



NAST'ÁJÍ NAHAT'Á HANE'

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NEWS



**25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
2024 WINTER COUNCIL SESSION**

OPENING DAY OF THE 2024 WINTER COUNCIL SESSION

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Crystalyne Curley thanks the Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization for posting the colors, Miss Window Rock High School Aariyanna Billy for reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and Miss Navajo Amy Naazbah Reeves-Begaye for singing the National Anthem during the opening day of the 2024 Winter Council Session.

Prior to the start of the Winter Session, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, who chairs the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force, hosted a Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness gathering that brought together advocates, community members, and leaders to speak about the importance of protecting children, adults, and families.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Buu Nygren, and Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne also

honored Council Delegate and former Speaker Seth Damon on the opening day. Speaker Damon recently announced his resignation as a member of the Council to accept the position of Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. Jan. 22 marked Speaker Damon's official last day as a member of the 25th Navajo Nation Council before beginning his new role with the State of New Mexico on Jan. 23rd.

Written reports for the Winter Session are available on the Council's website at: <https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/committees/>

The 25th Navajo Nation Council thanks President Nygren, Chief Justice Jayne, Acting BIA Regional Director Deborah Shirley, visiting guests and officials, and the Navajo people for being a part of the opening day.



Executive, Legislative, and Judicial leadership gather for a group photo with Council Delegate Seth Damon, who resigned to accept the position of Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. Left to right: Miss Navajo Nation Amy Naazbah Reeves-Begaye, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, Council Delegate Seth Damon, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, and Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren.



Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren and Vice-President Richelle Montoya deliver the President's State of the Nation Address on the opening day of the 2024 Winter Council Session.



Miss Navajo Nation Amy Naazbah Reeves-Begaye recites the Pledge of Allegiance during the 2024 Winter Council Opening Session.

SPEAKER CURLEY PUSHES WATER RIGHTS, STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES, AND ARPA IN WINTER SESSION REPORT

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – During the opening day of the 2024 Winter Council Session on Monday, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley provided a report that focused on several priorities including finalizing an Arizona water rights settlement proposal, state legislative priorities, and expending American Rescue Plan Act funds for infrastructure projects.

At the start of the session, Speaker Curley recognized Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) who recently announced his resignation as a member of the Council to accept the position of Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department.

“In his nine years serving his communities on the Council, Speaker Damon has chaired the Budget and Finance Committee, Eastern Navajo Land Commission, and led many initiatives that have had positive impacts on our Nation. As the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank him and his family for their service and sacrifices and we pray for his continued success as he moves forward into a new endeavor,” stated Speaker Curley.

In her report, Speaker Curley highlighted the ongoing work to develop policies and procedures for the Legislative Branch and the successful passage of a first-ever plan of operation for the Office of the Speaker. Under her leadership, Speaker Curley also mandated sexual harassment prevention training for all Legislative Branch employees, which was completed in October.

“The training addressed safety in the workplace, trauma informed care, and workplace wellness. Safety in the workplace is a top priority for the Legislative Branch and we will continue to offer additional trainings for employees and Council Delegates,

as we move forward into the new year. All Legislative Branch employees are mandated to complete the training on an annual basis,” said Speaker Curley.

Speaker Curley also informed the Council on Monday that she will introduce emergency legislation to address the Navajo Nation’s position regarding Utah S.B. 57, which proposes a framework that would allow the Utah State Legislature, by concurrent resolution, to prohibit the enforcement of a federal directive within the state by government officers if the Legislature determines the federal directive violates the principles of state sovereignty.

“This type of law has the potential to impact all tribes in the state [of Utah] when it comes to important issues such as the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and other federal laws. This is a major concern that we have to address with the state of Utah,” Speaker Curley stated.

In the state of Arizona, Speaker Curley spoke about the Council’s advocacy for reforms to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to close loopholes that allow fraudulent sober living homes to operate and victimize members of the Navajo Nation and other tribes.

Speaker Curley also noted that due to the major budget deficit in the state of Arizona, state legislators will have to make difficult decisions when it comes to funding programs such as the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts program, also known as the school voucher program that was originally intended to provide financial assistance to parents for charter, private, or home schooling.

“During discussions with state legislators, my colleagues explained that this program does not benefit students



Left to right: Miss Navajo Nation Amy Naazbah Reeves-Begaye, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Vice-President Richelle Montoya, and Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne.



Council Delegate Seth Damon was given the gavel to serve as Speaker pro tem on his last day.



The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization provided color guard duties on the opening day of the 2024 Winter Council Session.

on the Navajo Nation due to low numbers of charter and private schools. Navajo leadership expressed concerns over the growing cost of the program relative to needed investments in the state public education system on the Navajo Nation. We will continue to propose alternative options that will benefit students residing on our Nation," Speaker Curley wrote in the report.

