

2019 Fall Session Legislative Branch News



24th Navajo Nation Council Holds 2019 Fall Session

The Fall Session of the 24th Navajo Nation Council concluded Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Arizona. 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. 19 total legislative actions were considered at the Council's quarterly session, including amendments to the Navajo Nation Code:

1. Title 13 was amended through the "Accessible Public Restrooms Act" which requires public service entities to provide clearly indicated restrooms.
2. Title 2 was amended to grant the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission more options in addressing human rights grievances.
3. Title 21 was amended to increase the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's debt limit from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion.
4. Title 11, the Navajo Election Code, was amended to clarify appointment and special election provisions; to amend 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.

Council approved \$22,903,539 in funding through four legislations:

1. \$19,297,576 to the Division of Economic Development for Church Rock Industrial Park projects.
2. \$205,963 to the Division of Aging and Long Term Care Support.
3. \$3 million to Tonalea Chapter, which lacks a physical building.
4. \$400,000 for the Tohatchi Area of Opportunity and Services, Inc. for 8 vehicles to serve Navajo children with special needs.

The Council also made three appointments: Dana L. Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel; Kimberly Dutcher, Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General; Crystal Cree, Commissioner on Navajo Government Development.

Council took several other actions during the Fall Session:

- A \$50 million Navajo Nation Scholarship Endowment proposal was referred to the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Navajo Nation Energy Policy of 2013 amendments were tabled for no longer than Winter Session.
- Also tabled was legislation terminating the general indemnity agreements granted for NTEC.

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

Contents

Page

24th Navajo Nation Council holds 2019 Fall Session	1
A special note from the Speaker of the Navajo Nation	2
Moments from Q4 '19	
MMIW-MMDR: Delegate Crotty leads Missing & Murdered Diné Relatives, Women & Girls effort	3
Recap: Council allows \$1 billion to NTUA debt limit	4
Transportation: Bonding proposal under development	
Recap: \$50 Million Scholarship Work-Loan Proposal Sent to B&F	
Delegates set state legislative priorities	5
Council approves Churchrock Industrial Park funding	
Voting rights focus of Legislative Branch	
2019 Fall Session Voting Results	6
2019 Fall Session Honorees	8
Photos: Opening day participants	
Council switches from Ustream to Vimeo	
Supporting Diné veterans	9
Energy office to follow Navajo Energy Summit	
Diné Bizaad Subcommittee	
Photos: Appointments	
Navajo Counts! 2020 Census	10
Radiation Exposure Compensation Act	
Funding: Tribally Controlled Schools	
USNS Navajo underway	11



PHOTO: 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate stresses the importance of Social Services funding for women and children at the 2019 Special Budget Session. Window Rock, AZ.

A special note from the Speaker of the Navajo Nation

Yáát'ééh, shik'éeí dóó shidine'é. Thank all of you for joining me these past few months in continuing steady progress towards betterment for our Diné people.

Together, we conducted the affairs of the Nation and succeeded in providing a resounding response for our Diné people during the busy fair season. Eager to get on to the business of policy creation and revision, we passed our FY 2020 budget in record time. (For this, we commend the work of the Executive and Judicial Branches in delivering solid budgets).

It is no mystery that our fiscal year begins in October - *Ghááji'*. This is the time of renewed beginnings and harvest and this 24th Navajo Nation Council is evidence enough of the changes our nation is facing.

In keeping with our heritage and with the resilience we inherit from our ancestors, forefathers, and foremothers, we embrace change because our future depends on it.

It is my hope that, with this report, you will see the results of an ongoing effort to shift underlying processes and internal systems to reflect what is best about the Navajo work ethic: we are willing to rise to the challenge and adapt new tools and ideas.

I can confidently report that we are building a strong position for the not just the coming years, but the coming decades. The changes I have challenged each person within the Office of the Speaker to bring about are stepping stones to a more accountable future for our people.

The next steps we take will be well-positioned and coordinated.

The Office of the Speaker and the entire Legislative Branch shares this newsletter with you and we hope that you will find it informative and demonstrative of our nation's steady progress.



Seth Damon
Speaker, 24th Navajo Nation Council

Moments from Q4 '19



Council Approves Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Budget

The FY2020 budget passed in record time thanks to the diligence of the branch chiefs, standing committees, division directors, program managers, and chapters.

9/3/19.



Honorable Carl Roessel Slater Elected

Carl Roessel Slater resigned to run for Hon. Nelson S. BeGaye's seat. He joins us now as the Council Delegate from Round Rock, Arizona.

10/10/19.



Navajo Nation Fairs

The Office of the Speaker teamed up with Legislative Branch programs. Our float stuck to the core message of advocating for Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives.

Summer '19.



Senator Martha McSally Visits

Senator Martha McSally honored us and the Navajo Code Talkers with a visit during our annual celebration. She spoke ardently on supporting Native American veterans.

8/14/19.



Congressman Tom O'Halleran Visits

The Congressman from Arizona visited and gave an address to Delegates of the 24th Navajo Nation Council. He visited Diné Bikyéyah, including Leupp, Bodaway, Page, and more.

8/16/19.



First Nations Voting Rights

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the Utah Rural Project hosted the First Nations Voting Rights conference in Salt Lake City to discuss securing Native American voting rights.

9/26/19.



