

# NAAT'ÁJÍ NAHAT'Á HANE' LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NEWS

2025 SUMMER COUNCIL SESSION • JULY 21-25, 2025



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



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## Speaker Curley's 2025 Summer Session Message

Yáát'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné Citizens for your guidance and support as we move forward.



In her summer session message, Speaker Crystalyne Curley addressed federal consultations and advocacy regarding Navajo priorities, challenges and potential solutions.

### Federal Consultations & Advocacy

The 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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'iyáti' 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.
- NABIJY-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



Left to right: Council Delegate Vince James, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, and Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez. Council Delegates met with Gov. Hobbs to discuss partnerships beneficial to fighting wildfires.

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 70<sup>th</sup> 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





Council Delegates Brenda Jesus and Arbin Mitchell make their way to the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds during the 2025 Summer Trail Ride Celebration on Sunday, July 20.

deadline.

### ***Protecting Medicaid***

The 25<sup>th</sup> 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'íyáti' 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council continue to meet with congressional leaders and federal

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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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, the Task Force is committed to addressing this crisis through data, education, advocacy, and action grounded in sovereignty and compassion.



Speaker Curley (left) joins advocates, including Council Delegates Helena Nez Begay and Amber Crotty, and the Peshlakai family as they bring awareness to drunk driving on the first day of Summer Session.



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



## 25th Navajo Nation Council honors the legacy of the Summer Session Trail Rides

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Sunday, July 20, the 25th Navajo Nation Council honored the enduring tradition of the Summer Session Trail Rides as delegates and community members concluded the day's journey at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds in Window Rock.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley emphasized the importance of the trail ride as a cultural and educational experience for youth, highlighting its role in strengthening community connections and intergenerational relationships.

"The trail ride is teaching for our children. It's a tradition we must carry on," said Speaker Curley. "As we travel through our communities, we engage, socialize, and partner with our constituents and relatives. We must encourage our children to have interpersonal relationships with their relatives and leaders and to move away from being on their phones and tablets."



Council Delegate Rickie Nez reinforces the virtues of respect during the 2025 Summer Trail Ride.



Council Delegate Lester Yazzie spoke about the traditional legacy of the trail ride.

Council Delegates Brenda Jesus, Arbin Mitchell, Casey Allen Johnson, Rickie Nez, Dr. Andy Nez, Germaine Simonson, Lester Yazzie, Steven Arviso, and Vince R. James rode alongside community members, families, and youth—continuing a cultural practice that strengthens ties between leaders and those they serve. The trail ride also served as a space for dialogue, connection, and shared purpose across chapters.

As the delegates arrived at the fairgrounds, they greeted attendees and shared reflections on their trail rides and the significance of honoring this tradition.

During the 2025 Summer Session Trail Ride celebration, Speaker Curley recognized and honored former Council Delegates Larry Noble of Steamboat Chapter (Fort Defiance Agency) and Leslie Dele of Tonalea Chapter (Western Navajo Agency), who shared stories of organizing the first trail ride in 1996.

On Monday, July 20 at 8:00 AM, Speaker Curley and Council Delegates will lead a ceremonial ride to the Navajo Nation Council Chamber to formally open the 2025 Summer Session, which will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Additionally, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty will host the annual "Angels vs. Drunk Drivers" awareness walk, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Navajo Nation Museum parking lot and concluding at the Council Chamber.

### Navajo Nation Council opens Summer Session with traditional horseback arrival

On Monday, July 21, the 25th Navajo Nation Council opened its 2025 Summer Session with a

traditional horseback arrival at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. The ceremonial ride honored the legacy of past leaders who would travel on horseback from across Diné Bikéyah to participate in legislative sessions.

The Council's summer session commenced with the annual procession, where horse riders merged with the family of the late DeShauna and Del Lynn Peshlakai who marched for drunk driving awareness. Delegates participating in Monday's trail ride included Casey Allen Johnson, Germaine Simonson, Lester Yazzie, Steven Arviso, and Rickie Nez.

In the days leading up to the session, Navajo leaders rode from their home communities, stopping in chapters along the way to meet with local residents. This practice reflects a continued commitment to community dialogue and face-to-face governance.

"The summer session begins with a reflection of who we are as a Nation and the horseback ride reminds us of the responsibilities our ancestors carried," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "We continue that work by listening to our communities and acting on their behalf."

The official calling of the session to order by Madam Speaker Curley was followed by the posting of colors by the Navajo Women Veterans.

Eastern Navajo Ateed Yazhi Georgianna Begay led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Makayla Jones, Little Miss Ceremonial, sang the national anthem. An invocation was delivered by Native American Church Bahaslah Chapter Vice President Anthony Howard.



Council Delegates are joined by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren during (third from right) the 2025 Summer Session Trail Ride.



25th Navajo Nation Council honors Peshlakai family, calls for action to end drunk driving

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On the first day of the 2025 Summer Session, July 21, Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Dr. Andy Nez, the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force, community leaders, and members of the Peshlakai family gathered in unity to honor the lives of DeShauna and Del Lynn Peshlakai, who were tragically killed by a drunk driver in 2010.

To commemorate their lives and raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving across the Navajo Nation, delegates and advocates participated in a memorial walk from the Navajo Nation Museum to the Council Chamber.

MMDR Task Force Chair Amber

Kanazbah Crotty emphasized the Council's commitment to justice and prevention, stating, "The Peshlakai sisters were vibrant young Diné girls with bright futures. Their deaths were preventable. We owe it to them and to every family impacted by drunk driving to fight for stronger penalties, consistent prosecution, and lasting policy change. We must amend our laws, including Title 17, and ensure our justice system works for our people—not against them."

Darlene Peshlakai, mother of the Peshlakai sisters, addressed the Council and the public, expressing both sorrow and resolve. "It's been over fifteen years, but the pain never leaves. We keep walking, showing up, and spreading the message that drunk driving must end. This is not

just our fight. It should be everyone's. We need checkpoints. We need chapter-level engagement. We need the entire Navajo Nation to stand with us and protect our youth."

Speaker Crystalyne Curley echoed the call for community-wide action. "These issues are painful, but we must talk about them," she said. "Let's use our platforms—social media, community forums, and legislative action—to bring visibility and change. We honor the Peshlakai family not just with our words, but with the work we commit to from this moment forward."

Delegate Crotty also highlighted a broader legislative effort to amend the Navajo Nation Criminal Code, Title 17, and remove the current three-year statute of limitations for murder

under tribal law. She called on both tribal and federal partners to do more to prosecute habitual offenders and strengthen provisions under the Major Crimes Act.

"Our people are asking for justice," Crotty said. "Too many families are left behind by a broken system. We need prosecutorial power, treatment for offenders, and protections that prevent tragedies before they happen."

