

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0038-25

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Act Relating to Law and Order and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Office of the President and Vice-President, 2 N. N. C. §§ 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, and Establishing the Office of the Vice President, 2 N. N. C. §§ 1015 - 1018

*Date posted:* March 28, 2025 at 5:03PM.

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**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0038-25

**DATE:** March 27, 2025

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACT RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEES, AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT, 2 N.N.C. §§ 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, AND ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, 2 N.N.C. §§ 1015 - 1018

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this proposed resolution is to establish an Office of the Vice President in Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code.

**FINAL AUTHORITY:** Navajo Nation Council

**VOTE REQUIREMENT:** 2/3 vote in accordance with Resolution CD-68-69, Resolved Clause 6.

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: ALMKTJ  
Website Posting Time/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 4/2/25  
Eligible for Action: 4/3/25

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  
3 INTRODUCED BY

4   
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 (Prime Sponsor)

7  
8 TRACKING NO. 0038-25

9  
10 AN ACT  
11 RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEES,  
12 AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
13 AND VICE-PRESIDENT, 2 N.N.C. §§ 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, AND  
14 ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, 2 N.N.C.  
15 §§ 1015 - 1018

16  
17 **BE IT ENACTED:**

18  
19 **SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- 20 A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and is empowered  
21 to enact positive law of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102(A) and 164(A).  
22 B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to review all  
23 proposed legislation which requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C.  
24 § 164(A)(9).  
25 C. The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is authorized to review and  
26 make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and  
27 enactment in the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §601(B)(14).  
28

29  
30 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 1 A. The Navajo Nation Council established the Office of the President and Vice-President  
 2 in Resolution CD-68-89, attached as **Exhibit A**.
- 3 B. Diné Traditional Law declares and teaches that “it is the right and freedom of the Diné to  
 4 choose leaders of their choice.” 1 N.N.C. § 203(A).
- 5 C. The Vice President of the Navajo Nation is an elected leader of the Navajo Nation, chosen  
 6 along with the President by the Diné voters to serve a four-year term.
- 7 D. Although the Vice President of the Navajo Nation is an elected leader and chosen by the  
 8 Navajo voters, the Vice President has no established office within the Navajo Nation.
- 9 E. The Navajo Nation Council recognizes a need to establish an independent Office of the  
 10 Vice President of the Navajo Nation, as well as a need for the Office of the Vice President  
 11 maintain a separate budget from the Office of the President and for the Vice President to  
 12 manage operations and personnel within the Office.

13

14 **SECTION THREE. AMENDING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE**  
 15 **PRESIDENT, 2 N.N.C. §§ 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, AND ESTABLISHING THE**  
 16 **OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, 2 N.N.C.§§ 1015 – 1018**

17 The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Office of the President and Vice President, 2  
 18 N.N.C. §§ 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, and establishes the Office of the Vice  
 19 President, 2 N.N.C.§§ 1015 - 1018, as follows:

20

21 **Title 2. Navajo Nation Government**

22 **Chapter 5. Executive Branch**

23 **Subchapter 1. Generally**

24 **Article 1. Office of the President and ~~Vice-President~~ Office of the Vice President**

25 \*\*\*\*

26 **§ 1002. Office of President and ~~Vice-President~~; Term**

- 27 A. There is established the Office of President and ~~Vice-President~~.
- 28 B. There shall be one President of the Navajo Nation.
- 29 C. The President shall be elected for a term of four years.
- 30 D. The President shall serve no more than two terms.

1 E. In the event that there is no President-Elect and/or Vice-President-Elect on the date of  
2 installment as set forth in 11 N.N.C. § 6 (B), then the procedure enumerated in 11 N.N.C.  
3 § 6 (F) shall be followed.  
4

5 **§ 1003. ~~Vice-President~~ [Reserved]**

6 ~~A. There shall be one Vice-President of the Navajo Nation.~~

7 ~~B. He/she shall be elected for a term of four years.~~

8 ~~C. The Vice-President shall serve no more than two terms.~~  
9

10 **§ 1004. Qualifications**

11 A. No person shall serve as President or as Vice-President of the Navajo Nation  
12 unless he/she is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, 30 years old or older.