In New Mexico, the Council continues to focus its efforts on the completion of New Mexico Capital Outlay funded projects and proposing new measures such as streamlining processes including removing or amending the requirement to obligate five-percent of an appropriated amount within six months of acceptance of an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement and allowing for the delegation of the signing authority of the Navajo Nation President to expedite the timeline.

Regarding a proposed water rights settlement in Arizona, Speaker Curley noted that the Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission, Attorney General Ethel Branch, and the Executive Branch will begin hosting public education sessions at the end of January in various Arizona communities to present information regarding proposed Colorado River settlements.

"It is very important that our Navajo people are informed and that we proceed carefully to ensure that our communities receive much

needed water resources that can sustain generations to come," stated Speaker Curley.

The report also highlights the 25th Navajo Nation Council's continued work with the Executive Branch to provide support and direction to ensure that ARPA funds are obligated or expended as soon as possible. Nearly all Council Delegates have introduced legislation to allocate the \$8.8 million per delegate region. In December, the Council held a weeklong work session to further the work with the Executive Branch for ARPA planning and spending.

"The encumbrance and expenditure of ARPA funds is a challenging task that requires a great amount of coordination and communication with the Executive Branch. I fully understand the urgency to expend ARPA funds, especially for infrastructure projects that will deliver water, electricity, housing, and other needs for communities and residents. As we move forward, we will schedule additional meetings with the Office of the President and Vice President to work through obstacles and identify solutions to expedite the process," Speaker Curley said.

On Monday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 11-2 to accept Speaker Curley's report, along with other written reports for the Winter Council Session. To view the full written report, please visit: <https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/committees/>.



Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty has a discussion with Speaker Crystalayne Curley during the 2024 Winter Council Session.



Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council gather for a group photo with Council Delegate Seth Damon on his last day as a delegate.

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL APPROVES \$500,000 TO ASSIST WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITY

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, January 23, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 17-0 in support of Legislation No. 0250-23, approving \$500,000 from the Navajo Nation’s Síhasin Fund to help Utah State University (USU) construct a new higher education facility in Monument Valley, Utah.

According to the legislation sponsor, Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa’tsis’Áán, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin), the facility will benefit residents in the communities of Monument Valley, Oljato, and Kayenta. The overall cost of the facility is estimated to be \$14 million.

“I thank my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for supporting this initiative that will benefit many Navajo people who want to pursue higher education and build their technical skills,” said

Delegate Daniels.

According to a letter from Utah State University President Elizabeth Cantwell, the 13,000 square-foot facility will incorporate traditional classrooms and distance learning connections. Students will have access to a vast array of certificates and degrees ranging from technical certificates to doctorate degrees, as well as academic guidance and support, counseling services, and career mentoring.

In addition, the proposed project will benefit local high school students by providing concurrent enrollment courses and programs offered to high school students and expand USU’s support for small businesses through its Small Business Development Center.

If the legislation is signed into law, the funding will be made



Above: Council Delegate Herman Daniels Jr. (center) sponsored a legislation to help Utah State University construct a new higher education facility in Monument Valley, Utah.

available to the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance (ONNSFA) upon notification that the construction phase has begun. Utah State University will also be required to submit reports on an annual basis until all approved funding from the Navajo Nation is exhausted.

Once the resolution is certified by the Speaker of the Council and delivered to the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, the President will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution.

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL APPROVES NEARLY \$6 MILLION IN EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING TO MITIGATE IMPACTS OF WINTER WEATHER

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Wednesday, January 24, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0018-24, which seeks the appropriation of nearly \$6 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to help Navajo communities address and recover from the impacts of recent heavy snow and mud.

If the resolution is signed into law by the Navajo Nation President, it will appropriate \$3.85 million for the 110 chapters and approximately \$2.1 million to the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management.

Council Delegate George Tolth (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreón,

Whitehorse Lake) introduced the legislation as an emergency measure on Tuesday, during the Winter Council Session. He explained that many communities and families are in great need of assistance especially in rural areas.

On Wednesday, after careful consideration and debate the Council voted 16-0 in support of the legislation, along with a directive to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of the Controller, and the Division of Community Development to expedite the delivery of the funds within 10 days of the effective date of the resolution.

“I am very grateful to the 25th Navajo Nation Council members for working together

to address the immediate needs of our community members and Delegate Tolth for sponsoring the bill. The legislation was carefully debated and focused on the needs of our elders and those who are impacted in some of the most remote areas. We appreciate the work and efforts put forth by the Department of Emergency Management, Community Health Representatives, chapters, and many others. We respectfully request the support of the resolution by President Buu Nygren,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

In accordance with the resolution, each of the 110 chapters will receive \$35,000 to help mitigate the impacts of winter weather conditions.



Council Delegate George Tolth said many communities are in great need of assistance.

Once the resolution is certified by the Speaker of the Council and delivered to the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, the President will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution.

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OVERRIDES OF PRESIDENTIAL VETO TO ALLOW NAVAJO PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN CHAPTER MEETINGS VIRTUALLY

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, January 23, during the second day of the Winter Council Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 17-0 to override Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's veto of a resolution to allow for virtual attendance at chapter meetings.

