



SPEAKER'S REPORT

2025 SUMMER COUNCIL SESSION
SPEAKER CRYSTALYNE CURLEY



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



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Message from Speaker Crystalyne Curley

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya, Interim Madam Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley, 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 Summer Council Session.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I extend a very special welcome to all the horse riders and many others who made the journey over the last several days to be with us on the opening day of the session. Over the past week, riders began their journey from their respective communities to honor the tradition started many years ago by our past Navajo leaders.

Long ago, community leaders and Council members rode on horseback or in horse-drawn wagons from their homes to the Council Chamber, bringing with them their community issues and recommendations – this tradition continues today, and we are proud to share this special occasion with all of our Navajo people, especially our youth and elders.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council also recognizes all the participants and advocates who led the Angels vs. Drunk Drivers Awareness Walk to the Council Chamber, to honor the Peshlakai family and bring awareness to the prevention of driving under the influence.

This week, the 25th Navajo Nation Council will also host an appreciation event for first responders who have gone above and beyond battling wildfires and protecting our communities and people. We thank them and their families for their sacrifices and unwavering commitment to saving lives.

As we proceed with the summer season, we encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the teachings of our elders in relation to kinship and decision making. 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 for many years to come, but we must work together and move forward on a positive path during this session.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes, 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.



Crystalyne Curley, Speaker, 25th Navajo Nation Council



During the 2025 Summer Session Trail Ride, Speaker Curley honored former delegates Larry Noble (third from left) and Leslie Dele (second from right) for organizing the first trail ride.



Council Delegates Brenda Jesus (second from right) and Arbin Mitchell (right) ride to the Nation's capital during the 2025 Summer Session Trail Ride.

Federal Consultations & Advocacy

The 25th Navajo Nation Council remains at the forefront in informing and educating key federal appointees and officials regarding the priorities, challenges, and potential solutions that relate to improving our communities. 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, opposition to certain proposals, and paths forward.

We continue to call on the federal government 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 ruling that strengthens our positions in many areas in relation to recent Executive Orders, federal budget matters, and congressional actions. The members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council have adopted the following resolutions related to federal issues:

- On January 9th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council’s Naabik’iyatí’ 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’iyatí’ Committee is empowered to establish official positions of the Navajo Nation relating to county, state, and federal legislation and policy impacting the Navajo Nation.
- The Navajo Nation Council’s Naabik’iyatí’ Committee also took a position regarding 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*.
- The Naabik’iyatí’ 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.
- Resolution CAP-13-25 was also approved, opposing any school choice system and any subsequent education policies including the school voucher program proposed within Executive Order 14191, that negatively impacts the Navajo Nation or Navajo students. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Navajo Nation Council and signed by the Navajo Nation President. The Executive Order entitled, “Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families” 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.”
- Resolution NABIJN-32-25 was adopted by the Naabik’iyatí’ Committee on June 12, which called on Congress and the Trump Administration to uphold its tribal trust and treaty obligations for Indian healthcare by preserving Medicaid funding for the Indian Health Service and tribal healthcare providers such as 638 healthcare centers.
- Resolutions NABIJN-39-25 and NABIJY-41-25 approved written comments to be submitted on behalf of the Navajo Nation to the U.S. Department of the Interior, outlining the Navajo Nation’s position on the federal government’s proposed restructuring plans for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and other key Indian Affairs programs. The comments were submitted in response to the “Department of Government Efficiency” Workforce Optimization Initiative under Executive Order 14210, which proposes consolidating or realigning services within federal agencies including Indian Affairs to increase efficiency. In accordance with the resolution, the Nation strongly opposes any proposed consolidation of the Navajo Area BIA Region and programs. It further states that the initiative could undermine the delivery of essential services,

limit tribal consultation, and violate treaty obligations. The Navajo Nation's formal written comments provide detailed concerns related to education, law enforcement, funding access, and self-governance.

- NABIIY-40-25 approved the submittal of written comments in response to the U.S. Department of the Interior's May 1, 2025, letter to tribal leaders announcing consultation sessions concerning the Department's emergency permitting procedures, in response to the National Energy Emergency declared by President Trump. The Department requested input on proposed emergency procedures to accelerate energy development under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The resolution outlines concerns that the emergency permitting procedures would significantly shorten environmental review timelines and reduce or eliminate tribal consultation. Under the proposed NEPA emergency framework, environmental assessments could be finalized within 14 days, and full environmental impact statements could be completed in 28 days, with limited or no draft review or public comment opportunities. Such changes may lead to bypassing tribal voices on projects that may affect trust lands, sacred landscapes, or environmentally sensitive regions. The response also objected to the inclusion of uranium as a covered energy resource eligible for expedited review, citing a longstanding history of environmental and health impacts on Navajo lands. Any new uranium development proposals must undergo thorough environmental review and meaningful consultation prior to approval.

Indian Health Service's Proposed Realignment

The Indian Health Service issued a "Dear Tribal Leader Letter" on June 12, 2025, announcing consultation sessions and written comments concerning the proposed agency-wide strategic realignment coinciding with IHS's 70th anniversary. According to IHS, the realignment aims to improve direct care delivery, internal operations, and support for Tribal self-determination.

On July 10, Council members along with the Navajo Department of Health participated in a consultation session, calling for greater transparency and ongoing consultation from IHS concerning the purpose, intent, and expected outcomes of the realignment effort. The Council reminded federal partners of the Treaty of 1868 between the Navajo Nation and the United States, which guarantees the right to healthcare as part of the federal trust responsibility. Council members, along with other tribal leaders, urged IHS to hold an additional round of formal tribal consultations once realignment options are fully developed by IHS to allow for more meaningful tribal input.

