



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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Council Delegate Lester Yazzie sworn in on the opening day of the 2024 Spring Session



Council Delegate Lester C. Yazzie was joined by his family as he took his Oath of Office as the Council Delegate representing District 6.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Today, the 25th Navajo Nation Council convened for the opening day of the 2024 Spring Session held at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz.

Before the opening session, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Cherilyn Yazzie, and Dr. Andy Nez led a Sexual Assault Awareness Month Walk from the Navajo Nation Museum to the Navajo Nation Council Chamber.

The annual event brought together many volunteers, advocates, victims and survivors to raise awareness on behalf of the safety and dignity of all individuals, including the Navajo Nation's most vulnerable members. The theme color for the opening day was turquoise to acknowledge Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Students from Sanders Valley High School provided the Color Guard service while Ganado High School Students recited the Pledge of Allegiance and performed the National Anthem in the Diné language. Ganado Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Leandra Thomas provided the invocation and blessed the Chamber for the day's session.

Council Delegate Steven Arviso recognized students from Chuska Community School for engaging with tribal leaders and the Navajo Nation government. Students from The Little Red School House in New York City, N.Y., were also recognized for attending the opening session.

Before the Council adopted the agenda, Council Delegate Lester C. Yazzie took his Oath of Office as the Council Delegate representing District 6 (Baahaali, Chilchiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh).

"I'd like to thank my constituents in District 6 for putting their confidence in me to represent them on the 25th Navajo Nation Council. Thank you to my wife, my son, and my family for supporting me in this effort," Delegate Yazzie said. "I look forward to representing my Chapters and the whole Navajo Nation in moving legislations forward that will benefit the entire Nation."

During the opening session, Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren delivered the State of the Navajo Nation address focusing on economic development, housing, veteran's issues, uranium remediation and transport issues, and projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds.

"I want to build as many quality homes as possible. My focus remains to improve our Nation," President Nygren said.

The Council received reports from Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne on the Judicial Branch and a financial report from the Controller Sean McCabe from the Office of the Controller.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley delivered the Speaker's Report highlighting the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Right Settlement Agreement, ARPA funding, uranium and radiation issues, federal budget advocacy, primary and general elections, and protection of sacred sites.

Regarding the water rights settlement, Speaker Curley said the Council is fighting for a settlement that will justify federal funding to provide potable water to unserved Navajo communities.

"Despite being the largest tribe in the United States, the Navajo Nation has historically been marginalized in discussions surrounding water rights, leading to disparities in access and infrastructure," Speaker Curley said. "Now is the time for decisive action and meaningful dialogue to ensure that the Navajo people have access to the resources we need to thrive."

As the Nation nears the Federal Treasury deadline for fundamental obligation of ARPA funded projects on December 31, 2024, the 25th Navajo Nation Council has been working on a proposed legislation that will secure unexpended chapter ARPA projects from being reverted back by U.S Department of Treasury deadlines.

According to Speaker Curley, the Council is working to address the urgency to expend ARPA funds, especially for infrastructure projects that will deliver water, housing, and other needs for communities and residents.

"As we move forward, we will do our best to inform our Navajo people and ensure that the funds are expended for the benefit of our people and communities," she said.



Students from Ganado High School performed the National Anthem during the opening session of the 2024 Spring Session.

The Speaker's Report also addressed advocacy against uranium ore transport on Navajo lands from the Pinyon Plain Mine located south of the Grand Canyon, protecting Dook'ó'oslííd, also known as the San Francisco Peaks from ecological and cultural impacts of snowmaking with reclaimed water, and fraudulent sober living homes that have victimized and displaced many tribal members who seek addiction counseling.

"On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us during the 2024 Spring Council Session," Speaker Curley said. "As we move into the next quarter, the 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue 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."

The Speaker's Report and all written reports for the 2024 Spring Council Session are available online on the Navajo Nation Council's website by clicking on the following link: <https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/committees>.

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