When the Naabik'iyati' Committee considered the legislation on Dec. 28, legislation sponsor, Council Delegate Vince James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat), stated that the legislation does not mandate chapters to allow virtual attendance, but gives chapters the option to develop procedures to allow virtual participation for community members.

"It gives each chapter the right to choose whether or not they will allow virtual attendance and adopt their own virtual meeting policies," Chair James said on Dec. 28. "The intent is to provide chapters with an additional resource to address issues like meeting

quorum, meeting attendance, and community engagement."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved the original legislation in October, which was then vetoed by President Nygren on Nov. 3, citing concerns over personal presence, virtual verification of chapter membership for voting, and a lack of community engagement.

"Allowing virtual attendance at chapter meetings is beneficial to establishing quorum which allows chapter business to keep moving forward," Delegate James said. "It also promotes community involvement in government at the chapter level."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 17 in favor and none opposed for Legislation No. 0255-23, which required two-thirds approval, or 16 supporting votes.

Now that the Council overrode the veto, the next step is to have chapters submit resolutions to the Office of Legislative Services



Council Delegate Vince James said allowing virtual attendance at chapter meetings is beneficial to establishing quorum to keep chapter business moving forward.

stating whether each chapter approves or disapproves of these changes.

In accordance with the Local Governance Act, this change in the law will only take effect if a majority of the 110 chapters submit supporting resolutions to the Office of Legislative Counsel within 180 days of the override. If a majority

of the 110 chapters support it then it will become law and all chapters will have the opportunity to decide if they want to allow for virtual, hybrid, or in-person attendance. It will be the chapter's decision through a chapter resolution and each chapter will be responsible for developing procedures if they decide to have virtual or hybrid options for meetings.

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL CONFIRMS APPOINTMENT OF SEAN MCCABE AS NAVAJO NATION CONTROLLER

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ – On Wednesday, January 24, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0259-23, confirming Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren's appointment of Sean McCabe, C.P.A., to serve as the Controller of the Navajo Nation.

According to committee reports that were read into record, the Budget and Finance Committee and Naabik'iyati' Committee recommended the legislation pass with no amendments.

"We thank Budget and Finance Chair Shaandiin Parrish for sponsoring this legislation appointing Sean McCabe as Navajo Nation Controller," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

"McCabe has been consistently insightful when reporting to our standing committees. We look forward to his continued efforts in pushing the Navajo Nation forward."

McCabe is a graduate of Fort Lewis College with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the state of New Mexico. McCabe has previously served as the division director for the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development.

Since 2006, McCabe has been the Managing Member for McCabe CPA Group LLC, a Native American owned and operated CPA firm based in Albuquerque, N.M.

On the Council floor, the legislation was met

with no discussion and went directly to vote.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved McCabe's appointment as Controller of the Navajo Nation with 17 in favor and zero opposed.



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL APPROVES \$445,595 FROM UUFB TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz – On Wednesday, January 24, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted in favor of Legislation 0002-24, allocating \$445,595 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to support the Tohatchi Area of Opportunity and Services, Inc. (TAOS) in providing transportation services to intellectually and developmentally disabled Navajo clients.

TAOS requested the funds to purchase 11 new vehicles to replace much of their aging, high-mileage, high-maintenance, fleet of vehicles. Many of these vehicles are old and unreliable.

“TAOS provides critical transportation services to Navajo clients so they can attend medical appointments, job interviews, and other important appointments,” said legislation sponsor Council Delegate Vince James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinlichee, Steamboat), who chairs the Health, Education, and Human Services standing committee.

Chair James noted that TAOS is a subcontractor of the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services (NNDSS), who was previously allocated the same amount of funding for the same vehicle purchases. The previously allocated funds lapsed before the former NNDSS director could purchase the vehicles.

“We’re asking you again for TAOS to purchase these 11 vehicles. I made it clear to the Navajo Division of Social Services and TAOS that they have less than eight months of this year to have these vehicles purchased,” Chair James said.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair, Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish asked NNDSS Executive Director Thomas Cody how he’s prioritizing the grants that he’s inherited.

“How are you prioritizing the subrecipient agreements?” Chair Parrish asked, “If the funding is awarded, will it be prioritized?”

Director Cody told Chair Parrish that he is committed to making these



Council Delegate Vince James sponsored a legislation supporting the Tohatchi Area of Opportunity and Services, Inc. in providing transportation services to intellectually and developmentally disabled Navajo clients.

purchases within eight-months.

“It’s a high priority for me to help these local organizations because they’re the ones that deliver the services on behalf of the Navajo Nation,” Cody said. “I will report to you after next month to make sure these vehicles are being purchased.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council

approved Legislation 0002-24 with 12 in favor and two opposed.

Once the resolution is certified by the Speaker of the Council and delivered to the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, the President will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution.



