

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0223-20__

SPONSOR: Eugene Tso

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

Date posted: September 11, 2020 at 6:50 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0223-20

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.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 09-16-20
Eligible for Action: 09-17-20

Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2020

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5 _____
6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0223-20

9 AN ACTION

10 RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION
11 COUNCIL; ESTABLISHING POLICY THAT THE NAVAJO NATION
12 GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL
13 PARTIES IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS
14

15 BE IT ENACTED:

16 SECTION ONE. FINDINGS

- 17 A. The Navajo Nation Council or the appropriate Standing Committee(s) must
18 review and approve statements of policy of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §164
19 (A) (2012) *see also* CO-45-12.
- 20 B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation
21 Council with the enumerated power to recommend resolutions to the Navajo
22 Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 701 (A) (3).
- 23 C. Navajo Nation President Nez recently spoke at the Democratic National
24 Convention in support of Presidential Candidate Joe Biden; Navajo Nation
25 Vice-President Lizer recently spoke at the Republican National Convention in
26 support of re-electing President Trump.
- 27 D. Although neither President Nez nor Vice-President Lizer specifically stated that
28 they were appearing at the respective Conventions on behalf of the Navajo
29 Nation, much of the Navajo Nation public thought that President Nez was
30 endorsing Mr. Biden and the Democratic Party on behalf of the Navajo Nation

1 and that Vice-President Lizer was endorsing President Trump and the
2 Republican Party on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

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

9 F. 1 N.N.C. § 203(B), Diyin Bits'áá'déé' Beehaz'áanií declares and teaches that
10 all leaders chosen by the Diné are to carry out their duties and responsibilities
11 in a moral and legal manner in representing the people and the government;
12 people's trust and confidence in the leaders and the continued status as a
13 leader are dependent upon adherence to the values and principles of Diné bi
14 beenahazáanii.

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

19
20 **SECTION THREE. ESTABLISHING POLICY AGAINST THE NAVAJO**
21 **NATION GOVERNMENT ENDORSING POLITICAL CANDIDATES AND**
22 **PARTIES**

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

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26 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

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

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29 **SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE**

30 Should any provisions of this statement of policy be determined invalid by the Navajo

1 Nation Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the
2 Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions of this statement of policy which are not
3 determined invalid shall remain the official policy of the Navajo Nation.
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