



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

# SPEAKER'S REPORT

SPEAKER CRYSTALYNE CURLEY  
2025 WINTER COUNCIL SESSION





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## 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 2025 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, as well as shoe and string games, and prayers and songs that define our identity and strengthen our foundation, as Diné. As the animals hibernate, we take this time to share our stories and ceremonies, to connect with one another through kinship, K'é, and to thank the Creator for all of the blessings bestowed upon us.

As we pray for moisture for our homelands, we strongly encourage our children and grandchildren to help their elders this winter season by gathering firewood, blankets, supplies for livestock, and food and water, so they are safe and taken care of through the cold season.

January 10th marked two years since the 25th Navajo Nation Council took office. While much progress has been made, I recognize that there is much work ahead of us and that our people continue to look to us for change and guidance throughout our Nation. I thank my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for consistently 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. We will continue to instill what 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. Together, we continue to set the foundation for the next 100 years for our children and grandchildren. Thank you for offering your leadership and forward thinking for our people.

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 prayers and support as we move forward together.

### **Navajo Nation Priorities for the Trump Administration and 119th Congress**

The Navajo Nation has established its official federal priorities for the Trump Vance Administration and the 119th Congress, through the unanimous approval of Resolution NABIJA-02-25 by the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyati' Committee.



**Crystalyne Curley, Speaker  
25th Navajo Nation Council**

The 25th Navajo Nation Council strives to work with the Trump Administration and the 119th Congress and to have our voices heard to advance the priorities that will ultimately benefit our Navajo people. Priorities such as the protection of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the reauthorization and expansion of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), increased funding and benefits for veterans, reauthorization for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians are only a few examples of the priorities that will benefit Navajo people and other tribal nations.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council will also work to reduce barriers that hinder development, empower tribes to manage their resources, and streamline processes that promote self-reliance and economic growth. We understand that there will be challenges ahead, however, we are committed to establishing a productive relationship with the new Administration and the 119th Congress.

### **State Legislative Priorities for Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona**

The Navajo Nation has established its official priorities for the state legislative sessions that are currently underway in the Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. I thank my Council colleagues for their quick action to work with their constituents and many others to develop the priorities for each state and approve them through legislation. Each of the state priorities were approved through resolutions adopted by the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyati' Committee, with support from the Navajo Utah Commission.

In the state of Utah, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved a resolution supporting H.B. 30 which will help to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) within the state. This is among several critical priorities that the Council and the Office of the Speaker are working to push, along with support from the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. Link to Utah priorities: [https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NABIJA-05-25\\_Utah\\_State\\_Priorities\\_Resolution.pdf](https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NABIJA-05-25_Utah_State_Priorities_Resolution.pdf)

In New Mexico, the 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to prioritize the fair distribution of education fundings for Native American students based on student count, capital outlay funding and project support, and public safety – among other priorities. Link to New Mexico priorities: [https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NABIJA-01-25\\_NM\\_State\\_Priority\\_Resolution.pdf](https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NABIJA-01-25_NM_State_Priority_Resolution.pdf)

Recently, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council met with Arizona legislators and presented the Navajo Nation's priorities that focus on protecting and increasing voter rights, support for Impact Aid funding for students, creating tax parity with the state jurisdictions, and others. Link to Arizona priorities: [https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NABID-70-24\\_AZ\\_State\\_Priority\\_Resolution.pdf](https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NABID-70-24_AZ_State_Priority_Resolution.pdf)

I extend my appreciation to my Council colleagues for being proactive in establishing the priorities of the Navajo Nation and taking the initiative to meet with state leaders to move our Nation forward in the right direction.

### **Protecting ARPA Funds**

On December 16th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council took decisive action through the unanimous approval of Legislation No. 0264-24, which fully protects the Navajo Nation's ARPA funds from federal reversion by meeting the U.S. Treasury's deadline to obligate the funds.

Together, we gathered updated information, held work sessions, and reviewed ARPA reports during Naabik'iyati' Committee meetings. The Budget and Finance Committee and the Office of the Speaker dedicated significant time and effort to creating solutions, and as a result of that work, this legislation ensures that no funds will be sent back to the federal government.

The legislation establishes a comprehensive Interagency Agreement to streamline decision-making and simplify processes for all recipient agencies of ARPA funds. This agreement ensures that ARPA funds are used as intended and minimizes risks.

Through the Interagency Agreement, the Council ensures effective management of ARPA funds, meets critical federal deadlines, and protects critical resources for the Navajo Nation's future. This measure also transferred administrative oversight to the Office of the Controller helps to ensure compliance with Treasury deadlines and timeliness of modifications to Expenditure Plans as necessary.

In addition, the agreement provides the flexibility needed to move funds within the master scope of work, allowing for effective reallocation across various projects. I thank my Council colleagues for their support and decisive action for our Navajo people. The 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue to monitor the expenditure of ARPA funds and the completion of projects.

### **Securing Water Rights**

The 25th Navajo Nation Council made history when we unanimously passed legislation to approve the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement, which will be introduced in the new Congress. This was a long-awaited settlement that is supported by the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Arizona Governor, and many other parties.

The settlement calls for the Navajo Nation to receive a substantial amount of the Colorado River Upper Basin water, some Lower Basin water, all groundwater underlying the Navajo Nation, all surface water that reaches the Navajo Nation from the Little Colorado River, and all wash water that reaches the Nation south of the Hopi Tribe's land.

In addition, the settlement provides the Nation the flexibility to move Arizona water from the upper basin to lower basin Navajo communities, and to divert Arizona water in New Mexico and Utah, which in some cases is closer to our Arizona communities. This settlement will also secure billions of dollars' worth of funding to build critical water delivery infrastructure for the Nation that would not be possible through litigation.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council also voted in support of the Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Agreement, quantifying the Nation's water rights in the Rio San José Stream System and the Rio Puerco Basin in New Mexico. This settlement directly impacts nine Navajo chapter communities nestled within the Rio San Jose Basin including Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Crownpoint, Littlewater, Mariano Lake, Ramah, Smith Lake, Thoreau, and Tóhajiilee, as well as seven chapters within the Rio Puerco Basin including Tóhajiilee, Torreon, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Whitehorse Lake, Counselor, and Littlewater.

The Council and the Office of the Speaker remain committed to pushing the Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Agreement through congress to quantify our water claims and secure additional water infrastructure and resources in our New Mexico communities.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues making water rights a top priority to bring much needed water resources and infrastructure to communities across the Navajo Nation. I extend my appreciation to my Council colleagues, Department of Justice, the Navajo Water Rights Commission, the Office of the President and Vice President, and many others who continue to advocate for our water rights.