Navajo Code Talkers Week

The three branch chiefs issued a proclamation for Navajo Code Talkers Week from August 12-16, 2019. The Navajo Nation continues to honor the valor and sacrifice our Navajo Code Talkers made in WWII.

8/14/19.



Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Murder

An emotional vigil organized by Delegate Crotty was held at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in remembrance of victims of murder. 19 victims were remembered by loved ones.

9/25/19.



RECA Advocacy Trip

Leadership undertook a non-stop advocacy trip to Washington to take the words of the Navajo people directly to Senators and Representatives on the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

9/12/19.



PHOTO: Council Delegates Edmund Yazzie, Mark Freeland, President Nez, Delegates Wilson Stewart, Jr. and Raymond Smith, Jr. gather to break ground on the future Crownpoint Hotel. Crownpoint, N.M., 9/27/19.



PHOTO: City of Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans and Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr. following the declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Day in Flagstaff, Flagstaff, AZ, 10/15/19.



PHOTO: 2019-2020 Yavapai Apache Nation Tiny Tot Boy Wyatt Jackson (Diné/Yavapai Apache) waves from his float in the 2019 Navajo Nation Fair Parade. Window Rock, AZ, 9/7/19.



PHOTO: Contestants take part in the Grand Entry of the 2019 Navajo Nation Fair Song and Dance event. Window Rock, AZ, 9/7/19.



PHOTO: Speaker Seth Damon and Office of the Speaker staff donated pumpkins to the Saint Micheals Association for Special Education and Hoghan Hozhóni Childrens Home. St. Micheals, AZ, 10/7/19.



PHOTO: Council Delegates Pernel Halona, Daniel Tso, and Paul Begay stand with students from the Many Farms Community School. Window Rock, AZ, 10/15/19.

PHOTO: Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty organized an emotional candle light vigil to remember victims of murder and to provide a space for friends and relatives to help each other heal. Window Rock, AZ, 9/25/19.

MMIW MMDR

Delegate Crotty leads Missing & Murdered Diné Relatives, Women and Girls effort

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, while chair of the Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee in the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, initiated a project to facilitate policies and protocols that begin to address the underreported epidemic of missing and murdered Diné relatives and women.

Through this effort, Delegate Crotty has led multiple events across the Navajo Nation. The Office of the Speaker has assisted Delegate Crotty by continuing to support the message of fighting for increased funding at tribal, state, and federal levels for the issue.

Delegate Crotty has hosted several forums across the Navajo Nation to listen to constituents who have a missing or murdered loved one. She has also worked tirelessly to convene high level meetings with state and federal partners to identify resources and create stronger partnerships.

Additional public forums are being planned alongside the development of a data collection system. This system is being explored to help determine the extent of the problem through reporting and analysis.

The Office of the Speaker is assisting Delegate Crotty's efforts by providing strategic planning expertise and resources with the intent introducing legislation and policy changes that make the job of responding to reports of missing relatives more seamless and rapid.

We are confident that Delegate Crotty will continue to bring the urgent matter of missing and murdered Dine relatives to a national level and we are honored to help her develop the necessary internal mechanisms to create a center for reporting data and to identify internal and external resources to grow the effort. #



PHOTO: Empty chairs draped with red and yellow floral fabrics symbolize missing and murdered Diné relatives, women, and girls at the candle light vigil. Window Rock, AZ, 9/25/19.



PHOTO: Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signs House Bill 2570 creating a study committee to investigate the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Arizona. Delegate Crotty stands beside advocates for the bill. Phoenix, AZ, 8/13/19.



PHOTO: Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty ties a young girl's hair into a tsiyéét to demonstrate cultural practices that teach respect for Diné women. Window Rock, AZ, 9/7/19.



PHOTO: A 10-year memorial was held for Sonny Jim to bring awareness to the his and Wayne Johnson's murders. Their case has not gone to trial. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.



Recap

Transportation: Bonding Proposal Under Development

- Navajo Nation issues up to \$320 million in bonds
- Bonds repaid through Fuel Excise Tax
- Funding supports roads and bridges projects
- Projects to impact all regions

Transportation facilities previously built and owned by the federal government across the Navajo Nation are now deteriorating at an increasing rate. The Office of the Speaker has begun developing a proposal for a Navajo Nation transportation bond in partnership with the Navajo Division of Transportation.

The bonding program would allow the Navajo Nation to repair and upgrade a portion of the more than 14,167 miles of roadway within the nation.

The bond also begins to address the many deficiencies identified under the previous NDOT Long Range Transportation Plan. The issues include multiple pavement condition and current roadway system deficiencies requiring funding in excess of \$7.9 billion to properly address.

NDOT's report states clearly: "The transportation system provides access to schools, health care, government facilities, jobs and commerce. The current investments in infrastructure will not sustain the transportation system

that is needed for the long-term growth and development of the Nation."

The bonding program proposes raising \$320 million to accelerate improvements to roads and bridges within the Navajo Nation.

The long term impacts of this bond program will encourage positive economic development and will create new jobs for the Navajo Nation.

The Office of the Speaker is working to ensure that each agency and region is equitably represented in the projects that the bond program funds. This will help each region see an equitable impact to roads and bridges.

Our goal is to have all the projects across the Navajo Nation finalized by the end of the year.

The Office of the Speaker continues to engage with Council Delegates, Chapter Officials and the Navajo Department of Transportation Project Managers to finalize project lists for the planned bonding program. #

Recap \$50 Million Scholarship Work-Loan Proposal Sent to B&F

The \$50 million Síhásin Fund proposal to create a Navajo Nation Education Endowment Fund was referred back to the Budget and Finance Committee at its 2019 Fall Session.