The "Angels vs. Drunk Drivers" awareness walk served as both a solemn remembrance of the enduring grief carried by impacted families and a powerful call to action.



Dave and Darlene Peshlakai have organized an annual walk to bring awareness to drunk driving. The Peshlakais lost their two daughters to a drunk driving accident.



Walkers make their way to the Navajo Nation Council Chamber as they march to advocate against drunk driving.



Speaker Curley called for advocacy across social media platforms to bring visibility and change to reduce and discourage drunk driving.



Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (left) was joined by Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez in the 'Angels vs. Drunk Drivers' awareness walk on the opening day of the 2025 Summer Council Session.



## President Nygren walks out on the State of the Navajo Nation Address amid ZenniHome questions

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On July 21, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren abruptly exited the Council Chamber on Monday during the State of the Navajo Nation Address, in an attempt to evade critical questions related to ZenniHome.

On July 14, ZenniHome announced that the company would end housing operations on the Navajo Nation, days after notice that an application will be filed with the Judicial Branch to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate potential unethical or illegal conduct related to a contract with Indigenous Design Studio + Architects (IDSA) and a subcontract with ZenniHome.

The Budget and Finance Committee approved legislation calling for formal investigatory hearings and issued a directive to the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a comprehensive forensic audit into the matter.

During Monday's report during the opening day of the Summer Session, Council members stated that concerns and questions continue to mount from Navajo constituents and communities, regarding the Nygren Administration's involvement with

ZenniHome.

"The Council has a duty to ensure that any agreements involving outside entities, especially those affecting the livelihood of our people, are held to the highest standards of transparency. The President walking out on the Council and the Navajo people is very disappointing and disrespectful. It only adds to the questions being raised," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

Council Delegates pressed for clarity and transparency on the scope of ZenniHome's contract including procurement processes, potential conflicts of interest, sole sourcing, and questionable changes in work orders that reduced the amount of homes that were to be built and delivered.

The Council approved a directive calling on Executive Branch offices to provide a copy of the master contract, directing the Department of Justice to research whether or not ZenniHome and IDSA breached their contract, and directing the Office of the President and Vice President and the Division of Community Development to provide a report on efforts to support the families that will not receive homes.



Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Chief of Staff Kris Beecher exit the Council Chamber before completing the State of the Navajo Nation Address on the first day of the Summer Session.

In addition, the directive also calls on OPVP to correct errors and misstatements in the State of the Navajo Nation Address. Specifically, OPVP shall omit language under the "Budget Message" portion of the written report and update and confirm all financial figures with the Office of the Controller.

The directive requirements are due to the Council by 12:00 p.m. on July 22, 2025.

Monday's action by President Nygren

marks the second time he has abruptly left the Council Chamber in the middle of the State of the Navajo Nation Address. He has also failed to appear to present the State of the Navajo Nation Address on four separate occasions.

The Council voted 16-0 to table the State of the Navajo Nation Address, providing another opportunity for President Nygren to return during this week's Summer Council Session to complete his report.

## Speaker Curley's 2025 Summer Council Session report calls for unity, healing, and progress

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Monday, July 21, Speaker Crystalyne Curley welcomed leaders, dignitaries, and the Navajo people to the 2025 Summer Council Session, honoring tradition while encouraging continued unity and resilience.

In her written report to the Council, Speaker Curley acknowledged the many horseback riders who traveled from across the Nation, continuing the legacy of past leaders who journeyed to the Council Chamber on horseback, carrying the voices of their communities. She also recognized the participants of the Angels vs. Drunk Drivers Awareness Walk and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to preventing impaired driving and honoring those affected by such tragedies.

Throughout the opening session,

the 25th Navajo Nation Council addressed the need for strong federal advocacy and policy defense. In her report, Speaker Curley outlined recent resolutions related to federal consultations, including opposition to school voucher programs that undermine tribal education, defense of Medicaid funding, and the protection of tribal sovereignty in environmental and healthcare matters.

Her report also highlighted ongoing concerns with the proposed Indian Health Service (IHS) realignment, emphasizing the need for transparent consultations that honor treaty obligations. Speaker Curley noted that the Council remains actively engaged in the federal budget process, advocating for the preservation of higher education scholarships and other essential resources for Navajo students.

In continued efforts to protect Navajo communities, Speaker Curley underscored the Council's support for public safety initiatives and the work of the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force. Progress continues on the development of a tribally housed missing persons database and the finalization of a Tribal Community Response Plan to guide families and agencies. Monthly educational sessions and coordination with key service providers remain central to outreach efforts.

Speaker Curley emphasized that through shared values, respect for elders' teachings, and the power of both words and action, the Council remains focused on advancing meaningful solutions for the well-being and future of the Navajo Nation.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council voted



Speaker Curley emphasized respect for elder's teachings in advancing meaningful solutions.

eleven in favor and four opposed to accept all remaining reports as written, excluding those from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Services, and the Navajo Nation President's State of the Navajo Nation address, which was presented prior to the vote.

Please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org/committees](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org/committees) to view all the 2025 Summer Session written reports.



## Navajo Nation Council unanimously approves legislation to relocate the Youth Advisory Council under the Legislative Branch

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On July 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0066-25, transferring the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) from the Executive Branch to the Legislative Branch. The unanimous vote strengthens the NYAC's role as an official legislative body representing Diné youth, with oversight by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

The legislation marks a milestone in Navajo youth empowerment, reflecting the Council's commitment to ensuring that young people have direct access to the government, as well as meaningful opportunities to learn about lawmaking, develop leadership skills, and participate in policy-making rooted in Diné values.

"This legislation is about more than a structural change; it's a promise to our young people that we see them, we believe in them, and we are preparing them to lead," said Council Delegate Germaine Simonson, the sponsor of the legislation. "By bringing NYAC into the Legislative Branch, we are giving our future leaders the knowledge, access, and cultural grounding they need to shape our government with strength and purpose."

The NYAC was established in 2017 to provide a platform for youth to advocate on issues directly impacting Diné children and families. Under Legislation No. 0066-25, the NYAC becomes a 12-member advisory board composed of Diné youth ages 14 to 24. Each of the five agencies will have

representation, along with two at-large members appointed by the Speaker. Members will serve two-year terms, and upon confirmation, will elect a Chair and Vice Chair and hold regular meetings.

"This is a critical step toward ensuring that our youth have not only a seat at the table, but the opportunity to learn how the table is built," said Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, a co-sponsor. "Our young people deserve a space to speak, grow, and lead with confidence, knowing their voices matter and their ideas are supported by the community and by those who came before them."

Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez echoed the message of support. "Young people bring fresh ideas and new energy. Our job as leaders is to support those ideas with guidance and resources. This legislation gives us the structure to do exactly that."

Council Delegate Cheryl Yazzie expressed her strong support for the legislation. "This shows our commitment to seeing our youth grow as future leaders. Under the Legislative Branch, we can provide deeper knowledge about how our government functions and how laws are made," said Yazzie.

The new plan of operation also calls for the creation of an Executive Director position to support the NYAC's day-to-day functions, including drafting resolutions, coordinating meetings, and ensuring



Council Delegate Germaine Simonson sponsored Legislation 0066-25, elevating Diné youth in governance.

adherence to Diné Fundamental Law and Navajo Nation policies. The NYAC will be required to present quarterly reports to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and will have the authority to propose youth-led programs and initiatives.

"This is a generational investment," said Delegate Simonson. "Supporting our youth is a responsibility we all share. We are laying the foundation for a government that includes, listens to, and is shaped by the next generation."

Passed on a consent agenda with a final vote of 20 in favor and none opposed, which represents the full backing of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and affirms a united commitment to elevate Diné youth in governance.

## 25th Navajo Nation Council confirms Reycita Toddy as Executive Director of the Division of Human Resources

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On July 23, during the third day of the 2025 Summer Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed Reycita Toddy as Executive Director of the Division of Human Resources with a vote of 11 in favor and 6 opposed.

With over 35 years of dedicated service to the Navajo Nation, Director Toddy brings a wealth of experience in strategic human resources management. Her confirmation affirms her long-standing commitment to strengthening the Nation's workforce systems and modernizing HR operations across the Navajo government. From recruitment and retention to classification and performance evaluation, Toddy has led initiatives that directly impact the Nation's ability to attract and retain qualified professionals.

Council Delegate Vince R. James, who sponsored the legislation confirming Director Toddy, underscored the importance of her leadership and institutional knowledge.

"Director Toddy has extensive experience in nearly every area of human resources—from recruitment and employee engagement to compensation and

leadership development. Her deep understanding of Navajo law, HR policy, and the unique challenges we face as a Nation makes her the right choice. Her confirmation is an investment in building a resilient and empowered Navajo workforce."

As Acting Director, Toddy oversaw major system reforms, including the launch of the Navajo Nation's first online job application portal and the implementation of Executive Order No. 01-2024, which streamlined hiring processes. She also played a key role in deploying the Navajo Nation Enterprise Resource Planning System, enhancing financial management, human resources, tribal enrollment, and budgeting operations within the Office of the Controller.

Toddy's service history with the Navajo Nation includes her previous appointment as Acting Director in 2017 and long-standing roles within the Department of Personnel Management. Her expertise spans classification, compensation, background investigations, training, and workforce development—skills she has leveraged to improve employee retention and advance HR policy reform.



Council Delegate Vince R. James, sponsored legislation confirming the appointment of Reycita Toddy as the Human Resources Director.

As Executive Director, Toddy now assumes full responsibility for leading the Division of Human Resources, which encompasses more than a dozen departments essential to employment, benefits, safety, training, and compliance across the Navajo government.



## Delegate Jesus honors Vietnam Veteran Francis Chischilly during the 2025 Summer Session

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Tuesday, July 22, during the 2025 Navajo Nation Summer Session, Council Delegate Brenda Jesus formally recognized Vietnam War veteran Francis Chischilly of Oak Springs, Ariz., for his years of honorable military service and lifelong commitment to the Diné people.

Delegate Jesus presented Chischilly with a certificate of recognition and a Pendleton robe, a symbol of honor, respect, and gratitude from the 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Oak Springs and Pine Springs communities. The robe was presented with the assistance of Office of the Speaker Legislative Staff Assistant Arthur Hardy and members of the Oak Springs–Pine Springs Veterans Organization.

“In our prayers, we ask the Creator to continue to watch over you and protect you,” said Delegate Jesus. “We thank you, Mr. Chischilly, for your courage and your dedication—not just during your time in uniform, but for continuing to serve your community in Oak Springs and Pine Springs. This recognition is not just for you, but for every Diné warrior who has worn the uniform.”



**Council Delegate Brenda Jesus (left) stands with honored Vietnam Veteran Francis Chischilly, his family, and Speaker Crystalyne Curley during the Summer Session recognitions.**

Born and raised in Oak Springs, Chischilly is of the Tódiik’ozhí clan, born for the Tábaahá. His maternal grandfather is of the Kiyááanii clan, and his paternal grandfather is of the Honágháahnii clan. Drafted into the United States Army in 1969, he served in the 2nd Infantry Division during the Vietnam War, with subsequent deployments to South Korea and Hawaii. He was honorably discharged in 1978 after nearly a decade of service.

“Today, we honor not just one man, but every

Navajo who has served,” said Delegate Jesus. “Our warriors carry more than weapons—they carry the prayers, traditions, and hopes of our people.”

The recognition ceremony included remarks from Veterans Vice President Commander Arlene Radisch and Secretary-Treasurer Tina Yazzie who expressed the community’s appreciation. Delegate Jesus also acknowledged her legislative district assistant and Speaker Crystalyne Curley’s office for helping organize the event.

## 25th Navajo Nation Council confirms Mae-Gilene Begay to Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Tuesday, July 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved the appointment of Mae-Gilene Begay to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission, where she will serve as the Community Member representing the Central Abandoned Uranium Mines (AUM) Region through September 30, 2029.

Sponsor of Legislation No. 0068-25, Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson emphasized the significance of regional representation.

“This Commission is tasked with examining the consequences of uranium mining and processing across the Navajo Nation. By appointing Begay, we ensure the Central Region is represented by someone with both community trust and health expertise,” Johnson said.

Begay is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and has extensive experience in public health, advocacy, and service delivery. She previously served as President of the Forest Lake Chapter and the Dzil Yijiin

Regional Council. Her career includes over 20 years with the Navajo Nation Department of Health as a Community Health Representative and Outreach Supervisor, as well as roles on state and national public health committees. Her background includes service with the American Public Health Association, the Arizona CHW Network, and participation in Native health research projects.

The Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission was created to advise the Navajo Nation President and Council on uranium-related issues. The Commission is composed of seven community members—one from each AUM region and one at-large member—who must be enrolled members of the Navajo Nation with experience in environmental science, engineering, public health, or policy development.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley acknowledged the role of the Commission in shaping uranium remediation strategies.

“This appointment supports the long-term goals of restoring impacted



**Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson sponsored legislation confirming the appointment of Mae-Gilene Begay to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission.**

areas, protecting human health, and upholding community involvement in policy discussions,” Speaker Curley said.

