

NAAT'ÁJÍ NAHAT'Á HANE' LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NEWS



2025 SPRING COUNCIL SESSION

APRIL 21-25, 2025



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPEAKER'S MESSAGE	PAGE 3
SPRING SESSION HONORS YOUTH AND AWARENESS	PAGE 7
MMDR TASK FORCE LEADS AWARENESS WALK	PAGE 8
PRESIDENT NYGREN FAILS TO PRESENT STATE OF THE NATION	PAGE 9
COUNCIL CONFIRMS DISTRICT COURT JUDGES	PAGE 10
ARIZONA TREASURER ADDRESS NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL	PAGE 11
COUNCIL CONFIRMS AUDITOR GENERAL	PAGE 11
COUNCIL APPROVES ANNEX OF LOWER 89 LAND	PAGE 12
COUNCIL RECEIVES MMDR TASK FORCE REPORT	PAGE 13
COUNCIL OPPOSES SCHOOL VOUCHER EXECUTIVE ORDER	PAGE 13
2025 SPRING SESSION RECOGNITIONS	PAGE 14
COUNCIL OPPOSES STATE SECRETARY THREATS TO DEI GUIDANCE	PAGE 16
COUNCIL APPROVES WATER RESOURCES EXPENDITURE PLAN	PAGE 16
COUNCIL WELCOMES UTAH LT. GOV. HENDERSON	PAGE 17
2025 SPRING SESSION LEGISLATION RESULTS	PAGE 18



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
P.O. BOX 3390
WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7160

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER STAFF

Manuel Rico
Chief of Staff
mrico@navajo-nsn.gov

Jared Touchin
Deputy Chief of Staff
jared.touchin@navajo-nsn.gov

Clarinda Begay
Legislative Financial Advisor
clarindabegay@navajo-nsn.gov

Mary Nez
Executive Assistant
mary.nez@navajo-nsn.gov

Clarissa Begay
Legislative Staff Assistant
crbegay@navajo-nsn.gov

Marcarlo Roanhorse
Legislative Staff Assistant
marcarloroanhorse@navajo-nsn.gov

Arthur Hardy, Jr.
Legislative Staff Assistant
arthur.hardyjr@navajo-nsn.gov

Mihio Manus
Communication Director
mihio.manus@navajo-nsn.gov

Jason John
Sr. Public Information Officer
jasonajohn@navajo-nsn.gov

Tatyana Billy
Sr. Public Information Officer
tatyana.billy@navajo-nsn.gov

Jacquelyn Morgan
Senior Office Specialist
jacquelynmorgan@navajo-nsn.gov

Emerson Notah
Computer Operations Manager
emersonnotah@navajo-nsn.gov

Bennie Becenti
Network Manager
bbecenti@navajo-nsn.gov

Gayle Neboyia
Legislative AMS
gayle.neboyia@navajo-nsn.gov

Davina Begaye
Legislative AMS
dbbegaye@navajo-nsn.gov

JoAnne George
Legislative AMS
joanne.george@navajo-nsn.gov

Kaden Begaye
Legislative Assistant
kaden.begaye@navajo-nsn.gov

Speaker Curley's 2025 Spring Session Message

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 Spring Council Session.

First, I want to recognize and thank all my Council colleagues, advocates, and the victims and survivors who participated in this morning's walk in recognition and remembrance of missing and murdered children and relatives. Together, we continue to pray for the families who continue to search for their loved ones and those who have suffered the loss of a child or relative. The 25th Navajo Nation Council is committed to supporting our people and helping to bring resolve to these issues.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the hardworking staff members within the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch. April 23rd is Administrative Professionals Day across the country. There is much work that often goes unnoticed and great sacrifices that are made by the administrative professionals on the Navajo Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank you for your service and I also thank your families and loved ones for everything they do to support you.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I also recognize and congratulate all our Diné students who participated in the annual spelling bee, hosted by the Navajo Times and Office of Diné Youth. We honor and celebrate their remarkable courage and achievements, and we offer a special recognition to Tsaile Public School eighth grader, Christopher Werito, who won this year's competition and will move on to the National Spelling Bee competition in Washington, D.C. in May. We are proud of Christopher and wish him the very best as he moves forward.

I also want to take a moment to recognize all our Diné student athletes who represented their schools and the Navajo Nation in the recent state high school basketball finals. We had many outstanding athletes who demonstrated great sportsmanship and several who won state championships. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank you, your parents, teachers, coaches, and fans for supporting one another and working hard in the classroom and on the basketball court.

As we begin the spring session, I would like to reiterate that I encourage everyone to take time



Speaker Curley acknowledged the work of RECA advocates during a recognition ceremony held during the 2025 Spring Session.

to reflect on the teachings of our elders in relation to the recent change in the seasons. Spring is a time of planting new seeds and embracing new growth that will provide us nourishment and see us through the coming seasons. The seeds that we plant during this session, with the words we speak as we deliberate over legislative actions, will have lasting impacts on our people. As 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, but we must work together and move forward on a positive path.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the spring 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 guidance and support as we move forward.

FY2026 Comprehensive Budget

First, I want to thank my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and all the hard-working staff who dedicated their time and resources to the development and final passage of a Comprehensive Budget for FY2025, which has now been implemented. Unfortunately, President Nygren once again used the authority granted to the president by the Navajo People, to line-item veto crucial funding for the Legislative Branch attorneys and other services that benefit our Nation.

As we move forward with the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget process, I extend my appreciation to the Budget and Finance Committee

for coordinating and communicating with the Branch Chiefs, Office of the Controller, Office of Management and Budget, and other partners to convey the revenue projections and develop priorities, branch allocations, and a proper path forward.

While the revenue projections anticipate an increase in available funding for FY2026, we must plan and prepare for any potential revenue shortfalls that we may experience in the coming years. The domestic and international markets are volatile, due to tariffs and other factors that make it difficult to forecast the Navajo Nation's return on its investments.

From the standpoint of the Office of the Speaker, we have met with each of the Legislative program directors and managers to identify and prioritize the needs their respective programs, and to help develop a comprehensive priority listing for the Legislative Branch for the FY2026 budget.

Based on submittals from each legislative program and our discussions, the following priorities have been identified thus far: restoring funding that was line-item vetoed for attorneys who support Standing Committee and legislative programs, funding to secure financial and energy advisors to assist with complex financial and energy-related matters, funding to increase and promote public outreach to inform and engage with the Navajo people, funding to secure a liaison position to strengthen intergovernmental relations, securing fixed cost funding to improve the voting process and help ensure the integrity of our elections, funding to create a public information officer

position within the Navajo Election Administration office to inform the public of elections, education regarding referendums, and other important information, addressing vacant positions, and addressing unmet infrastructure needs.

Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act

The 25th Navajo Nation Council is pleased to report that the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act was reintroduced in Congress in early March. In the Senate, S. 953 was introduced by Senators Mary Kelly (D-AZ) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ). In the House, H.R. 2025 was introduced by U.S. Representatives Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ), Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Eli Crane (R-AZ), the late Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), David Schweikert (R-AZ), and Yassamin Ansari (D-AZ). With strong bipartisan support, the Council continues to meet with congressional members, the Department of the Interior, and other key officials to move this settlement forward.

On April 14th, I accompanied the Resources and Development Committee for a productive meeting with Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum in Washington, D.C. to advocate for two water rights settlement bills for the Navajo Nation and for the completion of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project. During this meeting, we conveyed to the Secretary, and several of his key officials, the great need for access to safe, clean drinking water for our Navajo people. Approximately one-third of Navajo families live without running water in their homes. Many of our people continue to rely on hauling water to meet their daily domestic and livestock needs.

The Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act addresses these needs by investing significantly in water delivery infrastructure projects that will deliver safe and reliable clean drinking water to many of our communities and homes. This will make possible the connection of tens of thousands of Navajo people in Arizona to running water for the first time ever.

The key Navajo terms of the Navajo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act include:

Navajo water rights confirmed within the proposed settlement:

- 44,700 acre-feet per year (AFY) of the Arizona allocation of Upper Basin Colorado River Water, representing 90% of Arizona's Upper Basin allocation
- 3,600 AFY of Fourth Priority Lower Basin Colorado River Water
- All the Little Colorado River water that reaches the Navajo Nation – historic flows are estimated to be 122,000 AFY
- All the Navajo Aquifer that underlies the



Left to right: Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish, Utah Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson, Utah Congressman Mike Kennedy, Speaker Crystalynne Curley, and LDS Church Elder Michael Dunn.