The referral came after Council Delegates questioned the specific proposal to establish a work-loan program that would either allow for or require the repayment of awards made from the fund. President Nez outlined the proposal, stating that his administration has already begun identifying positions at the divisions that can be filled by graduating Navajos.

Though the legislation would have set-aside funding for the future program, the management plan for the fund was not available for Council Delegates to discuss. Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance Manager Rose Graham shared that the management plan is currently under development.

The Budget and Finance Committee will reconsider the legislation over the next quarter and, through vote, approve the proposal for consideration at the next session of the 24th Navajo Nation Council. #

Council Allows \$1 Billion to NTUA Debt Limit

The 24th Navajo Nation Council amended the Navajo Nation Code to allow the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to raise up to \$1.5 billion in debt to finance its utilities projects.

NTUA is a tribal enterprise created by the Navajo Nation Council to build and maintain public utilities like gas, electricity, water, and sewage infrastructure.

The Council previously amended the Code to increase the debt limit from \$200 million to \$500 million. The legislation passed by the 24th Navajo Nation Council at its 2019 Fall Session increased that debt limit by another \$1 billion for a total of \$1.5 billion.

NTUA said this will enable it to make further investments in infrastructure in Navajo communities that have been identified for improvement or expansion. During the discussion of the legislation to raise the debt limit, NTUA outlined details to manage debt by expanding its market and revenues.

Council allowed the tribal enterprise to raise more debt on assurances that the projects NTUA will be investing in will further improve access to utilities for more Navajo people. #

PHOTO: Navajo Tribal Utility Authority General Manager Walter Haase shakes the hand of Council Delegate Paul Begay after the Council voted to approve raising NTUA's debt limit to \$1.5 billion from \$500 million. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.



PHOTO: 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Amber Kanabah Crotty and the chaperones and helpers of the Navajo Nation Girls Scouts deliver donations for women and children's homes. Window Rock, AZ, 10/25/19.



PHOTO: Council Delegates Wauneka, Stewart, Walker, Freeland, Tso, and Slater view votes on the wall display as they are submitted by fellow delegates during the 2019 Fall Session. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.



PHOTO: President Nez helped present legislation that would create a Navajo Nation Scholarship Endowment from the Síhásin Fund. Window Rock, AZ, 10/22/19.

Delegates Set State Legislative Priorities

The Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council reestablished the State Task Force to coordinate with the legislatures of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado on the Navajo Nation's legislative priorities.

The State Task Force is comprised of two Council Delegates from each state and is chaired by Honorable Mark Freeland.

The Office of the Speaker has assisted the State Task Force by securing Arizona and New Mexico lobbying consultants and subject matter experts across a wide array of legislative areas. The task force's current effort is revising and updating the legislative priorities set by the 23rd Navajo Nation Council.

The task force recently met in Albuquerque to share information on the New Mexico legislative process and the composition of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Currently, the Office of the Speaker is in the process of bringing onboard a lobbyist for the State of Utah. With help from the Navajo Nation's Arizona consultants, the Office of the Speaker has begun coordinating legislative initiatives in Colorado.

The Office of the Speaker will continue to assist as the task force works through the Navajo Nation's legislative priorities ahead of state legislative sessions.

Through the State Task Force's efforts, the Navajo Nation Council's priorities will be forwarded to state legislatures of the surrounding states. #



PHOTO: JT J. Willie, Division of Economic Development Director, shakes the hand of Delegate Vince James following the Navajo Nation Council's approval of funding for the development of the Churchrock Industrial Park. Window Rock, AZ, 10/22/19.



PHOTO: The State Task Force revisits legislative priorities set by the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for New Mexico. Albuquerque, N.M., 9/13/19.



PHOTO: State Task Force member Hon. Herman M. Daniels reports on priorities to the Navajo Utah Commission. Window Rock, AZ, 9/17/19.

Council Approves Churchrock Industrial Park Funding

Legislation 0180-19, sponsored by Honorable Seth Damon with co-sponsors Honorable Rickie Nez and Jimmy Yellowhair, was approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council. The legislation funds the next phase of the Church Rock Industrial Park project through the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development.

The funding will further allow DED to build the industrial park's manufacturing capabilities. The current occupant of the industrial park, Rhino Health, manufactures latex gloves for use in the health industry and similar sectors.

DED Director JT J. Willie noted that the project has been slowly developed through years of consultation with prospective businesses and industries. The Navajo Nation will see income through rent and jobs created once the project is complete.

The funding was approved from the Síhásin Fund, which the Navajo Nation Council established with proceeds of the \$554 million settlement.

Rhino Health plans to expand its current occupancy to the new facility following its completion. #

Voting Rights Focus of Legislative Branch

The Office of the Speaker is working with congressional representatives to secure federal protections for Native American voters on tribal lands. United States Representative Ben Ray Luján recently sponsored the Native American Voters Rights Act. The Office of the Speaker is working with Representative Luján's office to help educate other members of Congress and to promote similar efforts across Indian Country.

The goal of the Office of the Speaker is to successfully lobby for the passage of the bill with bipartisan support that provides protections for Native American voter rights.

