



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation Council urges President Nygren to approve funding for Legislative and Judicial Branches to avoid employee layoffs and ensure government services

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 25th Navajo Nation Council is calling on President Buu Nygren to promptly approve a resolution restoring critical funding for the Legislative and Judicial Branches within the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget, to prevent employee layoffs and ensure the continuation of essential government services for the Navajo people.

The Council approved the legislation on Sept. 25, in response to Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's line-item vetoes that continue to jeopardize jobs and services. The current fiscal year will come to an end on Sept. 30, and President Nygren has yet to take action on the resolution.

The Council acted to restore funding for the operations of the Legislative Branch, including 28 staff positions, and to address budget needs within the Judicial Branch that directly impact Navajo families, communities, and courts. These measures are vital to maintaining transparency, accountability, and access to justice across the Navajo Nation.

On Friday, "emergency" legislation was introduced seeking more than \$1.5 million in additional funding for the Office of the President and Vice President. However, the Office of Legislative Counsel has determined that the request does not meet the standards required to be considered "emergency" legislation under Title II of the Navajo Nation Code.

The Office of Legislative Counsel has recommended that the legislation be reintroduced through the standard legislative process, beginning with the public five-day comment period, which will also allow the Navajo people to comment on the legislation.

"While the Council has moved responsibly to safeguard jobs and government services, it is equally important that all proposed funding requests follow the proper process to ensure accountability and transparency," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "The Council stands ready to consider legislation through the established process once it is properly introduced."

The Council emphasized that approval of the current funding measures for the Legislative and Judicial Branches is necessary to maintain stability within government operations.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council urges President Nygren to swiftly sign the resolution to uphold the Nation's workforce and the delivery of services that the Navajo people depend on daily.

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