TITLE: An Action Relating To Naabik’iyati Committee And Navajo Nation Council; Establishing Policy That The Navajo Nation Government Shall Not Endorse Candidates Or Political Parties In Federal, State And Local Elections

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DATE: September 8, 2020

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ESTABLISHING POLICY THAT THE NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL PARTIES IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will establish Navajo Nation policy against the Navajo Nation government endorsing candidates or political parties in federal, state and local elections.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.
PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0223-20

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK’IYÁTI’ COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ESTABLISHING POLICY THAT THE NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL PARTIES IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. FINDINGS

A. The Navajo Nation Council or the appropriate Standing Committee(s) must review and approve statements of policy of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §164 (A) (2012) see also CO-45-12.

B. The Naabik’íyáti’ Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the enumerated power to recommend resolutions to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 701 (A) (3).

C. Navajo Nation President Nez recently spoke at the Democratic National Convention in support of Presidential Candidate Joe Biden; Navajo Nation Vice-President Lizer recently spoke at the Republican National Convention in support of re-electing President Trump.

D. Although neither President Nez nor Vice-President Lizer specifically stated that they were appearing at the respective Conventions on behalf of the Navajo Nation, much of the Navajo Nation public thought that President Nez was endorsing Mr. Biden and the Democratic Party on behalf of the Navajo Nation.
and that Vice-President Lizer was endorsing President Trump and the Republican Party on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

E. 1 N.N.C. § 203(A), Diyin Bits\'ąądę́ę́' Bechazłáanii declares and teaches it is the right and freedom of the Diné to choose leaders of their choice; leaders who will communicate with the people for guidance; leaders who will use their experience and wisdom to always act in the best interest of the people; and leaders who will also ensure the rights and freedoms of the generations yet to come.

F. 1 N.N.C. § 203(B), Diyin Bits'ąądę́ę́' Bechazłáanii declares and teaches that all leaders chosen by the Diné are to carry out their duties and responsibilities in a moral and legal manner in representing the people and the government; people's trust and confidence in the leaders and the continued status as a leader are dependent upon adherence to the values and principles of Diné bi beenahazłáanii.

G. It is a fundamental right of the Diné to elect the leader(s) of their choice be it Navajo leaders or leaders at the federal, state or local level; this right should not be usurped by Navajo Nation leadership endorsing candidates and political parties on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

SECTION THREE. ESTABLISHING POLICY AGAINST THE NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT ENDORSING POLITICAL CANDIDATES AND PARTIES

As an official statement of policy, the Navajo Nation government shall not endorse any candidate or political party at the tribal, federal, state or local level.

SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Action is effective upon its approval pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §221 (A) and (B).

SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE

Should any provisions of this statement of policy be determined invalid by the Navajo
Nation Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions of this statement of policy which are not determined invalid shall remain the official policy of the Navajo Nation.