With the upcoming elections, the Office of the Speaker is also partnering with the National Indian Gaming Association in their "Get Out The Vote" initiative for Indian Country. This office is reaching out to the Native American

Rights Fund to further coordinate efforts to protect voters in Indian Country. We know this will take a combined effort of tribal, state and federal agencies to ensure that Navajo Nation voters have access to bilingual ballots, information, early voting locations, and more. #

PHOTO: Speaker of the Navajo Nation Seth Damon delivered a keynote address to tribal leaders, voting rights organizations, and students at the First Nations Voting Rights Conference hosted by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the Utah Rural Project. Salt Lake City, UT, 9/26/19.



2019 FALL SESSION VOTING RESULTS

Elmer Begay
 Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
 Paul Begay
 Nathaniel Brown
 Eugenia Charles-Newton
 Amber Kangzabal

Rescinding CO-50-13; Declaring the Navajo Nation's Intention to Move Beyond Coal Source Revenues & Forward to Sustainable & Renewable Energy Sources; Directing the DOJ to Draft the Navajo Nation Energy Policy of 2019 in Conformity with the Declaration; Establishing the Navajo Generating Station- Kayenta Mine Transition Taskforce; Directing Division Directors to Report Regarding Adherence to the Change in the Nation's Energy Policy

0073-19 Y N N N Y N

Allocating \$19,297,576 from the Síhasin Fund to the Division of Economic Development Project Development Department and Approving and Adopting the Church Rock Industrial Park Project Fund Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §§ 2501-2508

0180-19 Y Y Y Y PT Y

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of Nine Hundred Fifty- Four Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars (\$954,973) for the Division of Aging and Long Term Care Support

0237-19 Y Y Y Y Y Y

Approving Funding of Fifty Million Dollars from the Síhásin Fund to Establish the Navajo Nation Scholarship Endowment Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 – 2508; Complying with 12 N.N.C § 2502 (A)(2); Enacting the Navajo Nation Scholarship Endowment

0238-19 Y N N Y Y Y

Allocating \$3,000,000 from the Síhasin Fund to the Division of Community Development on Behalf of the Tonalea Chapter and Approving and Adopting the Tonalea Chapter Community Building Replacement Fund Expenditure Plan Pursuant 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 – 2508

0262-19 NV Y Y Y Y N

Appointing Dana Bobroff as Chief Legislative Counsel

0266-19 NV Y Y Y PT N

Adopting the "Accessible Public Restrooms Act"; Establishing the Requirement for all Navajo Nation Government and Public Service Providers to Provide Clearly Indicated Accessible Public Restrooms Amending the Navajo Nation Code, Title 13, Chapter 53; Adding New §§ 4501, 4502, 4503, and 4504

0174-19 Y Y Y Y Y NV

An Act Relating to Law and Order, Naabik'íyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving an Act to Amend the Navajo Nation Code, Title 2, Chapter 3, Subchapter 11, Boards and Commissions; Article 6 Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Sections 921, 922(A)(C), 923 And 924

0176-19 Y Y Y Y Y Y

Approving Amendments to 21 N.N.C §7 (b) (12) Increasing the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's Debt Limit

0196-19 Y Y Y Y N NV

Amending, for Purposes of Clarification, Appointment & Special Election Provisions of the Navajo Election Code at 11 N.N.C. §§ 143, 161 & 326 Nation Council; Amending, for Purposes of Clarification, Appointment & Special Election Provisions of the Navajo Election Code at 11 N.N.C. §§ 143, 161 & 326

0198-19 Y Y Y Y Y Y

Approving a Navajo Nation Grant & Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of \$400,000.00 for the Tohatchi area of Opportunity & Services, Inc. (Taos, Inc.) to Purchase Vehicles; Waiving 12 N.N.C. §§ 820(I) & 860(C) Relating to Capital Improvement Process

0203-19 Y Y Y NV Y Y

Amending 11 N.N.C. § 240 (D)(2), Removal Provisions of Navajo Election Code, and 11 N.N.C. § 341(A) (1), Office of Hearings and Appeals Procedures

0233-19 Y Y Y Y Y Y

Approving the Reinstatement of Ms. Denise Delilah Johnson as a Member of the Navajo Nation

0240-19 Y Y Y Y Y Y

Appointing Ms. Kimberly Dutcher as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General

0247-19 Y Y Y Y Y NV

Confirming the Nomination of Ms. Crystal Cree, a Graduate Student, to the Commission On Navajo Government Development

0259-19 Y Y Y Y Y N

Amending CO-50-13 to Authorize the Creation of the Energy Office within the Division of Natural Resources

0273-19 Y Y Y Y Y Y

Amending the Navajo Nation Election Code at 11 N.N.C. §3(C) by Changing the Primary Election Dnate in Navajo Nation Elections

0274-19 Y Y Y Y N Y

Amending the Master Plan of Operation for the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Committee for 2019

0304-19 Y Y Y Y Y Y

An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Terminating the General Indemnity Agreements Granted Pursuant to Resolution Nos. CD-60-13 and CAP -13-15 for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC

0319-19 N Y Y Y N N

LEGEND

"Y" Yea "N" Nay "NV" Not Voting "E" Excused "S" Speaker (Does not vote) "PT" Pro Tem (Does not vote)