### **Budget Update**

The Navajo Nation is currently operating off of a six-month Continuing Resolution that was adopted

by the 25th Navajo Nation Council to continue direct services, avoid employee layoffs, and continue government operations until the end of March, or until another budget is approved.

The Council's Standing Committees are currently holding legislative oversight budget hearings to ensure that direct services continue and to avoid any potential layoffs of employees. As of now, the timeline projects that a Comprehensive Budget will be considered by the Council by mid-February.

The Office of the Speaker will continue to assist and support the Standing Committees, legislative programs, and others to ensure that a budget is developed and passed as soon as possible. On behalf of the Council, we thank all Navajo Nation employees for your time and dedication to developing the budget.

### **Radiation Exposure Compensation Act**

The 25th Navajo Nation Council is determined to push the reauthorization and expansion of the Radiation and Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) across the finish in the 119th Congress. On January 24th, U.S. Senators Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) reintroduced the RECA reauthorization bill in the U.S. Senate.

With support from thousands of uranium radiation and mining victims across the country and from the Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee, we are optimistic that the Navajo Nation will be able to work with our congressional leaders to get a final bill to the White House for signature.

RECA, which will provide compensation to individuals exposed to harmful radiation due to uranium mining and nuclear weapons testing, expired, leaving thousands without recourse. In many meetings, press conferences, and discussions on Capitol Hill, we have emphasized the urgency of this matter to congressional members.

This is not just a Navajo issue. It is a national issue, and it is a human issue. RECA, first enacted in 1990, was a critical step in acknowledging the U.S. government's responsibility for the health impacts caused by radiation exposure from uranium mining and nuclear testing. The program provided benefits and compensation to tens of thousands of individuals, but many claimants remain.

Former miners and downwinders have shared their personal stories on Capitol Hill, underscoring the devastating and long-lasting effects of radiation exposure on their health and families. The push for the RECA extension gained bipartisan support in both the House and Senate in the last Congress, with lawmakers recognizing the ongoing health crises in impacted communities, particularly in the southwest. Advocates argue that without immediate action, many more could lose access to life-saving benefits. We are optimistic that the momentum we built previously will continue with the new Congress.

### **Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management**

The Office of the Speaker has moved forward with the appointments of new commissioners for the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM). On December 12th, the Naabik'iyatí Committee confirmed the appointment of six dedicated commissioners to serve on the Commission. The CEM convened its orientation meeting on January 7th. During this meeting, the commission recommended Marcarlo Roanhorse for the position of Chairperson and Eugenia Quintana for Vice Chairperson to President Dr. Buu Nygren. Following the guidelines established under 2 N.N.C. § 882 (C), President Nygren officially designated Marcarlo Roanhorse as the Chair of the Commission and Eugenia Quintana as the Vice Chair.

The Commission is currently reviewing and evaluating two longstanding declarations of emergency. This proactive approach is vital to ensure the safety and well-being of the Navajo Nation in the face of various challenges.

The Commission is also focused on assessing its intent and reevaluating the purpose of the Commission. The goal is to review and provide recommendations for amendments to the existing Plan and Operations. This strategic reassessment will enable the Commission to align its activities with the evolving needs of the community and enhance its effectiveness in emergency management.

The CEM is closely monitoring several key issues that may significantly impact the community, including the spread of upper respiratory illnesses, recent wildland fires, and ongoing ICE deportation efforts. The Commission's commitment to tracking these emergencies reflects its dedication to safeguarding the health and safety of the Navajo Nation.

### **Community Outreach**

In December, the Office of the Speaker coordinated several community outreach initiatives that included hosting holiday celebrations and cultural storytelling to communities across the Navajo Nation. The 25th Navajo Nation Council held its annual Christmas tree lighting event in Window Rock, where we shared a message focused on family, togetherness, and cultural kinship. The evening culminated with a Toys for Tots gift distribution, benefiting over 100 children.

Additionally, the Office hosted a Yá'át'ééh Késhmish Party at the NAOMI House in Joseph City, Arizona, where foster children engaged in gingerbread house decorating, traditional Navajo storytelling, and received gifts. Miss Navajo Ranisha C. Begay also joined the celebration and offered encouraging words for our youth.

The outreach continued with gift deliveries to the Manuelito Children's Home and Hogan Hozhoni, and additional gifts were distributed to the NAOMI House by Legislative Branch staff and Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson. These efforts, which reached over 150 children, strengthened community bonds by incorporating cultural traditions, inspiring youth, and spreading holiday cheer. The initiatives not only fostered a sense of pride in our culture, but also support children across the Nation.

### **Closing Remarks**

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us during the 2025 Winter Council Session. As we move forward, 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.

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Crystalyne Curley, *Speaker*  
25th Navajo Nation Council



## OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Accomplishments from 1st Quarter FY 2025

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“NNHRC”) addressed many significant issues this reporting period.

1. **New Mexico Fair Districting:** Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission continued to participate in the New Mexico Fair Districts working group. This group is developing legislation to be presented to the New Mexico legislature during the 2025 session. A joint resolution is drafted along with the assistance of Representative Natalie Figueroa. The Office also presented at the Indian Affairs Interim Committee meetings; one was via virtual presentation and the second one was in person at Santa Fe, NM. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission supported the joint resolution during the November 8, 2024, commission meeting. The joint resolution will makeup 9-member independent redistricting commission, six members selected by the Secretary of State using a weighted system, the six members would select the remaining three members, members represent the demographic and geographic makeup of the state, protect the minority voting rights and adopt the house, senate and education redistricting plans. The congressional plan will be left to the legislature, but the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission recommended that all of the statewide redistricting plans be adopted by the new commission.
2. **Observe New Mexico Elections:** The Office became a member of the Observe New Mexico Elections (“ONME”) during the summer of 2024 when the organizers solicited the participation by the office. ONME was funded by the Carter Center to observe elections in New Mexico. Half of precincts in all thirty-three counties would be staffed by observers from ONME. The organization initiated the recruitment of individuals that would be trained and placed at polling places in the counties. With the exception of several counties located in the northeast corner of the state, most the counties were staffed with observers when the counties initiated the testing of the voting machine to the election day that took place on November 5th. Overall, ONME was able to staff most of the county precincts and will be issuing its report as to the results of the observations.
3. **Native Vote of Arizona:** The Office received a Navajo citizen complaint after the July 30 primary election in Arizona. The complaint was regarding the displacement of Navajo voters in Navajo County, where the longtime Navajo voters are placed in different precincts. The Office initiated meetings with Apache, Navajo and Coconino counties to address the matter. While county representatives acknowledged that even in their families’ voters are displaced, Navajo and Coconino counties stated that Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission radio forum was misinforming the Navajo voters. Navajo County initiated voter registration forums on the Navajo Nation so that Navajo voters can update their voter registrations. During the November 5 election day, the Office assisted in facilitating the Native Votes hotline where voters on the Navajo Nation can be assisted with voter information. During the latter part of the November 5 election day, the Office collected information at the polling places which became part of the lawsuit against Apache County; the judge ordered nine polling places to remain open until nine o’clock in the evening.
4. **San Juan County Utah:** The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission continues to work on the settlement agreement it has with the San Juan County Utah. The initiative to extend the settlement agreement was initiated during the earlier part of 2024 and has come to an impasse before the general election. However, the impasse issues are being discussed among the attorneys of both parties. The Commission continues to have concerns over the fact that the county publishes the Navajo language interpretation and translation late in the election process. Based on the original settlement agreement, the county is supposed to post the Navajo language interpretation no later than twenty-eight days



before the election day. The Office is hopeful that the settlement agreement will be extended to 2030. The United States of Justice observed one of the polling places on the Utah side of the Navajo Nation during the November 5 election. The next meeting with the county representatives will be in early 2025.