Navajo Nation with a limit on pumping from the Confined Aquifer and the Shonto Recharge Area to 8,400 AFY

- All the Coconino Aquifer that underlies the Navajo Nation

Approximately \$5 billion in funding to build water delivery infrastructure including:

- The iiná bá – paa tuwaqat'si pipeline Implementation Fund to finance the Bureau of Reclamation's construction of pipeline to divert Colorado River water from Lake Powell to deliver (1) Colorado River Upper Basin and Lower Basin Colorado River Water to the communities of LeChee, Coppermine, Bitter Springs, Cedar Ridge, Bodaway/Gap, Tuba City, Coal Mine Mesa, Cameron, and Grey Mountain; (2) Colorado River Water to the San Juan Southern Paiute Southern Area; and (3) Colorado River Water to the Hopi reservation at an estimated cost of \$1.7 billion.
- Navajo Nation Water Settlement Trust Fund in the approximate amount of \$2.7 billion, which will fund various other water-related projects and activities to serve Navajo communities, including agricultural activities and purchasing of water rights.
- The settlement also provides over \$508 million for the Hopi Tribe and \$29.8 million for the San Juan Southern Paiute.

Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act

The recent reintroduction of the Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act moves the Navajo Nation a step forward

to securing additional water resources for our communities in New Mexico. In 2022, Acoma and Laguna Pueblos, the State of New Mexico, and non-Indian water users finalized a settlement agreement quantifying the water rights of the two Pueblos in the Rio San José and Rio Puerco Basins. The Pueblos' settlement contemplates that the parties would reach a settlement with the Navajo Nation at some point in the future.

In May 2024, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved the proposed settlement, which would settle water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the general stream adjudication of the Rio San José Stream System and also quantify our water rights in the Rio Puerco basin.

The settlement was reintroduced in the Senate and House through S. 565 and H.R. 1324. As in the previous Congress, the Navajo Nation's Rio San José Settlement bill is a complement to the separate legislation authorizing the Pueblos' Rio San José Settlement. Although the bills can be enacted separately, if passed together they will provide a fully compatible and comprehensive settlement of claims in the Rio San José basin. On March 5th, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs marked up S. 565. The key terms of the Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act include:

Water Rights:

- The water rights quantities to be recognized in the settlement include 2,444 acre-feet per year (AFY) for groundwater in the two basins, and 417 AFY for livestock use plus an additional storage right of 493 AF for stock ponds for Rio



Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish (left) and Speaker Crystalayne Curley (right) welcomed Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee before she addressed the 2025 Spring Session.

to uphold our government-to-government relationship and to honor the federal trust responsibility to the Navajo Nation in accordance with our treaties with the United States. The Council has also reminded our federal partners of the 1974 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Morton v. Mancari*, in which the Court held that the federal classification of “Indians” is not based on a racial classification, but a political classification. This is a critical statement as it relates to several recent White House executive orders that relate to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and initiatives.

On January 9th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council’s Naabik’iyati’ Committee unanimously adopted Resolution NABIJA-02-25, which approved the Navajo Nation’s official federal priorities for the Trump Administration and the 119th Congress. In accordance with Navajo Nation laws, the Naabik’iyati’ Committee is empowered to establish official positions of the Navajo Nation relating to county, state, and federal legislation and policy impacting the Navajo Nation.

- San José Basin, with livestock water rights for the Rio Puerco Basin to be determined later.
- The Settlement Agreement does not impact allottee water rights.
- The settlement calls for federal funding for the Navajo Nation totaling over \$223 million. This amount has been developed based on estimated costs for, among other things, a regional water transmission line to import water, wastewater development, water hauling stations, operation and maintenance, livestock water-related projects, and sanitation projects. Note, however, this would be a fund-based settlement that would allow the Navajo Nation to make decisions regarding how, when, and where to develop water infrastructure.

- Extends the completion deadline for the Project from 2024 to 2029
- Creates \$250 million for operations and maintenance trust funds for the Navajo Nation and the Jicarilla Apache Nation to use for the project’s operations, maintenance, and replacement costs
- Authorizes the expansion of the service area beyond the San Juan River Basin to deliver water supply from the project to communities within the Rio San Jose Basin in New Mexico. The Navajo Nation would also be authorized to expand the service area in Arizona beyond Fort Defiance and Window Rock to deliver water supply to the community of Lupton, Arizona, within the Little Colorado River Basin, but would still be subject to section 10603(c)(1) of P.L. 111-11 limiting the delivery of water to Arizona until certain conditions are met
- Caps the repayment obligation of the City of Gallup for the Project at \$76,000,000.

Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2025

The Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2025, S. 637 and H.R. 1482, is a key component to ensuring the full implementation of the Navajo Nation San Juan River Basin Water Rights Settlement in New Mexico and the completion of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP), which will provide a reliable source of drinking water to thousands on the Navajo Nation and other communities in New Mexico. To address the appropriations shortfall and ensure full implementation of the 2009 Act, the bill is inclusive of the following amendments to the 2009 Act:

- Increases project funding by raising the appropriations ceiling for the project to over \$2.1 billion

Federal Issues Related to the Navajo Nation

With a new Administration in office in Washington D.C., informing and educating key federal appointees and officials has become an ongoing effort. I appreciate the commitment of my Council colleagues, the Navajo Nation Washington Office, our legal teams, and other partners for their continuous efforts to issue letters, resolutions, and position statements outlining our priorities and recommendations for federal executive orders, congressional bills, and other executive and legislative actions at the federal level.

We continue to call on the federal government

The Navajo Nation Council’s Naabik’iyati’ Committee also took a position as it relates to a “Dear Colleague” letter issued by the U.S. Department of Education in which they advise federally funded schools that their funding may be jeopardized if they continue to engage in race-based practices, including affirmative action and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs. Among several provisions, Resolution NABIAP-13-25 calls on the Administration to consult with tribes before implementing executive orders and policies that impact tribes and reaffirms the Navajo Nation’s political and legal status, in accordance with the 1974 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Morton v. Mancari*.

Recently, the Naabik’iyati’ Committee also adopted Resolution NABIAP-14-25, reaffirming the Navajo Nation relations to the United States, and to call on the United States to maintain its government-to-government relations with the Navajo Nation. Each of these resolutions plays a vital role in educating and informing our federal partners of the unique status of the Navajo Nation and other tribes. The Council and the Office of the Speaker continue to engage with the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT), the Navajo Nation Washington Office, congressional members and staff, the White House, and other organizations to be proactive in addressing federal matters and concerns.

Moving forward, my Council colleagues will also act on legislation that addresses Executive Order 14191, signed by President Donald Trump on January 29th entitled, “Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families.” Section 7 of the Executive Order directs the Secretary of the Interior to “review any available mechanisms

under which families of students eligible to attend BIE schools may use their federal funding for educational options of their choice, including private, faith-based, or public charter schools." The Executive Order also directs the Interior Secretary to submit a plan to President Trump, within 90 days, describing such mechanisms and steps that would be necessary to implement a proposed school voucher program for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Coalition of Large Tribes also adopted a resolution on February 18th requesting that COLT take the lead with the analysis to help draft recommendations for Secretary Burgum to consider within the 90-day timeline. There are many concerns from tribes, and specifically for the Navajo Nation, related to treaty obligations, geographic challenges, unique educational needs, and the low number of private and charter school options on the Navajo Nation. Based on these concerns, legislation was requested to address this matter and to establish an official position for the Navajo Nation.

Utah-Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Interlocutory Decree

In February, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined Utah Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson, state legislators, and representatives from the Utah Division of Water Rights at the Utah State Capitol to commemorate the signing of an Interlocutory Decree, which officially grants the Navajo Nation a water allocation of 81,500 acre-feet per year in the state of Utah.

The adjudication is a key component of the Utah Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement, which secures the Nation's rights to both surface and groundwater from the Colorado River within Utah. The settlement also includes significant funding provisions for water infrastructure development, the Navajo Water Development Trust Fund, and the Navajo Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund.

