



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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President Nygren continues to demand more funds while eliminating jobs and funding for government services

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren issued public statements that attempt to shift blame to the Navajo Nation Council regarding the Navajo Nation's FY2026 Comprehensive Budget. The facts show that President Nygren's line-item vetoes, not the Council's actions, eliminated critical operational funding for the Legislative Branch and other government services, creating the current budget shortfalls.

The Council approved legislation on Sept. 25 to restore the funding, including 28 staff positions, and to address budget needs within the Judicial Branch that directly impact Navajo families, communities, and courts.

President Nygren continues to refuse to sign the resolution while he demands \$1.5 million more for his office. The Council has already approved \$5.5 million for his office — \$5.2 million to fund at least 40 staff positions and nearly \$300,000 for operations.

The Council has provided overwhelming budgetary support for the Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP) since President Nygren took office in 2023, increasing funding for OPVP by 68-percent including an increase of over \$606,000 in the FY2026 budget.

If President Nygren does not act on the resolution before midnight on Tuesday, 28 legislative branch employees risk losing their jobs, and the legislative and judicial branches will not have funding to support essential government operations and services.

On September 4, 2025, the Council unanimously passed the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget after months of discussions and meetings. Rather than working in partnership with the Council during the regular budget process, President Nygren submitted an inflated request for his own office and subsequently vetoed funding that directly impacts Legislative Branch operations and employment.

President Nygren made a last minute effort to engage with the Council last Thursday, and continued to demand that he be given \$1.5 million more in the budget. Delegates, chapters, and the Navajo people continue to raise concerns over audit findings and allegations of misuse of public funds within OPVP.

The Office of Legislative Counsel has determined that legislation being pushed by President Nygren does not qualify as an emergency measure under Title II of the Navajo Nation Code.

Under the guidance of the Office of Legislative Counsel, Legislation No. 0225-25 was introduced on Monday seeking over \$4 million for OPVP and other Executive Branch programs, which will be eligible for legislative committee action on Oct. 5, ensuring transparency and the opportunity for the Navajo people to submit public comments.

“The Council did its job. We passed a comprehensive budget and another legislation that funds programs and employees. The President chose to veto funding for the Legislative Branch and is now blaming others for the consequences of his own actions,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. “We will not allow misinformation to confuse our people. The Council will continue working to restore stability and jobs in the budget through the proper legislative process.”

The Navajo Nation Council remains committed to restoring the funding that was vetoed and protecting services for the Navajo people.

The Council urges President Nygren to sign the resolution before the end of the fiscal year, and to work with the Council through the established legislative process rather than misleading the public with political statements.

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