



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Speaker Curley outlines Navajo Nation's key legislative priorities in meeting with Governor Katie Hobbs



Speaker Curley thanked Governor Hobbs for her continued support.

PHOENIX, Ariz. -Today, Speaker Crystalyne Curley met with Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs to present an outline of the Navajo Nation's legislative priorities for the 57th State Legislature.

The Navajo Nation's state priorities, which were approved by the Naabik'íyáti' last month, include key issues such as Arizona water rights, tax parity, voter protection, and education.

Speaker Curley expressed gratitude to Governor Hobbs for her ongoing support of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement and her advocacy for Navajo issues on Capitol Hill.

"Many Navajo homes are located at the end of water lines, forcing our people to haul water out of necessity," Speaker Curley said. "With your support and commitment, this settlement can move toward the finish line and help secure critical infrastructure funding to address the disparities in water infrastructure."

The issue of dual taxation on the Navajo Nation has long been a barrier to businesses wanting to operate within the Nation. Speaker Curley advocated for establishing fair and equitable tax policies to empower the Navajo people economically.

"We need to ensure the Navajo Nation has equal opportunities for growth and development," Speaker Curley stated. "We are requesting the Governor's support for a tax credit for businesses to address dual taxation obligations and for an amendment to our existing Fuel Excise Tax intergovernmental agreement to retain more FET revenue on the Nation."

Voter protection is another critical issue for the Navajo Nation. During the recent November 2024 general election, many Navajo voters faced disenfranchisement, and the Nation was forced to file a lawsuit against Apache County due to delays in processing early ballots.

“As Navajo Nation legislators, we face ongoing challenges in ensuring fair access to the polls. We work closely with the counties, but we are constantly pushing to ensure that our people’s right to vote is protected,” Speaker Curley explained. “We appreciate the support we’ve received from the Governor’s Office on these issues of voter protection.”

On education, Speaker Curley emphasized the importance of tracking data related to Navajo students across the state’s education system to ensure quality educational outcomes. “The Nation is continually addressing issues of cultural sensitivity within Arizona’s schools,” she noted. “Our students are often denied excused absences for cultural activities that, in fact, support their educational success.”

Governor Hobbs reaffirmed her support for the priorities presented and committed to tracking legislation related to these critical issues.

“I appreciate the important work you’re doing,” Governor Hobbs said. “I will not support any legislation that makes it harder for anyone to participate in elections. I am committed to working for all Arizonans.”

Speaker Curley and the 25th Navajo Nation Council thanked Governor Hobbs for her continued support in advancing the Navajo Nation’s priorities.

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