We emphasized that any structural changes within IHS must not come at the expense of healthcare services for the Navajo people and voiced concerns about the ongoing IHS hiring freeze and its disproportionate impact on rural areas such as the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation continues to call on IHS to fully support the construction of a new Gallup Indian Medical Center and to protect third-party reimbursements, including Medicare and Medicaid.

In addition, Council members requested that IHS account for relevant state and tribal laws and policies that affect its operations during the realignment process, such as traditional healing practices in Arizona and the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, both of which require direct service delivery by IHS. The Council continues to work with the Navajo Department of Health to formulate the written comments to be adopted through a Naabik'iyáti' Committee resolution and submitted to the IHS before the August 28, 2025 deadline.



Speaker Crystalne Curley (left) and Council Delegates Germaine Simonson (second from right) and Dr. Andy Nez (right) called for greater transparency and ongoing consultation with IHS.

Protecting Medicaid

The 25th Navajo Nation Council took a strong stance to protect Medicaid for Navajo recipients and third party funding for health care centers through the passage of Resolution NABIJN-32-25 by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on June 12, which called on Congress and the Trump Administration to uphold its tribal trust and treaty obligations and to preserve Medicaid funding for the Indian Health Service and tribal healthcare providers such as 638 healthcare centers. This legislation was in response to the federal reconciliation bill, also known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill," which was passed and signed by President Trump on July 4.

Key provisions within Resolution NABIJN-32-25 called on Congress to ensure that a 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for healthcare services received by or through the Indian Health Service and tribal healthcare providers continue, called for the exemption of tribal members for new work requirements, and to preserve full Medicaid funding for IHS and tribal healthcare providers as well as exempting Medicaid reimbursements for services received through the IHS or tribal healthcare facilities from any federal or state cap on Medicaid funds.

The new reconciliation bill cuts eligibility and coverage for Medicaid over a 10-year period. Most of the cuts will take effect after 2026, so there is no immediate impact. Enrolled tribal members were exempt from the new work and community service requirements under the new law – this also applies to SNAP benefits. Tribes were also successful in preventing cuts to the 100% FMAP for tribes.

In addition, there will be impacts to state funding for Medicaid and SNAP which may cause budgetary shortfalls for states. The implementation of Medicaid is a partnership between federal and state funding, with most of the funding coming from the federal government. With the changes made under the new law, states are now having to figure out how to make up for the reduced funding after 2026.

It is critical that the Navajo Nation continue to work closely with Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah to ensure that state leadership and agencies are aware of the exemption of tribes for the new work requirements and the six-month coverage period for SNAP benefits. The 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue to work with the Navajo Nation Washington Office, along with federal and state partners, to minimize potential harmful impacts for Navajo recipients of Medicaid and SNAP benefits.

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)

The 25th Navajo Nation Council commends the passage of the reauthorization and extension of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) by Congress, which was then signed into law by President Trump on July 4, as part of the



Speaker Curley advocated to Rep. Eli Crane to protect Medicaid.



Speaker Curley provided updates for community members during a town hall meeting regarding the Oak Ridge Fire.



Council Delegate Vince James, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Speaker Curley, and Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez met to strengthen protections against wildfires.

reconciliation bill. The bill includes several key benefits including extending coverage to miners through December 31, 1990, expanding eligibility for core drillers and remediation workers, increasing compensation to \$100,000, covering additional kidney diseases for miners, and allowing for combined work histories.

Under the bill, RECA is extended through December 31, 2028. Despite strong advocacy efforts from former miners across the country and from the Navajo Nation, the bill does not expand the use of affidavits for employment history or allow previously successful claimants to resubmit for the difference under increased compensation and foregoes the grant program to study epidemiological impacts of uranium mining/milling GAO study/report on unmet medical benefits.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council adopted Resolution CJN-30-24 in 2024, in support of the reauthorization and expansion of RECA and met numerous times with congressional leaders to help advance the bill. The Council recognizes the successful outcome of this bill and remains committed to the ongoing work to secure more benefits and a longer-term extension of RECA.

Protecting Higher Education Scholarships for Navajo Students

On May 2, the Office of Management and Budget under the Trump Administration released the “skinny” budget outlining the White House’s proposals for the FY2026 budget, which included concerning reductions in funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Navajo Nation Council is mindful that the proposed cuts will face an uphill challenge as Congress puts forth their funding proposals and that there remains a likelihood of another continuing resolution if a compromise cannot be reached in Congress.

The Trump Administration released additional details related to its FY2026 budget recommendations on May 30, which included a recommended 67% reduction in the BIE’s Postsecondary Programs including the elimination of the Higher Education Grant Program. According to the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance, the Navajo Nation awarded \$25.5 million, including \$13.6 million Higher Education Grant Program funds, to 6,426 students in 2024. The federal funds account for more than half of the financial aid awarded to Navajo students last year.

On July 14, the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies released its FY2026 budget, which shows more funding for the BIA, BIE, and IHS compared to the funding levels proposed by the Office of Management and Budget. While we await more details of the bill, we remain engaged with the Navajo Nation Washington Office and congressional offices.