	Seth Damon	Herrigan Daniels, Jr.	Mark Freeland	Pernell Halona	Jamie Henio	Vince R. James	Rickie Nez	Carl Slater	Raymond Smith, Jr.	Wilson Stewart, Jr.	Charlaine Tso	Daniel Tso	Eugene Tso	Otto Tso	Thomas Walker, Jr.	Edison Wauneka	Edmund Yazzie	Jimmy Yellowhair	
S	E	N	NV	NV	Y	N	Y	E	N	Y	Y	E	N	N	N	NV	Y	F	
Y	E	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	N	Y	Y	NV	N	Y	E	N	N	N	E	N	Y	Y	N	Y	R	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
Y	E	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	N	N	E	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	P	
Y	E	Y	Y	PT	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	N	Y	Y	Y	E	P	
Y	E	Y	Y	PT	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	E	Y	Y	N	E	N	Y	Y	N	Y	T	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	P	
S	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
S	E	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	E	N	N	N	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	

(vote) "F" Failed "P" Passed "R" Referred back to committee "T" Tabled  Primary Sponsor  Co-Sponsor

HONORABLE SETH DAMON, SPEAKER

2019 Fall Session Honorees



Hon. Edward T. Begay

Fourth Speaker of the Navajo Nation and Vice Chairman of the Navajo Tribe Honorable Edward T. Begay, 91, was given a recognition by the 24th Navajo Nation Council for his role in promoting education, technology, and accountability throughout his time in office and after.



Dorothy Bitsilly

Life-long child education advocate and community figure Dorothy Bitsilly was recognized for her devotion to continuously voicing education needs for Navajo communities at the state level. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham also joined in praising Bitsilly's achievements.



Freddie Yazzie

A school bus driver for more than 20 years, Freddie Yazzie was honored by the 24th Navajo Nation Council in appreciation and in recognition for the leadership he, and those in similar roles, provide on a daily basis for Navajo students across the Nation.

Photos Opening Day Participants



PHOTO: The students of Diné Bi'ólta', a Navajo language immersion school in Window Rock, delivered the Pledge of Allegiance in Navajo for the opening of the 2019 Fall Session. Window Rock, AZ, 10/21/19.

Council Switches from Ustream to Vimeo

Council is announcing a switch from online streaming website Ustream to Vimeo for its Navajo Nation Council Sessions. The switch allows the Office of the Speaker Communications Team to deliver reliable live-streaming online at an approximately 85% savings.

Vimeo successfully delivered the live-stream for the Fall Session



online to viewers all over the world. The service also reliably delivered the live-stream to the Navajo Nation Council's Youtube and Facebook pages. In one week, there were 23,756 views of the Fall Session streams.

The Communications Team will continue to upgrade the streaming system with new cameras capable of delivering 720p video streaming. That project is expected to be complete by the Winter Session.

The Navajo Nation Council's Vimeo channel can be found at: www.vimeo.com/navajonationcouncil. All sessions going forward will be archived on the Vimeo website. #



PHOTO: Wingate High School Princess Mariah Mariano sang the National Anthem for the opening day of the 2019 Fall Session. Window Rock, AZ, 10/21/19.



PHOTO: KC Clark, who served in law enforcement in Navajo County for over 30 years, 10 of which as sheriff, was recognized by the 24th Navajo Nation Council following his retirement. Window Rock, AZ, 10/21/19.



PHOTO: Former Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly attended the opening session of the 2019 Fall Session. Window Rock, AZ, 10/21/19.

