



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Navajo Council concludes 2009 winter session

*Council passes legislation urging state of Arizona to honor state's outstanding grant awards to Navajo*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The 21st Navajo Nation Council discussed and voted on several pieces of legislation during the four-day winter session.

At the start of the winter session, Council delegate Amos F. Johnson (Forest Lake) made a motion to delete all new business items requesting funds since the Undesignated-Unreserved Fund Balance is at zero. It was seconded by Danny Simpson (Huerfano) and the Council voted 59-23 to remove nine pieces of legislation from the agenda.

In old business, the Council voted 23-49 against recalling Legislation No. 0133-08 relating to resources and government services, which proposes to amend three Navajo Nation Codes to change the plan of operation for farm boards. The legislation was sponsored by Norman John II (Twin Lakes) and George Arthur (T'iistoh Sikaad/San Juan/Nenanezad).

The Council also voted to add Legislation No. 0040-09 related to an emergency urging the state of Arizona Legislature to honor the state's outstanding grant awards to the Nation and refrain from recalling funding. The legislation passed with a vote of 67-0.

The Council voted 41-33 to table Legislation No. 0565-08 relating to community development, economic development, and finance until the summer session. The legislation proposes to ratify the creation of Navajo Community Development Financial Institution Inc. as a for-profit corporation wholly owned by the Navajo Nation and proposes to authorize the representatives and community advisory committee for the corporation. The legislation was sponsored by Jonathan Nez (Shonto).

Legislation No. 0652-08 proposing to amend codes to provide unlimited terms for the president and vice president of the Navajo Nation failed to pass with a vote of 8-58 by the Council. The legislation was sponsored by Ernest D. Yazzie, Jr. (Baahaali/Church Rock) and Danny Simpson.

Legislation No. 0203-07 sponsored by Willie Tracey Jr. relating to intergovernmental relations to enact the Standing Committee Leadership Act of 2007 to put term limits on chair and vice-chair positions on committees failed with a vote of 54-19.



Members of the To'Nanees'Dizi Chapter present information regarding their Local Government Tax Code to the Navajo Council during its winter session Jan. 29, 2009. Pictured left to right: Priscilla Littlefoot, Max Goldtooth, Helen Herbert and Robert Yazzie. (Photo by Joshua Lavar Butler)

The Council voted 67-6 to table Legislation No. 0721-08 approving the Diné Power Authority's application to the Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for right of ways for Desert Rock Energy Project until a work session can be put in place. The legislation was sponsored by George Arthur, Roy B. Dempsey (Oak Springs/St. Michaels) and Norman John II.

The Council voted 53-5 in favor of Legislation No. 0797-08 sponsored by Hope MacDonald Lone Tree (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi) amending public safety laws to include booster seat requirements for 5-12 year olds.

The Council passed an amendment to Legislation No. 0039-09 to approve \$11,301,800 from the Personal Lapse Fund to go towards tribal departments and to Navajo Nation chapters. The legislation passed 64-11.

Council Delegate LoRenzo C. Bates (Upper Fruitland) sponsored Legislation No. 0596-08 related to economic development and finance to approve a \$7 million line of credit to the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) for collateralization of financing for replacement of center pivots and other infrastructure in NAPI Block Two. The Council voted 61-4 in favor.

Legislation No. 0610-08 sponsored by George Arthur related to government services, resources and economic development to enact the Navajo Tourism Fund Amendment Act of 2008 passed with a vote of 37-29 by Council.

The Council also voted 42-32 to table legislation No. 0740-08 relating to community development and finance, which proposes to approve the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government Tax Code. The sponsors were Bobby Robbins and Raymond Maxx (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi).

The Council voted unanimously 71-0 to pass Legislation No. 0784-08 changing the name of Sanostee Chapter to Tse Alnaozt'i'i Chapter. Legislation No. 0737-08 sponsored by Lawrence T. Morgan and Ervin M. Keeswood, Sr. (Tse Daa Kaan) passed with a vote of 63-0 to appoint Frank M. Seanez as chief legislative counsel of the Navajo Nation.

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