As the FY2026 federal budget process moves forward, the 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue meeting with congressional leaders and federal agencies to advocate for the protection of scholarship funding for our students. We understand that the Higher Education Grant Programs is critical to empowering our students and creating a prosperous future for our Nation. Diplomacy and consistent communication with congressional members and staff are central to this effort.

Public Safety and Missing Persons Advocacy

The FY2026 federal budget is critical to maintaining and securing funding and resources for Navajo law enforcement to protect our communities and help efforts to address missing persons cases. On July 3, the Navajo Police Department reported 66 total missing people, a number than fluctuates almost daily.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council’s Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force continues to work with unwavering commitment to address missing persons cases through advocacy, data collection, system development, community engagement, and coordination with local, tribal, state, and federal partners.



Speaker Curley has consistently urged the federal government to uphold meaningful tribal consultation and protect critical services from disruption.

The development of a tribally housed database remains to be the primary focus of the Task Force's long-term strategy. This system is being developed in close collaboration with Arizona State University, the New Mexico and Arizona MMIP Task Forces, the New Mexico Department of Justice, and Real Time Solutions. These discussions are centered around ensuring the database meets all legal and technical requirements, including full compliance with HIPAA and data security protocols. The database will be hosted at Navajo Technical University (NTU), and train Diné students in high-level research methods and data gathering, keeping our stories within our Nation and equipping our youth to lead future efforts in justice and healing.

Simultaneously, the Task Force is finalizing the Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP), which serves as a structured guide for Navajo communities and agencies when responding to missing persons cases. The TCRP outlines step-by-step processes for family support, communication coordination, and legal advocacy. Sections on victim services and advocacy are already complete and have been reviewed for alignment with best practices. The Task Force is collaborating with the Navajo Police Department, Department of Emergency Management, and community leaders to finalize the remaining sections. The complete plan is projected to be ready by the end of 2025.

The Task Force also continues to provide monthly educational presentations on the second Thursday of each month. These sessions, offered both online and in person, are used to connect families and community members with service providers such as Restoring Ancestral Winds, the Navajo Nation Prosecutor's Office, NamUs, Utah Navajo Health Services, and the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition. These sessions enhance public awareness and help families understand what support is available.

In terms of direct services, the MMDR Task Force supports the Division of Public Safety's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Unit (MMIPU) and advocates for more funding and resources. This unit was established to address MMIP cases within the Navajo Nation. Additionally, the Task Force advocated for funding for key organizations such as Northern Navajo Victim Witness Services and Utah Navajo Health Services, which offer critical assistance to families through advocacy, traditional healing, and case support.

The MMDR Core Team continues to address budget needs, including support for Four Corners K9 Search and Rescue and funding the database system at Navajo Technical University. Planning is underway for in-person meetings in September to finalize the database scope and coordinate with agencies in Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona.

The MMDR Task Force has made meaningful progress and continues to build a sustainable foundation for justice and healing. With the continued support of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, the Task Force is committed to addressing this crisis through data, education, advocacy, and action grounded in sovereignty and compassion.

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Crystalyne Curley, *Speaker*
25th Navajo Nation Council



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH PROGRAMS FY2025 THIRD QUARTER REPORTS

OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – THIRD QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 3RD QUARTER FY 2025

- **City of Flagstaff:** On May 16, 2025, the Commission met with the City of Flagstaff city council to discuss several issues, including but not limited to updating the Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties, introducing legislation that would address unscrupulous businesses, and law enforcement activities. A plan that was developed from the meeting which is the parties would establish sub-groups from their respective bodies. The sub-groups would work on the proposed bill addressing businesses and assess the areas that require updating in the MOU. The City of Flagstaff has been open to the Commission in addressing variety of concerns and issues affecting Navajo citizens in the city.
- **City of Albuquerque:** There is a renewed effort to work with the City of Albuquerque as it appointed a new indigenous liaison in the Office of Equity and Inclusion. The Office met with the new liaison, Ms. Brandi Ahmie, in the Albuquerque office then conducted meeting with the Office of Equity and Inclusion. The objective of the meetings was to formulate ways to address variety of issues in the city of Albuquerque. One of recent issues in the city is the recorded conversation between law enforcement personnel that referenced indigenous peoples in a derogatory term. The Office will initiate several projects with Ms. Ahmie, including the need to revisit the Memorandum of Understanding entered with the city.
- **Corley Nissan Issues:** During the second quarter in FY25, the Office took much time to collect documents from the Corley Nissan facility in Gallup. Since the collection of the documents was completed and the Corley Nissan bankruptcy case was closed, sorted the documents that were collected from Corley Nissan. The documents were segregated by the individual consumers whose vehicles were classified as abandoned. Although massive number of documents were collected, the Office learned that not all of the documents were properly preserved by scanning them. Some of the folders that were in the batch of scanned documents were empty which caused concern by the Office. Nonetheless, the Office sorted all scanned documents by individual consumers. The next step would be to share the information with the respective consumer and where necessary the New Mexico Department of Justice as it is litigating against Corley Nissan.
- **Holbrook School District Redistricting:** During the first and second quarters of FY25, the Office worked diligently with the Holbrook Unified School District No. 3 to formulate and adopt a new school board redistricting plan. As a matter of fact, school district adopted the Office's redistricting plan, and the school district made the decision to provide for an election for the new District 3 of the school board. During the third quarter of FY25, the Office made the effort to conduct follow-up communications with the Indian Wells and Dilkon chapters to ensure that there will be candidates for the new District 3 in order Navajos to elect candidate of their choice. Anyone that lives in District 3 and a registered voter can file his/her declaration of candidacy from June 7, 2025, through July 7, 2025. The declaration can be filed with the Navajo County education superintendent.
- **Immigration Issues:** In the second quarter of FY25, the Office coordinated field seminars on immigration issues as they may affect Navajo citizens. The Office partnered with American Civil Liberties Union. While there has not been any complaint filed with the Office about a Navajo citizen being detained and arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), the Office was contacted by two Navajo spouses whose husbands were arrested by ICE. The Office initiated search for these individuals and learned directly from ICE that the husbands are detained at the Florence holding facility. In addition, the Office imitated contact with an advocacy group in Arizona because in the month of May ICE was arresting individuals in the immigration court facilities. While there has been no indication that Navajo citizens are part the arrests, the Office met with