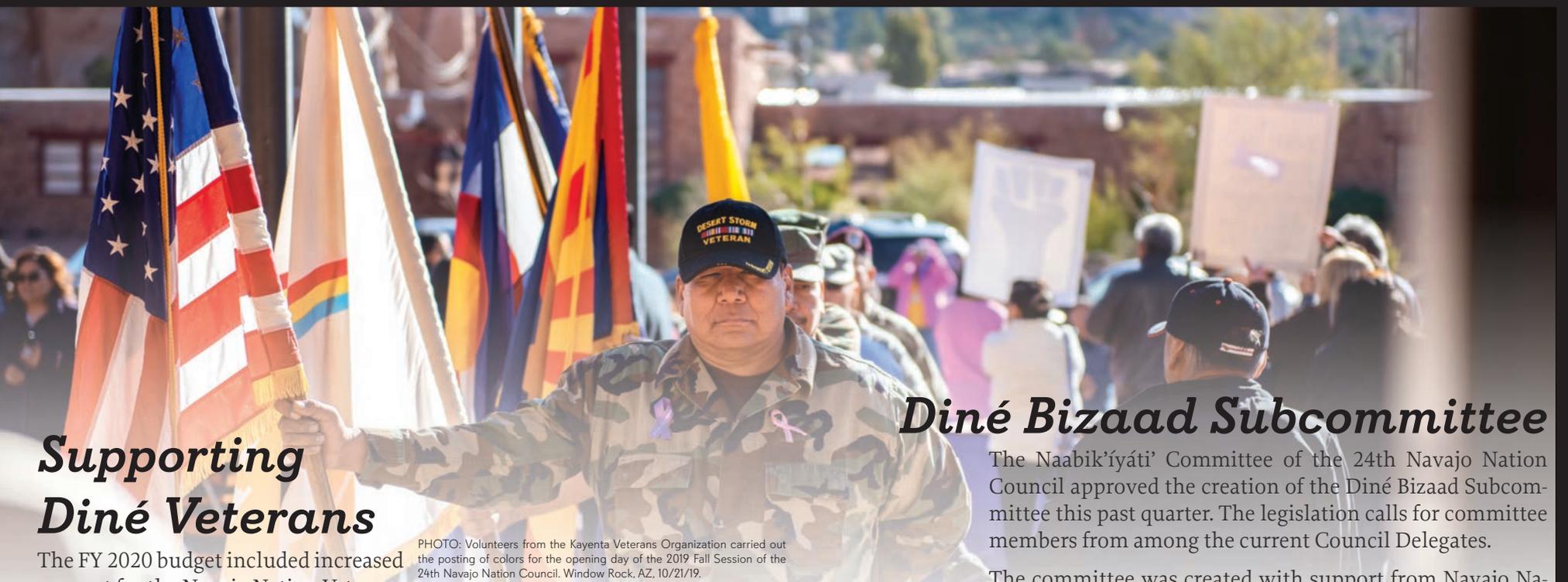


PHOTO: Fr. Blane Grein, OSM, of the Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Fort Defiance, AZ gave the invocation during the opening of the 2019 Fall Session Window Rock, AZ, 10/21/19.



PHOTO: The Navajo Nation Office of Broadcast Services worked behind-the-scenes to deliver the 2019 Fall Session livestream to audiences across the globe. Window Rock, AZ, 10/21/19.





Supporting Diné Veterans

The FY 2020 budget included increased support for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and local veterans organizations. This increase is intended to reflect our commitment to veterans services and it serves to demonstrate to federal agencies that Diné veterans are in need of increased federal funding.

Council Delegates and staff from the Office of the Speaker have actively lobbied Congressional members and federal administrators for increased support that includes direct services in Navajo Nation communities.

The visit this past quarter by Senator McSally is one instance where Council Delegates spoke one-on-one with the Senator on a variety of veterans issues, such as access to water infrastructure, travel times to VA hospitals and specialists, support for spouses and beneficiaries, veterans housing, and more.

In terms of policy, the Office of the Speaker continues to elevate approaches that look to resolve issues with payouts for veterans programs. One major initiative has been supporting the reevaluation of the Office of the Controller's procedures and the accounting policies through the Budget and Finance Committee.

The Office of the Speaker has also made supporting the new Navajo Code Talker Museum a priority. We have maintained support for the Navajo Code Talkers Association as they carry out leadership meetings with delegates and consultants for ongoing site work.

The Office of the Speaker will continue to advocate for the position and wishes of the Navajo Code Talkers, including taking on a coordination role between government agencies and programs. #

PHOTO: Volunteers from the Kayenta Veterans Organization carried out the posting of colors for the opening day of the 2019 Fall Session of the 24th Navajo Nation Council. Window Rock, AZ, 10/21/19.

Energy Office to follow Navajo Energy Summit

The Resources and Development Committee is leading efforts to coordinate Navajo energy development efforts as the nation transitions from coal-based energy sources.

To that end, the Office of the Speaker has been coordinating the planning of the Navajo Energy Summit that will be held some time in the next quarter. The summit will serve to establish common understandings of the current state of energy development, opportunities, and the history of energy in the region for Council Delegates, Navajo enterprises, community members, federal agencies, public utilities, other stakeholders, and the general public.

The summit will provide all parties the opportunity to listen to industry professionals as well as Navajo students with their ideas and perspectives.

The goal of the summit is analyze challenges and opportunities for each of the natural resources available to the Navajo Nation for development. By the end of the summit, the Navajo Nation will have a clearer road-map for energy development to create enhanced energy policy.

The Office of the Speaker and the Resources and Development Committee will announce the dates for the summit and extend invitations to relevant agencies and organizations. #

Photos Appointments



PHOTO: Ms. Crystal Cree responds to questions from delegates during her confirmation. Delegate Halona sponsored the legislation. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.



PHOTO: Ms. Kimberly Dutcher was confirmed by the 24th Navajo Nation Council to the position of Deputy Attorney General. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.



PHOTO: Now-Chief Legislative Counsel Dana Bobroff responds to questions at a confirmation hearing at the Naabik'iyati' Committee. Window Rock, AZ, 10/10/19.

Diné Bizaad Subcommittee

The Naabik'iyati' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved the creation of the Diné Bizaad Subcommittee this past quarter. The legislation calls for committee members from among the current Council Delegates.

The committee was created with support from Navajo Nation education programs and initiatives to serve as a lead in coordinating language revitalization efforts for Diné people living on the Navajo Nation and abroad.

The subcommittee will meet this next quarter. Members: Paul Begay, Nathaniel Brown, Otto Tso, Wilson Stewart, Jr., and Thomas Walker, Jr. #



PHOTO: Murray Lee, Executive Director of the Navajo Election Administration, and Council Delegate Edison Wauneka listen to discussion on legislation to amend the Navajo Election Code. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.



PHOTO: Tohatchi Area of Opportunity and Services, Inc. Board Vice Chair Chavis John thanks Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. following Council's approval of funding for 8 vehicles to serve Navajo people with special needs. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.



PHOTO: (From left to right) Director Jill Jim, Director Lombardo Aseret, Director Jesse Delmar, Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco, Director Pearl Yellowman, Director Rudy Shebala, First Lady Perphelia Nez, Director Robert Black, President Nez, Deput Chief of Staff Milton Bluehouse, Jr., Miss Navajo Shaandini Parrish, Director JT J. Willie, Director Santee Lewis, Director Christopher Becenti, Director Perphelia Fowler, Acting Director James Zwierlein, and Director Garret Silversmith. Window Rock, AZ, 10/21/19.

