



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24th Navajo Nation Council Acts on 19 Legislations at Fall Session

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Oct. 24, 2019 – The Fall Session of the 24th Navajo Nation Council concluded Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Arizona. 19 legislations were considered at the quarterly session of the full Navajo Nation Council.



PHOTO: Honorable Edward T. Begay, who is the third Speaker of the Navajo Nation and former Vice-Chairman of the Navajo Tribe, was honored for his service to the Navajo Nation by the 24th Navajo Nation Council at its Fall Session on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Arizona.

The Navajo Nation Council considered six legislations to amend the Navajo Nation Code. Title 13 was amended through adoption of the “Accessible Public Restrooms Act” that now requires Navajo Nation public service programs to provide clearly indicated restrooms that are accessible to those with a physical disability. The enabling legislation in Title 2 for the

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Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission was amended to allow the commission to provide more direct assistance and guidance in addressing human rights grievances brought forward by enrolled members of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Council also amended Title 21 to increase the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's debt limit from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion to allow for the improvement and expansion of NTUA's facilities.

Changes to the Navajo Election Code in Title 11 were also approved to clarify the appointment and special election provisions, to amend the removal provisions and Office of Hearings and Appeals procedures, and to change the date of the Navajo Nation primary election to the first Tuesday in August.

A total of \$23,652,549 in funding through four legislations was approved by the Navajo Nation Council. \$19 million (\$19,297,576) in project development funding through the Division of Economic Development was approved for the Church Rock Industrial Park Development project for expansion of facilities for manufacturing. \$955,000 (\$954,973) was authorized for the Division of Aging and Long Term Care Support to cover shortfalls from state funding sources. \$3 million was approved for the construction of a chapter house for Tonalea Chapter, which is the only chapter in the Western Navajo Nation Agency that currently lacks a physical building. \$400,000 was approved in supplemental funding for the Tohatchi Area of Opportunity and Services, Inc. (TAOS, Inc.) for eight new vehicles to serve members of the Navajo Nation with disabilities.

The Navajo Nation Council made three appointments: Dana L. Bobroff was appointed to Chief Legislative Counsel of the Navajo Nation Council; Kimberly Dutcher was appointed to the position of Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General; and Crystal Cree was nominated to the graduate student position on the Commission on Navajo Government Development.

The Navajo Nation Council voted to refer a proposal to establish a \$50 million Navajo Nation Scholarship Endowment to the Budget and Finance Committee for further review and clarification the work requirement attached to scholarship awards.

A legislation to amend the Navajo Nation Energy Policy of 2013 to allow for the creation of the Energy Office within the Division of Natural Resources was tabled for no longer than Winter Session. Also tabled for no more than 30 days was legislation terminating the general indemnity agreements granted in through 2013 and 2015 Navajo Nation Council resolutions for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC.

The plan of operation for the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Committee was also amended by the Navajo Nation Council to adjust membership and to add language pertaining to technical assistance for the commission.

The Navajo Nation Council received three oral reports on its first day in session from the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, the Bureau of Indian Affairs,

and the Navajo Nation Office of the Chief Justice and a written report from the Office of the Speaker.

Eleven legislations approved by the Navajo Nation Council will now be forwarded to President Nez to be signed into law or vetoed. Legislations, including all attachments considered by the Council Delegates during the Fall Session, is available online through the Navajo Nation Legislative Tracking System at <http://dibb.nnols.org/>.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and agents First Lady Perphelia Nez and Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco prepare responses during the discussion following President Nez's report to the 24th Navajo Nation Council at its Fall Session on Monday, October 21, 2019 in Window Rock, Arizona.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne delivers her report the 24th Navajo Nation Council at its Fall Session on Monday, October 21, 2019 in Window Rock, Arizona.

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