This monumental milestone is the result of the dedication and advocacy of many past and present Navajo leaders, federal partners, and many years of negotiations that began decades ago. The Utah Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Interlocutory Decree represents more than a legal formality, it is a commitment to improving the quality of life for Navajo people who do not have access to basic water necessities in their homes and communities.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I extend my gratitude to the Office of Utah's Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Utah state legislators, the Utah Division of Water Rights, the Navajo Nation Water Rights Unit under the



Council Delegates Germaine Simonson, Cheryl Yazzie, and Speaker Crystalyne Curley joined Senator Mark Kelly and Hopi Chairman Tim Nuvangyaoma at a reception celebrating the introduction of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement before Congress.

Department of Justice, and the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for their advocacy and approval of the water rights settlement.

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

Despite many challenges, the 25th Navajo Nation Council remains committed to working with congress and community advocates to secure the reauthorization and expansion of the Radiation and Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) in the 119th Congress. 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 reach a middle ground with congressional leaders to get a final bill to the White House for signature.

The proposed reauthorization 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, the 25th Navajo Nation Council has emphasized the urgency of this matter to congressional members.

This is not just a Navajo issue. It is a national issue. RECA was first enacted in 1990 and 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 119th Congress.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us for the 2025 Spring 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.

Áhé'héé

Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

25th Navajo Nation Council Commences 2025 Spring Session with Youth, Honor, and Awareness

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. —

On Monday, April 21, the 25th Navajo Nation Council commenced its 2025 Spring Session today by honoring Navajo youth, recognizing advocacy, and raising awareness for missing Native children. The day's red color theme reflected solidarity and the urgency surrounding the crisis of missing Native children.

The session began with an awareness walk led by Honorable Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, a leading voice in the Nation's effort to bring attention to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). The walk served as a moment of remembrance and unity in support of missing Native children and their families.

"This walk is more than symbolic—it's a commitment to never forget our children and to ensure their voices are heard through action and policy," said Delegate Crotty. "We must protect the sacredness of our youth."

After calling the session to order, Speaker Crystalyne Curley welcomed attendees and highlighted the youth participation that marked the opening day. Color guards from Shiprock Northwest Middle/High School presented the posting of colors, while Winslow High School students delivered the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. Delegate George Tolth offered the invocation, reinforcing the spiritual foundation of the session.

Speaker Curley acknowledged the presence of several

schools, including Page High School, Winslow High School, Piedra Vista High School, and Kayenta High School, applauding their students for engaging with the legislative process.

"Our students are not just visitors, they are future leaders," said Speaker Curley. "We want them to know that these chambers belong to them too."

Throughout the morning, members of the Navajo Nation Council offered personal recognitions. Delegate Rickie Nez encouraged students to take pride in learning the Navajo language and to envision themselves as future policymakers.

"Now they see the inside of the Council Chamber. One day, you will sit in these chairs and make decisions on behalf of the Navajo people," said Nez.

Delegates also recognized community members, chapter officials, educational leaders, and advocates.

Delegate Shaandiin Parrish commended Delegate Crotty for her tireless MMIP advocacy and acknowledged Kayenta Chapter leaders. Delegate Helena Nez Begay gave thanks to key officials, including Controller Sean McCabe and Legislative Branch Chief of Staff Manuel Rico, for their dedicated service to the Navajo Nation.

The 2025 Spring Session will continue through April 25, with each day highlighting different themes and community awareness.



Miss Southwest Teen 2024-2025 Aiyana Yazzie.



Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty shakes hands with the Shiprock Middle/High School Color Guard.



Shiprock Northwest Middle/High School Color Guards.



Members of Winslow High School performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Walking to protect our children: MMDR Task Force leads awareness walk ahead of spring session

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Monday, April 21, prior to the opening of the 25th Navajo Nation Council's 2025 Spring Session, Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Chair of the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force, led a solemn walk in honor of missing Diné children and to raise awareness around the ongoing crisis impacting Indigenous families across the Navajo Nation.

"The Navajo Nation and all of Indian country must prioritize our children who are wards in state and tribal systems," said Chair Crotty. "Whether it's jurisdictional gaps, poor data collection, or a lack of urgency, these issues persist because we allow them to. We walk to say that our children matter, their lives matter, and we will not rest until they are safe and accounted for."

Joined by Bernalillo County District Attorney Sam Bregman and MMDR advocates from across the region, the group walked together toward the Council Chamber, carrying signs,

wearing red in solidarity, and sharing prayers and messages of strength and remembrance.

"The epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons doesn't stop at state lines — it affects communities across the country. As District Attorney for Bernalillo County, I see firsthand how critical it is to pursue justice in every single case. We must continue building strong partnerships between tribal nations, counties, states, and federal agencies to create lasting solutions," Bergman said.

Upon arriving at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber, the participants were provided space to speak, sharing personal stories, policy concerns, and calls to action.

The walk served not only as a demonstration of unity and urgency but also as a reminder that the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people demands sustained national attention and tribal-led solutions.



MMDR Task Force organized a march to raise awareness for missing Diné children.

Participants included Division of Children and Family Services Deputy Director Sonlatsa Jim, Anthony Begaye from the Navajo Treatment Center, Office of the Prosecutor Principal Witness Victim Advocate Juanita Martinez, Office of the President and Vice President Staff

Assistant Yolanda Azul, Office of the Prosecutor Major Crimes Unit Kevin C. Barnett, Esq., and National Missing and Unidentified Person System Tribal Liaison Cornelia Perry.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley highlights budget, water rights, and sovereignty in report to Navajo Nation Council

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, April 21, during the opening day of the 2025 Spring Session of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Crystalyne Curley delivered the Speaker's Report, emphasizing critical issues impacting the Navajo Nation. Topics included the development of the Fiscal Year 2026 Comprehensive Budget, major progress on water rights settlements, and federal advocacy to protect Navajo tribal sovereignty.

In her report, Speaker Curley extended her gratitude to her fellow Council Delegates, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Vice President Richelle Montoya, Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, and the Diné people. "We are planting seeds this spring that will shape the future of our people," Speaker Curley stated. "The words we speak and the decisions we make will have lasting impacts for generations."

Speaker Curley addressed the Fiscal Year 2026 budget planning process and expressed appreciation to the Budget and Finance Committee for

working closely with government branches to develop funding priorities amid an unpredictable economic climate. Legislative branch priorities include restoring attorney support, securing financial and energy advisors, improving public outreach, strengthening intergovernmental relations, and enhancing election infrastructure.

Speaker Curley reported on federal efforts to pass the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, reintroduced in Congress with broad bipartisan support. If enacted, the legislation would secure over \$5 billion in funding and confirm water rights from multiple sources, delivering clean, reliable water to tens of thousands of Navajo families for the first time.

"Access to safe, clean drinking water is not a privilege. It's a basic human right," Speaker Curley said. "This settlement is not just a legal agreement; it's a life-changing investment in our people."

Speaker Curley also provided updates on the Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act, which quantifies Navajo water rights in New Mexico and secures more than \$223 million in federal funding for water infrastructure.

In support of these efforts, the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2025 seeks to expand funding and service areas, extending the project's reach to new communities and increasing its total funding to over \$2.1 billion. The legislation would also establish new trust funds to ensure long-term operations and maintenance.

The Speaker's report emphasized the importance of strong federal advocacy, particularly under the changing political landscape in Washington, D.C. The Council has adopted several resolutions reaffirming the Nation's sovereign political status, calling for consultation on federal education policy, and defending the Nation's rights under treaty and trust obligations.

"These resolutions are a clear reminder to our federal partners that our sovereignty is not negotiable," she said.

The speaker also celebrated significant milestones, including the recent Utah-Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Interlocutory Decree, which confirms a water allocation of 81,500 acre-feet per year and provides funding for critical infrastructure.

In closing, Speaker Curley reaffirmed the Council's commitment to passing legislation that improves the quality of life for all Diné citizens.

"Our work is far from done," she said. "But united, we carry the vision of our ancestors and the strength of our people into every step forward."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 16 in favor and one opposed in accepting the Speaker's Report as a written report.

President Nygren fails to present the State of the Navajo Nation Address

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – For the fourth time since being elected by the Navajo people, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren failed to appear and present the State of the Navajo Nation Address during the opening day of the Spring Council Session, on Monday, April 21.