several organizations in the Phoenix area where there were presentations by various lawyers having knowledge about the immigration laws. The message during this meeting was that the current federal government administration is side stepping most immigration processes and procedures such as due process rights afforded to individuals arrested by ICE. The immigration process is often expedited without the proper hearings.

- **San Juan County Utah Settlement:** In the second quarter of FY25, the Office finalized the negotiation of the terms in the settlement agreement. The initial settlement agreement was entered in 2018 and was extended from 2020 to 2024. This round of extension is from 2024 to 2028. The newly negotiated agreement was filed with the Utah federal district court on April 22, 2025. It was not signed by the federal district court judge until just recently, in June 2025. While the extended settlement agreement specified that municipal elections are not covered, the Office recently worked with the county Navajo language interpreter to record the audio version of the county announcing the municipal elections for Blanding, Bluff and Monticello. The new settlement agreement will be in effect until the 2028 general election.
- **Work Session with Navajo Board of Election Supervisors:** notably, the Office has experience in redistricting election districts. The last successful redistricting the Office was involved in was the Holbrook School District No. 3. The Office worked closely with the Navajo Election Administration and presented to the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors regarding the redistricting principals and laws affecting Navajo citizens in county and state redistricting activities. On May 5, 2025, the Office conducted a work session for the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, although only three of the members attended (one appeared on the Zoom link but seemed to have limited participation). The Office shared three different maps – 1) current plan for the 25th Navajo Nation Council, 2) proposal taking into consideration chapter and agency boundaries and 3) grid map that made the effort to ensure that each election district is as equal in population as possible. The Office has the specialized Maptitude redistricting software to draw redistricting maps.
- **UPR process for USA:** the Office filed a shadow report about the United States of American shortfalls on protecting indigenous human rights, especially as it relates to San Francisco Peaks. The report was filed in March 2025 with the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review process. In the third quarter, the Office initiated contacts with various nation-states that could ask questions of the USA when under review on November 10, 2025. The Office contacted representatives of the Canada to filter questions to be presented to the USA. In addition, the Office found the visit to Canada by the King a positive one because the King assured the world community that Canada works with its indigenous peoples under the free, prior and informed consent indigenous human rights standard. The Office is further engaging the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to recommend nation-states that would ask questions of the USA.
- **Public Information Activities:** The Commission held three regular meetings and one special meeting during the second quarter and 13 press releases were generating which included public service announcements of public meetings and seminars. Star School Hate Crimes seminar was held on January 16, 2025 at Star School in Leupp Chapter region. The presentation consisted of General Overview: What is a Hate Crime Presented by Lawyers Committee Under Law; United States Department of Justice Community Relation Services and Child Safety: Both Physical and Cyber Presented by Department of Homeland Security. The audience consisted of parents and grandparents of the children who attended Star School there was 30 attendees. PIO develop newspaper advertisements, flyers and radio announcement for the upcoming seminars on Holbrook School District new Redistricting plans and the past Know Your Rights sessions across the Navajo Nation. PIO continues to work with Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology in the revamping of the NNHRC website. PIO also attended the attend Diné Bizaad Hózhóogo Bee náásgóo Nida'niitin "Moving Ahead in the Beauty of Teaching the Diné Language." The Diné Language conference has inspired how the NNHRC staff will be strengthening use of the Navajo

language within the office.

- San Francisco Peaks: Ongoing updates from the National Forest Service, HHPD, and the AZ State Historic Preservation Office about updates on the Memorandum of Agreement between federal agencies and the city of Flagstaff. Based on the MOU expiration expected in 2030, it is imperative that the commission continue to advocate Navajo Nation's human rights affects and assist the negotiations of the agreement going forth. Completed the Shadow Report of the review of the United States from the UPR. Had a work-session on March 11, 2025, with the Commissioners and was provided guidance to the work moving forward on the San Francisco Peaks and reviewed the Shadow Report as stakeholders for the USR.
- Citizen Complaints: The Commission has 8 cases open, and 20 cases closed.

RESOLUTIONS

- NNHRCAPRIL-26-25: Supporting the Extension of the Settlement Agreement Between the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and San Juan County Utah.
- NNHRCAPRIL-27-25: Rescheduling the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Regular Meeting from Thursday, March 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to March 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
- NNHRCMAY-28-25: Amending NNHRCFEB-02-09 by Adding Provisions of Meeting and Exceeding the Standard of Achievement.
- NNHRCMAY-29-25: Approving and Seeking the Final Adoption of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget and Unmet Needs.
- NNHRCMAY-30-25: Approving and Recommending the Amendment to Resolution NABIS-58-11 to include the Protection of all Navajo Sacred Places including the Grand Canyon.

