

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0165-25_

SPONSOR: Crystalynne Curley

**TITLE: An Action Relating the Resources and Development Committee;
Confirming the Reappointment of Ms. Joelynn Ashley to the Navajo Nation Water
Right Commission as the Western Agency Commissioner Pursuant to Navajo
Nation Water Rights Commission Plan of Operation**

Date posted: July 01, 2025 at 7:56PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0165-25

DATE: July 1, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. JOELYNN ASHLEY TO THE NAVAJO NATION WATER RIGHTS COMMISSION AS THE WESTERN AGENCY COMMISSIONER PURSUANT TO NAVAJO NATION WATER RIGHTS COMMISSION PLAN OF OPERATION

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to confirm the reappointment of Joelynn Ashley to the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission as the Western Agency Commissioner.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Resources and Development Committee

VOTING REQUIREMENT: 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: 141 M6 25
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 07/06/25
Eligible for Action: 07/07/25

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2025

Introduced By:



(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0165-25

AN ACTION RELATING
TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE
REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. JOELYNN ASHLEY TO THE NAVAJO NATION
WATER RIGHTS COMMISSION AS THE WESTERN AGENCY
COMMISSIONER PURSUANT TO NAVAJO NATION WATER RIGHTS
COMMISSION PLAN OF OPERATION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C §500(A).
- B. The Resources and Development Committee has final authority to confirm appointments of members to the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission (“NNWRC”). 2 N.N.C. §501(B)(9) and Resolution GSCAP-07-04, NNWRC Plan of Operation, Article 5(B).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The purpose of the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission is to ensure that the water rights of the Navajo Nation are vigorously pursued, effectively coordinated,

1 and to enhance the communication between all entities engaged in water rights efforts
2 on behalf of the Navajo Nation. NNWRC Plan of Operation, Article 2.

3 B. The Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission shall consist of seven (7) members
4 with no less than five (5) members being enrolled members of the Navajo Nation.
5 NNWRC Plan of Operation, Article 4(A).

6 C. No elected official from any city, county, state, federal or tribal government shall be
7 eligible for appointment to the NNWRC. NNWRC Plan of Operation, Article 4(F).

8 D. Commission members representing the Navajo public shall serve a term of four (4)
9 years and may be reappointed. Terms will expire on November 19 of the appropriate
10 year. NNWRC Plan of Operation, Article 4(C).

11 E. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation shall appoint two (2) members; the President of
12 the Navajo Nation shall appoint two (2) members; and the Chief Justice of the Navajo
13 Nation shall appoint one (1) member. NNWRC Plan of Operation, Article 5(A).

14 F. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council is assigned to appoint one (1) member
15 from the Eastern Agency and one (1) member from the Fort Defiance Agency; the
16 President of the Navajo Nation is assigned to appoint one (1) member from the
17 Shiprock Agency and one (1) member from the Chinle Agency; and the Chief Justice
18 of the Navajo Nation is assigned to appoint one (1) member from the Western
19 Agency. Such recommendations may be of individuals with experience in, but not
20 limited to the fields of engineering, economics, hydrology, natural resources law or
21 serving in the capacity as a public official. NNWRC Plan of Operation, Article 5(C).

22 G. In 2020, Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation Joanne Jayne appointed Ms. Joelynn
23 Ashley as the NNWRC Western Agency Commissioner and Ms. Joelynn Ashley was
24 confirmed as the NNWRC Western Agency Commissioner by the Resources and
25 Development Committee in RDCO-40-20.

26 H. Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission Commissioners may be reappointed to
27 another four-year term according to the NNWRC Plan of Operation, Article 4(C).

28 I. Ms. Joelynn Ashley fulfills the requirements to be reappointed as the Western Agency
29 Commissioner of the NNWRC. Ms. Ashley's Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood,
30

1 letter of interest to be reappointed to the NNWRC, and her resume are attached as
2 **Exhibit A.**

- 3 J. The Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation has reappointed Ms. Joelynn Ashley as the
4 Western Agency Commissioner of the NNWRC. Chief Justice Joanne Jayne's
5 NNWRC reappointment letter for Ms. Ashley to the Resource and Development
6 Chair is attached as **Exhibit B.**

7
8 **SECTION THREE. APPOINTMENT**

9 The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby
10 confirms Chief Justice Joanne Jayne's reappointment of Ms. Joelynn Ashley to the
11 Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission for a four-year term as the Western Agency
12 Commissioner which shall expire on November 19, 2026, in accordance with the
13 NNWRC Plan of Operation.