Under the powers and authorities of the Navajo Nation President outlined under 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (5), the President shall “Report quarterly to the Navajo Nation Council on the state of the Navajo Nation.”

Prior to the start of the session, Speaker Crystalyne Curley issued a subpoena to President Nygren to have him present in the Council Chamber to present his report to the Council and the Navajo people.

In President Nygren’s absence, the Office of the President and Vice President delivered a written report to the Council and indicated that President Nygren is currently on travel in Washington, D.C., referencing recent Executive Orders signed by President Trump.

In his written report, President Nygren stated, “I must and will work with any administration — Republican or Democrat — to protect jobs, preserve and increase revenue for our communities, and expand new

opportunities for our Nation.”

Speaker Curley said that working with the Nation’s federal partners is important, but the President also has an obligation to report to the Navajo people and engage in meaningful dialogue with the Council members.

“What we’re seeing from President Nygren is a lot of one way communication directed at the Navajo people through radio, livestreams, newsletters, social media, and now a written report. The Navajo people want to hear President Nygren present his report in person and to have an in depth dialogue with the Council,” said Speaker Curley. “Yes, it’s important to work with our federal partners, but President Nygren also needs work with our Diné leaders as he promised when he campaigned for the presidency.”

Several delegates also raised the possibility of administrative leave, citing repeated absences, unilateral decision-making, and alleged misrepresentations made to both federal partners and the Council.

“We’ve been patient and willing to work with him,” said Delegate Brenda Jesus. “But enough is enough. At what point does the Navajo Nation Council show that we mean business? He’s not honoring our collaboration—he’s



Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren’s designated seat within the Council Chamber remained empty during the State of the Nation Address.

mocking it.”

Council Delegate Vince James said the president’s absence was not just disappointing, it was disrespectful to the Navajo people. “President Nygren is playing games with this body and with our Nation. He’s been scheduling meetings in Washington, D.C. to deliberately avoid his responsibility to report to the Council. His actions are undermining our programs and our sovereignty,” said Delegate James.

Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez echoed widespread concerns about the administration’s lack of transparency and direct engagement

with both the Council and the Navajo people.

“The President’s absence sends the wrong message,” said Dr. Nez. “We cleared our schedules to be here. His staff know when the Council meets. He chooses public appearances and media over direct dialogue with this body. It’s time we consider a special session to address this ongoing pattern.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council voted against receiving President Nygren’s State of the Nation Address as a written report with a vote of one in favor and 20 opposed.

Images from the Missing Diné Children awareness walk



Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force Members and advocates were joined by Bernalillo County District Attorney Sam Bergman for the awareness march.



Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty said she will continue spreading awareness about MMDR issues until all children are safe and accounted for.

25th Navajo Nation Council confirms Navajo District Court Judicial appointments

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 25th Navajo Nation Council officially confirmed the appointments of four District Court Judges—Letitia Stover, Malcolm Laughing, Victor J. Clyde, and Tyson Yazzie—on the first day of the Spring Session, solidifying new leadership within the Navajo Nation's Judicial Branch.

"It's my honor to sponsor these legislations to confirm our Court District Judges, their integrity to law, ethical decision making and legal knowledge will help enhance the Navajo Nation Judicial system and ensure our people received fair trials across all district courts," said Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton.

The confirmations followed a thorough and transparent process initiated by the Law and Order Committee, which held public hearings in early 2024 across all district courts to gather community input on each judicial candidate. The committee formally confirmed Judges Stover, Laughing, and Clyde on October 30, 2024. Judge Tyson Yazzie, nominated more recently, received unanimous support from the Law and Order Committee on April 16, 2025.

These appointments were made in accordance with Title 7 of the Navajo Nation Code, which mandates that all judicial candidates undergo probationary service, performance evaluations, and formal Council confirmation. All four judges received favorable evaluations from Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne and completed accredited training programs to support their ongoing judicial responsibilities.

Judge Letitia Stover brings extensive legal education and on-the-ground judicial experience to her role. Holding both a Juris Doctor and a Master of Laws degree, she served as a probationary judge since 2019 and previously worked as a staff attorney in the Kayenta Judicial District. Her training includes judicial writing, legal ethics, child and family law, and community-centered sessions on mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her permanent appointment reflects her academic rigor, ethical grounding, and resilience during unprecedented times.

Judge Malcolm Laughing has served since 2019 in the Ramah Judicial District and is known for his methodical leadership style and comprehensive legal training. In 2022 alone, he completed more than 85 hours of judicial instruction in substantive law, child welfare, and judicial conduct. His commitment to judicial excellence and ethical standards earned the full endorsement of the Navajo Nation Council.

Judge Victor J. Clyde, who has served since 2020 in the Tuba City and Window Rock Districts, also brings critical experience as a former Hearing Officer with the Judicial Branch. His training includes judicial writing, procedural fairness, tribal adjudication, and specialized instruction in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Navajo Fundamental Law, and sovereignty rights.

Judge Tyson Yazzie has been appointed as a probationary term as District Judge for the Navajo Nation. A seasoned legal professional fluent in Diné Bizaad, Yazzie is often described as a "Prosecutor's Prosecutor" due to his strong ethics and skillful case management. With over a decade of legal practice and a reputation for fairness and cultural fluency, Judge Yazzie's appointment marks a new chapter for the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation. Yazzie was confirmed by the Council after receiving strong public and professional support.

Each judge has completed comprehensive training in Navajo law and court leadership, ensuring the Judicial Branch remains fully operational and responsive to the needs of the Navajo people.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation 0013-25, Legislation 0014-25, Legislation 0015-25, and Legislation 0032-25, on a consent agenda with a vote of 18 in favor and none opposed. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for these legislations.



Judge Letitia Stover is pictured taking her oath of office as a District Court Judge.



Judge Malcolm Laughing took his oath of office to become a District Court Judge.



Judge Victor J. Clyde (right) was joined by his family as he was sworn in as a District Court Judge.

Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee addresses Navajo Nation Council during 2025 Spring Session

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, April 22, Arizona State Treasurer Kimberly Yee addressed the 25th Navajo Nation Council during the 2025 Spring Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz.

“The 25th Navajo Nation Council was honored to welcome the Honorable Kimberly Yee, the State Treasurer of Arizona, to the People’s House,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

“Treasurer Yee became the first State Treasurer to address the Navajo Nation Council. She has maintained a longstanding relationship with the Navajo Nation, and we are grateful for her continued efforts to strengthen our partnerships.”

Treasurer Yee’s remarks underscored her commitment to fostering collaboration between the State of Arizona and the Navajo Nation. Her visit follows a milestone last October, when the Chilchinbeto Chapter became the first chapter of the Navajo Nation to invest local funds in the Arizona Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP)—a major step toward financial

empowerment and long-term growth for Navajo communities.

During the Council Session, Treasurer Yee recognized the Navajo Nation’s leadership and vision in implementing sound financial strategies rooted in transparency, resilience, and local self-determination. She praised the Chilchinbeto Chapter’s historic investment decision and highlighted the opportunity for other chapters to follow suit and benefit from the LGIP.

“It is truly an honor and privilege to be here today as the first Arizona State Treasurer to address the 25th Navajo Nation Council during its session,” said Treasurer Yee. “Upon the first months of my administration in 2019, I made it a priority to come visit to the Navajo Nation to immediately establish partnerships. It’s essential to understand the unique needs in every region—from transportation and infrastructure to education. I am especially proud of our partnership with the Chilchinbeto Chapter, which led to a historic opportunity for local investment. Thanks to the leadership of Chair Shaandiin Parrish, we are seeing investment



Arizona State Treasurer Kimberly Yee is the first state treasurer to address the Navajo Nation Council.

performance that empower chapters to grow their financial resources and invest in their future.”

Treasurer Yee’s participation in the Spring Session reflects a growing alignment between tribal and state leadership on shared goals of fiscal responsibility and sustainable prosperity.

