



# Nast'ájí Nahat'á Hane' Legislative Branch News

Spring Council Session  
April 2023

## Speaker's Report – Spring Council Session Message from Speaker Crystalyne Curley



**L-R Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Council Delegate Nathan Notah, and the Tohatchi High School Lady Cougars during the 25th Navajo Nation Council Spring Session April 2023**

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya, Madam Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, chapter officials, federal, state, and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné People. Thank you for joining us as we welcome you to the 2023 Spring Council Session.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Navajo Nation Council as the legislative body of our peoples' government. While the development of our government remains a work in progress, we recognize that the will of our people to be

a part of the government process has never dwindled. In fact, the call of our people to be involved and informed continues to grow. As leaders, the responsibility to make our government open to the people rests on our shoulders. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we extend our appreciation to our people who have contributed their efforts and prayers to reach the Council's centennial.

With that in mind, in the coming weeks and months the Office of the Speaker will begin to take our government out to the people in the form of holding Naabik'iyatí Committee meetings in various communities to provide more opportunity for our people to engage

with our leaders. This process will also allow the opportunity to have our people begin to come back together to recover and heal from the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that public access to Standing Committee meetings is also a top priority and we will seek support to revamp and improve the legislative campus' IT infrastructure capacity to provide stable livestreaming of meetings.

As we begin the spring session, we should also take time to reflect on the teachings of our elders in relation to the recent change in the seasons. Spring is a time of planting new seeds and embracing new growth that will provide us nourishment and see us through the coming seasons. The seeds that we plant during this session with the words we speak as we deliberate over legislative actions will have lasting impacts on our people. As our grandparents always taught us, Ni'hi'saad ayoo bi'dzil, our spoken words have power to create change that improves the livelihood of our people for many years to come, but we have to work together and move forward on a positive path during this session.

I also recognize and thank all of the victims, survivors, and advocates who participated in the Sexual Assault Awareness Walk to the Council Chamber this morning. As the Navajo Nation recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, we continue to pray for everyone who has been impacted by sexual assaults and violence. The 25th Navajo Nation Council is committed to supporting our people and helping to bring resolve to these issues. It is important to also note that each member of the Council has been provided the opportunity to receive sexual harassment prevention training, and we will continue to offer this support for the Council and Legislative Branch staff members annually.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes



L-R Speaker Crystalyne Curley and Delegate Amber Crotty at the first day of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Spring Session during the Sexual Assault Awareness Walk presentations by advocates, victims, and programs.

of the Speaker can support their ongoing initiatives. Each of the legislative programs' quarterly report summaries are included in the report.

As we move forward, the Office of the Speaker has brought on staff to support several key initiatives including the implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding including the \$8.8 million per delegate region that was approved under the previous Council, protecting the Indian Child Welfare Act, advancing water rights in Arizona, continuing to implement the water rights secured in New Mexico and Utah, advocating for the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) extension and amendments, veterans priorities, the Diné Action Plan, the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force, state and federal priorities, the FY2024 Comprehensive Budget, scholarship funding, public safety, infrastructure development, Energy Transition Collaborative Team, and many others.

for the spring session, I am confident that we will continue to make progress and plan for the future of our Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné Citizens for your guidance and support as we move forward.

**Legislative Priorities**

The Office of the Speaker has coordinated several orientation and work sessions with programs, departments, enterprises, and other entities to provide information for the members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, which is comprised of a majority of new members. This is in addition to the orientation sessions that were coordinated under Speaker Otto Tso, prior to the 25th Navajo Nation Council members taking the oath of office in January. The more informed our Nation's lawmakers are, the more they will be empowered to weigh legislative proposals and elevate their decision-making process for our people. Moreover, work sessions are resources to the public and local chapter and organizations.

respective priorities, which will then guide the establishment of the overall priorities for the Council. The Office of the Speaker has offered assistance and support to each Standing Committee to provide additional support to facilitate and formalize priorities. In doing so, we also have to consider and be open to the priorities of the Nygren-Montoya Administration and the Judicial Branch. In addition, we have also begun meeting with each of the legislative programs to receive their priorities and identify how the Office

Internally, we also will seek the Council's support for a plan of operation for the Office of the Speaker to provide a foundation and guidance for the office and Legislative Branch. At the direction of Council members, legislative staff are also drafting policies and procedures to guide internal operations and clarify uncertainties in practices and procedures.



Students from Diné Bi Olta' provide the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance during the first day of the 25th Navajo Nation Spring Council Sessions.

Each of the Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees are working to establish their



**New Mexico Capital Outlay Funding**

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the State Legislature for supporting our Navajo people, chapters, and leadership through the recent approval of over \$50 million in capital outlay funding. During the state's legislative session, members of the Navajo Nation Council met with various state legislators and the Governor to outline our priorities, which included capital outlay projects. We are very grateful that our voices were heard by the Governor and Legislators.

