity Act. I had my Associates Degree in Electronics within 9 months and was hired by NCR as a Field Engineer. I worked for them for 13 years.

In 1991, the country had our first Desert Storm. That served as a reminder of how fragile our time here is. I figured it was about time to accomplish something with my life. We came home.

Since coming home, I carried petitions to separate the Council from the Gaming Commission, sat on the original Jackson County Development Board, was one of the first elected Gaming Commissioners, lobbied for three years to get the gaming compact passed by the State Legislature, was elected from the floor to sit on the first Constitution Committee, which I served on for approximately 10 years, only to have our final product cut and pasted into a totally different document.

It would be my pleasure to further serve the people in this position. If there are any questions as to my qualifications or integrity, I would welcome a forum, or any opportunity to prove my worthiness for this position. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I thank you,

Laura A. Abeyta