Budget and Finance Chair Shaandiin Parrish thanked the treasurer for addressing the Council. “You’re a voice for all our constituents in state of Arizona. It’s a huge gesture for you to come to the Navajo Nation and we continue to look forward to working with you,” Parrish said.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council confirms Jeanine Jones as Auditor General

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, April 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed the appointment of Ms. Jeanine Jones as the Navajo Nation Auditor General, following deliberation centered on restoring public trust, enhancing audit efficiency, and strengthening financial accountability across local chapters and government programs.

“This position is vital to rebuilding trust between our government and our people,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. “We must move away from delays, confusion, and fractured communication. Ms. Jones brings a strong background in forensic auditing and a commitment to change.”

Jones, who previously served as acting Auditor General, outlined her vision to modernize audit procedures, improve chapter training, and establish consistent follow-up protocols. Her goals include quarterly reviews of audit findings, implementation support for corrective action plans, and closer coordination with the Division of Community Development (DCD) and

Administrative Service Centers (ASC).

“I am committed to building relationships with chapters and programs while maintaining the highest standards of audit quality, independence, and confidentiality,” said Jones. “Auditing should not be viewed as punishment it is a tool for performance improvement and accountability.”

Council delegates raised concerns about recurring audit findings, limited training at the local level, and a lack of follow-through on enforcement.

“We continue to see the same findings year after year. That tells us we’re not doing enough to provide guidance or oversight,” said Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty. “There must be a systematic plan and quarterly review process to keep everyone accountable—from local chapters to federally funded programs.”

Delegate Brenda Jesus highlighted the importance of restoring an independent audit hotline and increasing cooperation with ethics



Speaker Crystalyne Curley sponsored a legislation confirming the appointment of Jeanine Jones as Navajo Nation Auditor General.

offices and law enforcement to address fraud and abuse concerns. “The Auditor General’s Office must have the authority, resources, and autonomy to initiate investigations and make referrals when misconduct is identified,” Jesus said.

Jones also addressed questions about her approach to rebuilding staff morale and tackling the office’s chronic understaffing. She pledged to foster a collaborative work environment and ensure that staff are properly supported and trained.

Council members also discussed long-term reforms, including potential updates to Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to strengthen

compliance enforcement and clarify fiscal management responsibilities. Jones voiced her support for reforming outdated chapter policies and improving the standardization of financial procedures.

Speaker Curley closed by emphasizing the significance of the confirmation: “Our communities expect accountability. It’s time we deliver with clear policies, reliable reporting, and leadership that reflects the best interests of our Nation.”

Serving as final authority, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 14 in favor and two opposed, approving the confirmation of Ms. Jeanine Jones as Navajo Nation Auditor General.

25th Navajo Nation Council approves annex of Lower 89 land into Cameron Chapter

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, April 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved the annexation of approximately 13.79 acres of land, known as the Lower Highway 89 Land, into the Cameron Chapter, marking a significant step toward economic development that will benefit Navajo relocatees.

Legislation No. 0016-25 formalizes the annexation following extensive coordination with the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise (NNGE), the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission, the U.S. Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The land has been officially placed into trust status by the United States for the benefit of the Navajo Nation, as authorized by former U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Bryan Newland in November 2024.

“This annexation completes a long process to place this land into trust and align it with the vision of the Cameron Chapter,” said Resources and Development Committee Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson. “Thanks to the efforts of past and current leadership, especially former Chapter President Charlie Smith and current President Evelyn Kerley Little. This land can now support long-term revenue, job creation, and community empowerment through Navajo-



Resources and Development Committee Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson sponsored a legislation to annex the Lower Highway 89 Land into Cameron Chapter.

preferred hiring and development.”

The annexed land, which includes the Horsemen Lodge parcel, was originally purchased by the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise and conveyed to the Navajo Nation in 2024. The land serves as a gateway into the Navajo Nation along Highway 89, offering high visibility and tourism potential just north of Flagstaff, Ariz.

Cameron Chapter passed supporting resolutions authorizing economic development on the land, including gaming operations and the sale of alcohol—both of which require formal chapter approval under the

Navajo Nation’s gambling and liquor ordinances. According to NNGE General Counsel Ron Rosier, the annexation marks the final step in granting land entitlement rights to NNGE, with a forthcoming business site lease agreement with the Navajo Nation to follow.

Legislation cosponsor Council Delegate Otto Tso noted that the land trust process was carried out under the authority of the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act. “The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission requested the use of federal authority to place the land into trust for the Lower 89 area and Horsemen Lodge,” Tso said.

Delegate Tso also emphasized that relocatees will benefit from the project. “All revenue generated from lease payments will be deposited into the Diné Relocatee Trust Fund, which is administered by the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office,” he said. “These processes are governed by federal law.”

NNGE Executive Director of Development Mary West added that the project’s broader goals are to stimulate regional employment and tourism. “This vision was always about creating jobs and increasing revenue for the southwestern portion of the Navajo Nation,” West said. “These properties will be among the first to welcome travelers into the Nation along Highway 89. Our partnership with Cameron helps position the Nation for growth and visibility.”

“This is a monumental achievement not just for Cameron, but for the entire Nation,” said Vice Chair Johnson. “We now move forward together, grounded in community and empowered by sovereignty.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council voted to approve Legislation No. 0016-25 with a vote of 12 in favor and five opposed. The Navajo Nation Council has final authority with Legislation No. 0016-25.

Council confirms commissioner appointment to Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, April 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0024-25, confirming the appointment of Mabel Franklin to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission. The legislation was sponsored by Resources and Development Committee (RDC) Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson.

“This appointment comes at a critical time for our Nation, as we continue to confront the widespread and lasting damage caused by over 500 abandoned uranium mines and the federal government’s failure to ensure proper cleanup,” said RDC Vice Chair Johnson. “Ms. Franklin brings a deep commitment to environmental justice

and policy, and her voice will be instrumental in pushing for stronger interagency coordination and more transparent, culturally responsible remediation strategies. Her expertise will help the Commission advance solutions that not only restore our lands, but also protect our communities’ health, heritage, and future.”

Franklin will serve as the community member representing the Western Abandoned Uranium Mine Region. Her appointment follows a thorough review process conducted by the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee, which exercises legislative oversight of the Commission. As established under Navajo Nation law, the Council

holds authority to appoint six members to the Commission—each representing one of the six uranium-impacted regions defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission is tasked with guiding efforts related to uranium contamination cleanup and policy development. Its members are required to be enrolled members of the Navajo Nation, with backgrounds in environmental science, justice, engineering, social science, health, or policy.

Ms. Franklin’s qualifications include her experience in environmental justice and policy. Her term on

the Commission will extend until September 30, 2029, with the potential for renewal by Council action.

The Navajo Nation Council established the Commission to ensure community representation and advocacy in addressing the legacy of uranium mining across Navajo lands.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0024-25, which was included in a consent agenda, with a vote of 18 in favor and none opposed. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority on the legislation.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council receives report from Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — During the opening day of the 2025 Spring Session, the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force presented their second quarter report to the 25th Navajo Nation Council, outlining major developments, progress on strategic initiatives, and upcoming steps to address the crisis of missing and murdered Diné individuals across the Navajo Nation.

Chairwoman Amber Kanazbah Crotty stated in the report, “the Missing and Murdered Diné Relative Task Force is committed to assisting families with missing loved ones. We will continue to advocate on their behalf to ensure they feel heard and seen by the Nation.”

The report detailed substantial progress on several initiatives, including the development of the Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP), which is currently undergoing final edits in collaboration with nonprofit partners and victim advocates. The TCRP aims to formalize interagency coordination, improve reporting mechanisms, and implement culturally grounded

protocols for family communication and public awareness. Once finalized, the Task Force plans to present legislation to make the TCRP official within the Navajo Nation. The 25th Navajo Nation Council also received updates on a centralized missing persons database being developed through a partnership with Navajo Technical University (NTU).

Designed to comply with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards, the system will provide real-time case updates to families and function effectively even in rural areas with limited internet connectivity. Completion is projected by late 2026.

The Task Force further reported on a proposal from the Navajo Nation Department of Criminal Investigation to create a Missing Persons Unit under its department. The proposed unit would support timely case management and offer direct access to case information for families. The Task Force is actively advocating for funding to establish and sustain the unit.

Additionally, the report highlighted broader strategic initiatives, including the creation of a dedicated MMIP investigative unit with cross-jurisdictional authority, expansion of culturally competent victim services, and development of a Navajo-operated certified search and rescue (SAR) program. These efforts aim to address systemic gaps in law enforcement response, data sharing, and victim advocacy.