We also thank the Office of the President and Vice President and all of the Chapter officials for their advocacy. This historic amount of funding also includes over \$6 million to support the construction of a Navajo Code Talkers Museum to honor the service and sacrifices of our Diné warriors during World War II.

**Water Rights and Infrastructure**

Under the 25th Navajo Nation Council, several work sessions and orientations were held to receive updates from the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and outside counsel



**Diné Saani Silaoltsooi Color Guard, Navajo women warriors, posting the colors at the start of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Spring Session April 2023.**

regarding the ongoing efforts to revive water rights settlement discussions in Arizona, and the ongoing work to implement the water rights settlements that were previously finalized with the states of Utah and New Mexico.

We continue to be engaged to strategize on a path forward for water rights in Arizona and to support forthcoming fund management plans for the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act. In New Mexico, we continue to support

the development and completion of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project. With the recent approval by Congress for additional funding, we look forward to seeing more of our communities receive running water.

On April 24th, the Little Colorado River adjudication will begin in the Maricopa County Superior Court. Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council will be in attendance to offer our support for the Navajo Nation's case. It took many years to reach this point and many of our past and current leaders have offered depositions in support of the Navajo Nation's claims, including current members of the Council. From the Office of the Speaker, we continue to coordinate meetings and further discussions to strengthen communication and advocacy.

**U.S. Supreme Court Case – Arizona Water Claims**

On March 20th, leaders of the Navajo Nation were in Washington, D.C. to attend a U.S. Supreme Court hearing in which attorneys presented oral arguments in the consolidated cases of the Department of the Interior v. Navajo Nation and State of Arizona v. Navajo Nation, which will have longstanding implications for the Navajo Nation's claims to water in the state of Arizona.



**The 25th Navajo Nation Council thanks Utah Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson and young Navajo royalties at the Navajo Nation Council Chambers.**



On July 15, 2022, Resolution CJN-29-22 was signed into law allocating the following amounts in ARPA funding:

- \$215 million for water/wastewater
- \$96.4 million for home electricity connections
- \$120 million for broadband
- \$80 million for housing
- \$50 million for housing for Navajo veterans
- \$120 million for new hardship assistance applicants
- \$150 million for bathroom additions
- \$210 million for local chapter priorities
- \$35 for E911 and public safety
- \$19.2 million for health care
- \$5 million for cyber security
- \$15.5 million for former Bennett Freeze area housing

Delegate Shawna Ann Claw and Speaker Curley hold a banner for a prayer session for those serving in the military and all the armed forces at the Navajo Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Ariz.

The two issues before the Supreme Court are whether the United States has a treaty-based duty to assess the Navajo Nation's water needs and develop a plan to meet them, and whether a lower federal court order requiring the United States to assess the Nation's water needs and develop a plan to meet them would conflict with the Court's decree in Arizona v. California, a ruling that limited the circumstances in which the federal government could divert water from the Lower Colorado River.

Division of Community Development, began working with the Office of the Speaker to offer support in this area. There may be a need for additional outside consultation services to fully implement the expenditure plans approved by the Council. The Office of the Speaker will provide additional support to help expedite the implementation of ARPA funding and regional expenditure plans.

At the direction of the Naabik'iyati Committee, the Office of the Speaker also coordinated with the Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP) to provide a report to the Committee regarding the Executive Branch's Financial Process Improvement Team meetings and priorities. We issued a request to OPVP to invite Council members to their weekly meetings to ensure that the Legislative Branch has the opportunity to provide input in the process.

The Navajo Nation seeks a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court confirming that the Navajo Nation has a viable claim against the federal government and to permit the Navajo Nation to return to the District Court to present its claim that the United States has an enforceable duty to fulfill its treaty promises that the Navajo Nation will have access to the water it needs to support a flourishing permanent homeland. A decision from the Supreme Court is expected to be issued in June.

### American Rescue Plan Act Implementation

The Office of the Speaker has prioritized providing support for the implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which includes bringing on staff to assist with the \$8.8 million that was allocated for each delegate region for local priorities. Sonlatsa Jim, who was previously employed with the



The 25th Navajo Nation Council, Utah Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson, Utah Division of Indian Affairs Director Dustin Jansen and Special Counsel on Native American Affairs Larry Echohawk.



## Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force

Under the previous Council, the Naabik'iyatí Committee approved Resolution NABIN-36-22, establishing the Naabik'iyatí Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force to "help combat the missing and murdered Diné relative crisis on and off the Navajo Nation."

NABIN-36-22 tasks the MMDR Task Force with conducting a study to determine how to increase resources for reporting and identifying missing and murdered relatives, to collaborate with programs, departments, and entities within the Navajo Nation and federal and state agencies to identify barriers to address the crisis and create partnerships to improve the reporting of and the investigations and to improve MMDR's processes for information sharing and coordination of resources in regard to reporting and investigating cases of missing and murdered relatives, and to report the findings and recommendations to the Naabik'iyatí Committee and the Office of the President and Vice President.