The Commission operates under an amended Master Plan of Operation approved by the Naabik’íyáti’ Committee in June 2024. It is tasked with reviewing remediation strategies, evaluating new uranium development proposals, and advising leadership in alignment with Navajo Nation laws including the

Fundamental Laws of the Diné, the Navajo CERCLA, and the Radioactive Materials Transportation Act.

The resolution confirming Ms. Begay’s appointment passed on consent agenda with a unanimous vote of 20 in favor, none opposed. Final authority for the appointment rests with the Navajo Nation Council.



## 25th Navajo Nation Council celebrates the academic achievements of NAOMI House scholars

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — In a heartfelt ceremony held during the 2025 Summer Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council recognized the academic achievements of children from the Native American Outreach Ministries, Inc. (NAOMI) House. Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson and Speaker Crystalyne Curley presented certificates of recognition to five youth who have demonstrated perseverance and excellence in their education.

The honorees—Blair Hildreth, Aliza Skidmore, Brayden Pinto, Peyton Dele, and Ferrarh Navajo—were celebrated inside the Navajo Nation Council Chamber for their commitment to learning and their strength of spirit. Each child received a certificate and a backpack filled with school supplies donated by the Office of the Speaker.

Speaker Curley emphasized the importance of protecting and empowering the next generation. “We owe our best to our future generations,” said Speaker Curley. “NAOMI House is more than a shelter—it is a place where our

children are protected, nurtured, and encouraged to grow. We pray for each of you to succeed in school, go to college or the military, and become the leaders our Nation needs. This is your house, and this Council is here for you.”

NAOMI House, located near Joseph City, Ariz., is a nonprofit group home that serves Native American children in crisis. The organization provides a safe and loving environment for youth who have experienced trauma or displacement, many of whom are from Navajo communities.

Delegate Johnson shared a personal connection to the work NAOMI House does.

“I know what it means to grow up searching for safety and hope—because I lived it. Every struggle you face is shaping a strength inside you that no one can take away,” said Delegate Johnson. “Keep running toward the life you want, because your path can lead to something powerful and bright.”



Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson honored the NAOMI House located near Joseph City, Ariz. Pictured is NAOMI House Campus Director Joey Hemsoth.

NAOMI House Campus Director Joey Hemsoth also delivered remarks, offering a powerful perspective as a former foster youth who grew up at NAOMI House and returned to serve the next generation.

“It means so much to have our youth recognized by the Navajo Nation,” said Hemsoth. “As someone who was once in their shoes, I can say that this kind of support makes a difference. We want our kids to know that they

are seen, heard, and capable of achieving great things. Thank you to Delegate Johnson, Speaker Curley, and the Council for this recognition and for encouraging our children to dream big.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council uplifted the work of nonprofit organizations, such as NAOMI House, and their commitment to investing in the well-being and education of every Diné child.

## 25th Navajo Nation Council votes no confidence in Division of Natural Resources Director

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Tuesday, July 22, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0054-25, expressing no confidence in W. Mike Halona as the appointed Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources (DNR) and recommending his removal.

The resolution, sponsored by Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw, rescinds CAP-34-23, the original legislation confirming Halona’s appointment, and directs the recommendation to the Office of the President and Vice President for final action.

The approved resolution cites numerous unresolved issues and systemic concerns during Halona’s tenure, including poor fiscal oversight, lack of transparency, and inaction on major land, agriculture, and infrastructure initiatives.

Delegate Claw stated, “As an elected Council Delegate, we have a responsibility to uphold transparency, accountability, and sound fiscal management on behalf of our communities. I respectfully support the removal of the division director and call on my colleagues to vote green

because our communities are demanding a higher standard of leadership.”

Concerns raised in the legislation include the alleged misuse of nearly \$300,000 in vacant position funds, the failure to budget for basic operations, unexplained inter-program fund transfers, and a consistent lack of deliverables and accountability. Other issues noted were unaddressed deficiencies in tribal ranches, unresolved telecommunications contracts, delays in service delivery, and failure to implement major reforms like fair policy and site amendments.

“This vote sends a message to the Navajo People that their dissatisfaction is heard and represented. The director has had over two years to address the same critical problems,” said Delegate Claw. “Our people deserve a leader who does not divert funds from core services without accountability.”

Legislation co-sponsor Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie also underscored the resolution’s intent stating, “This action holds the director accountable and urges the Navajo Nation President to listen



Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw sponsored Legislation No. 0054-25, expressing no confidence in Division of Natural Resources Executive Director W. Mike Halona.

to the people. Our goal is improved services, transparency, and leadership defined by action.”

Legislation No. 0054-25 was approved with a vote of 11 in favor and ten opposed.



## Delegate Claw honors Navajo Nation employees for heroic service during the COVID-19 pandemic

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On the second day of the 2025 Summer Session, Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw delivered a heartfelt recognition of Navajo Nation employees who remained on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the continuity of essential services in the face of immense uncertainty and personal risk.

Addressing students, staff, and community members, Delegate Claw acknowledged the sacrifices and strength of these individuals, many of whom worked through the most trying moments of the pandemic.

“We are here today because of their courage,” said Delegate Claw. “These are our unsung heroes. When our Nation was brought to its knees by loss and fear, they stood firm—not for recognition, but for their people. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, it is my honor to express our deep appreciation for their service.”

She emphasized the development of youth centers across the Navajo Nation, which depend on committed leaders like those being honored. “I



Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw recognized Navajo Nation employees who remained on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ran for Council to help create spaces for our youth and to make sure voices like yours are heard. But just as important is recognizing those who kept this Nation going when everything felt like it was falling apart.”

Among those recognized was Robert Willie of the Office of the Controller, who described the emotional toll of reporting to work while fearing for his health and that of his loved ones. He and his team ensured payroll was

met, vendors were paid, and critical programs were implemented despite overwhelming obstacles.

Pearlene Kirk was also honored for her leadership and spoke of the resolve it took to push through political pressure and emotional fatigue. Kirk said she used personal funds to supply her team with protective equipment when none was available, a testament to her fierce commitment to her coworkers and community.

The honored employees were responsible for implementing financial relief programs, maintaining government operations, and disbursing hardship assistance checks to Navajo citizens during a time when infrastructure was strained and lives were at stake. Their efforts helped secure continued federal aid through ARPA funding by supporting enrollment and documentation efforts critical to the Nation’s eligibility.

Certificates of Recognition were presented to Pearlene Kirk, Robert Willie, Jonathan Harrison, Jeremy Ben, Gerald Shirley, Brent Wanika, Farron Garcia, Natasha Damon, and Jonathan Cleveland. Though not all honorees were able to attend in person, their efforts were acknowledged with deep gratitude.

“This is more than an award,” Delegate Claw concluded. “It’s a reminder that when we stand together, even in the hardest times, we move forward stronger. Their bravery, resilience, and dedication are the reason we are still standing today.”