5. **Commissioner Orientation:** The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council appointed three new commissioners in September 2024 and were confirmed by the Naabik'iyat'í Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. The Office conducting an orientation for the newly confirmed commissioners at the end of October 2024. The orientation consisted of the reports issued by the previous commissions, international human rights, memorandum of understanding with the border towns, including the commission's rules of order when conducting commission meetings. While there are two vacancies, the Office advertised the positions and submitted applicants to the Office of the Speaker during the middle part of November 2024.
6. **Interface with State Offices on Consumer Complaints:** There are several on-going Navajo citizen consumer complaints filed in the Office. On the Arizona side of the Navajo Nation, the Office continues to work with Arizona Attorney General's office to address the AAMCO auto repair unfair and deceptive treatment of Navajo consumers. The national AAMCO has engaged in communicating with several Navajo consumers in order to settle with them away from the activities undertaken by the Office and AZAG. While the Office respects the communications between the Navajo consumers and national AAMCO, a couple of Navajo consumers have raised concerns about their relationship with the national AAMCO. On the New Mexico side of the Navajo Nation, the Office is working diligently with the Navajo Department of Justice to pursue unfair and deceptive treatment of Navajo consumers by Corley Nissan auto dealer. The federal bankruptcy judge just issued an order to have Corley Nissan share information with the Navajo Nation on the status of several vehicles it had declared to be abandoned. In addition, the Office is working with the New Mexico Attorney General's office to facilitate the lawsuit against Carite and Corley Nissan. This case is in the state court.
7. **San Juan County School District Utah on the Treatment of Students:** The Commission positioned itself to allow the Navajo Utah Commission ("NUC") to lead in the efforts to resolve parent concerns with San Juan County School District as it relates to the integration of Navajo language and Navajo culture into its curriculum and student activities. Additionally, parents continue to voice concerns with hiring practices of nepotism. In meetings with NUC, West Ed (an organization recommended to assist via USDOJ MOA), and parent activities are underway to mitigate the conflicting racial issues of diversity and inclusion that are central to Navajo lifeway and the Mormon principles of religion. The on-going meetings are in the early stages of development. It is anticipated that parental involvement will increase with the expectation that school administrators will integrate Navajo perspectives of education and hiring practices.
8. **CMS engagement with Nursing home issues:** NNHRC established a working relationship with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services ("CMS") to review complaints from Navajo families that loss family members while in border town nursing homes during the epidemic of COVID. While the six complaining parties are not able to litigate against the Winslow Campus of Care and the Four Corners Regional Care Center, for the loss of family members, CMS is in position to provide public education on patient care, regulations and policy rules for nursing homes in addition to providing oversight to the management and operations of the homes. Unfortunately, due to the delayed filing of a complaint regarding the deaths of family member in the nursing homes, both the Arizona and Utah State agencies cannot open an investigation. CMS also came to the same conclusion after reviewing the complaints filed with our office. All six complainants have been notified about the current circumstances of their case. NNHRC will continue its review on understanding the lase and regulations of how nursing homes operate, how they are funded, their commitment to the communities served, and the services provided in the facility. This work will continue into the next quarter.

9. The San Francisco Peaks: The new appointed commissioners for NNHRC have been updated on the activities surrounding the Peaks at the December 9th, commission meeting. Presenters from the University of Arizona, Shawna Howard and the Navajo Nation Historical Preservation Department provided updates of their activities with Snow Bowl. The Memorandum of Agreement signed between the U.S. Forestry Services, Snow bowl and the Arizona Historical Preservation is now considered official. No Arizona tribal or indigenous federally recognized nations signed the agreement. Based on the provisions within the MOA, signatories are moving forward with implementing the provisions of the MOA.
10. United States General Elections – November 5, 2024: Office staff monitored several voting sites in Apache County Arizona and in Cibola County New Mexico on election day. While no major problems were found in Cibola county, Apache county voters were confronted with many problems. NNHRC noted the problems cited did not violate Federal Voting laws that concern Section 203 of the voting Rights Act. The incorporation of Navajo language interpretation is critical to establishing federal violations. Unfortunately, poll observers did not cite this deficiency in their observations. NNHRC called several Apache County chapters to determine if Navajo voters had problems with language interpretation. We found no violations.
11. Complaints: The Commission has 8 cases open, and 20 cases closed.
12. Public Information Activities: The Commission held one regular meeting during the fourth quarter. The August Commission fail to reach a quorum and the September meeting was canceled to accommodate a settlement hearing. Meetings were broadcast by KTNN through public service announcements, press release and through notices posted on the office website. The PIO is taking the lead to plan for the Indigenous language seminar that is posed to take place next year. An environmental scan is underway to assess potential attendees, presenters, location and funders. Other logistics timelines are also under construction for this seminar. Toward the lateral part of September, the PIO assisted in the development and eventual release of a radio ad on KTNN to solicit Navajo citizens who have experience problems with AAMCO in Flagstaff, AZ. Additionally, the PIO provided information to interested participants at a Resources Fair on the campus of UNM in Gallup, New Mexico. House Bill 4 (“HB4”) public information is still under review. The public information surrounding this bill is a joint effort with the NMACLU. Aside from the projects above, the PIO also assisted with the management of new cases filed in the office. Finally, the ongoing day to day operations of interfacing with public and the production of media ads, human rights material and other public education documents remain a steady and active part of the day-to-day operations.