The Office of the Speaker has assigned staff to provide technical, clerical, and administrative assistance, in accordance with the resolution. Staff is also engaged with the Diné Action Plan Work Group, which utilizes the traditional Navajo planning model of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahat'á (planning), liná (action), and Siihásin (reflection) to help address public safety, violence, substance abuse, suicide, and missing and murdered Diné relatives on the Navajo Nation.

## Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) extension and amendments is one of the top priorities at the federal level. In discussions with federal officials and the Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee, it is clear that now is the time to revisit RECA and begin to move forward on congressional legislation that will benefit our Navajo people who worked in uranium mines for the benefit of our country.

In June 2022, a two-year extension was approved by Congress and signed by President



**Speaker Curley and Delegate Carl R. Slater congratulates Rough Rock Girl's Basketball Team during the 2023 Spring Council Session.**

Biden. However, a long-term solution has yet to be finalized. We have identified challenges, including the financial costs that will make it challenging to address all of the needs including the requests of downwinders. The Office of the Speaker strongly supports the needs of all of our Navajo people who continue to be impacted by uranium exposure and we will continue to work with the Council to advocate and push for the RECA extension and amendments.

## Tribal Interior Budget Council

Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council successfully secured several key voting member and co-chair positions under the Tribal Interior Budget Council, during a recent meeting with the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions in Washington D.C. The Tribal-Interior Budget Council provides a forum and process for tribal nations and federal officials to work together in developing annual budget requests for programs under the U.S. Department of the Interior.

For the Navajo Area Region, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and I will serve as the Navajo Nation's primary representatives on the Tribal Interior Budget Council. In 2019, Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton was selected to serve as the co-chair of TIBC's

Public Safety and Justice Sub-Committee, a role that she will continue to serve.

By a vote of TIBC's primary representatives on April 14th, Council Delegate Nathan Notah was selected to serve on the Land, Water, and Natural Resources Sub-Committee, Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie will serve on the Public Safety and Justice Sub-Committee, and Council Delegate Otto Tso was selected to serve on the Transportation Sub-Committee. Shawna Becenti, who serves as the Head of School for Navajo Preparatory School, was nominated by President Nygren and selected to serve on the Education Sub-Committee.

I thank my Council colleagues, President Nygren, and Navajo Area BIA Director Greg Mehojah for presenting a strong and united voice before the Tribal Interior Budget Council. It is important that we continue to carefully coordinate to secure more resources that support our communities. I congratulate the Council Delegates and Ms. Shawna Becenti for their selections. These appointments are key to securing more resources for critical services related to roads, educational opportunities, natural resources, and public safety. Through these key positions, the Navajo Nation will have greater influence in the federal budget process.

# 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL: LEGISLATIONS

## \$2 million approved by the 25th Navajo Nation Council for summer youth employment

On April 18th during the Spring Council Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0050-23, which will appropriate \$2 million from the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to provide funding for summer youth employment opportunities. The legislation was sponsored by Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) and co-sponsored by Council Delegate Casey Johnson (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii).

"When the funding is signed into law, chapters can begin hiring high school and college students to give them the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and earn income to help cover academic and cost-of-living expenses when they return to school after the summer break. Students can give back to their communities and our constituents benefit from the work they complete. I thank my Council colleagues for unanimously supporting this legislation for our youth," said Delegate Damon.

In accordance with the legislation, the \$2 million will be allocated to the Division of Community Development and distributed to the 110 chapters based on a "50/50 formula," meaning that \$1 million will be distributed evenly among all chapters, and the remaining \$1 million will be distributed based on the number of registered voters at each chapter.

"This is a win-win for our communities and young people who are striving to gain employment experience, build their resumes, and give back to the Navajo Nation. The skills that the students learn benefit our communities and allow them to qualify for more jobs in the future. I appreciate the Navajo Nation Council's support and look forward to President signing the resolution into law," Delegate Johnson stated.

The Council approved the legislation with a vote of 21-0. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have 10 calendar days to consider



**Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Brenda Jesus along with co-sponsors Seth Damon and Dr. Andy Nez and Council Delegate Steven Arviso with the St. Michaels Association for Special Education group at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on April 19, 2023.**

the resolution once it is certified by Speaker Curley and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President.

## 25th Navajo Nation Council approves \$1.5 million to support St. Michaels Association for Special Education

During the third day of the 2023 Spring Council Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted unanimously to approve legislation to appropriate over \$1.5 million from the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to support continued operations of the St. Michaels Association for Special Education, which provides services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Council Delegate Brenda Jesus (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) sponsored Legislation No. 0062-23, to provide funding to help the St. Michaels Association for Special Education overcome setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that led to a decline in funding, personnel, and other critical resources.

Delegate Jesus was joined by the Association's interim Executive Director Leroy White, who thanked the Council members and the Division of Social Services for their

support and assisting with the introduction of the legislation. He also explained that the Association has a long history of serving Navajo communities and assisting individuals with disabilities to exercise their rights to make choices, grow, and contribute to their community and become self-sufficient.