Contact:

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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL FISCAL YEAR 2025 – THIRD QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 3RD QUARTER FY 2025

- Provided legal representation for the 2025 Spring Council.
- The following employees joined the program this quarter:
 - April 21, 2025 – An Attorney, MacArthur Stant, III, was hired.
 - May 5, 2025 – An Administrative Legal Secretary, Dana Martin, was hired.
 - May 5, 2025 – A Senior Attorney, Annie Perry, was hired.
 - May 19, 2025 – A Principal Attorney, Loya M. Henderson, was hired.
 - June 3, 2025 – A Legislative Analyst, LeManuel Tsinajinnie, was hired.
 - June 3, 2025 – A College Intern, Kateri Spencer, was hired.

- June 3, 2025 – A College Intern, Sariah Emerson, was hired.
- June 10, 2025 – A College Intern, Kaleigha Clytus, was hired.
- June 16, 2025 – A Principal Attorney, April Quinn, was hired.
- June 18, 2025 – A College Intern, Xavier Sandoval, was hired.
- June 30, 2025 – A Legislative Analyst, Daryl Begay, was hired.
- June 30, 2025 – A Programs & Projects Specialist, Dondi Begay Sr., was hired.
- Advertised, interviewed and made offers for vacant principal tribal court advocate, attorney candidate, and administrative staff positions. It is expected that one Principal Tribal Court Advocate and one Attorney Candidate will begin in the 4th Quarter. The program will continue the recruitment of qualified candidates for the remaining vacant positions.
- Provided legal services and drafted legislation for the FY 2025 Comprehensive Budget and all related oversight committees hearings and sessions.
- Provided legal services to the Title II Reform Committee and draft amendments to the Council and Standing Committees Rules of Order.
- Continued to represent Navajo Board of Elections Supervisors (NBOES), on election matters.
- Drafted and finalized 187 legislation requests and contract review.
- Provided legal guidance and assistance at over 82 Committee/Council meetings and work sessions, as well as over 71 Subcommittee/Boards/Commission meetings, work sessions and administrative hearings.
- OLC upholds its responsibilities to the public by maintaining mandatory training requirements for attorneys and advocates under professional responsibility rules.
- Provided legislative legal services at all Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee regular and special meetings, leadership meeting and work sessions.

GOALS & PRIORITIES

- Advise and assist the NNC, Standing Committees and sub-committees. Attend meetings to advise on legal, procedural and substantive questions.
- Attend Office of the Speaker meetings to keep abreast of all pertinent information received to ensure that OLC is kept updated and proactive concerning legislative needs, projects, and priorities.
- Fill remaining vacant attorney and staff positions to meet the increase in legal services requests.
- Continued filling remaining vacant attorney and staff positions to meet the increase in meetings and legislation requests.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Upon completion and Council approval of proposed amendments to the Rules of Order for Council and Standing Committee meetings, it is recommended that OLC facilitate a work session to orientate and address questions for Navajo Nation Council Delegates and Legislative Staff.

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NAVAJO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – THIRD QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 3RD QUARTER FY 2025

SPECIAL ELECTIONS

June 11, 2025 -9

Chinle Agency - 0

Eastern Navajo Agency - 4

****Includes one (1) Quorum Reduction Election***

Fort Defiance Agency - 3

Northern Navajo Agency - 3

Western Navajo Agency - 1

Absentee Voting

Agency	In Person Voting	Voting by Mail	TOTAL
CHA	-	-	-
ENA	10	25	35
FDA	69	13	82
NNA	-	-	-
WNA	-	-	-
TOTAL	79	38	117

June 17, 2025 -1

Fort Defiance Agency -1

Absentee Voting

Agency	In Person Voting	Voting by Mail	TOTAL
FDA	69	13	82
ENA			82

Campaign Expense Report/Disqualification

Two (2) individuals were disqualified for not filing Campaign Expense Statements for special elections held in June.

OATH OF OFFICES

Agency	April	May	June	Total
Chinle (CHA)	9	8	2	19
Eastern (ENA)	4	6	2	12
Fort Defiance (FDA)	14	5	1	21
Northern (NNA)	7	5	1	13
Western (WNA)	8	6	2	16
	42	30	9	
			Total	82

STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCES/HEARINGS/SUPREME COURT APPEALS

Agency	No. Filed Office of Hearing and Appeals (OHA)	No of Dismissal by OHA	No of Hearings Held by OHA	Appeals Navajo Nation Supreme Court
CHA	2	1	1 (continuance)	0
ENA	3	2	2	0
FDA	1	1	4	1
NNA	0	0	0	0
WNA	0	1	0	2
TOTAL	6	5	7	3

VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICE/VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

Total Registered Voters: 139,531 (2481 - New)

- Chinle Agency: 19,470
- Eastern Navajo Agency: 32,939
- Fort Defiance Agency: 34,550
- Northern Navajo Agency: 27,552
- Western Navajo Agency: 25,020

Voter registration drives conducted by NEA: 10

NAVAJO NATION VOTER REGISTRARS

The NEA is continuously recruiting individuals to serve as Navajo Nation Voter Registrars at the chapter level and in metropolitan areas where there is a large population of Dine People.

Most chapter administration, some chapter officials, and interested voters are trained and certified as Navajo Nation Voter Registrars. Additionally, voter registration services are available in urban areas such as Phoenix Indian Center, Salt Lake City Indian Center, Las Vegas Indian Center, certain County Recorder/Clerk Offices, Arizona State University, and National Indian Youth Council Centers in Albuquerque and Farmington.