Left: Council Delegate Rickie Nez provides discussion on a legislation during the 2024 Winter Council Session. Above: Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty recognized the 2023 Gallup Boys and Girls High School Cross Country Teams.



Message from Speaker Crystalyne Curley

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 2024 Winter Council Session.

As we come together this winter season, known as Hai, we reflect on our Diné teachings and values passed down from our elders, which continue to give us strength and endurance. Many of our homes and communities, near and far, are filled with winter stories and shoe and string games filled with teachings that define our identity and strengthen our foundation, as Diné. As the animals hibernate, we take this time to share our stories, to connect with one another through kinship, K'é, and to thank the Creator for all of the blessings bestowed upon us through the moisture that our lands receive.

Recent snow storms have also created some challenges for those living in rural areas, but through the teachings of our elders, we are reminded to prepare our homes for the winter season by gathering firewood, blankets, supplies for livestock, and food and water. We strongly encourage our children and grandchildren to help their elders, so they are safe and taken care of through the cold season. As the 25th Navajo Nation Council marks one year in office, we recognize that there is much work ahead of us and that our people look to us for change and progress. As I have stated before, 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. I thank my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for persistently being out in many communities listening to the issues brought forth by our people and offering your support and solutions.

As we move forward, we encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the teachings of our elders in relation to kinship and decision making. 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 Council session.

I also want to take this opportunity to honor and thank former Speaker Seth Damon, who recently announced his resignation from the 25th Navajo Nation Council to serve as the Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. In his nine years serving his communities on the Council, Speaker Damon has chaired the Budget and Finance Committee, Eastern Navajo Land Commission, and led many initiatives that have had positive impacts on our Nation. As the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank him and his family for their service and sacrifices and we pray for his continued success as he moves forward into a new endeavor.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the winter 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 moving forward.

Mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

The Office of the Speaker mandated sexual harassment prevention training for all Legislative Branch employees last year. We are pleased to report that the Legislative Branch successfully collaborated with the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women and the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition to hold a two-day training session in October for all employees, in compliance with the Navajo Nation Sexual Harassment Policy.

The training addressed safety in the workplace, trauma informed care, and workplace wellness. Safety in the workplace is a top priority for the Legislative Branch and we will continue to offer additional trainings for employees and Council Delegates, as we move forward into the new year. All Legislative Branch employees are mandated to complete the training on an annual basis.

Internal Policies and Procedures

In August, the Naabik'iyati' Committee approved the first ever plan of operation for the Office of the Speaker. I thank my colleagues for supporting the legislation, along with a directive to provide a report by early December on the progress of developing a human resources section specifically for the Legislative Branch. The plan of operation allows additional internal policies and procedures to be implemented to assist Council members and the entire Legislative Branch.

The Office of the Speaker has developed an implementation plan to create a Human Resources section for the Legislative Branch. There are over 180 employees within the Legislative Branch which includes permanent, temporary, and political-at-will staff. The Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for the Legislative Branch program budgets includes these positions which would be managed by the Human Resources & Personnel Management Office under the Office of the Speaker. The Human Resources office functions and responsibilities will include the following: HR/Personnel Administration, Classification & Salary, Recruitment & Hiring, Support Services for Position Control, Employee Relations & Employee Assistance, Personnel Records Management, and Human Resources IT Support. The Office of the Speaker has met with the Navajo Nation Department of Personnel Management and will continue implementation plans with the Office of the Controller to finalize a transition plan with legislation to follow.

The Office of the Speaker has also introduced legislation to provide guidance and clarification regarding the use of media during Council sessions, meetings and work sessions of the Standing Committees, sub-committees, commissions, boards and task forces.

In the coming weeks, the Office of the Speaker will also introduce legislation to establish the framework for the "Legislative Protection Services" program, which will aim to raise the level of security for the Legislative Branch, the Council, and the general public.

Utah State Priorities

On January 10-11, my colleagues and I had the honor of meeting with Utah Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson and several key state legislators to push for several bills and initiatives that are important for our people and communities in the state of Utah. We had very productive discussions in which we offered our support for roads, traditional healing services through Medicaid, voting rights, and other critical matters. On January 5th the Council's Naabik'iyati' Committee adopted the Utah legislative priorities through Resolution NABIJA-01-24.

The following are several key bills that we will continue tracking in the current Utah State Legislature's General Session.