Navajo Counts! 2020 Census

As the 2020 Census approaches, the task of educating and informing our communities and local leadership of the importance of being counted is being handled through the Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission.

The commissioners are taking on Census related issues, such as boundary updates, tribal-fee and tribal-trust lands, and the inclusion of living structures unique to Navajo (such as hooghans).

The 2020 Census has need for over 1000 people to carry out the work of counting every person on the Navajo Nation. Recruitment efforts have been conducted and are ongoing with the Navajo Nation Departments of Workforce Development and Self Reliance.

The Office of the Speaker has facilitated the start of a public outreach campaign through the Navajo Times, KTNN, KGAK, and through production of fliers, banners, and other materials aimed at spreading 2020 Census awareness.

Over the next quarter, our goals include increasing public outreach through advertisements, establishing an inter-branch agreement to promote the 2020 Census, further recruitment drives, and more.

We will continue to provide assistance to the commission to help ensure a successful 2020 Census count on Navajo.

Apply for a Census job at:

2020census.gov/jobs



PHOTO: The Resources and Development Committee meeting held a series of work sessions on grazing issues in the Eastern, Northern, and Western Navajo Nation Agencies to coordinate between federal, state, and tribal programs. Crownpoint, N.M., 9/30/19.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne and 24th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon walk-back the 2019 Navajo Nation Fair Parade route to greet parade entrants. Window Rock, AZ, 9/7/19.

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

The federal Radiation and Exposure Compensation Act has greatly impacted former Navajo uranium mine workers and those involved with milling and transporting uranium.

The Office of the Speaker has made reauthorizing and expanding RECA a priority for the new fiscal year.

RECA is set to expire in July of 2022 unless the reauthorization bill passes.

The FY 2020 budget approved support for a Radiation Exposure Compensation Act lobbyist that will push the Navajo Nation's ongoing efforts to get RECA reauthorized with needed amendments by the United States Congress.

The RECA lobbyist will be in charge of actively communicating between the legislatures of the United States and the Navajo Nation so that coverage for uranium mine workers and their families is continued and expanded.

The office has assisted Council Delegates with coordinating meetings with congressional leadership and federal agencies to bring field hearings to the Navajo Nation.

The Office of the Speaker will work to get the RECA lobbyist in place and to coordinate more with the bill's sponsors in the House and Senate. #



PHOTO: Anthony Peterman from Kayenta, AZ was recognized by the Legislative Branch. Mr. Peterman produced all the popcorn balls distributed by the Legislative Branch during the fair parades. Shiprock, N.M., 10/4/19.



PHOTO: Council Delegate Edison Wauneka and agent take questions on legislation to amend the Navajo Election Code to clarify special election provisions. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.



PHOTO: Delegates from the 24th Navajo Nation Council visited the 47 Navajo students of the Santa Fe Indian School. Santa Fe, N.M., 10/14/19.



PHOTO: Council Delegate Jamie Henio hears questions and discussion as legislation he sponsored amending the Navajo Election Code's removal and Office of Hearings and Appeals provisions is considered. Window Rock, AZ, 10/23/19.

Funding: Tribally Controlled Schools

In May, the Office of the Speaker worked with the 24th Navajo Nation Council to pass legislation accepting \$46.5 million towards identifying funding, project management options, and procurement methods for schools projects selected by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

There are 60 federally funded schools on the Navajo Nation, including tribally controlled schools, that are authorized to operate under the Office of Navajo Nation Dine Education.

Although each of these schools receives annual funding to maintain building and property infrastructure, oftentimes it is not adequate enough to do anything more than maintain continuously degrading buildings.

In coordination with the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management, Division of Facility Management and Construction, five facilities have been selected as Improvement and Repair projects: The Greasewood Springs Community School, Shonto Preparatory School, Grey Hills Academy High School, Many Farms Consolidated School and several demolitions of various Navajo Nation buildings.

Further, the Division of Facility Maintenance and the Office of the Speaker are in discussion on how the nation can gain more control over building funding and to enhance accountability for aging education structures.

The Office of the Speaker will work from a policy and regulatory perspective to ensure the Navajo Nation is well-positioned and more proactive in BIA/BIE funded school infrastructure. The office will continue to coordinate meetings with schools and the federal agencies to maintain and expand the identified needs for Navajo Nation schools.

#



Peter MacDonald, former Chairman and Navajo Code Talker, and daughter Hope MacDonald Lone, view the keel plate and assembly of the future USNS NAVAJO.

USNS NAVAJO Underway

Speaker of the Navajo Nation Seth Damon and Former Miss Navajo Jocelyn Billy-Upshaw authenticated the keel for the future USNS Navajo at the Gulf Island Shipyard on October 30, 2019 in Houma, Louisiana.

Ms. Billy-Upshaw was chosen to be the sponsor of the naval vessel, which is the first in an entirely new class of T-ATS vessels capable of performing towing and humanitarian functions for the US Navy. The new class of ships called Navajo was announced earlier this year.

“We lay this keel for future generations. We plant this seed for them,” said Jocelyn Billy-Upshaw, former Miss Navajo Nation. Ms. Billy-Upshaw is the ship’s sponsor, who

USNS Navajo’s emblem, designed by Office of the Speaker staff.

takes on a special role throughout the ship’s life.

