

YAN NEWS

TRIBAL LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

YAN Leadership Joins Tribal Energy Discussions at the Arizona State Capitol

Chairman Buddy Rocha Jr. and Vice Chairman Charlie Baca IV represented the Yavapai-Apache Nation during a statewide gathering focused on Tribal energy planning, community resilience and continued engagement between Tribal Nations and state partners.

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YAN Communications | By Treyson Fullmer



Tribal leaders and representatives gather following the closing Tribal-State discussion at the 2026 Arizona Tribal Energy Summit & Workshop.

Photo by Treyson Fullmer / YAN Communications

Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairman Buddy Rocha Jr. and Vice Chairman Charlie Baca IV joined Tribal leaders from across Arizona on September 22 for the 2026 Arizona Tribal Energy Summit & Workshop at the Arizona State Capitol.

Organized by the Arizona Governor's Office on Tribal Relations and Governor's Office of Resiliency, the day-long summit brought Tribal leaders together with state officials, energy professionals and partner organizations to discuss community resilience, energy planning and development, and resources available to support Tribal energy priorities.



Attendees gather for the opening keynote at the 2026 Arizona Tribal Energy Summit & Workshop.

Photo by Treyson Fullmer / YAN Communications

Discussions throughout the day explored the connection between energy and broader community resilience, including emergency preparedness, infrastructure, project development, and access to funding and technical assistance.

That broader view of energy extended beyond individual projects to the systems communities rely on every day. Reliable power and infrastructure can affect the ability to maintain essential services, respond during emergencies, and support long-term development. For rural and Tribal communities, speakers also emphasized that planning must account for differences in geography, existing infrastructure, available resources, and community priorities.

The summit also looked at resources available to help Tribal communities move energy priorities forward. Discussions included funding, financing and technical assistance, as well as support for energy planning and project development. Speakers emphasized the importance of matching available resources with locally identified needs while recognizing that each Tribal Nation has its own needs and priorities.



Panelists discuss funding, financing and technical assistance available to support Tribal energy priorities.

Photo by Treyson Fullmer / YAN Communications

Chairman Rocha and Vice Chairman Baca contributed to discussions during the summit and engaged with Tribal leaders and representatives from across Arizona. Beyond the formal presentations, the gathering provided opportunities for leaders to exchange experiences, discuss shared challenges and connect directly with state officials and professionals working in the energy field.

Those interactions reflected another theme of the summit: Tribal communities may encounter similar issues, but each Nation brings its own circumstances and priorities to the conversation. Bringing leaders together created space to share approaches while maintaining the individual voice and decision-making of each Tribal Nation.

The summit also focused on continued engagement between Tribal Nations and the State of Arizona. Participants discussed the value of hearing directly from Tribal communities, gathering feedback and maintaining relationships as energy programs, resources and partnerships continue to develop.



Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairman Buddy Rocha Jr. and Vice Chairman Charlie Baca IV engage with San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Terry Rambler and Vice Chairman Tao Etpison during the summit.

Photo by Treyson Fullmer / YAN Communications

The day concluded with a closed discussion between Tribal and state officials. Chairman Rocha and Vice Chairman Baca joined other Tribal leaders for the session, providing an opportunity for direct Tribal-State dialogue following the day's broader presentations and discussions.

For the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the summit provided both information on emerging energy resources and opportunities and a forum for leadership to remain directly engaged with Tribal and state partners on issues involving infrastructure, resilience and the Nation's long-term energy priorities.