Despite prominent progress, the report stressed persistent challenges such as inconsistent funding, jurisdictional barriers, and limited forensic capacity. Federal funding cuts have reduced national MMIP support from \$2 million to \$200,000, constraining vital services. The report calls for sustained investment from tribal, federal, and nonprofit sources to support long-term solutions.

“The work of the Task Force represents a vital step toward justice, healing, and accountability,” said Chairwoman Crotty. “This is not just a policy effort—it’s a promise to our people that their stories matter, their voices count, and their safety is a



Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty presented the task force's second quarterly report.

priority.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council accepted the Task Force's written report with a vote of 11 in favor, seven opposed, and one member not voting. The full report is available on the 25th Navajo Nation Council's website under the committee documents section.

Navajo Nation Council opposes school voucher executive order, citing threats to sovereignty and tribal education systems

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On April 21st, the 25th Navajo Nation Council has passed legislation opposing Executive Order 14191, a federal directive issued by U.S. President Trump promoting the use of federal education funds, especially BIE funds, for private, charter, and faith-based schools.

Legislation No. 0057-25, sponsored by Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, asserts that the order was enacted without proper tribal consultation and poses serious risks to the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation and the future of Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded schools.

Executive Order 14191, titled “Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families,” directs the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to review how federal funds could be used for non-BIE educational



Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez sponsored a legislation opposing Executive Order 14191.

options and to submit a plan within 90 days. The Navajo Nation argues that such measures ignore the federal government's trust and treaty obligations under the Treaties of 1849 and 1868, which promise education for Navajo children within the framework of tribal sovereignty.

“This order undermines the trust responsibility guaranteed in our treaties and poses a threat to community schools that this administration fails to visit,” said Delegate Dr. Andy Nez. “Our schools are already under-resourced, and many serve as the only educational institution for students; diverting funds will only widen those gaps.”

The legislation outlines concerns about redirecting federal education funds away from BIE schools, most of which serve students in remote areas with no viable alternatives. It also notes that 31 of 66 BIE-funded schools are located in rural and broadband-limited areas of the Navajo Nation, making school choice policies impractical and harmful to Navajo students.

Delegate Vince James added, “Our students deserve stability, not policies

that risk school closures or reduced services in rural and underserved areas.”

The legislation reaffirms the Navajo Nation's government-to-government relationship with the United States and its treaty protections, formally opposes school choice systems that bypass tribal consultation or diminish BIE funding, and requests additional tribal consultation with the U.S. Department of Education and the Bureau of Indian Education. It also authorizes the Navajo Nation President, Vice President, and Speaker to take all necessary steps to advocate for the Nation's position at the federal level.

Serving as final authority, the 25th Navajo Nation Council passed Legislation 0057-25 under consent agenda with a vote of 18 in favor and none opposed.

Navajo Nation Council honors excellence in service, education, athletics, and veteran advocacy during recognition ceremony

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, April 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council set time aside to honor outstanding individuals whose contributions span economic leadership, athletic excellence, cultural advocacy, and military service. The recognition ceremony was a heartfelt display of gratitude, showcasing the deep respect the Nation holds for those who uplift and protect the Diné people.

Council Delegate Brenda Jesus opened the ceremony by honoring Dr. Alicia L. Murphy, the first Diné woman to serve as the economist for the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development.

Dr. Murphy earned her doctorate in economic development from New Mexico State University, becoming the only Indigenous person nationwide to receive such a degree. She emphasized that her work is rooted in love for her community.

“My educational background and career is really rooted in my love and passion for my community. Being able to do the research that’s needed to help with policy change and lawmaking is an honor,” said Dr. Murphy.

Delegate Jesus also paid tribute to the late Leander Frank, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Navajo Nation police officer who lost his life in the line of duty in 2016. His son accepted a certificate of recognition on his behalf, highlighting Frank’s selfless service from the coastal conflict zones to his years protecting communities across the Nation.

The ceremony continued with recognition of Navajo veterans in honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Veterans from the St. Michael’s, Oak Springs, and Pine Springs Chapters were acknowledged with heartfelt remarks and certificates of appreciation.

The Missing Man Table, a solemn military tradition honoring service members who never returned home, was introduced by Art Hardy. “You have bestowed honor on yourself and your family,” Hardy said. “The Missing Man Table symbolizes those warriors who didn’t make it back. May they rest in peace and in the warrior’s paradise.”

Further recognition was extended to Mike Talleda, a Cuban refugee and longtime community advocate, and Alroy Billiman, a combat veteran and counselor working to support fellow veterans through trauma and substance recovery.

“Mike and Alroy represent the spirit of service and healing that defines true leadership,” said Delegate Dr. Andy Nez. “Their outreach reminds us of our traditional value — to give back.”

The Council also celebrated student athletes from Navajo Preparatory School. The girls’ basketball

team and boys’ cross-country team were honored for winning 2025 New Mexico State Championships.

“These youth are ambassadors of the Navajo Nation,” said Delegate Shawna Ann Claw. “They exemplify discipline, teamwork, and cultural pride.”

Photographers Alvin and Matilda Smith were recognized by Delegate Helena Nez Begay for decades of volunteer service at youth rodeo events, capturing moments that have encouraged generations of young athletes. Matilda Smith reflected on her family’s long history in the rodeo and expressed gratitude for being honored at the Council Chamber where her father once sat as a delegate.

Delegate Vince James recognized Patricia Shirley with an award for her 50 years of service at the Friendship House in San Francisco, a center supporting Native individuals recovering from substance use.

“I’m 82 years old, but I still have more to do. When someone in pain comes to our doors, it’s like a child returning home,” Shirley shared.

Etta Arviso was recognized by Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty for her frontline efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her work provided critical aid to veterans, first responders, and vulnerable children.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Council Delegate Vince James honored Patricia Shirley for 50 years of service at the Friendship House in San Francisco, Calif.



Council Delegate Brenda Jesus (second from left) recognized Dr. Alicia L. Murphy (center right) as the first woman to serve as Economist for the Nation.



Council Delegate Helena Nez Begay honored rodeo photographers Alvin and Matilda Smith.



Etta Arviso (left) was honored by Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty for her frontline efforts during the pandemic.

RECOGNITIONS FROM PAGE 14

“Miss Arviso showed that real leadership is love in action — she gave when our Nation was in crisis,” said Crotty.

Crotty also uplifted the voices of Downwinders and Post-1971 Uranium Miners, many of whom continue to seek justice through the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA).

“These are our relatives who travel to D.C. to advocate for justice. Many of us have family who suffered from contamination, and the federal government must acknowledge their pain,” Crotty said. She also recognized Kathleen Tsoisie for her continued advocacy efforts in this space.

The Navajo Nation Council commends each honoree for embodying the values of service, resilience, and community. Their stories will be archived for future generations to remember and honor.



Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw (far right) honored the Navajo Preparatory High School boys and girls cross country teams for their state championship efforts.



Council Delegate Brenda Jesus (third from left) recognized the Oak Springs and St. Michaels Vietnam Veterans.



Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson recognized the efforts of Navajo educator Ryan 'Chip' Chee.



The efforts of Radiation Exposure Compensation Act advocates were recognized by Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty.



Council Delegate Brenda Jesus honored the family of the late Leander Frank, a former U.S. Marine and Navajo Police Officer.

Council opposes Arizona State Superintendent's threats to DEI Policies

25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approves Water Resources Trust Fund Expenditure Plan

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On the second day of the Spring Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation 0025-25, approving the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund Expenditure Plan to fund critical projects that will deliver safe drinking water and expand agricultural irrigation.

"This legislation is a promise to our people," said Council Delegate Rickie Nez, who sponsored the legislation. "It delivers long-overdue access to clean drinking water across the Navajo Nation and irrigation for our farmers in Upper Fruitland. This is a commitment not just to today's generation but to the generations to come."

The expenditure plan implements plans for the \$50 million settlement fund to be used by the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (NNDWR). Originally established to resolve Navajo Nation water rights claims in the San Juan River Basin, the trust fund became available for expenditure in December 2019. The plan was developed by the NNDWR and authorizes the department to oversee its implementation.

