



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Navajo Council congratulates new Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer

*LoRenzo C. Bates attends inauguration of new governor*

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Navajo Nation Council Delegate LoRenzo C. Bates attended the inauguration of Jan Brewer, former Secretary of State for Arizona, as she took the oath of office for Arizona Governor on Jan. 21.

"I was happy to have witnessed the swearing in of the 22nd Arizona Governor," Bates said. "The Navajo Nation Council looks forward to working with her and other Arizona state officials to strengthen our current relationship."

Bates (Upper Fruitland) is chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee and is a member of Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council. He is also a member of the IGR Task Force on State Affairs, which was recently created by Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan to bring greater focus to the evolving priorities of the Council to state legislators.



Navajo Nation Council Delegate LoRenzo C. Bates congratulates new Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer on Jan. 21 in Phoenix, Ariz. (Courtesy Photo)

Eric Descheenie, legislative staff assistant for the Office of the Speaker, also attended the inauguration on behalf of Speaker Morgan.

The state faces a projected revenue shortfall of nearly \$1.6 billion in the \$9.9 billion current budget. A shortfall twice that size is projected in the next fiscal year's budget.

"Governor Brewer is transitioning during a time when the state faces a budget crisis," Bates explained. "It is important as Navajo lawmakers that we throw our support behind her."

Bates, who is familiar with budget constraints, said he hopes the nation and state can work together to come up with creative solutions to address the budget issue.

The outdoor swearing-in ceremony was open to the public and took place east of the historic Capitol building. Brewer was read the oath of office by Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth McGregor. The one-hour ceremony included a traditional Native American blessing as well.

"On behalf of the 21st Navajo Nation Council, I want to congratulate Governor Brewer," Bates said. "We look forward to working with her to create positive change throughout rural Arizona in Navajoland."

Brewer was elected to the Secretary of State Office in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. She is succeeding former Gov. Janet Napolitano, who resigned Jan. 20 to join the Obama Administration as the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Speaker Morgan is pleased to have had adequate representation at both the Arizona State Inauguration of Governor Brewer and the U.S. Presidential inauguration that were held back-to-back on Jan. 20 and Jan. 21. Such presence, positions the Navajo Council to continue developing critical inter-governmental relationships with the new and incoming administrations for both the state and federal government.

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