

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0013-25

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Permanent Appointment of the Honorable Letitia Stover as Navajo Nation District Court Judge**

*Date posted:* February 12, 2025 at 5:16 PM.

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

**Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.**

**Please note:** This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

**Tracking No. 0013-25**

**DATE:** February 11, 2025

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE LETITIA STOVER AS NAVAJO NATION DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this proposed resolution is to confirm the permanent appointment of the Honorable Letitia Stover 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 ASD  
Website Posting Time/Date 5:16 PM; 02-12-25  
Posting End Date: 02-17-25  
Eligible for Action: 02-18-25

Naabik'iyati' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Third Year, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prime Sponsor



TRACKING NO. 0013-25

AN ACTION  
RELATING TO NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE PERMANENT  
APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE LETITIA STOVER AS NAVAJO  
NATION DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Law and Order Committee (LOC) as a Navajo Nation standing committee and as such gave the Law and Order Committee authority to recommend to the Navajo Nation President the permanent appointment of probationary judges. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 600 (A), 601 (B)(10) (2012) *see also* CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council shall confirm judicial appointments. 7 N.N.C. § 355 (A) and (E) (2009).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. On December 19, 2019, the Navajo Nation President appointed and the Navajo Nation Council confirmed Ms. Letitia Stover as a Navajo Nation probationary district court judge. *See* CD-48-19.
- B. “[A]ll District Court Judges shall be appointed for a probationary period of two years and upon permanent appointment shall serve thereafter during good behavior.” 7 N.N.C. § 355(B)

- 1 C. A probationary...Judge shall not be recommended for a permanent appointment unless  
2 he or she has successfully completed a course of training accredited for judges and he or  
3 she has received a satisfactory performance evaluation from the Chief Justice and the  
4 Law and Order (Judiciary) Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at the conclusion of  
5 the probationary...Judge's two-year probationary term. 7 N.N.C. § 355(C)
- 6 D. On July 25, 2024, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne provided a satisfactory performance  
7 evaluation and recommended Judge Letitia Stover for permanent appointment to District  
8 Court Judge of the Navajo Nation. See **Exhibit "A"**.
- 9 E. Judge Letitia Stover completed training courses from the National Judicial College for  
10 *Fundamental Writing Skills for Judges*, along with attending a host of local conferences  
11 on legal matters. See **Exhibit "B."**
- 12 F. "At the conclusion of the two-year probationary term, the Law and Order (Judiciary)  
13 Committee shall review the record and qualifications of each probationary...Judge and  
14 shall recommend to the President whether or not each probationary...Judge has  
15 satisfactorily completed the probationary term and should be appointed to a permanent  
16 position. The President shall not appoint to a permanent position any  
17 probationary...Judge not recommended by the Law and Order (Judiciary) Committee.  
18 The appointments shall be submitted to the Navajo Nation Council for confirmation." 7  
19 N.N.C. § 355(E)
- 20 G. Due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Judge Letitia Stover's public hearing  
21 and probation evaluations were delayed. In 2023, the Navajo Nation reopened after the  
22 COVID-19 crises and the Navajo Nation government implemented measures to resume  
23 in person functions. Included in the reopening measures was prioritizing evaluations for  
24 the judges.
- 25 H. On October 14, 2024, the Law and Order Committee determined Judge Letitia Stover  
26 met the qualifications for appointment as a permanent Navajo Nation District Court  
27 Judge and forwarded her name to the Navajo Nation President for judicial appointment  
28 consideration. See LOCO-05-24.
- 29  
30

1 I. On December 13, 2024, the Navajo Nation President recommended to the Navajo  
2 Nation Council the permanent appointment of Ms. Letitia Stover as a District Court  
3 Judge. **Exhibit “C.”**

4 J. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch that  
5 Judge Letitia Stover is confirmed for permanent status as a Navajo Nation District Court  
6 Judge.

7  
8 **SECTION THREE. CONFIRMATION AS PERMANENT JUDGE**

9 The Navajo Nation confirms Ms. Letitia Stover as a permanent Navajo Nation District  
10 Court Judge.

11  
12 **SECTION FOUR: RECOMMENDATION FOR ADDITIONAL STEP INCREASE**

13 A. The Law and Order Committee recommends that Judge Letitia Stover be provided an  
14 additional salary step increase, in addition to the two-step increase provided after  
15 confirmation as provided in Resolution No. LOCO-08-14, “Amending the Navajo  
16 Nation Justices and Judges Salary Schedule.”

17 B. The Law and Order Committee recognizes that Judge Letitia Stover was eligible to be  
18 evaluated and considered for permanent appointment once she fulfilled her two year  
19 probationary period. However, due to delays from the COVID-19 pandemic, Judge  
20 Letitia Stover’s public hearing and probationary evaluations were delayed.

21 C. In evaluating Navajo Nation Justices and Judges for possible step increases, Judge  
22 Letitia Stover could not be considered for an additional step increase in 2023, due to her  
23 probationary status.

24 D. Therefore, the Law and Order Committee recommends that the additional step increase  
25 be provided for Judge Letitia Stover.

26  
27 **SECTION FIVE. NAVAJO NATION PRIVACY ACT**

28 Confidential information within application documents shall remain protected except  
29 upon its authorized disclosure by the appointee. 2 N.N.C. § 81 *et seq.* (2009).