- The Council continues to advocate for \$2.9 million from the state of Utah to partially fund an Environmental Impact Study to advance the process of constructing a roadway between the communities of Navajo Mountain and Oljato. The total cost of the study is \$4 million. The Navajo Nation has committed \$1 million and \$100,000 was secured from the Navajo Revitalization Fund. The roadway would help many Navajo residents who currently travel long distances through rough terrain to and from their homes, improve emergency response times for first responders, and increase economic opportunities for businesses, residents, and tourism.
- Council members also urges Utah state lawmakers to support a bill that will allow Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal health facilities to receive reimbursement for qualified traditional medicine services provided for Medicaid beneficiaries, who reside in the state of Utah. In meetings with state legislators, my Council colleagues explained that traditional healing methods provided by Navajo medicine persons can be more effective at a lower cost than medication prescribed by doctors at hospitals, and may save funds for the state. A similar measure was successfully implemented in the state of Arizona in 2016.
- Council members expressed our concerns with Utah House Bill 92, which proposes several very concerning voting amendments for the state. One such provision states that an election officer would only be required to send ballots by mail to active voters who request, in a voter registration form or another written document, to receive ballots for future elections by mail. This proposed amendment would create another unnecessary barrier for our elders and those who do not read and/or write the English language. We will continue to address H.B. 92 with state legislators as the state's General Session continues.
- The Council is also aware of another concerning bill, S.B. 57, which proposes a framework that would allow the Utah State Legislature, by concurrent resolution, to prohibit the enforcement of a federal directive within the state by government officers if the Legislature determines the federal directive violates the principles of state sovereignty. This type of law has the potential to impact all tribes in the state when it comes to important issues such as the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and other federal laws.

Arizona State Priorities

On January 9-10, my colleagues and I met with Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, House Speaker Ben Toma, Senate President Warren Petersen, House Minority Leader Lupe Contreras, House Majority Whip Teresa Martinez, and our Diné legislators Senator Theresa Hatathlie, Representatives Myron Tsosie and Mae Peshlakai.

Among many priorities, the following are several key bills that we will

continue tracking in the Arizona State Legislature's General Session.

- The Council continues to work with Arizona officials and elected leaders to address fraudulent sober living homes in the Phoenix area that continue to victimize members of Arizona's tribes including many of our Diné brothers and sisters. In our discussions with state leaders, it's clear that reforming the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is necessary to close loopholes that allow fraudulent sober homes to operate. We look forward to working with legislators, the Governor, and the Attorney General to support bills in the state legislature that resolve these issues.
- The state of Arizona faces a major budget deficit that will require state legislators to make difficult decisions when it comes to funding programs such as the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts program, also known as the school voucher program that was originally intended to provide financial assistance to parents for charter, private or home schooling. During discussions with state legislators, my colleagues explained that this program does not benefit students on the Navajo Nation due to low numbers of charter and private schools. Navajo leadership expressed concerns over the growing cost of the program relative to needed investments in the state public education system on the Navajo Nation. We will continue to propose alternative options that will benefit students residing on our Nation.
- Tax parity continues to be a major issue for all Arizona tribes. The Council, in meetings with state legislators, proposed an option in which the Navajo Nation would be responsible for distributing Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) revenue to Diné College and Navajo Technical University who are each a beneficiary of the TPT on an annual basis. Dual taxation is another tax issue that is very challenging to address and remains a top priority for the Council during the state's session.

New Mexico State Priorities

On January 15, my colleagues representing New Mexico communities, met with state leaders to present the Council's priorities outlined in Resolution NABID-60-23 for the ongoing New Mexico State Legislature's Session.

Among many priorities, the following are several key bills that we will continue tracking in the Arizona State Legislature's General Session.

- The completion of New Mexico Capital Outlay funded projects is a top priority year after year for the Council and New Mexico Chapters. In addition, the New Mexico Council Delegates are also proposing several measures to streamline processes including removing or amending the requirement to obligate 5-percent of an appropriated amount within six months of acceptance of an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement and allowing for

the delegation of the signing authority of the Navajo Nation President to expedite the timeline.

- Increased tribal consultation between the Navajo Nation and New Mexico state agencies is another key component to moving toward solutions that help tribal members in areas such as public safety, health care, education, broadband expansion, and many others. We are also requesting for more Navajo representation on vacant or proposed commissions, boards, and other seats to ensure that we have a voice at the table when it comes to discussing and deciding important issues.
- In addition to supporting the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) at the federal level, our Navajo communities continue to oppose any and all uranium/radiation repository sites on or near Navajo Nation lands. The tragedies and ongoing illnesses and deaths caused by uranium mining and development continue to cause much heartache for our people and we will continue to oppose any proposal that may bring further harm to our communities.

ARPA Funding

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) deadlines are approaching quickly and the 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to work with the Executive Branch to provide support and direction to ensure that funds are obligated or expended as soon as possible. Nearly all Council Delegates have introduced legislations to allocate the \$8.8 million per delegate region. The encumbrance and expenditure of ARPA funds is a challenging task that requires a great amount of coordination and communication with the Executive Branch. In December, the Council held a weeklong work session to further the work with the Executive Branch for ARPA planning and spending.

I fully understand the urgency to expend ARPA funds, especially for infrastructure projects that will deliver water, electricity, housing, and other needs for communities and residents. As we move forward, we will schedule additional meetings with the Office of the President and Vice President to work through obstacles and identify solutions to expedite the process. We also congratulate all the chapter governments whose ARPA projects are moving ahead.