Chair of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Council Delegate Vince James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat), praised the hard work and commitment of the St. Michaels Association for Special Education's employees and caregivers who support special needs individuals. Speaking in the Navajo language, Delegate James stated that the special needs individuals are children of the Holy People and that it takes people with strong hearts and patience to help them every day.

During the discussion, Council members spoke in support of the legislation and requested information regarding the Association's plans and strategy to become more financially stable and sustainable. They also thanked the Association for serving communities in various Navajo agencies and communities, far beyond the community of St. Michaels.

"As a former classroom teacher, I fully support

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and understand the degree of commitment that embraces any and all services to our children and adults with special needs. St. Michaels Association for Special Education deserves to continue its operations, and I proudly voted green,” stated legislation co-sponsor Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill).

Legislation No. 0062-23 was also co-sponsored by Council Delegates Eugenia Charles Newton (Shiprock) and Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh). The Council approved the legislation with a vote of 20-0. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have 10 calendar days to consider the resolution once it is certified by Speaker Crystalyne Curley and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President.

## Navajo Nation Council approves legislation opposing the confirmation of New Mexico Indian Affairs Secretary-Designee James R. Mountain

On the final day of the Spring Council Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0077-23, opposing the confirmation of James R. Mountain to serve as the Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department based on previous allegations involving sexual assault and violence. Charges were filed against Mountain in 2007 and dismissed in 2010. The legislation was sponsored by Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty and presented to the Navajo Nation Council by Council Delegate Danny Simpson.

In February, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced the appointment of Mountain. During the most recent state legislative session, his confirmation was not considered by the state senate due to mounting concerns and objections raised by tribes, advocates, and state legislators.

As the head of the Indian Affairs Department, the Secretary Designee is responsible for advocating for tribal interests at state and federal levels through policy and legislative work, including the Department's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)



Navajo Nation Council approves legislation opposing the confirmation of New Mexico Indian Affairs Secretary-Designee James R. Mountain. Community members come together to raise awareness on Domestic Violence and Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives at the Navajo Nation Council Chambers.

and Relatives program and Task Force. In this capacity, Mountain is responsible for overseeing the program that works closely with victims of sexual assault.

The legislation states that despite the dismissal of charges against Mountain, his appointment is counter to the mission of New Mexico's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force. The task force desires to create a safe space where representatives from tribal nations, legislators, community partners, sexual assault survivors, and affected families can come together to address the crisis of violence toward tribal people.

“The crisis of our Missing and Murdered relatives is a trauma-informed/survivor-centered movement which requires consent, trust, and accountability. As leaders, we no longer tolerate being silent when consent is not given, trust is broken and accountability ignored,” said Delegate Crotty, who sponsored legislation to establish the Navajo Nation's Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley also sent a letter to Gov. Lujan Grisham requesting that her

administration reconsider the nomination of Mountain to serve in this critical role based on concerns brought forth by the Council, sexual assault victims and survivors, MMIW advocacy groups, and other tribal nations.

“I thank Delegates Crotty and Simpson for bringing forth this legislation and my Council colleagues for supporting it unanimously. I understand that taking this position to oppose Secretary Designee Mountain's confirmation may jeopardize funding from the state to the Navajo Nation, but we cannot place a price tag on the safety and well-being of our Native women, men, LGBTQ community, and children. We have a duty to ensure that the voices and concerns of victims and survivors are heard,” said Speaker Curley.

The Eastern Navajo Agency Council, which is comprised of New Mexico communities and chapters, passed a resolution in March requesting the New Mexico Governor to withdraw Mountain's nomination. The Navajo Nation requests the Governor to withdraw the nomination and requests the New Mexico Senate Rules Committee and Senate to vote down the appointment of Secretary Designee Mountain to serve as the Secretary of Indian Affairs for New Mexico.

# 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL: CONFIRMATIONS



## **Justin Ahasteen, Navajo Nation Washington Office**

On April 18th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed the appointment of Justin Ahasteen, to serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. Mr. Ahasteen was appointed to the position by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren in January, which was then subject to confirmation by the Council.

Mr. Ahasteen is originally from White Cone, Arizona and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Prior to his appointment, he worked with the Navajo Nation Washington Office as a Government and Legislative Affairs Associate. The Council confirmed his appointment by a vote of 20-0. The 25th Navajo Nation Council congratulates Mr. Ahasteen!

## **Shawnevan Dale, Navajo Nation Division of General Services**

On the second day of the Spring Council Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's appointment of Shawnevan Dale to serve as the Executive Director of the Division of General Services.

Mr. Dale is from the community of

Wide Ruins, Arizona and is a fluent Navajo language speaker. He has over 16 years of experience working with the Navajo Nation in various positions including the Program Supervisor for the Risk Management Program, Safety Officer for Navajo OSHA, and Senior Safety Technician for the Risk Management Program. The Council confirmed his appointment by a vote of 14-6 on Tuesday. Congratulations to Mr. Dale!



