



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Budget and Finance Committee holds FY25 Comprehensive Budget Public Hearing in Western Navajo Agency



Left to Right: Council Delegates Lomardo Aseret, Norman M. Begay, Shaandiin Parrish, Amber Kanazbah Crotty, and Lester Yazzie at Chilchinbeto Community School.

CHILCHINBETO, Ariz. — On Thursday, the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) held its third Fiscal Year 2025 Comprehensive Budget Public Hearing at the Chilchinbeto Community School. Community members in attendance voiced their concerns and advocated for the prioritization of essential infrastructure, economic development, and public safety measures in the upcoming fiscal year's budget.

Throughout the session, community members and leaders shared the challenges they face due to inadequate infrastructure, lack of public services, and limited economic opportunities. Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty stated, "It is heartbreaking to see families struggling without necessities like water and safe housing. We must ensure that our budget reflects the urgency of these needs and allocates resources where they are most needed."

The Budget and Finance Committee acknowledged the critical importance of these issues and expressed a firm commitment to addressing them in the FY25 budget.

During the hearing, community members addressed the absence of essential water and sanitation infrastructure. Many chapters within the Western Navajo Agency continue to operate without indoor plumbing or reliable water lines, a situation that poses serious public health

risks and greatly diminishes the quality of life for residents.

The housing shortage, coupled with the hazardous conditions of roads that become nearly impassable during adverse weather, has created significant challenges for the community. These issues have made transportation difficult and isolated communities from essential services. The need for immediate and substantial investments in both housing and road maintenance was strongly advocated.

Public safety concerns were prominently raised, with the community expressing deep concern over the insufficient number of law enforcement officers and facilities in the region. The rise in incidents of domestic violence and missing persons cases has highlighted the urgent need for a stronger law enforcement presence.

Economic development within the Western Navajo Agency was another key focus of the hearing. Community members proposed various initiatives aimed at fostering self-sufficiency and reducing dependency on external funding. Community members want to develop the region's tourist attractions to capitalize on outdoor recreational opportunities.

Residents also expressed frustration over the high tax burden faced when shopping in Kayenta, calling for more equitable tax policies that will support local economic growth.

The Committee assured residents that the development and maintenance of essential infrastructure, such as water lines, housing, and roads, would be prioritized. The BFC also encouraged chapters to explore external funding opportunities and develop revenue-generating projects to enhance financial independence and economic self-sufficiency.

As the Budget and Finance Committee continues its public hearings across the Navajo Nation, the voices from all Navajo Agencies will play a crucial role in shaping the FY25 budget.

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