Water Rights

The Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission established a water rights negotiation team to represent the Navajo Nation in negotiating a water rights settlement with the state of Arizona and other stakeholders. Council Delegates Brenda Jesus, Cherilyn Yazzie, Otto Tso, Vince James, Carl Slater, Shawna Claw, Shaandiin Parrish, Herman Daniels, and Germaine Simonson have been appointed along with representatives from the Executive Branch and several technical experts.

2024 WINTER COUNCIL SESSION SPEAKER'S REPORT

SAVE the DATE!
Schedule is subject to change due to inclement weather

Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission and Navajo Department of Justice's Water Rights Unit Community Public Education Meeting on Proposed Water Settlements for the Colorado River & Little Colorado River

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: All community members and leaders, elders, youth organizers, relatives living in the Upper Basin and Lower Basin of the Colorado River and the Little Colorado River.

DISCUSSION TOPICS: Indian Water Rights Law; the Little Colorado River Adjudication; and the Navajo Nation's involvement in a proposed comprehensive water rights settlement with the United States, the State of Arizona, the Hopi Tribe and other parties.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday, January 29, 2024	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Navajo Nation Museum Window Rock, Arizona
	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Ganado, Arizona
Friday, February 2, 2024	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Chinle, Arizona
	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Pinon, Arizona
Monday, February 5, 2024	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Kayenta, Arizona
	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Tuba City, Arizona
Friday, February 9, 2024	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Dilkon, Arizona
	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Leupp, Arizona
Monday, February 12, 2024	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Rough Rock, Arizona

For more information: (928) 871-7510 or jacquelinemitchell@navajo-nsn.gov

Considering the severe drought conditions in the southwest and particularly in Arizona, negotiating a settlement presents many challenges for all stakeholders including the Navajo Nation. During recent negotiation team meetings, I have conveyed my commitment and support for the efforts to come together and reach a proposed settlement with the Hopi Tribe before negotiating with other stakeholders.

Beginning at the end of January, in collaboration with the Water Rights Commission, Attorney General Ethel Branch, and the Executive Branch, we will begin hosting public education sessions in various Arizona communities to present information regarding proposed Colorado River settlements. It is very important that our Navajo people are informed and that we proceed carefully to ensure that our communities receive much needed water resources that can sustain generations to come.

Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force

The Naa'bik'iyati' Committee's Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force members began meeting in June 2023 and have had 14 regular meetings to date. The MMDR Task Force is lead by Chairperson, Delegate Amber K. Crotty, and the co-lead is Sonlatsa Jim, Legislative Staff Assistant with the Office of the Speaker. MMDR Task Force members have heard reports from the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah regarding initiatives related to missing, murdered, and human trafficking victims who are Navajo citizens. The MMDR Task Force members include new Community Representatives who have extensive experience and knowledge

as victim advocates and victim service providers. The members continue to implement action items outlined in the responsibilities of the MMDR Task Force which includes collaborating with Navajo Technical University in creating a data institute and finalizing a Navajo Nation Missing Persons Toolkit with the Navajo Police Department MMIP Liaison. The MMDR Task Force will be providing recommendations to the Naa'bik'iyati' Committee in the next quarter.

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

On June 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyati' Committee approved Resolution NABIJN-17-23, to appoint members to the Task Force. Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Helena Nez Begay, and Eugenia Charles-Newton were each appointed as representatives of the Naabik'iyati' Committee, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, and the Law and Order Committee. Legislative Staff Assistant Sonlatsa Jim was also selected to represent the Office of the Speaker on the Task Force.

The Task Force will conduct 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'iyati' Committee and the Office of the President and Vice President.

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.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us during the 2024 Winter Council Session. As we move into the next quarter, the 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to serve as the governing body of the Navajo Nation and work to improve the quality of life for our Navajo people. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we move forward together.

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RECOGNIZES THE EXCEPTIONAL EFFORTS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz – On Tuesday, January 23, during a recognition ceremony, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council honored Vietnam Veteran Sandoval Jesus, the 2023 Gallup High School Cross Country Team, and Window Rock Unified School District educator Melissa Martinez.

Council Delegate Brenda Jesus honored the late Navajo Nation Vietnam Veteran Sandoval Jesus who was represented by his family.

"I'd like to recognize late Sandoval Jesus who was born March 1949 and left us in December 2023," Jesus said. "He was my uncle, a warrior, and a hero. He was generous and kind-hearted. He served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970. He was a strong advocate for the United Mine Workers of America."

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty honored the 2023 Boys and Girls Gallup Cross Country Team. Both teams were 3rd place finishers in the 2023 New Mexico Activities Association Cross Country State Tournament.

"It's an honor for me to recognize our children and young adults today who traveled here from Gallup," Delegate Crotty said. "The 25th Navajo Nation Council wanted to recognize your endurance and resilience to honor your families, your parents, and guardians. You're the beacon of hope for the younger generations."

Council Delegates Dr. Andy Nez and Carl R. Slater honored Window Rock Unified School District educator Melissa Martinez, who was awarded the Region 1 Teacher of the Year for Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA).