## **Garret Silversmith, Navajo Division of Transportation**

On April 18th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed Garret Silversmith's appointment to serve as the Division Director for the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT). Mr. Silversmith was appointed to the position by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren in January.

Mr. Silversmith previously served as

the NDOT Division Director for eight years. In addition, he has served as a Supervisory Highway Engineer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and as a civil engineer for private firms and Navajo Housing Authority. He was confirmed by a vote of 17-0. Congratulations Mr. Silversmith!



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## **Thomas Cody, Navajo Nation Division of Social Services**

The 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's appointment of Thomas Cody, to serve as the Executive Director of the Division of Social Services. The Council voted 22-0 in support of the confirmation during the second day of the Spring Council Session on April 18th.

Mr. Cody is originally from Leupp, Arizona, and is fluent in the Navajo language. Prior to his appointment in January, he served as the Director of the Indian Child Welfare Office for Casey Family Programs, as a legislative analyst for the Division of Social Services, senior planner for the Navajo Department of Health, former member of the Navajo Nation Council from 1999-2003, and former President of Leupp Chapter. Congratulations to Mr. Cody!



## **Heather Clah, Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General**

On the third day of the Spring Council Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed Heather L. Clah's appointment to serve as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General within the Department of Justice. Deputy Attorney General Clah was appointed by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren in January, which was subject to confirmation by the Council.

Tribal Utility Authority, Chief Legal Counsel for the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, Court Staff Attorney for the Judicial Branch, Attorney with the Department of Justice, student attorney with Arizona State University's College of Law Indian Legal Clinic, and Law Clerk for Farmington DNA Legal Services. She earned a Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University and is a member of the New Mexico Bar Association and Navajo Nation Bar Association. The Council voted 18-0 in support of the appointment. Congratulations to Deputy Attorney General Clah!

Prior to her appointment, the Deputy Attorney General served as an attorney for Navajo

## **Debbie Nez-Manuel, Navajo Nation Division of Human Resources**

On April 19th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted in support of legislation to confirm the appointment of Debbie Nez-Manuel to serve as the Division Director for the Division of Human Resources. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren appointed Nez-Manuel in January, which was subject to confirmation by the Council.

Ms. Nez-Manuel previously served as a consultant & contractor for tribal communities in urban, rural, and remote areas of the state of Arizona, the founding Executive Director for Morning Star Leaders, Community Health Educator for the Salt River Tribal Government, and Case Assistant for Casey Family Programs. The Council voted 18-2 in support of the confirmation. Congratulations to Debbie Nez-Manuel!



Among her professional experience,

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## **Calvin Castillo, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development**

The 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 15-3 in support of the confirmation of Calvin Castillo to serve as the Division Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development on the fourth day of the Spring Council Session. Mr. Castillo was appointed to serve in the position by Navajo Nation

President Buu Nygren in January, which was subject to confirmation by the Council.

Prior to being appointed, Mr. Castillo was a project and construction manager for Dibble Engineering, Supervisory Highway Engineer and Construction and Maintenance Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Sales/Product Engineer/Estimator for Alumaguard. Congratulations to Mr. Castillo!

## **Ethel B. Branch, Navajo Nation Attorney General**

On April 20th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 17-3 to confirm Ethel B. Branch as the Navajo Nation Attorney General to oversee the Department of Justice, a position that she was appointed to by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren in January.

Among her previous professional experience, Attorney General Branch served as the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation from 2015-2019. She also served as the founder and executive director of the Navajo & Hopi

Families COVID-19 Relief Fund, Of Counsel and Associate for Kanji & Katzen, co-chair of the Seattle Human Rights Commission, attorney for the Indian Law Resource Center, and board member for the Native American Youth & Family Center.

She earned a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School and is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association, Arizona State Bar Association, Oregon State Bar Association, Washington State Bar Association, and U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington and District of Arizona. Congratulations to Attorney General Branch!



## **Stephen B. Etsitty, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency**

On the final day of the Spring Council Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's appointment of Stephen B. Etsitty to serve as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Council voted 16-2 in support of the confirmation.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Etsitty was the Administrative Director of the Courts for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, Director of New World Environmental, Inc., Navajo Nation EPA Executive Director from 2003-2015, and Senior Planner with the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. Congratulations Mr. Etsitty!

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## W. Mike Halona, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources

The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved legislation to confirm W. Mike Halona's appointment to serve as the Division Director for the Division of Natural Resources. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren appointed Mr. Halona to the position in January, which was then subject to confirmation by the Council.

Mr. Halona has served as the Department Manager for the Navajo Land Department since 2005, and previously served as the Program Manager for the Animal Control Program, Section Head for the Navajo Nation Hunter Education Program, and Supervisor for the Wildlife Damage Control Program. The Council voted 13-4 in support of the confirmation. Congratulations Mr. Halona!