Recall

- The Navajo Election Administration provides information to individuals inquiring about the process.

Others:

- FY26 Budget Preparation for NEA and NBOES.
- FY25 UUF B Funding Request Preparation for NBOES to conduct the 2025 NNC Reapportionment
- School Board Removals: Discussions on process and adequate documentation rules and regulations. Election Code amendments pertinent to school board recommended.
- 2025 Navajo Nation Council Reapportionment.
- Contacts with three (3) vendors pertaining voting equipment and ballot on demand voting.
- NEA Staff Evaluations.
- DPM Training: Day Force User Acceptance Testing
- Staff Development Training: Ethics in the Workplace

Goals for the 4th Quarter FY2025

- Primary focus: 2025 Navajo Nation Council Reapportionment - finalize consultant contract; assist with preparation of plans, schedule and attend public hearings, present to NNC for approval for use in the 2026 Navajo Nation Election.
- Election Code Amendments: Recount

- 2025 Navajo Nation Council Reapportionment
- Election Code Amendments

Issues/Recommendations

- Lack of funding for mileage for Fiscal Year 2025

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EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – THIRD QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 3RD QUARTER FY 2025

- The FY2025 budgets for the Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC) and its Office are based on a transformation from a Continuing Resolution (CR) to a comprehensive budget. For the office and Commission FY2025 budgets, requests were made for a regular budget, fixed cost budget and unmet needs budget. Recently, the budgets for the regular operation budget and fixed cost budget for office rental were granted, but not the Unmet Needs budget.
- Numerous Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC) meetings (regular, special, worksession or leadership meetings) were planned and carried out.
- Continue to improve Land Buy-back (LBB) maps for the 29 Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Chapters. Also, continued to finish the Navajo Nation percent interest in Land Buy-back (LBB) land additions. Maps were completed for 28 Chapters. The work has been delayed due to vacancy for the GIS Technician position. Upon full completion, a digital booklet will be published for use by Chapters, NN departments and the public.
- Continue to deliver LBB maps to Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Chapters and some of the Land Use Committees (e.g., Tsayatoh Chapter). Newly elected Chapter officials are requesting maps.
- Continue to give reports at Eastern Navajo Agency Council (ENAC) meetings
- Continue to monitor Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board to obtain approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BIA, BLM and Navajo Nation regarding grazing. Due to federal office and budget certainties, not much has happened.
- Continue to implement suggested work from the Eastern Navajo Land Conference that was held for Chapter officials, Navajo Nation officials and members of the public in 2024; with focus on NELI.
- Continue to attend Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President (OPVP) and DURAC Uranium Leadership meetings in a different format.
- Continue to attend meetings and give comments to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others regarding remediation of Uranium mining waste. Before, worked closely with NNEPA to examine the use of new technology as to minimize uranium mining waste. USEPA has recently announced that it signed an action memo to finalize the plan to transport low-level radioactive material from Churchrock site to the Red Rock Landfill property near Thoreau Chapter. USEPA has announced action plans for mining waste near Mariano Lake and Smith Lake. To our disappointment, USEPA is proceeding with Cap-In-Place (CIP) alternative. USEPA did not consider ENLC (and Navajo Nation, Thoreau Chapter's) request to remove the waste from Navajoland. Due to reluctance of USEPA to move uranium mining waste from Navajoland, examination of the policy is being reexamined. Director attended Resources & Development Committee (RDC) meeting with USEPA to air concerns about USEPA reluctance and about its plans to do regional repositories at the borders of Navajo Nation. Previously, met with Congressman Jamie Raskin and Congresswoman Leger-

Fernandez to seek their assistance with Senator Kelly's bill and with federal departments. ENLC Director with various Principle Responsible Parties (PRP) and NNEPA to work out an alternative to USEPA CIP alternatives. President Nygren has requested an action plan and the Office will be working with NNEPA and others to compile such a plan for the President to review.