"It's a rewarding career to be an educator and to work with our students every day," Dr. Nez said. "Ms. Martinez has been working tirelessly over the last decade to make sure our students in HOSA, who are learning technical trades, are getting the most they can from the school's curriculum."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council thanks all the recognition honorees for setting examples of strength, integrity, and excellence.



Council Delegate Brenda Jesus honored the late Navajo Vietnam Veteran Sandoval Jesus, who was represented by his family. Sandoval Jesus was Council Delegate Jesus' uncle.



Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, and Council Delegate Brenda Jesus join 2023 Gallup High School Cross Country athlete Denayah Wylie and her family for a group photo.



Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, and Council Delegate Brenda Jesus stand with the 2024 Gallup High School Cross Country Team.



Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez (left) recognized educator Melissa Martinez. Martinez stands with her family, Council Delegate Dr. Nez, and Speaker Crystalyne Curley.



Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, and Council Delegate Brenda Jesus join 2023 Gallup High School Cross Country athlete Natalie Dixon for a group photo.

2024 NAVAJO NATION WINTER COUNCIL SESSION LEGISLATION RESULTS

LEGISLATION 0018-24: An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$1,304,652.64 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance ("UUFB") for the 110 Navajo Nation Chapters to Replenish their Emergency Fund Accounts so they are Ready to Address Emergencies in their Communities; Waiving 12 N.N.C § 820 (E), § 820 (F), § 820 (J), and § 820 (L) to Allow Use of the UUFB for Recurring Expenses. Required 2/3 approval or 16 supporting votes to pass.
SPONSOR: Honorable George H. Tolth

Action: Passed

Yea: 16
Arviso, Steven
Aseret, Lomardo
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 0

Excused: 6
Claw, Shawna Ann
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis
Daniels, Herman

Not Voting: 0

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

LEGISLATION 0155-23: An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance Committee, the Resources and Development Committee, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$296,211 from the Síhasin Fund for a New Motor Grader for Pinedale Chapter: Approving the Related Expenditure Plan. Required 2/3 approval or 16 supporting votes to pass.

SPONSOR: Honorable Steven R. Arviso

Action: Tabled to no later than Spring Session in April 2024

Yea:16

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Claw, Shawna Ann
Crotty, Amber K.
Daniels, Herman
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 0

Excused: 4
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Johnson, Casey Allen
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting:2
Slater, Carl
Aseret, Lomardo

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

LEGISLATION 0246-23: An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance, Resources and Development, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CMY-54-18 to Extend Through Crop Year 2028 the Síhasin Fund Guarantee for the Navajo Nation's Annual Premiums for the "Rainfall Index Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Pilot Insurance Program" Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Required 2/3 approval or 16 supporting votes to pass.

SPONSOR: Honorable Brenda Jesus

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Seth Damon

Action: Referred back to the RDC to bring back within 30 days or next regular/special session

Yea:14

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 0

Excused: 6
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 2
Aseret, Lomardo
Jesus, Brenda

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

LEGISLATION 0250-23: An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance Committee, the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, The Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$500,000 from the Síhasin Fund to Utah State University Towards a New Education Building Located in Monument Valley; Approving the Related Expenditure Plan. Required 2/3 approval or 16 supporting votes to pass.

SPONSOR: Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Seth Damon

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Andy Nez

Action: Passed

Yea: 17

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Claw, Shawna Ann
Crotty, Amber K.
Daniels, Herman
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 0

Excused: 4
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Johnson, Casey Allen
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 1
Aseret, Lomardo

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

2024 NAVAJO NATION WINTER COUNCIL SESSION LEGISLATION RESULTS

LEGISLATION 0255-23: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings). Required 2/3 approval or 16 supporting votes to pass.

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

Action: Passed

Yea: 17

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Claw, Shawna Ann
Crotty, Amber K.
Daniels, Herman
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay:0

Excused: 4

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Johnson, Casey Allen
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 1

Aseret, Lomardo

Presiding Speaker:

Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0009-24: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$17,628 from the Síhasin Fund to NTUA for the Construction of a Gas Service Line Extension for Gladys Jones' Residence in Ganado, Arizona; Approving the Related Expenditure Plan. Required 2/3 approval or 16 supporting votes to pass.

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Danny Simpson

Action: Failed

Yea: 11

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simpson, Danny
Tolth, George

Nay: 5

Claw, Shawna Ann
Jesus, Brenda
Simonson, Germaine
Slater, Carl
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Excused: 5

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Daniels, Herman
Johnson, Casey Allen
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 1

Aseret, Lomardo

Presiding Speaker:

Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0014-24: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Amending Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CJN-29-22 to Include additional U.S. Department of Treasury Fiscal Recovery Funds Expenditure Categories; Waiving Navajo Nation Council Approval and Authorizing Administrative Approval of Amendments to the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Bathroom Additions Expenditure Plan to Include Additional Expenditure Categories. Required 2/3 approval or 16 supporting votes to pass.