## Recognizing Navajo Nation Spelling Bee Champion Tazbah Spruhan

During the Spring Council Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council recognized Navajo Nation Spelling Bee Champion Tazbah Spruhan, of Tsehoostooí Middle School, who recently won the spelling competition. She will represent the Navajo Nation at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., beginning on May 31st.

Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw, who served as a judge for the spelling bee, was joined by Speaker Crystalyne Curley as they honored her for her achievement on Tuesday. The 25th Navajo Nation Council congratulates Tazbah and wishes her continued success as she competes at the national level!



# 25th Navajo Nation Spring Council Session Legislation Results

## LEGISLATION NO. 0014-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Casey Allen Johnson's Delegate Region (Chapters: Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake) (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Casey A. Johnson

### ACTION: PASSED

#### Yeas: 21

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

#### Nays: 0

#### Excused:

Crotty, A.K  
Jesus, B

#### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0017-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Amending CD-61-22, The Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Vince R. James' Delegate Region (Chapters: Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinlichee, Steamboat), to Include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Vince R. James

### ACTION: PASSED

#### Yeas: 21

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

#### Nays: 0

#### Excused:

Crotty, A.K  
Jesus, B

#### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0022-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and to the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Helena Nez Begay's Delegate Region (Chapters: Coppermine, K'aibii'to, Lechee, Tonalea/Red Lake, Bodaway/Gap) (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Helena Nez Begay

### ACTION: PASSED

#### Yeas: 21

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

#### Nays: 0

#### Excused:

Crotty, A.K  
Jesus, B

#### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0036-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Steven R. Arviso's Delegate Region (Chapters: Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Steven R. Arviso

### ACTION: PASSED

#### Yeas: 21

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

#### Nays: 0

#### Excused:

Crotty, A.K  
Jesus, B

#### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0037-23:

An Action Relating to Naabik'iyati' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Norman M . Begay's Delegate Region (Chapters: Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee) (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Norman M. Begay

### ACTION: PASSED

#### Yeas: 21

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

#### Nays: 0

#### Excused:

Crotty, A.K  
Jesus, B

#### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

# 25th Navajo Nation Spring Council Session Legislation Results

## LEGISLATION NO. 0064-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Shaandiin Parrish's Delegate Region (Chapters: Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) (2/3)

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Shaandiin Parrish

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 21**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K  
Jesus, B

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0050-23:

An Action Relating to Budget and Finance, Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyati' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$2,000,000 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance ("UUFB") for the 110 Chapters' Summer 2023 Youth Employment Programs; Waiving 12 N.N.C. § 820(E), § 820 (F), §820 (J), and §820 (L) to Allow Use of UUFB Funds for Recurring Chapter Expenses (2/3)

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Seth Damon

**CO-SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Casey A. Johnson

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 21**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K  
Jesus, B

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0051-23:

An Act Relating to the Law and Order, and Naabik'iyati' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Rescinding CJA-01-18 Relating to Agreements Not Requiring Navajo Nation Council or Committee Approval, to Provide for Transparency and Accountability (2/3)

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**CO-SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Seth Damon

**NO ACTION**

## LEGISLATION NO. 0052-23:

An Act Relating to the Law and Order, Resources and Development, and Naabik'iyati' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 2 N.N.C. §104 and 11 N.N.C §8(8) to Prohibit Council Delegates from Serving as Board Members and Shareholder Representatives for Navajo Nation-Owned Instrumentalities (2/3)

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**CO-SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Seth Damon

**NO ACTION**

## LEGISLATION NO. 0019-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Plan for Honorable Germaine Simonson's Delegate Region (Chapters: Hard Rock, Forest Lake, Pinon, Black Mesa, Whippoorwill) (2/3)

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Germaine Simonson

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 21**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Jesus, B  
Crotty, A.K.

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

# 25th Navajo Nation Spring Council Session Legislation Results

## LEGISLATION NO. 0034-23:

An Act Relating to Resources and Development, Law and Order, Budget and Finance and Naabik'iyati' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$1,500,000 from the HOT/Tourism Fund for the Navajo Tourism Department, Amending 24 N.N.C §741 to Allow Revenue in the HOT/Tourism Fund to be Used by All Navajo Nation Programs for Tourism-Related Purposes, and Rescinding Resolution No. CS-45-22(2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Eugenia Charles Newton

### ACTION: PASSED

### Yeas: 20

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

### Nays: 0

### Excused:

Jesus, B  
Crotty, A.K

### Not Voting:

Parrish, S

### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0058-23:

An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance, Resources and Development and Naabik'iyati' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council ; Approving \$3 ,879,180 from the Sphasin Fund for a New Navajo Nation Modular Office Building in Crownpoint; Approving the Related Expenditure Plan (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Danny Simpson

### CO-SPONSOR:

Honorable Norman M. Begay

### TABLED

### Yeas: 14

Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B.  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Yanito, C

### Nays: 08

Arivso, S.  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yazzie, C

### Excused:

Crotty, A.K

### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0060-23:

An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance, Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyati Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$863,570 from the Sihasin Fund to the Office of Dine Youth to Cover a Funding Shortfall for the Crownpoint Youth Complex; Approving the Related Expenditure Plan. (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Danny Simpson

### CO-SPONSOR:

Honorable Shawna Ann Claw

### ACTION: PASSED

### Yeas: 21

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C

### Nays: 01

Yazzie, C

### Excused:

Crotty, A.K

### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0065-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'fyati' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Amending CD-68-22 and the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Andy Nez, PH.D's Delegate Region (Chapters: Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

### ACTION: PASSED

### Yeas: 22

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

### Nays: 0

### Excused:

Crotty, A.K

### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0067-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati' Committees and Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Nathan Notah's Delegate Region (Chapters: Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl'a'a') (2/3)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Nathan Notah

### ACTION: PASSED

### Yeas: 22

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

### Nays: 0

### Excused:

Crotty, A.K

### Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

# 25th Navajo Nation Spring Council Session Legislation Results

## LEGISLATION NO. 0068-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Herman Daniels, Jr's Delegate Region (Chapters: Tsah Bii Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato) (2/3)

**SPONSOR:**

Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.

**CO-SPONSOR:**

Honorable Crystalyne Curley

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 21**

Arviso, S  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez. A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, 0  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**

Crotty, A.K

**Not Voting:**

Aseret, L

**Presiding Speaker**

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0030-23:

An Action Relating to Naabik'fyati' Committees, and Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office

**SPONSOR:**

Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 20**

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez. A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, 0  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**

Crotty, A.K

**Not Voting:**

Simpson, D  
Yanito, C

**Presiding Speaker**

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0053-23:

An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik'fyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Enacting the "Navajo Nation Victim's Rights Act of 2023"; Amending Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code

**SPONSOR:**

Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**CO-SPONSOR:**

Honorable Seth Damon

**NO ACTION**

## LEGISLATION NO. 0016-23:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati' Committees, and Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Shawnevan Dale as the Executive Director of the Division of General Services

**SPONSOR:**

Honorable Vince R. James

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 14**

Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez. A  
Notah, N  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, 0

**Nays: 06**

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Daniels, H  
Nez, R  
Parrish, S  
Yazzie, C

**Excused:**

Crotty, A.K

**Not Voting:**

Simonson, G  
Yanito, C

**Presiding Speaker**

Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0021-23:

An Action Relating to Resources and Development and the Naabik'iyati' Committees, and Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the President's Appointment of Garrett Silversmith as the Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Transportation

**SPONSOR:**

Honorable Vince R. James

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 17**

Arviso, S  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Johnson, C  
Nez. A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, 0

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**

Crotty, A.K

**Not Voting:**

Aseret, L  
Jesus, B  
Simonson, G  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Presiding Speaker**

Curely, C

# 25th Navajo Nation Spring Council Session Legislation Results

## LEGISLATION NO. 0026-23:

An Act Relating to Law and Order, Health, Education and Human Services, Resources and Development, Budget and Finance and Naabik'iyati' Committees, and Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-35-I8, as Amended by CJA-03-21, to Extend Sfhasin Funds Reversion Deadlines for all Projects to 72 Months

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Danny Simpson

**CO-SPONSORS:**  
Honorable Casey A. Johnson, Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie, Honorable Helena Nez Begay, Honorable Shaandiin Parrish

**ACTION: TABLED**

**Yeas: 13**  
Arviso, S  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C

**Nays: 08**  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Daniels, H  
Johnson, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yazzie, C

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K

**Not Voting:**  
Yanito, C

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0031-23:

An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyati' Committees, and Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Thomas Cody as the Executive Director of the Division of Social Services

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Casey A. Johnson

**CO-SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Honorable Norman M. Begay

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 20**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K

**Not Voting:**  
Nez, R  
Yanito, C

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0032-23:

An Action Relating to Law and Order Committee, Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Heather Clah as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Rickie Nez

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 18**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H

**Not Voting:**  
Tolth, G  
Begay, N

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0040-23:

An Action Relating to Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Nominations of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation President to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Crystalyne Curley

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 20**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Curley, C  
Nez, R  
Damon, S  
Notah, N  
Jesus, B  
Parrish, S  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K  
Daniels, H

**Not Voting:**  
N.Begay

**Presiding Speaker**  
James, V

## LEGISLATION NO. 0042-23:

An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services Committee, Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Debbie-Nez- Manuel as the Executive Director of the Division of Human Resources

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Vince R. James

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 18**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 02**  
Charles-Newton, E  
Parrish, S

**Excused:**  
N. Begay  
Crotty, A.K  
Daniels, H

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C



# 25th Navajo Nation Spring Council Session Legislation Results

## LEGISLATION NO. 0044-23:

An Action Relating to Resources and Development, Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Adopting the Latest International Building Code (ICC's 2021 International Building Code) as Applicable to Commercial and Government Buildings Constructed by the Navajo Nation Government and its Entities and Political Subdivisions

