

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0032-25_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Law and Order and the Navajo Nation Council;
Confirming the Probation Appointment of Tyson Yazzie as Navajo Nation Court
Judge**

Date posted: March 19, 2025 at 9:03PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0032-25

DATE: March 18, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT OF TYSON YAZZIE AS NAVAJO NATION DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to confirm the probationary appointment of Tyson Yazzie as Navajo Nation District Court Judge.

Final Authority: Navajo Nation Council

Vote Required: Simple Majority

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 03-24-25
Eligible for Action: 03-25-25

Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Third Year, 2025

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4 
5
6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0032-25

9
10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
12 CONFIRMING THE PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT OF TYSON YAZZIE
13 AS NAVAJO NATION DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

14
15 BE IT ENACTED:

16
17 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 18 A. The Navajo Nation established the Law and Order Committee as a Navajo Nation
19 standing committee and as such gave the Law and Order Committee authority to
20 recommend to the Navajo Nation President the appointment of probationary judges. 2
21 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 600 (A), 601 (B)(10).
- 22 B. The Law and Order Committee delegated its responsibility and authority to the Judicial
23 Conduct Commission to screen applicants and recommend the probationary
24 appointment of judges and justices. LOCS-19-18. The committee, however, maintains
25 oversight authority over courts. 2 N.N.C. § 600(C).
- 26 C. The Judicial Conduct Commission made its recommendation to the Navajo Nation
27 President for Tyson Yazzie to be appointed as a probationary judge of the Navajo
28 Nation. JCC-02-2024.
- 29 D. The President of the Navajo Nation shall appoint the Chief Justice, Associate Justices,
30 and District Court Judges with confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council from among

1 those applicants recommended by the Law and Order [Judiciary] Committee of the
2 Navajo Nation Council. The Navajo Nation Council shall confirm judicial
3 appointments. 7 N.N.C. § 355 (A).

- 4 E. References in the Navajo Nation Code and other official documents to the Government
5 Services and Intergovernmental Relations Committee shall mean Naabik'iyáti
6 Committee, unless the amendments enacted herein for the context of previous law
7 indicates otherwise. *See* CO-45-12.

8
9 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 10 A. Tyson Yazzie is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is an applicant for
11 appointment as District Court judge. Mr. Yazzie's application and qualifications have
12 been reviewed by the Judicial Conduct Commission, and he has been interviewed by
13 the Judicial Conduct Commission. *See* JCC-02-2024 attached as **Exhibit A**.
- 14 B. The Judicial Conduct Commission determined that Tyson Yazzie meets the
15 qualifications for appointment as Navajo Nation Judge and recommended him for
16 probationary appointment to the Navajo Nation President. *Id.*
- 17 C. The Navajo Nation President appoints Tyson Yazzie as Navajo Nation judge, subject
18 to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. *See* Appointment Letter and
19 Qualification Documents attached hereto as **Exhibits B** and **C**, respectively.

20
21 **SECTION THREE. CONFIRMING PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

22 The Navajo Nation confirms Mr. Tyson Yazzie as a probationary Navajo Nation Judge.

23
24 **SECTION FOUR. NAVAJO NATION PRIVACY ACT**

25 Confidential information within application documents shall remain protected except
26 upon its authorized disclosure by the appointee. 2 N.N.C. § 81 *et seq.* (2014).