Ms. Billy-Upshaw pointed out that the naming of the the ship and the new class will create opportunities for everyone to discuss the contributions of Navajo people to the Armed Forces. She acknowledged that Navajo people have served at higher rates per capita in the Armed Forces than many other demographics.

“We thank the work of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for bringing this to fruition. We also thank the late Senator John McCain and former Arizona State Senator Carlyle Begay for taking this to the Secretary of the Navy for consideration. Our veterans are honored, and we extend our appreciation to the United States on their behalf,” said 24th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon.

The USNS Navajo will be built by Gulf Island Shipyards at its facility in Houma, Louisiana. The ship is expected to be completed within a year, after which a christening ceremony will be held and the ship will begin its service life for the Navy.

Former Speaker LoRenzo Bates of the Navajo Nation Council and former Council Delegate Jonathan Hale, who sponsored the legislation that began the process, were also in attendance. Speaker Bates gave a history of the Navajo Nation Council’s efforts to present the proposal to the Secretary of the Navy for consideration.



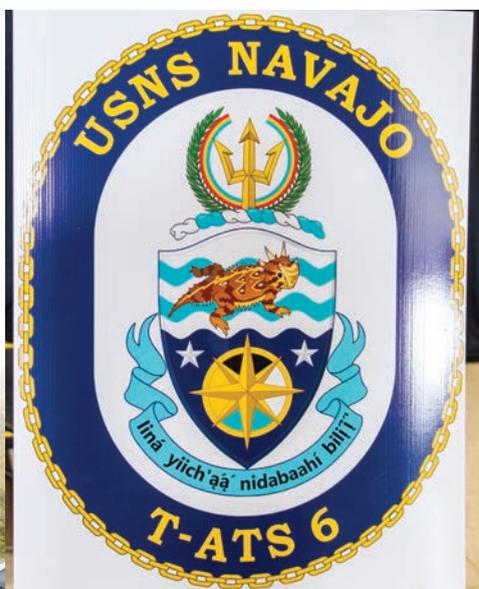
The keel plate bearing the signatures authenticating the keel.



Eighth Speaker of the Navajo Nation LoRenzo Bates, 23rd Navajo Nation Council Delegate Jonathan Hale, Office of the Speaker Chief of Staff LaShawna Tso, Speaker Seth Damon, and Council Delegates Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Raymond Smith, Jr., and Charlaime Tso stand in front of the keel assembly.

“What began in 2014 is this effort to recognize our veterans and those that served this country. It began with our Council, acting to ensure the Navajo name was put forward to serve in this important capacity,” said 23rd Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was also in attendance and presented an overview of the Long Walk and the Treaty of Bosque Redondo. #





Committees

Each member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council sits on committees that are concerned with distinct areas of legislative oversight and authority.

Naabik'iyáti'

Seth Damon

All council delegates are members of the committee.

Budget and Finance

Jamie Henio

Raymond Smith, Jr.

Elmer P. Begay

Nathaniel Brown

Amber Kanazbah Crotty

Jimmy Yellowhair

Health, Education, and Human Services

Daniel E. Tso

Charlaine Tso

Paul Begay

Pernell Halona

Edison J. Wauneka

Carl R. Slater

Law and Order

Eugenia Charles-Newton

Otto Tso

Vince R. James

Eugene Tso

Edmund Yazzie

Resources and Development

Rickie Nez

Thomas Walker, Jr.

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

Herman Daniels, Jr.

Mark Freeland

Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.

Meeting Days

Naabik'iyáti' Committee

M	T	W	TH	F
Second and fourth Thursday of each month until a calendar is adopted. CO-45-12. 2 N.N.C. §700(C)				

Budget & Finance Committee

M	T	W	TH	F
First and third Tuesday of each month. CO-45-12. 2 N.N.C. §303				

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee

M	T	W	TH	F
Wednesday of each week, except for the first Wednesday of each month. CJY-25-19. 2 N.N.C. §403				

Law & Order Committee

M	T	W	TH	F
Monday of each week. CO-45-12. 2 N.N.C. §603				

Resources & Development Committee

M	T	W	TH	F
Wednesday of each week. CJY-41-17. 2 N.N.C. §503				

Legislative Sessions

The Navajo Nation Council meets four times every year for a regular session. The dates are set in the Navajo Nation Code (Title 2, Section 162), and can be changed through amendment. All sessions take place at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, AZ and begin at 10:00 AM.

2019

Jan. 18, at 10:00 AM

Apr. 15, at 10:00 AM

Jul. 20, at 10:00 AM

Oct. 21, at 10:00 AM

2020

Jan. 27, at 10:00 AM

Apr. 20, at 10:00 AM

Jul. 20, at 10:00 AM

Oct. 19, at 10:00 AM

2021

Jan. 25, at 10:00 AM

Apr. 19, at 10:00 AM

Jul. 19, at 10:00 AM

Oct. 18, at 10:00 AM

2022

Jan. 24, at 10:00 AM

Apr. 18, at 10:00 AM

Jul. 18, at 10:00 AM

Oct. 17, at 10:00 AM

Announcement

AZ: Native American Veterans Income Tax Settlement Fund, Deadline to file a claim: December 31, 2019. More information: https://azdor.gov/sites/default/files/media/PUBLICATION_2017_706.pdf.

2019 Fall Session
Legislative Branch News

Produced by:
Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker
Byron C. Shorty
Sr. Public Information Officer