**Motion to Defer to the next Navajo Nation Council Special or Regular Session**

**ACTION: PASSED**

### Yeas: 16

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

### Nays: 0

### Excused:

Johnson, C  
Crotty, A. K.  
Tso, O  
Simonson, G

### Not Voting:

Nez, A  
Damon, S  
Daniels, H

### Presiding Speaker

Curely, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0048-23:

An Action Relating to Resources and Development, Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Calvin Castillo as Division Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development (V)

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Danny Simpson

### CO-SPONSOR:

Honorable Brenda Jesus

**ACTION: PASSED**

### Yeas: 15

Arviso, S  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Daniels, H  
Notah, N  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Simpson, D  
Simonson, G  
Slater, C  
Tso, O  
Yazzie, C

### Nays: 03

Parrish, S  
James, V  
Aseret, L

### Excused:

Damon, S  
Crotty, A. K.  
Claw, S

### Not Voting:

Tolth, G  
Yanito, C

### Presiding Speaker

Curely, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0049-23:

An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik'iyati' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Ethel B. Branch as the Navajo Nation Attorney General

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Casey A. Johnson

### CO-SPONSOR:

Steven R. Arviso

**ACTION: PASSED**

### Yeas: 17

Arviso, S  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Claw, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

### Nays: 03

Charles-Newton, E  
Aseret, L  
Tso, O

### Excused:

Crotty, A.K

### Not Voting:

Tolth, G

### Presiding Speaker

Curely, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0054-23:

An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 2 N.N.C. § 852 to Increase the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Membership to add Representation for the Chilchinbeto Community

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Otto Tso

### CO-SPONSOR:

Honorable Seth Damon

**ACTION: FAILED**

### Yeas: 10

Begay, N  
Daniels, H  
Johnson, C  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tso, O

### Nays: 11

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Nez, A  
Tolth, G  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

### Excused:

Crotty, A.K  
Damon, S

### Not Voting:

### Presiding Speaker

Curely, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0055-23:

An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'iyati' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Steven B. Etsitty as Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

### SPONSOR:

Honorable Brenda Jesus

### CO-SPONSOR:

Honorable Casey A. Johnson

**ACTION: PASSED**

### Yeas: 16

Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Jesus, B  
Claw, S  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Parrish, S  
Simpson, D  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O

### Nays: 02

Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

### Excused:

Crotty, A.K  
Damon, S  
Johnson, C  
Simonson, G

### Not Voting:

Slater, C

### Presiding Speaker

Curely, C

# 25th Navajo Nation Spring Council Session Legislation Results

## LEGISLATION NO. 0056-23

An Action Relating to budget and Finance, Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabikiyati Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the use of Title IV-E Funds by the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 17**  
Aseret, L  
Arviso, S  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simpson, D  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K  
Damon, S  
Johnson, C  
Simonson, G

**Not Voting:**  
Daniels, H  
Slater, C

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0059-23:

An Action Relating to Budget and Finance, Resource and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyati' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-39-18 to Extend the Sihasin Funds Reversion Deadline for Navajo Technical University's Crownpoint Campus Student Housing Expenditure Plan

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Danny Simpson

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 16**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Nez, A  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C

**Nays: 01**  
Yazzie, C

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K  
Damon, S  
Johnson, C  
Nez, R  
Simonson, G

**Not Voting:**  
Daniels, H

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0061-23:

An Action Relating to Resource and Development Committee, Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming Wilder Mike Halona as Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Rickie Nez

**CO-SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Shawna Ann Claw

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 13**  
Arviso, S  
Begay, N  
Claw, S  
Daniels, H  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Notah, N  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 04**  
Parrish, S  
Begay, H  
Nez, A  
James, V

**Excused:**  
Charles-Newton, E  
Crotty, A.K  
Damon, S  
Nez, R  
Simonson, G

**Not Voting:**  
Aseret, L

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0062-23:

An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance and Naabik'iyati' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$1,573,288 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to the Division of Social Services for a Grant to St. Michaels Association for Special Education.

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Brenda Jesus

**CO-SPONSOR:**  
Honorable: Dr. Andy Nez

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 20**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Charles-Newton, E  
Claw, S  
Damon, S  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Nez, R  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Crotty, A.K  
Daniels, H

**Not Voting:**  
Begay, N

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

## LEGISLATION NO. 0077-23:

Opposing the Confirmation of Secretary of Designee James R. Mountain to the New Mexico Indian Affairs.

**SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**CO-SPONSOR:**  
Honorable Danny Simpson

**ACTION: PASSED**

**Yeas: 17**  
Arviso, S  
Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Claw, S  
Daniels, H  
James, V  
Jesus, B  
Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Notah, N  
Parrish, S  
Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tso, O  
Yanito, C  
Yazzie, C

**Nays: 0**

**Excused:**  
Charles-Newton, E  
Crotty, A.K  
Damon, S  
Nez, R  
Simonson, G

**Not Voting:**  
Tolth, G

**Presiding Speaker**  
Curley, C

# 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Picture Highlights



# Picture Highlights



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