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## **OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

### Accomplishments from 1st Quarter FY 2025

#### Internal Audits – 2 reports

1. Huerfano Chapter
2. White Rock Chapter

#### Corrective Action Plan Follow-up Reviews – 2 reports

1. Red Lake Chapter 2nd CAP follow-up review
2. Upper Fruitland Chapter CAP follow-up review

#### Goals for FY2025 First Quarter (planned/ongoing projects and activities)

1. Office of the Speaker Special Review
2. Whippoorwill Chapter Internal Audit
3. Whiterock Chapter Internal Audit
4. Chinle Chapter Internal Audit
5. Huerfano Chapter Internal Audit
6. Red Lake Chapter 2nd CAP follow-up review
7. Upper Fruitland Chapter CAP follow-up review
8. Lukachukai Chapter CAP follow-up review
9. Hardrock Chapter 3rd CAP follow-up review
10. Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund Special Review
11. Ganado Chapter investigation (CONFIDENTIAL)
12. Outsource more chapter audits and performance audits of Navajo Nation depts/programs; will need to issue various request for proposals to utilize consulting budget.
13. Complete review of corrective action plans submitted to the Auditor General in response to audit reports; continue to work with chapters in revising these corrective action plans and obtaining supporting chapter resolutions. Thereafter, work with the delegates through the legislative process to obtain formal approval of the corrective action plans.
14. Complete tasks to update the OAG website; continue to work with Realtime Solutions.
15. Work with hired consultant to analyze chapter financial data based on their MIP accounting systems to generate reports on expenditures and available fund balances.
16. Work with hired consultant to use data analytics to detect any potentially fraudulent activities or misuse of funds.

#### Issues/Recommendations

1. Continue to recruit applicants to fill four (4) vacant positions including the Auditor General position and three Auditor positions; these are key positions for completing audits; will continue to advertise and recruit as diligently as possible.
2. Due to the vacancies, our office is challenged in completing the targeted number of projects with limited resources. In order to meet our performance goals, we will have to continue to outsource more audits but that also depends on our consulting budget.
3. Complete ongoing tasks to revise internal operating policies and procedures.
4. Complete ongoing tasks to amend the Auditor General plan of operation; revisions will incorporate the FY2025 budget legislative concern and condition of appropriation.
5. Continue to assist the Administrative Service Centers on a variety of chapter matters.
6. Continue to seek assistance from the Administrative Service Centers on chapter audits, corrective action plans, sanctions and LGA certification reviews.

7. Continue to work with the Wells Fargo Bank to address chapter banking issues such as the need for credit cards but there are no existing policies and procedures.
8. Begin preparing for the next peer review for our office.
9. Consider establishing a formal investigations unit within our office with established policies and procedures and applicable toolkits; this would involve some collaboration between our office and others such as the Ethics and Rules Office and the White-Collar Crime Unit as well as external professional entities.

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## **ETHICS AND RULES OFFICE FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

### Section One: Accomplishments from 1st Quarter

- Lewnell B. Harrison, Ethics Investigator was appointed Interim Executive Director on October 15, 2021 to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office so that services to the Navajo Nation would not be interrupted. The Ethics and Rules Office continues to contract with Mr. Joe W. Washington, Attorney for all our filings and to prosecute all who have violated the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has collected \$ 2,795.00 in restitution payments this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has completed 14 ethics clearances for individuals that have applied for employment or have applied for candidacy with the Navajo Nation this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has filed six (6) new ethics case and has had one (1) ethics hearings this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office did presentations of the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law for the following Navajo Nation programs: Navajo Nation Behavioral and Mental Health Services, Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, also for the Dine' Bi Olta School Board Association and the Dine' Grant School Association who give technical assistance to 34 Navajo Nation grant schools.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has met with seventy-one (52) individuals for consultation or mediate issues concerning possible Ethics violations.
- The Ethics and Rules Office met with ten (10) different Navajo Nation departments and programs concerning possible ethics violations and recommendations.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has received eighteen (14) new ethics intakes this quarter.

### Section Two: Goals for 2nd Quarter in FY2025

- We will continue to look for qualified people to fill our vacant positions with this office.
- Update the Ethics and Rules Office's plan of operations.
- Continue to collect restitution owed to the Navajo Nation by filing on the Respondents that are not in compliance and work on other solutions to collect restitution owed to the Navajo Nation.
- Work towards establishing a more efficient office procedure regarding case management, including appropriate retention timelines.
- Establish procedures to identify fixed timelines for the filing of Orders to Show Cause and Garnishment proceedings to avoid missing the statute of limitations.
- Recommence working and collaborating with the Division of Community Development, Administrative Services Centers, Navajo Nation Prosecutor's White-Collar Crime Unite, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Elections Administration, and Office of Government Development in providing consultations for local governments (110 chapters).

- Continue Ethics in Government Law/Standards of Conduct training for Chapters, School Boards, and other Navajo Nation Departments, and the public including training for newly hired employees.
- Work cooperatively with other NN departments, the Public Integrity Task Force, FBI, Office of Inspector General and Internal Revenue Service on various task forces and workgroups that concern the public trust to more effectively hold individuals accountable for violations of the Ethics in Government Law.
- Continue to take Ethics intakes on elected and appointed officials and employees of the Navajo Nation and complete Ethics Clearances for candidacies, business loans, veteran's loans and the Navajo Nation Office of Background Investigations.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- Secure funds to continue to upgrade and renovate our office building.
- To send staff to training for continued education to sharpen their skills.
- To reestablish a MOA/MOU with Navajo Nation departments that would help better establish the referral and prosecution process.
- Security cameras to cover office building and parking lot.
- Audio and video recorder to document interviews.

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## **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

Section One: Accomplishments from 1st Quarter FY 2025

- OLS processed 57 Legislation this quarter, as well as closing out 45 resolutions.
- OLS finalized 37 journals/transcripts of official meetings.
- OLS personnel participated in 62 council/standing meetings and work sessions during this quarter.
- Addressed Fire Code Violations through preventive measures and correctional actions, ensuring compliance and enhancing safety protocols.
- Recruited one (1) Legislative Assistant to strengthen our support staff and improve operational efficiency.
- To strengthen our advisement section, we have promoted one (1) staff member this quarter.
- Enhanced our operational efficiency this quarter by providing staff with new equipment to support their daily duties and streamline meetings.
- We have upgraded our printing equipment to enhance our operational efficiency and improve the quality of our printed materials.
- To enhance our service quality and efficiency, we have reassigned support staff within the Budget & Finance Committee and Resources & Development Committee. These strategic reassignments aim to better align our team's skills with the specific needs of these committees.

Section Two: Goals for 2nd Quarter FY 2025

- Expand and enhance training opportunities for staff to further develop their skills and competencies.
- Expand OLS educational initiatives to the general public and other Navajo Nation Divisions/Departments, focusing on the Navajo Nation Legislative Process and Budget Process.

