



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 29, 2025**

**25th Navajo Nation Council approves legislation rejecting unlawful  
line-item vetoes in FY2026 budget**



**Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez (left) is joined by co-sponsor Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton, as they present Legislation No. 0222-25.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Thursday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0222-25, an emergency measure directing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of the Controller (OOC) to disregard unlawful line-item vetoes issued by the Office of the President on the Fiscal Year 2026 Comprehensive Budget.

Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, sponsor of the legislation, said the action was necessary to preserve the Council's authority and keep government services in place.

"CD-68-89 fundamentally addresses the separation of "powers" with checks and balances, and in accordance with Title 2, the Legislative Branch, has a responsibility similar to our other two branches. These unscrupulous vetoes did not just cut budgets; they disrupted the balance of our government and threatened the services our people voted to help carry out. This legislation reasserts the Council's role as a co-equal branch and defends the integrity of our budget and oversight authority," said Delegate Dr. Nez.

The measure declares that President Nygren's vetoes of CS-44-25, which eliminates operating funds for the Legislative Branch, are unlawful and invalid. An official opinion from Chief Legislative Counsel G. Michelle Espino confirms the President's actions violate established law and put direct services and governance at risk.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley said the legislation is critical to restoring balance among the branches of government.

“No single branch should dominate the others. This action restores balance and ensures that each branch can carry out its responsibilities on behalf of the Navajo people,” said Speaker Curley.

Co-sponsor Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton added that the vetoes are a direct threat to the critical reach of engagement for delegates within their communities.

“This emergency legislation instructs the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of the Controller to disregard the President’s line-item vetoes to CS-44-25, as they exceed the legal authority granted under the line-item veto provision and undermine the checks and balances by eliminating the Council’s operational budget—effectively stripping the legislative branch of its ability to conduct oversight and hold the executive accountable,” said Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton.

During the debate, delegates strengthened Legislation No. 0219-25 with amendments to the executed FY2026 budget. An amendment from Council Delegate Carl Slater, refined by Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, clarifies that no duplicate appropriations are created through the passage of Legislation No 0219-25. Delegate Slater’s amendment directs the Controller to certify a single governing amount where overlap exists, giving priority to Legislation No. 0219-25.

Delegates agreed that line-item veto authority should not be used to dismantle the operations of a coequal branch. Eliminating all operating budgets for the oversight committees, including Health, Education, and Human Services, Law and Order, Budget and Finance, and Resources and Development, was widely condemned as an attack on legislative oversight.

Legislation No. 0222-25 directs OMB and OOC to implement the original appropriations as passed in CS-44-25, except where superseded by Legislation No. 0219-25. If either office refuses to comply, they must provide a written explanation to the Council within 15 days.

The legislation was passed with a vote of 18 in favor and 1 opposed. The 25th Navajo Nation Council has full authority on this legislation.

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