## 25th Navajo Nation Council confirms Michael Henderson as Executive Director for Division of Public Safety

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On July 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted unanimously to confirm Michael Henderson as the Division Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety. Legislation No. 0115-25, confirming Henderson’s appointment, was sponsored by Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie.

Council Delegate Yazzie praised his confirmation, emphasizing his leadership and commitment to public safety. “I’ve had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Henderson through the Diné Action Plan, where he serves as co-chair. He doesn’t just carry a title — he shows up for our task groups, listens, and contributes. He’s calm, collected, and steady. I believe it’s the result of his years of experience, leadership under pressure, and his quiet dedication to our people,” said Delegate Yazzie.

Director Henderson brings more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement and military service. Within the Navajo Police Department, he has served as a patrol officer, police sergeant, senior criminal investigator, supervisor of criminal investigations, police captain, and director of criminal investigations. He is also a retired First-Class Petty Officer of the U.S. Navy, having completed multiple tours during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Henderson holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Management and Administration from Walden University. He currently serves as chair of the Diné Action Plan Committee and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Council Delegate Steven R. Arviso echoed that support, highlighting



Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie (second from left) sponsored legislation to confirm the appointment of Division of Public Safety Director Michael Henderson.

Henderson’s active engagement with the Council’s Law and Order Committee. “Director Henderson shows up ready, every time,” said Delegate Arviso. “He puts the needs of his team and the safety of our people front and center. His perspective is rooted in experience, and his priorities are clear—supporting our first responders and protecting our

communities.”

Legislation No. 0115-25 passed with a unanimous vote of 20 in favor and none opposed. Henderson’s confirmation marks a significant step toward strengthening the Nation’s public safety infrastructure and operational capacity.



## Navajo Nation Council approves legislation to delay implementation of nicotine product tax law

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Tuesday, July 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0050-25, which postpones the implementation of the nicotine and electronic smoking products tax to October 1, 2025. The extension provides the Navajo Tax Commission with additional time to finalize regulations, conduct staff training, and lead public education efforts.

“This legislation is about building a transparent and accountable system for administering new tax laws,” said Delegate Carl Slater, the bill’s sponsor. “By delaying the effective date, we are ensuring that the necessary regulatory infrastructure is in place and that communities and enforcement agencies are fully informed before implementation begins. This is how we build trust in future revenue systems.”

Originally signed into law on November 8, 2024, Resolution CO-47-24 enacted the Nicotine Products and Electronic Smoking Products Tax, applying a

22% tax rate to nicotine and electronic smoking devices. The law also increases taxes on other tobacco products, including cigarettes, smoking tobacco, snuff, twist tobacco, chewing tobacco, and cigars.

The Fund Management Plan for the tax will support the Office of Traditional Culture. In addition, the new tax revenue will support Department of Health projects in partnership with traditional Navajo healer non-profit organizations.

Legislation No. 0050-25 includes amendments requiring the Navajo Tax Commission to submit an implementation readiness report, distribute bilingual educational materials to all 110 chapters, and evaluate the revenue impact six months after the tax takes effect.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0050-25 through a consent agenda,



Council Delegate Carl R. Slater sponsored legislation to extend the implementation date of nicotine and electronic smoking product tax.

with a vote of 20 in favor and none opposed. Once certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have up to ten calendar days to consider the resolution.

## Navajo Nation Council amends sections of Navajo Preference in Employment Act, reinforces employee rights

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On July 23, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0162-25 to rescind Resolution CO-60-17 and amend sections of the Navajo Preference in Employment Act (NPEA), restoring regular employee protections for program managers within the Executive Branch.

The action repeals the 2017 resolution that had classified program managers as exempt from the “just cause” provisions of the NPEA, which protect employees from unjust termination, demotion, or disciplinary action without due process.

Delegate Vince James, who introduced the legislation, said, “Restoring just cause protections to our program managers ensures uniformity and consistency across our workforce. This change reflects our commitment to fairness and accountability in employment practices.”

Under the new amendments to 15 N.N.C. §§ 603 and 604(B)( 8 ), the definition of “program manager” is removed from exemption status. Beginning October 1, 2025, all program managers will be classified as regular status employees, entitled to the same employment protections and due process as other Navajo Nation employees.

The legislation followed review by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, the Law and Order Committee, and the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee, with final approval granted by the Navajo Nation Council.

“As leaders, we are obligated to review past policies



Legislation No. 0162-25, sponsored by Council Delegate Vince R. James, amends sections of the Navajo Preference in Employment Act.

and correct those that do not serve the long-term interests of our Nation and employees,” said cosponsor Curtis Yanito. “This action strengthens workforce protections and supports the integrity of our laws.”

According to Section Four of the resolution, the Department of Personnel Management is directed to implement the changes by updating personnel records and issuing revised Personnel Action Forms for all affected program managers.

The legislation was approved with a vote of 20 in

favor with none opposed. The new law will take effect on October 1, 2025. Once certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have up to ten calendar days to consider the resolution.



## Navajo Nation Council votes to remove all unconfirmed Executive Division Directors, reinforces oversight authority and legal compliance

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Thursday, July 24, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0093-25, calling for the removal of all Executive Branch division directors who have not been formally confirmed by the Council.

Sponsored by Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton, the legislation addresses an issue in which appointed executive division directors have continued to serve in acting roles for extended periods, in some cases over a year, without receiving the formal confirmation required by the Council. According to Navajo Nation law, 2 N.N.C. § 102(F) (1), the President is obligated to obtain Council confirmation for all Division Director appointments following recommendations from the relevant oversight committees.

“The law is evident,” said Delegate Charles-Newton. “The Council must confirm directors before they can exercise official authority. Yet we’ve watched these individuals act in leadership roles without that confirmation—signing contracts, making decisions, and directing major divisions of government. That is not just a procedural error; it’s a fundamental violation of Navajo law and sovereignty.”

The unconfirmed directors named in the legislation are Candice Yazzie (Community Development) and Tony Skrelunas (Economic Development). Council members cited concerns about a lack of transparency, poor service delivery, and delayed reforms under these unconfirmed leaders. The legislation directly addresses community concerns that Acting Directors have failed to meet their responsibilities to the Diné people.

Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw voiced strong support for the measure, saying, “Many of these positions come with high salaries, full benefits, and great responsibility. Yet our people are not receiving the services they need. We must ensure these roles are filled by qualified, confirmed individuals who are accountable to the people and the law. This legislation helps us begin to fix that process.”

Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie introduced an amendment directing the Office of the President and Vice President to take further action. Within 15 calendar days of the resolution’s certification, the Executive Office must submit a written memorandum listing all unconfirmed appointees, their salaries, appointment letters, and a plan and timeline for completing the confirmation process. The amendment also tasks the Title 2 Subcommittee with revising the confirmation process to include clear timelines and procedures to ensure legal compliance and continuity in government operations.



Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton passed legislation calling for the removal of all Executive Branch division directors unconfirmed by Council.

“We’re in a situation where the law is being willfully ignored by the Executive Branch,” said Delegate Charles-Newton. “This isn’t just about filling vacancies. This is about maintaining balance between the branches of government, protecting our sovereignty, and honoring the laws our predecessors put in place.”

Delegate Claw added, “We must uphold integrity. Some of these directors have served far too long beyond what should be allowed. If they know they were not confirmed, they should do the honorable thing and step aside. The people expect leaders who are both qualified and accountable.”

Delegate Rickie Nez, reflecting on nearly two decades of public service, also supported the action. “This vote is not about individuals. It’s about the law and the people. When we step down from this Council, we will be judged by what we did in service to our Nation. This decision tells our people that we take our responsibilities seriously.”

Dr. Andy Nez emphasized the broader implications of executive inaction and called for greater accountability. “There are still outstanding issues, including unanswered questions related to major funding and hiring decisions. We must hold the Executive Branch to the same level of scrutiny and transparency we expect from every branch.”

Delegate Charles-Newton reaffirmed that the legislation protects the rule of law and maintains critical checks and balances.

The Navajo Nation Council voted 15 in favor and one opposed in approving Legislation No. 0093-25. Once certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have up to ten calendar days to consider the resolution.

## Navajo Nation Council Confirms Appointment of Eunice Begay to Commission on Navajo Government Development

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Tuesday, July 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0092-25, confirming Eunice Begay as the Ft. Defiance Agency representative on the Commission on Navajo Government Development.

“It’s an honor to sponsor the confirmation of Ms. Begay, who has experience devising and implementing project strategies that address evolving challenges,” said legislation sponsor Council Delegate Vince R. James. “Her career reflects the critical thinking necessary to contribute to the development of the Navajo Nation government.”

The Commission on Navajo Government Development is charged with advancing the People’s project of instituting reforms to ensure an accountable, responsible, ethical, and equally representative government.

The Commission is composed of 12 Navajo members, with one nominated from each of the five Navajo Agencies. Each agency council selects its representative from recommendations submitted by local Chapters.

The Ft. Defiance Agency Council nominated Steamboat Chapter Commissioner Eunice Begay to serve a four-year term on the Commission, beginning on the date of her confirmation. Begay brings extensive professional experience, including serving as a Senior Program Project Specialist with the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development in Dilkon, Ariz., and as a Veterans Service Officer with the Veterans Affairs Office in Tuba City.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0092-25 by a vote of 17 in favor and four opposed. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority on this legislation.



Council Delegate Vince R. James (right) passed legislation confirming the appointment of Eunice Begay to the Commission on Navajo Government Development.



## Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie honors Diné advocates for lifetimes of service, vision, and justice



Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie (second from left) honored a distinguished group for their life's work in advocacy.

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Tuesday, July 22, Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie led a recognition in honoring a distinguished group of Diné advocates whose life work has defined environmental justice, cultural preservation, education, and tribal self-determination. These recognitions, rooted in legacy and service, pay tribute to individuals who have not only defended the Diné way of life but also shaped the future of the Navajo Nation with unwavering dedication.

"These are not just recognitions," said Delegate Yazzie, "they are affirmations of who we are. They remind us that Diné strength is not just about endurance but about vision, conviction, and a profound love for our homeland and our people."

Bobby White was recognized for his role in securing the financial future of the Navajo Nation. As the architect behind the creation of the Navajo Nation Permanent Fund in 1985, White's leadership laid the foundation for the Navajo Nation's long-term financial sustainability. He also played a critical role in challenging the U.S. Department of the Interior's handling of federal trust funds, contributing key documentation to the historic Cobell v. Salazar lawsuit. That case led to a \$554 million settlement for the Navajo Nation in 2010. In addition, White authored the Master Investment Policy of 1990, the 1998 Navajo Nation Appropriations Act, and the 2001 Bond Financing Act — all significant milestones in the Nation's fiscal governance.

"Forty years ago, I stood in this chamber and helped pass the legislation to create our permanent fund," White said. "This is the people's money, I urge the Navajo Nation Council to manage it wisely for their benefit."

The late Anna Frazier, co-founder of Diné CARE, was honored for her fearless advocacy against environmental injustice. In the late 1980s, she led the successful campaign to stop a toxic waste incinerator from being built near her home in Dilkon, Arizona. That grassroots resistance inspired a wave of Indigenous environmental organizing across the Navajo Nation. Frazier later served as a chapter

coordinator and community organizer, deeply respected for her ability to bring traditional values into policy spaces.

Martha Lee, a lifelong educator, was honored for 55 years of dedicated service to Diné students, language, and culture. Teaching in Dilkon and Seba Dalkai, Lee made the Navajo language central to early childhood and K-8 education. Her work ensured that generations of students grew up rooted in their clans and cultural identity.

The late Robert Tohe, a respected civil rights activist and Indigenous environmental organizer, was remembered for a lifetime of resistance and education. As a student in 1969, he hitchhiked from the University of New Mexico to the occupation of Alcatraz Island, an early flashpoint in the Red Power movement. Later, as an environmental justice organizer with the Sierra Club, he became a national voice against uranium and coal extraction, pushing for Native-led solutions grounded in language and culture.

His widow, Hazel James Tohe, spoke on his behalf, "Robert believed that reclaiming our language was reclaiming our power. He spent his life organizing with humility and intellectual strength. His teachings live on through every young Diné person who chooses to fight for our lands and communities."

Hazel James Tohe, herself an honoree, was recognized for a lifetime of work in environmental justice, cultural revitalization, and community health. Known for bridging traditional teachings with modern organizing, she has led efforts such as the International Uranium Film Festival. She remains a committed advocate for clean air, water, and food sovereignty.

In closing, Delegate Yazzie emphasized the collective impact of the honorees. "We are here because of them — because they spoke up, took action, and protected the sacred. Their voices now echo through policy, education, and every community that dares to stand for justice."

## Navajo Nation Council approves extension for Board of Election Supervisors to complete apportionment plan

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Tuesday, July 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved legislation granting the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors (NBOES) an extension to complete its apportionment plan by January 31, 2026.

Legislation No. 0100-25, sponsored by Council Delegate Arbin Mitchell, provides NBOES with additional time to develop and implement a comprehensive apportionment plan for election purposes.