- Update current Strategic Plan (last updated in 2017).
- Continue the OLS Tracking and Archive Project to ensure comprehensive documentation and accessibility of legislative records.
- Implement Legislative Tracking and Archive backup storage for personnel to ensure secure and efficient record-keeping.
- Introduce proposed electronic signature procedure into the NN Legislative Process, and OLS policies & procedures.
- Fill Vacant Positions: Executive Director (1); Legislative Assistant (1); Records Clerk (1);
- Enhance internal policies

Section Three: Issue(s) and Recommendation(s)

Issue:

1. OLS is short on staff and need to find qualified individuals to fill vacant positions.

Recommendations:

1. OLS continues to work with DPM to identify qualified individuals for vacant positions. OLS continues working with internal staff on assessments for other positions to determine qualifications.
2. Issue guidelines and instructions in order to assure a coordinated approach is being taken on legislative action.
3. Training presentations on the Navajo Nation Legislative Process in collaboration with the Office of Legislative Counsel. Outreach.

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## **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

### Accomplishments from 1st Quarter FY 2025

- Chief Legislative Counsel G. Michelle Espino was hired and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council on October 24, 2024.
- Provided legal representation at the 2024 Fall Council and Special Sessions.
- Began advertising vacant attorney and administrative staff positions. It is expected that two new attorneys and an Administrative Service Officer will begin in February.
- Worked with the Speaker, the Budget and Finance Committee and the Controller to strategize, research and draft amendments to Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund (“NNFRF”) resolutions and a comprehensive Interagency Agreement to timely obligate AARPA and NNFRF by the U.S. Department of Treasury deadline of December 31, 2024.
- Drafted legislation amending the Local Governance Act.
- Continue to work on FY 2025 Comprehensive Budget matters and provide attorney coverage at all oversight committee hearings and sessions.
- Represented Navajo Board of Election Supervisors (NBOES), on election matters.
- Drafted and finalized over 90 legislation requests and contract reviews.
- Provided legal guidance and assistance at over 100 Committee/Council meetings and work sessions, as well as over 50 subcommittee/Board/Commission meetings, word sessions and administrative hearings.

- OLC upholds its responsibilities to the public by maintaining mandatory training requirements for attorneys and advocates under professional responsibility rules.
- Provided legislative legal services at all Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee regular and special meetings, leadership meetings and work sessions.

#### GOALS & PRIORITIES

- Continue to advise and assist the NNC, Standing Committees and sub-committees. Attend all meetings, advising on all procedural and substantive questions.
- Continue to attend all Office of the Speaker meetings to keep abreast of all pertinent information received to ensure that OLC is kept updated and proactive concerning legislative needs, projects, and priorities.
- Continue filling remaining vacant attorney and staff positions to meet the increase in meetings and legislation requests.

#### ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- During the last Special Council Session, there was delay caused due to confusion regarding the Council's Rules of Order, including specifically to "consent agendas". Since the Special Session, the confusion related to "consent agendas" continued to some Standing Committee meetings. It is recommended that OLC facilitate a work session to orientate and address questions on the Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee Rules of Order for interested Navajo Nation Council Delegates and Legislative Staff.

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## **NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

### Accomplishments from FY2025 First Quarter

- The NNLC office had several outstanding Grievance cases pending Settlement. And with our staff meeting and teamwork we have successfully obtained such documents to close out several cases. And we continue to close out more pending filing of settlement.
- The Commission staff have continued to improve the interior appearance of the office.
- The NNLC continues to conduct formal hearings as mandated by the NPEA. The staff are processing complaints from start to finish and comply with the NPEA, adopted Case Management Policy, Fiscal Year performance measures.
- The Commission continues to review and Amend the Rules of Procedure for Proceedings before the Navajo Nation Labor Commission.
- NNLC office has upgraded with internet services for the Conference Room for Commission members usage during hearings for case law
- NNLC office was able to obtain one individual through the Navajo Nation Workforce Development Program for a period of six months
- NNLC Closed cases are being scanned for further storage
- NNLC cases are being shredded as they are scanned and closed
- Thru Contract we have improved the back Parking lot for parties parking during hearings before the NNLC

- Thru Contract one entrance has been successfully upgraded with handrails

Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s):

- NN Presidential Appointment of NNLC Membership per CJY-42-16. Continue to refer candidate(s) to appointing authority.
- Efficient use of allocated funds
- The program will continue to review and amend NNLC Rules of Procedure.
- The Program will continue to assist and complete proposed amendments to the NNLC Plan of Operation
- NNLC staff to obtain FMIS certification
- NNLC will continue to expedite office renovation thru Facility Maintenance for Handicap assessment  
\*Continue compliance with Federal American Disability Act

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## **EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

### Accomplishments from 1st Quarter FY 2025

- The Commission and Office FY2025 budgets are based on a Continuing Resolution (CR). For the office and Commission FY2025 budget, requests were made for the regular budget, fixed cost budget and unmet needs budget. Recently, the Speaker’s office met with legislative departments to begin budgeting for the second half of the continuing resolution budget.
- Planned and carried out numerous Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC) meetings (regular, special, worksession or leadership meetings).
- Continue to improve Land Buy-back (LBB) maps for the 29 Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Chapters. Also, continued to finish the Navajo Nation percent interest in Land Buy-back (LBB) land additions. Maps were completed for 26 Chapters. Upon full completion, a digital booklet will be published for use by Chapters, NN departments and the public.
- Continue to deliver LBB maps to ENA Chapters and some of the Land Use Committees (e.g., Iyanbito)
- Continue to give reports at Eastern Navajo Agency Council (ENAC) meetings
- Continue to monitor Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board to obtain approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BIA, BLM and Navajo Nation regarding grazing.
- Continue to implement suggested work from the Eastern Navajo Land Conference that was held for Chapter officials, Navajo Nation officials and members of the public in 2024.
- Continue to attend Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President (OPVP) and DURAC Uranium Leadership meetings
- Continue to attend meetings and give comments to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others regarding Uranium waste remediation. Before, worked closely with NNEPA to examine the use of new technology as to minimize uranium mining waste. Met with Congressman Jamie Raskin and Congresswoman Leger-Fernandez to seek their assistance with Senator Kelly’s bill and with federal departments. But, USEPA has recently announced that it signed an action memo to finalize the plan to transport low-level radioactive material from Churchrock site to the Red Rock Landfill property near



Thoreau Chapter. USEPA did not consider ENLC (and Navajo Nation, Thoreau Chapter's) request to remove the waste from Navajoland.