The approved plan allocates \$20 million toward increasing the capacity of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) to deliver water into Arizona through the Four Corners region. This expansion is vital to supporting a proposed water rights settlement for Diné communities in Arizona.

An additional \$5 million will fund connection projects to link the NGWSP with local public water systems along the San Juan and Cutter Laterals. These systems currently depend on groundwater and serve more than 10,000 customers. Improvements will include water storage tanks, pipelines, pump stations, treatment facilities, and supporting infrastructure.

The plan also dedicates \$15 million to the Upper Fruitland Irrigation Project, a major step toward revitalizing agriculture in that region by constructing a new irrigation diversion system.

To improve local infrastructure and public health, \$4.7 million will support water infrastructure improvement projects. These funds will help expand and modernize water and wastewater systems within the NGWSP service area and leverage additional funding sources through cost-sharing efforts.

Recognizing urgent safety concerns from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



Health, Education, and Human Services Committee Chair Vince James sponsored legislation opposing Arizona Superintendent Horne's recent directive that threatens federal funding to schools over DEI guidance.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On April 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council introduced and deliberated emergency Legislation No. 0060-25, opposing the Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne's recent directives that threaten federal funding to schools over compliance with federal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) guidance.

Sponsored by Health, Education, and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) Chair Vince James, the emergency resolution affirms the Navajo Nation's political sovereignty and treaty obligations with the federal government while rejecting the Arizona superintendent's efforts to enforce certification compliance that could endanger tribal educational programs.

The legislation follows guidance issued on April 3, 2025, by Superintendent Horne, who warned Arizona schools of potential loss of federal funds if they failed to attest compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI civil rights policy regarding DEI programs.

"This legislation defends the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation and the education of our children," said Delegate James. "We are standing up against unjust mandates that would jeopardize school funding critical to culturally inclusive programs,

language revitalization, and special education support across our communities."

Council members, education advocates, and local school board representatives expressed widespread concern during the Council session, citing the disproportionate harm such funding threats could inflict on tribal-serving schools. Districts such as Chinle, Ganado, Tuba City, and Window Rock rely heavily on federal funding streams like Title I, Title VI, and Impact Aid making up to 75% of their operating budgets in some cases.

"Our mission is to provide high-quality education that honors our language, our culture, and our students' diverse needs," said Marcarlo Roanhorse, Ganado Unified School District Board President. "Signing this certification without understanding how 'DEI' is defined puts that mission at risk."

The Council emphasized that DEI efforts within tribal-serving schools reflect treaty and trust obligations of the United States to support Indian education—not race-based preferences as the Arizona Superintendent suggests. Legislation 0060-25 reaffirms that federal education programs for Navajo students are political in nature, rooted in the 1849 and 1868 Treaties, and upheld by landmark U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

"Federal education commitments to Indian nations are not optional—they are legal obligations," said Delegate James. "We are not subject to the same classifications as other racial or ethnic groups. Our schools are expressions of our sovereignty, and we will defend them accordingly."

The resolution authorizes the Navajo Nation President, Vice President, and Speaker to advocate for the Nation's position in response to state and federal agencies. It also received strong student and educator support, with many sharing personal accounts of how DEI programs empower students, reduce dropout rates, and promote culturally rooted learning environments.

As questions regarding legal risks and federal oversight continue, Navajo Nation legal advisors have indicated the Nation's sovereign position allows it to assert objections to state-level mandates that infringe upon treaty and trust responsibilities.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council serves as final authority, voting 18 in favor with none opposed. The resolution does not compel schools to reject certification but offers political and moral support for those facing difficult decisions.

25th Navajo Nation Council discusses Navajo-Utah priorities with Utah Lt. Gov. Henderson

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, April 24, members of the Navajo-Utah Commission joined Speaker Crystalyne Curley in welcoming Utah Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson and Congressman Mike Kennedy to the Navajo Nation Council Chamber to strengthen communication on Navajo Nation priorities.

“Through collaboration with Navajo-Utah Chapters, tribal governments, and state and federal agencies, we’ve developed key priorities that address long-standing challenges,” Speaker Curley told the lieutenant governor.

Discussions focused on water rights, transportation infrastructure, uranium contamination, and economic development.

Speaker Curley opened by addressing the Utah-Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Interlocutory Decree and thanked Lt. Gov. Henderson for her continued support.

“We need to jointly develop an expenditure plan for the Utah-Navajo Water Rights Settlement to resolve issues like rights of way, water delivery systems, and infrastructure,” Curley said. “This isn’t about golf courses or swimming pools—it’s about turning on a faucet and having running water.”

Budget and Finance Chair Shaandiin Parrish highlighted that nearly half of the approximately 12,000 Navajo-Utah residents still lack piped water. She also urged the lieutenant governor to advocate for the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (NAIWRSA).

NAIWRSA proposes allocating 89 percent—or 44,700 acre-feet per year—of Arizona’s Upper Basin Colorado River Water, and approximately \$5 billion for tribal water infrastructure and trust funds.



In meeting with Utah Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson and Congressman Mike Kennedy, Speaker Curley discussed water rights, transportation infrastructure, uranium contamination and economic development.

“Our partners in Utah value tribal self-sufficiency,” said Chair Parrish. “Economic development depends on water infrastructure. We need your partnership to realize these goals.”

Council Delegate Curtis Yanito echoed the importance of securing clean water to support Navajo prosperity and address uranium contamination.

“Much of our water is tainted with uranium. As contamination spreads, our people can’t rely on hauling potable water from windmills,” Yanito said. “In many areas, it feels like a third world country. Where state lines end, so do resources.”

Delegates also asked for Lt. Gov. Henderson’s support of Senate Bill 243, introduced by Senator Josh Hawley, which seeks to expand the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. The bill includes an estimated \$50 million to address the impact of uranium mining on the Navajo Nation.

Speaker Curley also requested \$1 million in matching funds from the state for the Oljato/Navajo Mountain Road EIS Project. The total project cost is \$4 million, with the Navajo Nation already committing \$1 million.

“This transportation project touches every concern we’ve

raised—emergency response, public safety, taxation, tourism, and election security,” Curley said.

Lt. Gov. Henderson affirmed her commitment to ongoing collaboration.

“We’re here to understand how we can work together more effectively,” Henderson said. “The interface between the state and the Navajo Nation is complex, but nothing worthwhile is ever easy.”

Congressman Kennedy also expressed his dedication to partnership.

“It’s not by chance we’re here. We are born for these responsibilities,” Kennedy said. “I’m here to serve—and to solve problems together.”

Delegates closed by emphasizing the need for continued government-to-government consultation between the states, the federal government, and the sovereign Navajo Nation.

“We must continue to strengthen this dialogue, especially on issues impacted by Presidential Executive Orders,” said Speaker Curley.

WATER RESOURCES TRUST FUND FROM PAGE 16



Council Delegate Rickie Nez sponsored legislation to approve the Water Resources Development Trust Fund Expenditure Plan.

NNDWR, the plan also sets aside \$2.4 million for a new office facility. The current building in Fort Defiance has been deemed structurally unsafe for workers and unfit for occupancy.

The legislation also allocates \$2.88 million for indirect costs and administrative expenses, along with authorization to use fund income interest for any of the approved project categories without requiring further Navajo Nation Council approval.

Strict guidelines ensure that all withdrawn funds are used exclusively for water resource development. The plan prohibits per capita distributions and restricts money withdrawal by any Navajo Nation leader or employee and is strictly to be spent on projects directly tied to water delivery, irrigation, or conservation in line with the settlement agreement.

The NNDWR is tasked with administering the funds, including design, construction, and oversight of the projects. An annual report on expenditures and activities will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, the Office of the President and Vice President, the Navajo Nation Council, and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

“This plan represents a landmark investment in our people’s health, food security, and future,” Delegate Nez said. “We are taking control of our water, our land, and our future.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved the legislation with 18 votes in favor, none opposed, the Navajo Nation Council is final authority of this legislation.