"It's important that NBOES finalizes this plan before the 2026 candidacy filing period begins," Mitchell said. "This extension ensures we have the necessary time to create a fair and accurate plan. It also plays a critical role in determining how many chapters each of the 24 delegates will represent, based on equally apportioned districts. That, in turn, informs funding decisions and strengthens our legislative representation."

Since May 1975, NBOES has been required to complete an apportionment plan every ten years, in alignment with the U.S. decennial census. The upcoming plan will use data from the 2020 Census.

Legislation 0100-25 passed unanimously as part of the Council's consent agenda, with a vote of 20 in favor and none opposed. Once certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have up to ten calendar days to act on the resolution.



Council Delegate Arbin Mitchell sponsored Legislation No. 0020-25 to extend the date for NBOES to complete their apportionment plan.





**LEGISLATION 0047-25:**  
An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik’iyáti’ 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: Passed**

**Yea: 14**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Helena Nez Begay  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Tolth, George  
Tso, Otto  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn

**Nay: 7**  
Begay, Norman M.  
Eugenia Charles-Newton  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Vince R. James  
Shaandiin Parrish  
Carl Roessel Slater  
Lester Yazzie

**Excused: 2**  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 0**

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0066-25:**  
An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, the Law and Order Committee, the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council, from the Executive Branch to the Legislative Branch

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Germaine Simonson  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Shawna Ann Claw  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Andy Nez  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Arbin Mitchell  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

**Action: Passed**

**Yea: 20**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Begay, Norman M.  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 0**

**Excused: 2**  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 1**  
Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0044-25:**  
An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik’iyáti’ Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Reinstatement and Reenrollment of Spring John, Formerly Known as Spring Norris, as a Member of the Navajo Nation

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Germaine Simonson

**Action: Passed**

**Yea: 20**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Begay, Norman M.  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 0**

**Excused: 2**  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 1**  
Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0050-25:** An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, the Law and Order Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Effective Date of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-47-24

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Carl R. Slater  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Crystalyne Curley  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

**Action: Passed**

**Yea: 20**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Begay, Norman M.  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 0**

**Excused: 2**  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 1**  
Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0068-25:**  
An Action Relating to Naabik’iyáti’ Committee and Navajo Nation Council Confirming the Appointment of Ms. Mae-Gilene Begay to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission Representing the Central Abandoned Uranium Mines Region.

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Casey Allen Johnson

**Action: Passed**

**Yea: 20**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Begay, Norman M.  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 0**

**Excused: 2**  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 1**  
Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0100-25:**  
An Action Relating to Naabik’iyáti’ Committee and Navajo Nation Council Temporarily Waiving 11 N.N.C. § 9; Approving an Extension to Complete the Apportionment Plan Required Under 11 N.N.C. § 9

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Arbin Mitchell

**Action: Passed**

**Yea: 20**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Begay, Norman M.  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 0**

**Excused: 2**  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 1**  
Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne





**LEGISLATION 0167-25:** An Act Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order, and Naabik’iyáti’ Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 15 N.N.C. §§ 303, 305 and 308, the Plan of Operation of the Navajo Nation Labor Commission

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Crystalyne Curley  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Nathan Notah

**Action:** Passed

**Yea: 20**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Begay, Norman M.  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 0**

**Excused: 2**  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 1**  
Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0091-25:** An Action Relating to Budget and Finance and Naabik’iyáti’ Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$579,295 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (“UUFB”) to the Navajo Nation Washington Office to Fund its Unmet Needs for the Remainder of Fiscal Year 2025; Waiving 12 N.N.C. § 820 (E), § 820 (F), § 820 (J), and § 820 (L)

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Carl R. Slater

**Action:** Withdrawn by Prime Sponsor

**LEGISLATION 0054-25:** An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik’iyáti’ Committees and Navajo Nation Council; Expressing No Confidence in the Executive Director of the Division of Natural Resources, Rescinding CAP-34-23, and Recommending Removal

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Shawna Ann Claw  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

**Action:** Passed

**Yea: 11**  
Begay, Norman M.  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Nez, Andy  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 10**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Rickie  
Simpson, Danny  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George

**Excused: 1**  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 2**  
Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0092-25:** An Action Relating to the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Ms. Eunice Begay to the Commission on Navajo Government Development, as the Ft. Defiance Agency Member

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Vince R. James

**Action:** Passed

**Yea: 17**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Norman M.  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 4**  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
Yazzie, Cherilyn

**Excused: 2**  
Notah, Nathan  
Tso, Otto

**Not Voting: 0**

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0093-25:** An Action Relating to Naabik’iyáti’ Committee and Navajo Nation Council Recommending the Removal of Executive Directors Who Have Not Been Confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Shawna Ann Claw

**Action:** Passed

**Yea: 15**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Slater, Carl Roessel  
Tolth, George  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 1**  
Yanito, Curtis

**Excused: 2**  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 5**  
Begay, Norman M.  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne

**LEGISLATION 0115-25:** An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik’iyáti’ Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Michael Henderson as the Navajo Division of Public Safety Executive Director

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Steven R. Arviso  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Shawna Ann Claw  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Nathan Notah  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Curtis Yanito

**Action:** Passed

**Yea: 20**  
Arviso, Steven R.  
Begay, Helena Nez  
Begay, Norman M.  
Claw, Shawna Ann  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia  
Crotty, Amber Kanazbah  
Daniels, Jr., Herman  
James, Vince R.  
Jesus, Brenda  
Johnson, Casey Allen  
Mitchell, Arbin  
Nez, Andy  
Nez, Rickie  
Parrish, Shaandiin  
Simonson, Germaine  
Simpson, Danny  
Tolth, George  
Yanito, Curtis  
Yazzie, Cherilyn  
Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 0**

**Excused: 2**  
Notah, Nathan  
Tso, Otto

**Not Voting: 1**  
Slater, Carl Roessel

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalyne





**LEGISLATION 0161-25:** An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, Naabik’iyáti’ Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Sherylene Yazzie as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Health

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Vince R. James  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Nathan Notah

**Action:** Failed

**Yea: 7**  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia Daniels, Jr., Herman James, Vince R. Johnson, Casey Allen Mitchell, Arbin Simpson, Danny Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 11**  
Begay, Helena Nez Begay, Norman M. Claw, Shawna Ann Crotty, Amber Kanazbah Jesus, Brenda Nez, Andy Parrish, Shaandiin Simonson, Germaine Tolth, George Yanito, Curtis Yazzie, Cherilyn

**Excused: 1**  
Notah, Nathan

**Not Voting: 4**  
Arviso, Steven R. Nez, Rickie Slater, Carl Roessel Tso, Otto

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalayne

**LEGISLATION 0162-25:** An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order and Naabik’iyáti’ Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Rescinding CO-60-17 and Amending the Navajo Preference in Employment Act At 15 N.N.C. §§ 603 and 604 (B) (8)