- Continue to assist the Speaker's office by standing by to answer any possible questions from the members of the Council during the Council sessions.
- Held various meetings regarding the plight of Rock Springs Chapter Navajo families living on private lands owned by Gallup Land Partners. The leases have expired and the effort, in concert with OPVP and NLD, is to work out a solution. The ENLC Office continues to monitor the progress.
- Commission met with Regional BIA office in a leadership meeting to begin preparations for a Fee-to-Trust application to BIA. Before, ENLC managed to have the President sign a letter deferring to ENLC to submit fee-to-trust application to BIA. ENLC Office is now working to prepare for the application. Before, worked with OPVP to approve the deferral to ENLC in the submission of an application for fee-to-trust conversion of Navajo Nation fee lands (approx. 380,000 acres). This is part of the NELI effort.
- Continue to monitor NN Dep't of Agriculture's request to acquire a land withdrawal or assignment for its office and livestock processing facility on a land west of Crownpoint, NM. BIA notified the ENLC Office that this may be a land that is equivalent to tribal trust land. Upon confirmation, ENLC will assist the department to prepare the proper land withdrawal.
- Continue to monitor ENLC's recommendation to DURAC office to get recommendations for commission position that will represent ENA and submitted necessary recommendation Resolution with documents to Office of Legislative Counsel which prepared the legislation. ENLC Office has not received any notice of the appointment of its recommendation.
- Attended various grazing meetings held by BIA.
- Continued to work with BLM to plan Navajo cultural sites visit
- Continue to create maps for Navajo allottees referred from BIA.
- Attended meeting(s) with certain ENA Chapters, NN Departments, IDIQs and others regarding ARPA projects.
- ENLC met with BLM to discuss programmatic agreement.
- ENLC met with relevant departments or offices to discuss lands for the new Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC).
- Director continued to attend budget overview meetings regarding the FY2025 budget
- Certain members of ENLC and the Office met with BLM to discuss the plan for the acquisition of federal disposal lands (approximately 340,000 acres) in Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA). Before, the Office, in coordination with the Chairman, requested President Nygren to defer to the ENLC to submit the application. He has signed a letter to that effect. This is part of the NELI effort.
- Worked to upgrade the ARC GIS software to Pro version because this software is used for mapping. Before, the Office sought a license with NN Land Department, but eventually decided to get its own software. Thanks to the Legislative IT Department and Speaker's office for procuring and installing the software.
- Continue to meet with NN General Land Development Department (GLDD) office to obtain maps prepared by GLDD for use by ENLC Office.
- Monitored Crownpoint Chapter's effort to resolve the cemetery land issue. BIA gave a report back and this issue may get resolved so that funds can be used by Crownpoint Chapter to provide maintenance of the Crownpoint/ENA cemetery.
- Continue to meet on the divided/undivided oil & gas leasing in northern ENA. Planned further meetings with BLM, BIA and FIMO in an attempt to resolve the issues for the benefit of Navajo allottees. ENLC is proud to report that it convinced BLM to change its policy as to give preference to Navajo Indian Allottees' lands (Indian Allotments).
- Before, procured from a law firm the documents of legal litigation acquired through the years; and made plans to prepare the documents for archiving. ENLC will make preparations for receiving further documents.

- ENLC met with the Regional BIA Office to discuss the many land issues in ENA. ENLC will continue these dialogues.

Section Two: Goals for 2nd Quarter in FY2025

- Finish LBB maps, give PDF digital copies to Navajo Land Department, ENA Chapter officials, and paper copies to at 2 libraries
- Work with Joint Land Board to finish the MOU with NN, BLM and BIA; and have it be approved by NNC and RDC
- Continue to assist Chapters with the land use meeting requests
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with NM and OPVP (NN EPA office) regarding the use of Ambrosia Lake for repository and the use of technology to minimize uranium mining waste
- Continue to work with Principal Responsible Parties (PRPs) to develop workforce development and other related matters
- Continue to work with Chapters regarding their ARPA and Revenue Replacement Reserve (RRR) projects
- Conclude and implement the cultural sites visits
- Monitor the FY2025 budget and continue to make requests for unmet needs budget for the ENLC and the office.
- Install a representative on DURAC Commission to represent ENA
- Finalize land withdrawal for NN Dep't Agriculture office in ENA
- Start the process for submitting a Fee-to-Trust application
- Start the process for submitting an application for Federal disposal lands
- Continue to work with NN EPA and US EPA on uranium waste remediation
- Continue to give reports to ENA Chapters and Agency Council
- Continue to create maps for upcoming proposed projects
- Improve the mapping software for the Office
- Begin archiving of documents and maps.
- Work with BLM regarding programmatic agreement.
- Make preparations for possible meetings of ENLC with the federal government in Washington, DC.
- Prepare for further dialogues with Regional BIA office on the many land issues.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- Increased budgeting of unmet needs will go a long way to accomplishing the goals of ENLC
- Convince NN Executive branch offices to support deference to and respect ENLC to apply for fee-to-trust land conversions and the federal disposal lands
- Coordinate with NNEPA to procure Congressional assistance re uranium remediation issues
- Continue land acquisitions in ENA.

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## OFFICE OF NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Accomplishments from 1st Quarter FY 2025

Program Performance Criteria Goal Statements  
Work on the Navajo Government Reform Project

Goal: 2 Actual: 2

1. Continuing to develop the Diyin Nohookaa Dine'e Bi Beehaz'aanii Bitsí Siléí as part of the Navajo Government Reform Project.
2. Developing goals & objectives for the Navajo Government Reform Project and public engagement.

Draft the government reform proposal (measure by articles, sections)

Goal: 3 Actual: 4

1. Drafted and completed a comprehensive governance table of contents as section V.1 the Navajo Government Reform Project.
2. Drafted and reviewed section on Navajo Government Reform Project, "Article XIX Independent Officers of Naat'aanii".
3. Held an election code/Title 11 work session on October 17th, 2024 at Twin Arrows Conference Room. Staff provided presentations as well as former Statistical Intern Alex Zao. Meeting resulted in government reform on the level of the electoral code.
4. Performed additional research on the principles of Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances in government. Developed provisions in the draft proposal to incorporate the findings and teachings.

Empower the Navajo people by proposing amendments to Initiative procedures

Goal: 1 Actual: 3

1. The Office met with the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors Commission in October to discuss the proposed amendments to the initiative section of the election code as well as the referendum regarding the governing body language in Title 2. Further discussion took place during the August 16 CNGD Regular meeting.
2. The Commission made additional amendments to the draft proposal to address the concerns of the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors.
3. Council Delegate Danny Simpson agreed to sponsor the Amendments to Title 11 and the proposed legislation is currently being drafted by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Public Engagements regarding Navajo Government Reform Project proposal.