- At an ENAC meeting, the Office was made aware of possible uranium mining in the Mt. Taylor area. NNEPA also apprised the ENLC Office. The Office is monitoring uranium transport issue.
- The Office met with Commission Chairman and Crownpoint Chapter to advise of the presence of uranium within the Chapter boundaries. Further discussion is being planned.
- Worked with Sen. Munoz's office regarding SB316 regarding uranium transport. Called upon NNEPA, NNDOJ and DURAC to assist with amendments. Speaker's office and ENLC met with Sen. Munoz in Santa Fe at NM legislative session. SB316 did not pass, but ENLC Office has recommended presentations to the NM legislative interim committee for further discussions.
- Continue to monitor ENLC's recommendation to DURAC office to get recommendations for an additional commission position that will represent ENA and an at-large position. Before, submitted necessary recommendation documents to DURAC and Office of Legislative Counsel which prepared the legislation. ENLC Director attended DURAC meeting at Thoreau Chapter.
- Continue to assist the Speaker's office by standing by to answer any possible questions from the members of the Council during the Council sessions.
- Before, held various meetings regarding the plight of Rock Springs Chapter Navajo families living on private lands owned by Gallup Land Partners. The leases have expired and the effort, in concert with OPVP and NLD, is to work out a solution. The ENLC Office continues to monitor the progress. Navajo Nation Land Department office has stated its position. OPVP was encouraged to negotiate on the land acquisition. Recently, a meeting was held with Rock Spring Chapter to give them a report.
- Previously, the Commission met with Regional BIA office in a leadership meeting to begin preparations for a Fee-to-Trust application to BIA. Before, ENLC managed to have the President sign a letter deferring to ENLC to submit fee-to-trust application to BIA. ENLC Office is now working to prepare for the application. Before, worked with OPVP to approve the deferral to ENLC in the submission of an application for fee-to-trust conversion of Navajo Nation fee lands (approx. 380,000 acres). Due to federal office and budget certainties, not much has happened. Now that a new ENA Superintendent has been announced, ENLC Office will start the discussion again. This is part of the NELI effort and is a priority for the Office.
- Continue to monitor NN Department of Agriculture's request to acquire a land withdrawal or assignment for its office and livestock processing facility on a land west of Crownpoint, NM. BIA notified the ENLC Office that this may be a land that is equivalent to tribal trust land. Upon confirmation, ENLC will assist the department to prepare the proper land withdrawal.
- Continued to work with BLM to plan Navajo cultural sites visit
- Continue to create maps for Navajo allottees referred from BIA.
- ENLC met with BLM to discuss the programmatic agreement and is awaiting further meetings.
- Director continued to attend budget overview meetings regarding the FY2026 budget
- Certain members of ENLC and the Office met with BLM to discuss the plan for the acquisition of federal disposal lands (approximately 340,000 acres) in Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA). Before, the Office, in coordination with the Chairman, requested President Nygren to defer to the ENLC to submit the application. He has signed a letter to that effect. Due to federal office and budget certainties, not much has happened. This is part of the NELI effort.
- ARC GIS software to Pro version was upgraded because this software is used for mapping. Before, the Office sought a license with NN Land Department, but eventually decided to get its own software. Thanks to the Legislative IT Department and Speaker's office for procuring and installing the software. The Office's GIS Technician left his position due to an offer of a higher salary from a tribal enterprise entity. The Office is highly dependent on GIS work and alternatives need to be examined for GIS work for the Office. ENLC Office has received applicants for the vacant GIS Technician position and will be doing interviews soon. The Office is working with a recent graduate for training as a GIS

Technician trainee.

- Previously, met with NN General Land Development Department (GLDD) office to obtain maps prepared by GLDD for use by ENLC Office. ENLC Office wants to further the work with GLDD to improve maps for ENA.
- Monitored Crownpoint Chapter's effort to resolve the cemetery land issue. BIA gave a report back and this issue may get resolved so that funds can be used by Crownpoint Chapter to provide maintenance of the Crownpoint/ENA cemetery. Funding may have reverted back to the State of New Mexico. Follow-up needs to occur.
- Continue to meet on the divided/undivided oil & gas leasing in northern ENA. Planned further meetings with BLM, BIA and FIMO in an attempt to resolve the issues for the benefit of Navajo allottees. ENLC is proud to report that it convinced BLM to change its policy as to give preference to Navajo Indian Allottees' lands (Indian Allotments). Recently, ENLC held an update meeting with BLM and oil/gas operators. No new issues have arisen with respect to this issue.
- Before, procured from a law firm the documents of legal litigation acquired through the years; and made plans to prepare the documents for archiving. ENLC will make preparations for receiving further documents. Procurement of equipment for archival is being studied.
- ENLC continues to meet and dialogue with the Regional BIA Office to discuss the many land issues in ENA. ENLC will continue these dialogues.
- The Office applied for a federal grant for its many land acquisition work and has not received notice of approval.
- Had discussion with Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company (NNOGC) regarding oil and gas reserves in ENA.
- ENLC Director participated in consultation meetings with US Department of Interior (DOI) along with the Speaker's office to encourage the Trump administration to not do away with ENA BIA office. Director attended the federal Indian Energy Resources meeting in Lakewood, CO, near Denver.
- ENLC and its Office has been working with the President Trump's administration to rescind the Chaco Canyon Law Withdrawal Order while being mindful of Navajo Nation Department of Justice lawsuit regarding the same matter.
- ENLC Office has finalized the contract for its legal consultant.
- ENLC Office, at the direction of ENLC Chairman, has been working with BLM and some ENA Chapters to identify Customary Land Users (CLU). 72 locations have been identified and efforts are now being undertaken to determine if these are Navajo families living on BLM lands. Upon final determination, ENLC hopes to negotiate with BLM to allow for infrastructure developments to the Navajo homes on BLM lands.
- Regarding the Legislative Concern, there has been no performance evaluations of staff members.

Goals for the 3rd Quarter FY2025:

- Finish LBB maps, give PDF digital copies to Navajo Land Department, ENA Chapter officials, and paper copies to at 2 libraries
- Work with Joint Land Board to finish the MOU with NN, BLM and BIA; and seeks approvals by NNC and RDC
- Continue to assist Chapters with the land use meeting requests. Education of ENLC's mission with newly installed Chapter officers will be planned.
- Continue to work with NN EPA and US EPA on uranium mining waste remediation
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with NM and OPVP (NN EPA office) regarding the use of Ambrosia Lake for repository and the use of technology to minimize uranium mining waste and continue to be supportive of NN EPA. Encourage of the testing of the new technology.
- Continue to work with Principal Responsible Parties (PRPs) to develop workforce development and other related matters for the teaching of heavy equipment operation. Navajo Nation Workforce Development Office will be contacted to assist in developing such a training program.
- Work with NNC's Resources & Development Committee (RDC) to incorporate the use of technology

in minimizing uranium mining waste as part of the plan for cleanup.