2025 SPRING SESSION LEGISLATION RESULTS



LEGISLATION 0013-25:
An Action Relating to Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Permanent Appointment of the Honorable Letitia Stover as Navajo Nation District Court Judge

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Steven R. Arviso
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Crystalyne Curley
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Arbin Mitchell
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Nathan Notah
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

Action: Passed

Yea: 18
Begay, Helena-Nez
Begay, Norman M.
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
James, Vince R.
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Mitchell, Arbin
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rickie
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Tolth, George H.
Yanito, Curtis
Yazzie, Cherilyn
Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 0

Not Voting: 0

Excused: 5
Arviso, Steven R.
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl R.
Tso, Otto

Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0014-25:
An Action Relating to Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Permanent Appointment of the Honorable Malcolm Laughing as Navajo Nation District Court Judge

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Steven R. Arviso
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Crystalyne Curley
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Arbin Mitchell
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Nathan Notah
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

Action: Passed

Yea: 18
Begay, Helena-Nez
Begay, Norman M.
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
James, Vince R.
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Mitchell, Arbin
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rickie
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Tolth, George H.
Yanito, Curtis
Yazzie, Cherilyn
Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 0

Not Voting: 0

Excused: 5
Arviso, Steven R.
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl R.
Tso, Otto

Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0015-25:
An Action Relating to Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Permanent Appointment of the Honorable Victor J. Clyde as Navajo Nation District Court Judge

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Steven R. Arviso
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Crystalyne Curley
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Arbin Mitchell
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Nathan Notah
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

Action: Passed

Yea: 18
Begay, Helena-Nez
Begay, Norman M.
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
James, Vince R.
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Mitchell, Arbin
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rickie
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Tolth, George H.
Yanito, Curtis
Yazzie, Cherilyn
Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 0

Not Voting: 0

Excused: 5
Arviso, Steven R.
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl R.
Tso, Otto

Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0032-25:
An Action Relating to Law and Order and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Probation Appointment of Tyson Yazzie as Navajo Nation Court Judge

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Nathan Notah

Action: Passed

Yea: 18
Begay, Helena-Nez
Begay, Norman M.
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
James, Vince R.
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Mitchell, Arbin
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rickie
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Tolth, George H.
Yanito, Curtis
Yazzie, Cherilyn
Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 0

Not Voting: 0

Excused: 5
Arviso, Steven R.
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl R.
Tso, Otto

Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0024-25:
An Action Relating to Naabik'íyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Ms. Mable Franklin to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission Representing the Western Abandoned Uranium Mines Region

SPONSOR: Honorable Casey Allen Johnson

Action: Passed

Yea: 18
Begay, Helena-Nez
Begay, Norman M.
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
James, Vince R.
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Mitchell, Arbin
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rickie
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Tolth, George H.
Yanito, Curtis
Yazzie, Cherilyn
Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 0

Not Voting: 0

Excused: 5
Arviso, Steven R.
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl R.
Tso, Otto

Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0057-25:
An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Opposing Any School Choice System and Any Subsequent Education Polices Including the Proposed School Voucher Program in Executive Order 14191, that Negatively Impacts the Navajo Nation or Navajo Students

SPONSOR: Honorable Andy Nez
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

Action: Passed

Yea: 18
Begay, Helena-Nez
Begay, Norman M.
Charles-Newton, Eugenia
Claw, Shawna Ann
Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
James, Vince R.
Jesus, Brenda
Johnson, Casey Allen
Mitchell, Arbin
Nez, Andy
Nez, Rickie
Notah, Nathan
Parrish, Shaandiin
Simonson, Germaine
Tolth, George H.
Yanito, Curtis
Yazzie, Cherilyn
Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 0

Not Voting: 0

Excused: 5
Arviso, Steven R.
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
Simpson, Danny
Slater, Carl R.
Tso, Otto

Presiding Speaker:
Curley, Crystalyne



LEGISLATION 0060-25:

An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Opposing the Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne's Guidance Issued to Arizona Schools Regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programs and Objecting to Any Threats of Withholding Funds Made to Arizona Schools

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

Action: Passed

Yeas: 18

Begay, Helena-Nez
 Begay, Noman M.
 Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
 James, Vince R.
 Jesus, Brenda
 Johnson, Casey Allen
 Mitchell, Arbin
 Nez, Andy
 Nez, Rickie
 Notah, Nathan
 Parrish, Shaandiin
 Simonson, Germaine
 Slater, Carl Roessel
 Tolth, George H.
 Tso, Otto
 Yanito, Curtis
 Yazzie, Cherilyn
 Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 0

Excused: 4

Arviso, Steven R.
 Charles-Newton, Eugenia
 Simpson, Danny
 Daniels, Jr., Herman M.

Not Voting: 1

Claw, Shawna Ann

Presiding Speaker:

Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0016-25:

An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Annexing the Lower Highway 89 Land (13.79 Acres) into the Cameron Chapter, Navajo Nation

SPONSOR: Honorable Casey Allen Johnson
 CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Arbin Mitchell
 CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Otto Tso

Action: Passed

Yea: 12

Begay, Helena-Nez
 Begay, Noman M.
 James, Vince R.
 Jesus, Brenda
 Johnson, Casey Allen
 Mitchell, Arbin
 Nez, Rickie
 Parrish, Shaandiin
 Slater, Carl Roessel
 Tso, Otto
 Yanito, Curtis
 Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 5

Claw, Shawna Ann
 Nez, Andy
 Simonson, Germaine
 Tolth, George H.
 Yazzie, Cherilyn

Excused: 5

Arviso, Steven R.
 Charles-Newton, Eugenia
 Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
 Notah, Nathan
 Simpson, Danny

Not Voting : 1

Crotty, Amber Kanazbah

Presiding Speaker:

Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0025-25:

An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund Expenditure Plan Pursuant to P.L. 111-11 § 10702

SPONSOR: Honorable Rickie Nez
 CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton
 CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

Action: Passed

Yea: 18

Begay, Helena-Nez
 Begay, Norman M.
 Claw, Shawna Ann
 Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
 James, Vince R.
 Jesus, Brenda
 Johnson, Casey Allen
 Mitchell, Arbin
 Nez, Andy
 Nez, Rickie
 Parrish, Shaandiin
 Simonson, Germaine
 Slater, Carl Roessel
 Tolth, Geroge H.
 Tso, Otto
 Yanito, Curtis
 Yazzie, Cherilyn
 Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 0

Excused: 5

Arviso, Steven R.
 Charles-Newton, Eugenia
 Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
 Notah, Nathan
 Simpson, Danny

Not Voting : 0

Presiding Speaker:

Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0047-25:

An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik'íyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Heather L. Clah, Esq. as the Navajo Nation Attorney General

SPONSOR: Honorable Rickie Nez

Action: Tabled

Yea: 10

Begay, Norman M.
 Claw, Shawna Ann
 James, Vince R.
 Jesus, Brenda
 Nez, Andy
 Parrish, Shaandiin
 Simonson, Germaine
 Slater, Carl Roessel
 Yanito, Curtis
 Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 8

Begay, Helena Nez
 Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
 Johnson, Casey Allen
 Mitchell, Arbin
 Nez, Rickie
 Tolth, George H.
 Tso, Otto
 Yazzie, Cherilyn

Excused: 5

Arviso, Steven R.
 Charles-Newton, Eugenia
 Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
 Notah, Nathan
 Simpson, Danny

Not Voting : 0

Presiding Speaker:

Curley, Crystalyne

LEGISLATION 0052-25:

An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Jeanine Jones as the Navajo Nation Auditor General

SPONSOR: Honorable Crystalyne Curley

Action: Passed

Yea: 14

Begay, Helena Nez
 Claw, Shawna Ann
 Crotty, Amber Kanazbah
 Curley, Crystalyne
 Jesus, Brenda
 Johnson, Casey Allen
 Mitchell, Arbin
 Nez, Rickie
 Simonson, Germaine
 Slater, Carl Roessel
 Tolth, George H.
 Tso, Otto
 Yanito, Curtis
 Yazzie, Lester C.

Nay: 2

Yazzie, Cherilyn
 Nez, Andy

Excused: 5

Arviso, Steven R.
 Charles-Newton, Eugenia
 Daniels, Jr., Herman M.
 Notah, Nathan
 Simpson, Danny

Not Voting : 2

Parrish, Shaandiin
 Begay, Norman M.

Presiding Speaker:

James, Vince R.,
 Speaker Pro Tempore



THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

P.O. BOX 3390 • WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515 • (928) 871-7160