



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - CORRECTION

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25th Navajo Nation Council approves \$603.7 million Fiscal Year 2026 data-based budget prioritizing local governments, veterans, personnel, and central government efficiency



Budget and Finance Chair Shaandiin Parrish sponsored legislation approving the Navajo Nation's FY2026 Comprehensive Budget.

Corrections: Corrected budget amounts for the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, and Judicial Branch.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On September 4th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously passed Legislation No. 0195-25, approving the Navajo Nation's Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 in the amount of \$603.7 million.

The budget was created through a data-driven process led by the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC). The planning base amounts were determined using the average expenditures of the past three years, with a 15% growth factor recommended by the BFC's advisors. When BFC reviewed unmet needs after the Oversight Committees examined the Branch and Chapter budgets, they used a formula developed by Controller Sean McCabe, which considers the FY2025 expenditure rates. BFC's method based the plan on actual spending patterns, ensuring balanced allocations.

Legislation No. 0195-25 was sponsored by Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, with co-sponsorship from Speaker Crystalyne Curley. Chair Parrish stated that the legislation aims to ensure that the Chapters receive adequate funding, that comments heard at the BFC's comprehensive budget public hearings are acted upon, and that the Navajo Nation government continues to receive funding.

“This budget is a reflection of what responsible tribal governance looks like,” said Speaker Curley. “We listened to our people, acted on their needs, and worked together to pass a budget that delivers real solutions. It invests in our students, our veterans, our personnel, and our local chapters—because when those foundations are strong, our sovereignty grows stronger too.”

The FY2026 budget prioritizes personnel, allocates more funding directly to chapters, and ensures the stability and operation of the central government in Window Rock. Overall, the legislation allocated \$19.9 million for the Legislative Branch, \$19.2 million for the Judicial Branch, \$524.1 million for the Executive Branch, and \$40.3 million for fixed costs. Significant allocations include \$11.4 million for the Veterans Trust Fund and \$7.6 million for chapter houses through the General Funds and Permanent Lapse Fund.

The Navajo Nation Council approved:

- \$4.4 million in additional funding for the Chapters (\$2.9 million for summer youth employment and \$1.5 million for solid waste projects)
- \$1.9 million in additional funding for the Division of Public Safety
- \$2.3 million in Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons Unit funding (\$750,000 for a database, \$300,000 for the police department, \$1.2 million for the criminal investigators)
- \$2.5 million in Victim Advocates funding
- \$3.6 million in additional funding for Veterans (\$3,000,000 for direct services and \$550,000 for NNCVOs)
- \$1.8 million in additional DALTCS funding
- \$1.3 million to the Judicial Branch for probate costs
- \$176,079 in reallocations to the Division of Economic Development
- \$2 million in additional funding for the Johnson O’Malley (JOM) program

Amendment One established personnel lapse savings pools for all three branches of government, enabling funds from unfilled positions to be reallocated and requiring an administrative process within 30 days of enactment. All three branches and chapters received requested personnel and vacancy funding in the total of \$15,493,469.

The FY2026 budget reflects months of collaboration between the Budget and Finance Committee, the Office of Management and Budget, the Controller’s Office, and branch leadership. Structural reforms include new safeguards for chapter-level funding, reducing mid-year transfers, and addressing discrepancies in programs such as the Summer Youth Employment program. The budget also reflects the requests the BFC heard in their public hearings.

On August 26, 2025, the Office of Legislative Services reported from the BFC FY26 Comprehensive Budget Public Hearings that the people wanted more funding at the local level in the chapters, more money for public safety, and for probate. The Council also heard the request from the people to allocate more money for Veterans and acted on amendments to increase the Navajo Nation’s general funds for Veteran services.

Chair Parrish emphasized that collaborative planning is essential for creating a budget that adapts to federal shortfalls and community needs while ensuring strict oversight. “This budget reflects the Navajo Nation’s commitment to fiscal discipline, cultural integrity, and self-determination,” she said. “Every dollar supports a community priority—whether education, housing, public safety, or honoring our veterans. I’m proud of the unified action the 25th

Navajo Nation Council took to make this happen.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 17 in favor and none opposed in approving Legislation No. 0195-25. 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.

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