



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Navajo Nation Council to consider referendum measures in Special Session

WINDOW ROCK— The Navajo Nation Council will hold a special session on May 19 to consider several legislations including four separate bills seeking the approval to refer referendum measures for the Navajo public to vote on in an upcoming referendum election.

Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) is sponsoring Legislation No. 0157-15, which would allow the public to vote on whether or not the Navajo Nation should use a portion of its Permanent Trust Fund to support a Transportation Stimulus Plan proposed by the Navajo Division of Transportation.

The Transportation Stimulus Plan includes funding for the Navajo Nation Tribal Transportation Improvement Program, maintenance and safety road activities, airports, road maintenance yards, equipment, and non-paved road maintenance.

The legislation initially included an overall amount of over \$566 million, however, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on Thursday removed the amount from the bill pending further considerations. If approved and signed into law, the referendum question would be placed on the ballot in an upcoming referendum election and would require two-thirds approval of registered voters who cast a ballot.

Also on the proposed agenda is Legislation No. 0154-15, a proposed referendum that would allow voters to determine if Navajo Nation District Court Judges and Supreme Court Justices should be elected by the public.

A separate bill seeks the approval for a referendum to determine if the Navajo Nation Supreme Court should increase the number of Associate Justices from two to five justices selected from each of the Nation's five agencies.

If approved, Legislation No. 0155-15 sponsored by Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood), would allow the public to vote on whether or not to approve approximately \$206 million in funding from the Permanent Trust Fund to complete judicial and public safety facilities in the communities of Chinle, Dilkon, Shiprock, Pinon, and Fort Defiance. The referendum would also require two-thirds approval of registered voters who cast a ballot.

The special session will be live-streamed on the Council's designated Ustream channel. To view the proposed agenda please visit navajonationcouncil.org.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, search for keywords: Navajo Nation Council