Goal: 3 Actual: 5

1. Indigenous Democracy Symposium: October 30th, Partnered with Arizona Native Vote to provide a symposium on exercising the individual right to vote. Tsinnaajinii Ranger and Wanda Nelson hosted the booth at the Navajo Nation Museum on October 30, 2024. This event was presented by Executive Director Tsosie and former Policy Analyst Tristan Black. The presentations focused on the importance of Democracy and what Democracy means.
2. Shiprock Fair Legislative Branch Event: October 4th, Director Tsosie and Tsinnaajinii Ranger set up a booth at the Shiprock Fair Legislative Tent to reach out to the community to discuss Traditional Navajo Governance and the History of The Navajo Government since 1923.
3. Diné College Commissioner Recruitment: October 17th, Staff reached out to Associated Students of Diné College (ASDC) and facilitated a Diné College Commission Recruitment session. Information and education materials were distributed to students and ONGD is waiting for ASDC to provide a nominee
4. NICWA Presentation Forum: October 1st, Director Tsosie and Tsinnaajinii Ranger provided a public presentation at Quality Inn Business Suite about the structure and constitutional nexus of the Navajo

Nation government to NICWA Executive Director Sarah Kastelic.

5. Navajo Agency Council Meetings:

- November 11th 2024, the Ft. Defiance Special Agency Council meeting took place at Sawmill Chapter. Commissioner Sharon Warren attended and provided a report.
- December 7th 2024, the Eastern Agency Council meeting took place at Tse Yahtoh Chapter. Executive Director Tsosie and Commissioner Anselm Morgan attended and provided a report.
- December 14th 2024, the Western Agency Council meeting took place at Coconino County Complex in Flagstaff Arizona. Director Tsosie attended and provided a report with Commissioner Vice Chair Seweinyawma.
- December 21st 2024, the Northern Agency Council meeting took place at Upper Fruitland Chapter. Executive Director Tsosie and Commissioner James Benally attended and provided a report.
- September 28th, 2024, the Central Agency Council meeting took place at Sawmill Chapter. Director Tsosie and Chair Tulley attended and provided a report.

Develop proposals for alternative forms of central and chapter government

Goal: 3 Actual: 3

1. ONGD Staff created presentations regarding how other local and foreign entities separate their administrative departments. This was requested by CNGD Commissioners to look at how surrounding states separate their departments into each unique branch of government.
2. ONGD Staff researched the legal roots of Federal-Indian law to create a presentation regarding what is a constitution and how this links to the Will of the People. This presentation was presented to the CNGD commissioners.
3. ONGD Staff researched into what makes a Democracy. This presentation was given at the Navajo Nation Museum and dove into the depths of what a Democracy is and why it is important to Navajo Nation members.

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## **NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

Accomplishments from the 1st Quarter

- The Navajo Utah Commission secured \$100,000 in FY2025 Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund on October 11, 2024 for plans to construct a new 3,000 sf post office in Montezuma Creek in collaboration with the U.S. Postal Service. The architectural and engineering services have been completed for the project, including construction documents estimating construction cost of \$2,050,507 for the building shell. The postal service agrees to finance interior construction with project partners responsible for the outer shell.
- The Navajo Utah Commission secured \$40,000 in matching funds from the FY2025 Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund appropriations to supplement a Rural Development RBDG grant to conduct a market feasibility study for the Montezuma Creek region. The procurement process is currently in progress to secure the services of a business consultant.
- The Navajo Utah Commission collaborated with Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the Western Educational Equity Assistance Center in conducting two sessions of Engaging with Schools to Improve Outcomes for Navajo Nation Students in the Monument Valley and Montezuma Creek regions. The purpose was to address long standing educational issues contributing to the achievement gap and

activating greater parental involvement and community outreach.

- The Navajo Utah Commission discussed potential Utah legislative priorities throughout the first quarter and approved ten priorities during a special meeting conducted in Montezuma Creek on December 30, 2024.
- Other related activities included a Utah candidates forum in Montezuma Creek on October 30th, virtual participation in the Native American Legislative Liaison Committee meeting on November 13th and Gov. Operations Interim Committee Meeting on November 20th, several tribal ICWA working group meetings, and in-person participation in the Utah Tribal Leaders Meetings by Utah tribal council delegates.

Goals for 2nd Quarter in FY2025

- Hire a market analysis consultant & initiate the Montezuma Creek feasibility study.
- Complete NUC Plan of Operation amendments.
- Collaborate with Office of the Speaker and lobbyist consultant for participation in the Utah legislative process.
- Prepare FY2025 program budget and participate in oversight hearings as needed.

Issues/Recommendations

The Utah Division of Indian Affairs (UDIA) is a sub-unit of the State of Utah and according to state statute, has the responsibility of facilitating meaningful relations between state leaders and tribal nations in Utah. There will not be a tribal caucus during the 2025 Utah legislative session and will instead concentrate on Utah’s interim committee period between May and October to address tribal issues. Limited participation in the tribal caucus by state legislators is apparently the primary reason for UDIA’s decision to forgo the tribal caucus during the regular session. The 2025 Utah Legislature will be considering HB 30 (Indian Family Preservation Act Amendments), HB 15 (Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force Amendments), and possibly an appropriations request for the Oljato/Navajo Mountain Transportation EIS requirements. The Navajo Utah Commission is requesting the assistance of the Office of the Speaker and the Navajo Nation Council in seeking a Utah tribal caucus during the legislative session or conducting one on one consultation meetings with state officials to advocate for Navajo issues.

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**NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMISSION  
FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

Accomplishments from the 1st Quarter

- NHLC continues to work on the technical amendments that were proposed through a bill sponsored by Arizona Congressman Tom O’ Halleran. The bill is identified as Introduction of Technical Amendment to the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-531.
- NHLC approved resolution to amend the Dine Relocatee Fund Policy. This policy was initially established by NHLCJA-2-19. This amendment will allow for relocatees to further benefit from the policy.
- NHLC requested for NHLCO to provide updates on Operations and Activities. Reports were provided by NHLCO during this quarter.
- NHLC members traveled to Washington DC to meet with congressional individuals. Meetings were held with NDOJ Contract Attorney on federal activities.