13 B. No person shall serve as President or Vice-President of the Navajo Nation unless  
14 he/ or she has continually, during the last three years before the time of election been  
15 physically present within the Navajo Nation. ~~The "Navajo Nation" is as defined at 7~~  
16 N.N.C. § 254.  
17

18 **§ 1005. Powers and duties**

19 \*\*\*

20 ~~D. The Vice-President of the Navajo Nation, during the absence of the President,~~  
21 ~~shall exercise the powers and execute the duties of the President of the Navajo Nation.~~  
22

22 \*\*\*

23 **§ 1007. Residences of the President**

24 The President residences shall be furnished at Window Rock, Arizona, together with the  
25 cost of water, sewer, refuse disposal, electricity and natural gas, without charge, to the President  
26 and ~~Vice-President~~ of the Navajo Nation. If the President or ~~Vice-President~~ declines to reside  
27 in such residence, the Navajo Nation shall not be responsible or liable for costs and expenses of  
28 living elsewhere.  
29

30 **§ 1008. Salary of the President and Vice-President**

1 The salary of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation shall be fifty-five  
2 thousand dollars (\$55,000) and forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) per annum,  
3 respectively. Salary adjustments may be approved by the Navajo Nation Council but  
4 shall not become effective until and unless approved by a referendum.  
5

6 **§ 1009. Staff of the President**

7 The President and ~~Vice-President~~ shall appoint such assistants, administrators, legal  
8 counsel and clerical staff as may be budgeted for.

9 \*\*\*

10 **§ 1015. Vice-President; Office of the Vice-President**

11 A. There is established the Office of the Vice President. The Office of the Vice-  
12 President shall operate under a separate budget from the Office of the President.

13 B. There shall be one Vice President of the Navajo Nation.

14 C. He or she shall be elected for a term of four years.

15 D. The Vice-President shall serve no more than two term.

16 E. In the event that there is no Vice President-Elect on the date of installment as set  
17 forth in 11 N.N.C. § 6 (B), then the procedure enumerated in 11 N.N.C. § 6 (F)  
18 shall be followed.

19  
20 **§ 1016. Qualifications**

21 A. No person shall serve as Vice President of the Navajo Nation unless he or she is  
22 an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, 30 years old or older.

23 B. No person shall serve as Vice President of the Navajo Nation unless he/she has  
24 continually, during the last three years before the time of election been physically present  
25 within the Navajo Nation,—The "Navajo Nation" is as defined at 7 N.N.C. § 254.

26  
27 **§ 1017. Powers and duties**

28 A. The Vice President of the Navajo Nation shall have full authority to conduct,  
29 supervise, and coordinate personnel within the Office of the Vice President. He or she  
30

1 shall possess independent fiscal responsibility for the proper and efficient operation of  
2 the Office.

3 B. The Vice President of the Navajo Nation, during the absence of the President,  
4 shall exercise the powers and execute the duties of the President of the Navajo Nation.

5  
6 **§ 1018. Residence of the Vice President**

7 The Vice President shall be furnished at Window Rock, Arizona, together with the cost  
8 of water, sewer, refuse disposal, electricity and natural gas, without charge, to the  
9 President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation. If the Vice President declines to  
10 reside in such residence, the Navajo Nation shall not be responsible or liable for costs  
11 and expenses of living elsewhere.

12  
13 \*\*\*\*  
14 \_\_\_\_\_

15 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

16 The provisions of this Act shall become effective upon adoption by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of  
17 all members of the Navajo Nation Council and approval of the President of the Navajo Nation  
18 pursuant 2 N.N.C. §§ 1005(C)(10) - (12).  
19

20 **SECTION FIVE. CODIFICATION**

21 The provisions of these amendments of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office  
22 of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amendments  
23 in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.  
24

25 **SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE**

26 Should any provision of these amendments be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation  
27 Supreme Court, or the District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation  
28 Supreme Court, those amendments that are not determined invalid shall remain the law of the  
29 Navajo Nation.  
30