SPONSOR: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Crystalyne Curley

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Seth Damon

Action: Referred to the Naabik'iyati' Committee for no more than 60 days

Yea: 14

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 0

Excused: 6

Charles-Newton, E
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 2

Jesus, Brenda
Aseret, Lomardo

Presiding Speaker: Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0008-24: An Action Relating to Budget and Finance, the Resources and Development Committee, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$1,386,000 from the Síhasin Fund to the NTUA for the Construction of Approximately Two Miles of Waterline Extensions for 16 Families in the Kin Dah Lichii Chapter; Approving the Related Expenditure Plan. Required 2/3 approval or 16 supporting votes to pass.

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Danny Simpson

Action: Failed

Yea: 13

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Claw, Shawna Ann
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Tolth, George

Nay: 4

Slater, Carl
Parrish, Shaandiin
Aseret, Lomardo
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Excused: 5

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 0

Presiding Speaker: Curley, Crystalyne

NAST'ÁJÍ NAHAT'Á HANE'

LEGISLATION 0019-24: An Action Relating to an Emergency and the Navajo Nation Council; Opposing Utah Senate Bill 57, "Utah Constitutional Sovereignty Act"; Urging the 2024 Utah Legislature to Vote Against Utah Senate Bill 57

SPONSOR: Honorable Curtis Yanito

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Crystalyne Curley

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish

Action: Passed

Yea: 15

Arviso, Steven
Aseret, Lomardo
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Claw, Shawna Ann
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 2

Nez, R
Notah, Nathan

Excused: 5

Charles-Newton, E
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 0

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

LEGISLATION 0259-23: An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance Committee and the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation President's Appointment of Sean McCabe, C.P.A. as the Controller of the Navajo Nation

SPONSOR: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish

Action: Passed

Yea: 17

Arviso, Steven
Aseret, Lomardo
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Claw, Shawna Ann
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Curtis

Nay: 0

Excused: 5

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 0

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

LEGISLATION 0265-23: An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance, Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Waiving Section X (B)(1)(e) of the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual; Approving \$3,535,773 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to the Office of the Controller for the Payout of Excess Annual Leave to all Executive Branch and Legislative Branch Employees

SPONSOR: Honorable Seth Damon

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Norman M. Begay

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Andy Nez

Action: Passed

Yea: 16

Arviso, Steven
Aseret, Lomardo
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 0

Excused: 6

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 0

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

LEGISLATION 0002-24: An Action Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$446,595 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for the Tohatchi Area of Opportunity and Services, Inc. for the Purchase of 11 New Vehicles to Provide Transportation Services for its Clients

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Nathan Notah

Action: Passed

Yea: 12

Begay, Helena Nez
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George

Nay: 2

Yazzie, Cherilyn
Aseret, Lomardo

Excused: 6

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 2

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Norman

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C

LEGISLATION 0016-24: An Act Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Campaign Expense Provisions of the Navajo Election Code at §§ 201 Through 209 and §404.

SPONSOR: Honorable Danny Simpson

Action: Passed

Yea: 13

Begay, Helena Nez
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 0

Excused: 6

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 3

Arviso, Steven
Aseret, Lomardo
Begay, Norman

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

LEGISLATION 0017-24: An Act Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Amendments to the Navajo Election Code at 11 N.N.C. §§ 25 and 145 by Authorizing Appointment by the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors for One Candidate Vacancy Filings in Special Elections and Designating Voting Hours in Special Elections
SPONSOR: Honorable Danny Simpson

Action: Passed

Yea: 13

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George

Nay: 1

Yazzie, Cherilyn

Excused: 6

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 2

Jesus, Brenda
Aseret, Lomardo

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

LEGISLATION 0003-24: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CJY-35-22 to Extend the Síhasin Funds Reversion Deadline for the Navajo, New Mexico Apartment/Multi-Purpose Complex Expenditure Plan
SPONSOR: Honorable Andy Nez

Action: Passed

Yea: 14

Arviso, Steven
Begay, Helena Nez
Begay, Norman
Crotty, Amber K.
James, Vince
Johnson, Casey Allen
Nez, Rick
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl
Tolth, George
Yazzie, Cherilyn

Nay: 0

Excused: 6

Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Herman
Nez, Andy
Tso, Otto
Yanito, Curtis

Not Voting: 2

Jesus, Brenda
Aseret, Lomardo

**Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne**

Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker

Manuel Rico
Chief of Staff

Jared Touchin
Deputy Chief of Staff

Mary Nez
Executive Assistant

Sonlatsa Jim
Legislative Staff Assistant

Clarissa Begay
Legislative Staff Assistant

Lester Yazzie
Legislative Staff Assistant

Mihio Manus
Communication Director

Jason John
Sr. Public Information Officer

Jacquelyn Morgan
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Emerson Notah
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Clarinda Begay
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Gayle Neboyia
Legislative AMS

Davina Begaye
Legislative AMS

JoAnne George
Legislative AMS

Rychelle Locaspino
Legislative Assistant