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Vince R. James  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Curtis Yanito

**Action:** Passed

**Yea: 20**  
Arviso, Steven R. Begay, Helena Nez Begay, Norman M. Claw, Shawna Ann Charles-Newton, Eugenia Crotty, Amber Kanazbah Daniels, Jr., Herman James, Vince R. Johnson, Casey Allen Mitchell, Arbin Nez, Andy Nez, Rickie Parrish, Shaandiin Simonson, Germaine Simpson, Danny Slater, Carl Roessel Tolth, George Yanito, Curtis Yazzie, Cherilyn Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 0**

**Excused: 3**  
Jesus, Brenda Notah, Nathan Tso, Otto

**Not Voting: 0**

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalayne

**LEGISLATION 0171-25:** An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, Naabik’iyáti’ Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Reycita Toddy as the Executive Director of the Division of Human Resources

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Otto Tso  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Vince R. James

**Action:** Passed

**Yea: 11**  
Begay, Helena Nez Begay, Norman M. Daniels, Jr., Herman James, Vince R. Johnson, Casey Allen Mitchell, Arbin Nez, Rickie Simpson, Danny Tolth, George Yanito, Curtis Yazzie, Lester

**Nay: 6**  
Charles-Newton, Eugenia Claw, Shawna Ann Crotty, Amber Kanazbah Nez, Andy Simonson, Germaine Yazzie, Cherilyn

**Excused: 3**  
Jesus, Brenda Notah, Nathan Tso, Otto

**Not Voting: 3**  
Arviso, Steven R. Parrish, Shaandiin Slater, Carl Roessel

**Presiding Speaker:**  
Curley, Crystalayne

**LEGISLATION 0051-25:** An Act Relating to Resources and Development, Law and Order, Budget and Finance, Naabik’iyáti’ Committees and Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Utility-Scale Solar and Energy Storage System Tax, 12 N.N.C. §§ 1301 – 1314; and Amending 24 N.N.C. §§ 208, 408 and 609

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Carl R. Slater  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Crystalayne Curley  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Curtis Yanito

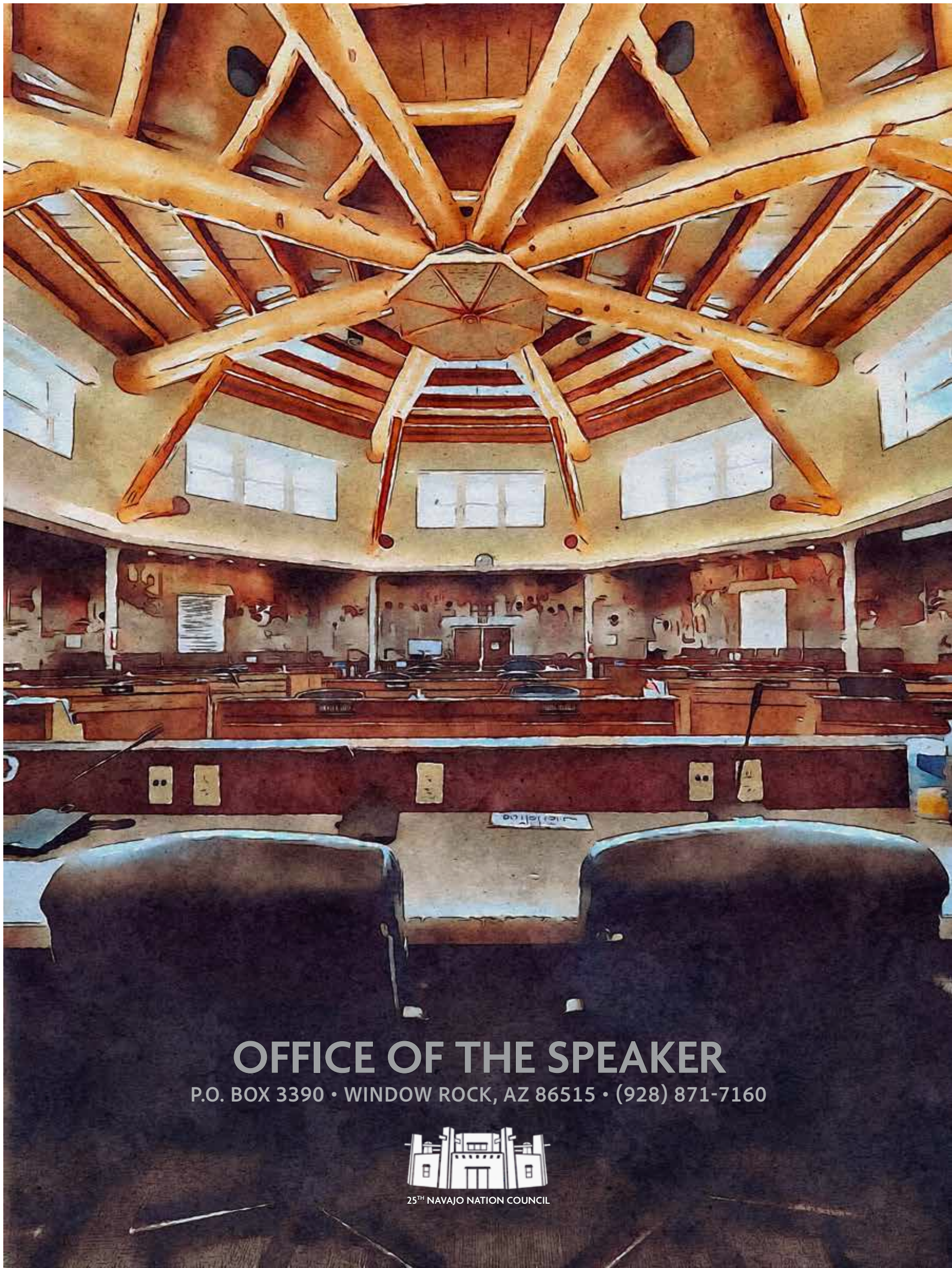
**Action:** Motion to refer back to Naabik’iyáti Committee to schedule a Work Session on August 1, 2025; Bring back within 30 days

**LEGISLATION 0169-25:** An Action Relating to Law and Order, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, and Naabik’iyáti’ Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Diné Higher Education Grant Fund, 12 N.N.C. § 2301 et seq. by Approving \$30 Million Annually Page 4 of 5 to be Distributed Equally Among Diné College, Navajo Technical University, and the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance.

**SPONSOR:** Honorable Andy Nez  
**CO-SPONSOR:** Honorable Carl R. Slater

**Action:** Motion to refer Legislation 0169-25 to Naabi’kiyati Committee for a Work Session; Bring back no later than 180 days





# OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL