



May 20, 2015

**Statement from Speaker LoRenzo Bates
regarding misleading Gallup Independent headline**

The Office of the Speaker has requested the Gallup Independent to issue a correction regarding an entirely incorrect and erroneous headline that reads, “Council tables literacy vote,” in today’s edition of the Gallup Independent.

The perception of the headline has significant implications and blatantly misleads the public into believing that the Council is somehow attempting to repeal a previously approved referendum concerning fluency requirements for the Navajo Nation presidency — the Council has absolutely not made any such attempt!

The public deserves to be accurately informed and not misled, especially regarding a very sensitive and highly publicized issue.

In accordance with Navajo Nation law, the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors is now tasked with finalizing the ballot language for the referendum.

Based on the approved Council resolution and the approval of the former President, the question of fluency will be put forth to the Navajo people to determine the fluency requirements through the casting of their ballots.

Ahé’ée’

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LoRenzo Bates'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'L' and 'B'.

LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
23rd Navajo Nation Council