- NHLC received an update on federal activities from NNDOJ Contract Attorney.
- NHLC received and update on the pending litigation against the US/ONHIR. Additional meeting will be held to received updates.
- NHLC approved resolution recommending approval of Memorandum of Agreement for the Lower Highway 89 Development. This resolution will allow Navajo Nation a chance for economic development. Resolution is an exhibit to legislation that will need committee action from Nabi. Additional details will be provided when legislation is acted on.
- NHLC Commission received report form NHLCO regarding FBFA and NPL ARPA housing funds process. NHLC commission received updates regarding housing for individuals affected by the relocations. Additional meetings will be scheduled and information provided.
- NHLC Commission received report from NNOOC regarding the Dine Relocatee Trust Fund and Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund Accounts and Funding Amounts. Commission received updates that accounts were established and funding was deposited into the accounts. Reports will be provided by NNOOC when requested by the commission for upcoming meetings.
- NHLC Commission approved NNVA request for proposed land withdrawal to use NHLC purchased land for Regional Veterans Benefits and Outreach Center. Resolution was completed and submitted to NHLCO and NNVA to complete the signatory process required for the agreement.
- NHLC continues to monitor the annual funding allocation to ONHIR. NHLC is pursuing the \$15 Million funding that is in the ONHIR budget and could be reallocated. NHLC is opposed to the closure of ONHIS operation. Additional discussions were held during this quarter to obtain additional information regarding this issue. Meetings will be scheduled to further discuss this item.
- NHLC continues to receive updated reports from Mr. Robert Black, Executive Director, NHLCO, on the activities of the Navajo THAW Recovery Plan in the Navajo Partitioned Land and Former Bennett Freeze Area.
- NHLC Chairman Otto Tso consults with NDOJ on various attorney/client issues regarding to Navajo Hopi Land Settlement Act.
- NHLC Chairman Otto Tso participated in several Navajo Nation Standing Committee meetings to sponsor legislations or provide input on issues that are within the areas of the NHLC oversight responsibilities.

#### Goals for 2nd Quarter in FY2025

- Introduction of Congressional bills on ONHIR funding and technical amendments. Commission will continue to receive updates from Greg Smith on status.
- Strategic plans will be developed in case of ONHIR closure. Commission will continue to oppose this action.
- To continue to clearly define the needs of the Navajo families and communities affected by the relocation.
- To finalize the Dine' Relocatee Policy. Commission is reviewing the document and additional meetings will be scheduled to discuss this item.
- A housing policy will be drafted to address the housing needs in the impacted areas, funding sources and eligibility requirements. Including the number of homes to be built per quarter, funding, location, and power & water infrastructure needed.
- A determination will be made on the NPL housing assessment study once the complete report is provided by the Division of Community Development and the Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office.
- Partnerships will be established with other entities to build homes in the impacted areas.
- NHLC will continue to collaborate with the Office of Controller regarding the Rehabilitation Trust Fund Balance. In addition, reallocate the unused balance of RTF funds to priority projects. Close out reports will be completed. Thereafter, a determination will be made on what impacted areas RTF will be used, FBFA, housing assessment, staffing, burnouts, etc.

- NHLC will recommend congressional field hearing to address the ongoing needs of Navajo relocatees, relocation communities and residents of the Former Bennett Freeze Area.
- NHLC will address the deselection and selection of lands in NM and over-selection of lands in AZ.
- The NHLC owned lands project developments will continue to be monitored.
- Development in the areas identified as priority areas will be revisited. Including associated federal regulations.
- NHLC will continue to advocate and support efforts to keep ONHIR operating until it fully meets its obligations to the relocated Navajo families.
- Develop a plan to fully rehabilitate the Former Bennett Freeze Area
- NHLC will continue to monitor the Nahata Dziil Bashas' and other business lease agreement.
- NHLC will meet with NDOJ on land, business site leases, services areas and public laws related to the Navajo Hopi Indian Land Settlement and other related issues.
- NHLC continues to collaborate with Greg Smith, consultant, to implement the strategic advocacy plan on the technical amendments and a lobbying schedule in the nation's capital with key congressional members, intergovernmental affairs and others.
- NHLC will schedule meetings with congressional members regarding the technical amendments, public hearings, Navajo relocatees, and Former Bennett Freese Area.

#### Issues/Recommendations

- Rights of way for roads that transverse the Navajo and Hopi lands are difficult to obtain due to disputes to land status, processes and funding.
- Home repairs and renovation are challenging at times due to land situations, meeting qualifications as beneficiaries and funding requirements.
- Impacted chapters are experiencing operation issues, mainly chapter governments in turmoil; thereby impacted communities are stymied in making improvement decisions.
- NTUA does not update infrastructure unless funding comes with the project. NTUA said fees are collected for outages only. An infrastructure plan must be developed with NTUA's expertise.
- Requests for housing funding at the congressional level, on behalf of impacted chapters, is usually met with questions on NHA's unexpended funding. These issues need to be addressed and resolved.
- FBFA compact agreement does not apply to areas outside the 1934 agreement. However, it is still being used as such.

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## NAVAJO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

### Accomplishments from the 1st Quarter

#### 2024 Navajo Nation General Election

- General Election held on November 5, 2024 at 110 chapter houses.
- 2024 General Election (continuation) held December 10th at 39 chapter houses.
- A combined number 47 Poll Official Trainings and ten (10) Chief Poll Judges (CPJ) Trainings were held at the agency level, for both elections. The CPJ trainings were held on November 4, 2024 and December 9, 2024 at the agency level; the ballots, supplies and voting tabulator were issued to each Chief Poll Judge.
- Absentee Voting held at all agency Election Offices, ballots available for all chapters at each agency office.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>In Person Voting</b>	<b>Voting by Mail</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Chinle	797	108	905
Eastern	802	266	1068
Ft. Defiance	1118	212	1330
Northern	2078	101	2179
Western	959	144	1103
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5754</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>6585</b>

#### Campaign Expense Report

- 63 individuals were disqualified for non-compliance of 11 N.N.C. (A), filing of campaign Expense Report, for November 5th General Election.
- Five (5) individuals were disqualified for non-compliance of 11 N.N.C. (A), filing of campaign Expense Report, for December 10th (Continuation) General Election.
- 19 Statement of Grievances were filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), regarding the disqualifications.
- 19 hearings were conducted by OHA on December 23 and December 24, 2024; five (5) individuals were reinstated as candidates.

#### Voter Registration: 137,471 (1000 New Voter Registered)

- Chinle Agency: 19,204
- Eastern Navajo Agency: 32,646
- Fort Defiance Agency: 33,887
- Northern Navajo Agency: 27,149
- Western Navajo Agency: 24,585

#### Recall

- Initiated against Navajo Nation President, Honorable Buu Nygren
- Number of required signatures: 29,803
- Last Day to submit petitions: March 2, 2025

#### NNC Vacancy:

- Special Elections were held on December 10th at five chapter polling sites.
- Mr. Arbin Mitchell was elected the new Navajo Nation Council Delegate.



Navajo Board of Election Supervisors

- Eight (8) meetings held; 12 resolutions approved.

Section Two: Goals for 2nd Quarter in FY2025

- 2025 Special Election
  - Advertise candidate filing for positions not applied (2024 Chapter Election) Proposed Election Date: March 11th or March 18 , 2025.
- 2025 Chapter Inauguration.
- 2025 Navajo Nation Voter Registration Update Project.
- 2025 Navajo Nation Council Reapportionment.
- Voting equipment update; voter registration data base

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- Election Code Amendments: collaboration between NEA and NBOES.
- Eastern Navajo Election Office – condemned building will be closed mid-February; seeking location to relocate.

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