- Continue to work with Chapters regarding their ARPA and Revenue Replacement Reserve (RRR) projects
- Implement the cultural site visits
- Monitor the FY2026 budget and continue to make continued requests for unmet needs budget for the ENLC and the office.
- Finalize land withdrawal for NN Dep't Agriculture office in ENA
- Start the process of submitting a Fee-to-Trust application
- Start the process for submitting an application for Federal disposal lands
- Continue to give reports to ENA Chapters and Agency Council
- Continue to create maps for upcoming proposed projects
- Hire a new GIS Technician and its trainee.
- Improve the mapping software for the Office
- Begin archiving of documents and maps.
- Work with BLM regarding programmatic agreement.
- Make preparations for further meetings of ENLC with the federal government in Washington, DC. Secretary Burum is now the U.S. Department of Interior Secretary, and the initial meeting with him was productive.
- Prepare for further dialogues with Regional BIA office on the many land issues.
- Follow up on federal grant application.
- Implement performance evaluations of staff members.
- Assist ENLC Chairman in planning the development of better roads for CR7900 Road and N46 Road.

Issues/Recommendations

- Increased budgeting of unmet needs will go a long way to accomplishing the goals of ENLC
- Convince NN Executive branch offices to support deference to and respect ENLC to apply for fee-to-trust land conversions and the federal disposal lands
- Coordinate with NNEPA to procure Congressional assistance re uranium remediation issues
- Continue to work on land acquisitions in ENA.
- Assist in the streamlining of contracts for consultants.

Contact:

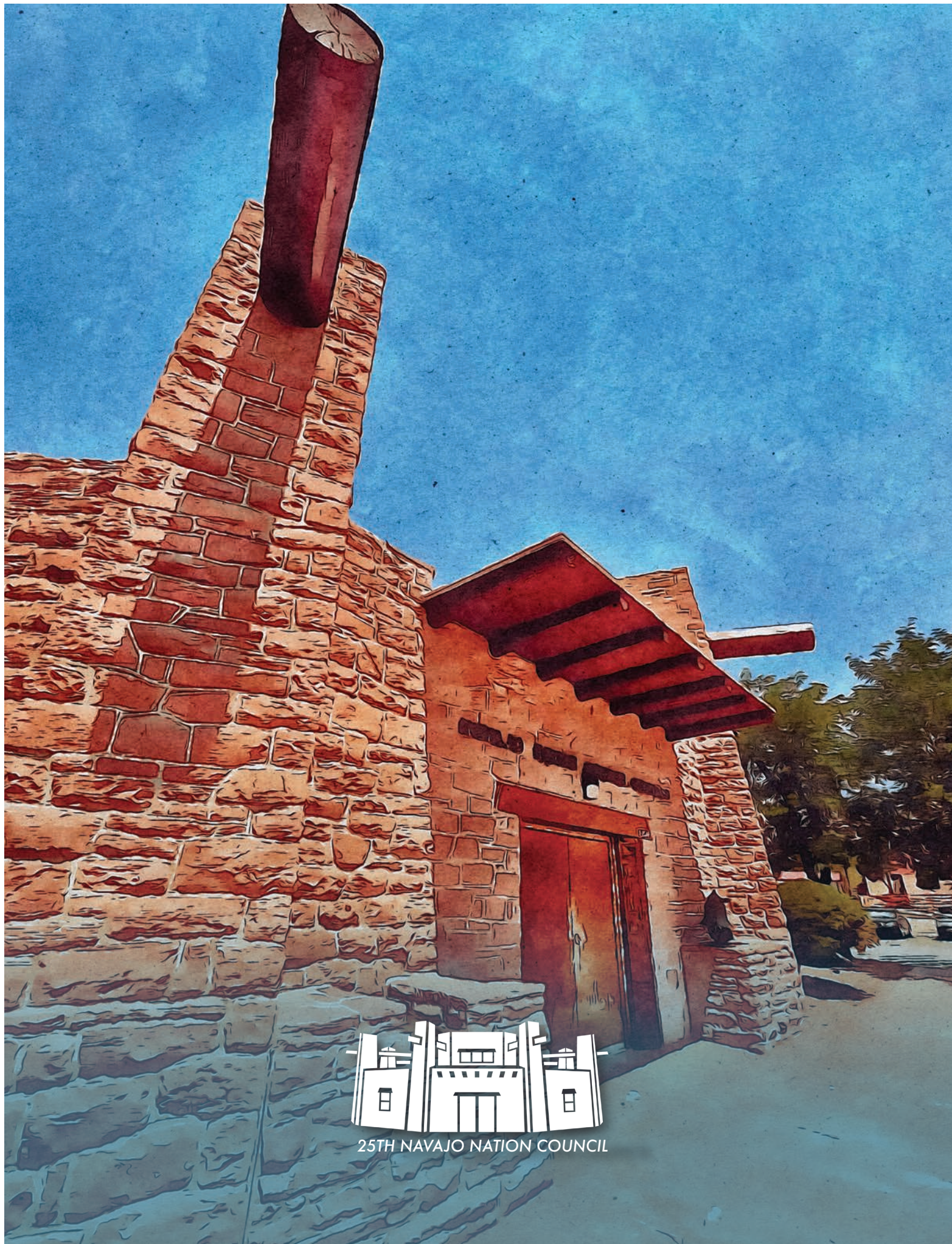
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25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL