



SPEAKER'S REPORT

2025 FALL COUNCIL SESSION
SPEAKER CRYSTALYNE CURLEY



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



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Message from Speaker Crystalyne Curley

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya, Madam Interim 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 Fall Council Session.

The month of October is known as Ghááji', meaning the transition of the seasons. The new moon signifies the beginning of a new year for our people. This is a special time when Nihimá Nahasdzáán, Mother Earth, is letting us know that it is time for families to prepare for the changing of the weather and seasons. We also take this time to reflect on where we are in our lives, to pray and renew our efforts for ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities.

We also reflect on the teachings of our elders that remind us to prepare our homes for the upcoming winter season by gathering firewood, blankets, supplies for livestock, and food and water. As elected leaders, we strongly encourage all children and grandchildren to help their elders, so they are safe and taken care of through the upcoming winter season.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council also recognizes and thanks the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities, the domestic violence prevention awareness group, and supporters for walking to the Council Chamber today and calling on leadership to provide greater support for our people. We stand with you and we will continue to work with you to change and implement laws that help our people and those who provide direct assistance to them.

As we move forward, we recognize that the will of our people to be a part of the government process has never dwindled. On behalf of the Council, I extend my appreciation to all of the chapters, agency councils, and districts for voicing your concerns and adopting resolutions to hold the Executive Branch accountable and for supporting the restoration of operating funding for the Legislative Branch. I also thank my Council colleagues for consistently being out in the communities listening to the people and being their voice.

As we move forward, 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 forward.



Crystalyne Curley, Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council



Speaker Curley (right) is joined by Delegate Brenda Jesus (center) at a fresh food distribution held at the St. Michaels Chapter.



Speaker Curley and the 25th Navajo Nation Council have been addressing the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the fall session, I am confident that we will continue to make progress and plan for the future of our Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné Citizens for your guidance and support as we move forward.

FY2026 COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET

On September 9, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously adopted the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget that was developed through several months of public hearings, a data-driven process that analyzed the average expenditures across the three branches over the previous three years, 15-percent growth rate, and other critical factors.

On September 15, President Nygren used the line-item veto authority to eliminate 28 jobs and over \$8.8 million in funding within the Legislative Branch. This action was taken by the President despite the Council's support in increasing the Office of the President and Vice President's (OPVP) budget each year since the Nygren-Montoya Administration took office in 2023. In the FY2026 budget, the Council approved a 12.3-percent increase of over \$600,000 for OPVP to help address services for the Navajo people.



Speaker Crystalyne Curley signs a legislation to restore \$8.1 million to the Legislative Branch's budget.

The OPVP currently has \$5,529,245 within its FY2026 budget that is available for use for personnel and operations – this signifies one of the largest budgets for OPVP in comparison with all previous presidential administrations. Council members have consistently called on President Nygren to consider options to increase his operational funding using his current \$5.5 million allocation, including adjusting the salaries of OPVP's 40 staff members.

OPVP's overall budget has increased by over 68-percent since 2023. Despite this large increase, President Nygren refuses to approve the basic operational funding needed for the Office of Legislative Services, Office of Legislative Counsel, and the Office of the Speaker while demanding an additional \$1.5 million for OPVP. Throughout the months-long budget process, OPVP did not provide any explanation or data to demonstrate the need for the additional \$1.5 million. Based on the financial data and trends provided by the Office of the Controller, the President's demand for \$1.5 million is not justified.

On September 25, the Council approved another legislation to restore \$8.1 million of the Legislative Branch funding that was previously line-item vetoed and to provide an additional \$940,000 to support services within the Judicial Branch. The Council also approved over \$245,000 for the Navajo Nation Youth Council.

On October 6, President Nygren once again line-item vetoed over \$6.6 million in Legislative Branch funding, including most of the salaries for 28 Legislative Branch employees. He also line-item vetoed all of the funding for the Navajo Nation Youth Council.

The Naabik'iyáti' Committee unanimously approved legislation on October 16 to reallocate funding from the Office of the Speaker's personnel budget to temporarily fund 27 legislative positions that were cut through the line-item veto actions. The funding secures the positions for at least one additional month.

PRESIDENT'S ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF CONTROLLER MCCABE

The Navajo Nation Council recognizes Sean McCabe as the duly confirmed Controller of the Navajo Nation, and this position is supported by the Window Rock District Court's granting of a temporary restraining order on October 17 that stopped President Nygren's unlawful and retaliatory termination of the Controller.

The Court's decision is a strong indication that President Nygren broke the law and that the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, under the direction of Acting Attorney General Colin Bradley, was wrong in advising OPVP in the unlawful termination. The temporary restraining order prohibits the President from appointing any Acting Controller without the approval of the Budget and Finance Committee and directs the Office of the Controller to refrain from taking actions under the authority of Alva R. Tom.



On October 10, Speaker Curley filed a petition for injunction regarding the illegal removal of Controller Sean McCabe.

Council members maintain that President Nygren's attempt to terminate Controller McCabe was done in retaliation for the Office of the Controller's role in providing financial documents related to the Office of the President and Vice President's (OPVP) reallocation of \$229,000 in funds from missing persons services to cover President Nygren's travel and operational expenses.

On October 7, Council members were also notified that President Nygren made repeated demands for the Controller to reactivate his purchase card (p-card) to cover his travel expenses. The President's p-card was deactivated by the Office of the Controller at the start of the new fiscal year due to insufficient travel funds. OPVP then executed a budget revision that defunded missing persons services in the amount of \$229,000 and redirected the funding to be used for President Nygren's travel and operating expenses. The President is clearly attempting to retaliate against the Controller. He is also violating his fiduciary and legal responsibility to uphold the best interest of the Navajo Nation.

The Council's actions are necessary to protect the stability of the Navajo Nation government, to uphold the rule of law, and to preserve the independence of the Office of the Controller, which is central to ongoing investigations into ZenniHome and Native Community Capital involving OPVP's potential misuse of Navajo Nation and federal funds. The Controller also has extensive authority over the reallocation and oversight of ARPA funds, raising concerns from the Council, particularly when there are investigations into alleged misconduct.

The President has abused his authority. No branch of government is above the law. The Navajo Nation must operate in accordance with its established laws and policies. The Navajo Nation Council will continue to uphold the law and continue to seek a final ruling from the court.

CONFIRMATION OF ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL BRADLEY

On October 9, the Naabik'íyáti Committee voted 0-12 on legislation seeking to confirm President Nygren's appointment of Colin Bradley to serve as the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation, after Bradley failed to publicly answer direct questions related to the President's illegal attempt to terminate Sean McCabe as the Controller. The legislation to confirm Bradley is now on schedule to be considered by the Council.

The Naabik'íyáti Committee voiced disappointment and concern over Bradley's lack of clear and direct responses to key questions, particularly regarding the status of the Controller position and the legality of President Nygren's attempt to terminate Controller McCabe. Several delegates emphasized that the Attorney General serves the Navajo

Nation and must provide legal guidance to both the Executive and Legislative Branches. The Acting Attorney General's reluctance to address ongoing legal issues in a public meeting has created uncertainty. Bradley confirmed to the Council in writing that the Department of Justice provided legal advice to President Nygren in his decision to issue a termination notice to McCabe.

President Nygren appointed an "interim" Controller without the consent of the Budget and Finance Committee — a violation of 12 N.N.C. § 202(B), which specifically states that the "President of the Navajo Nation, with the consent of the Budget and Finance Committee, may appoint an Acting Controller to serve during vacancies of the Controller pending formal action by the Navajo Nation Council."

When asked directly who the lawful Controller is, Acting Attorney General Bradley would not provide a definitive answer during the public meeting. As a result, the Committee approved a directive to the Acting Attorney General to issue a legal opinion regarding who is the lawful Controller.

On October 10, Acting Attorney General Bradley issued an attorney-client privileged memorandum in which he attempted to create loopholes to support President Nygren's illegal removal of Controller McCabe. In the Council's perspective, the legal advice of Bradley is even more troubling considering the Window Rock District Court's granting of the temporary restraining order to stop the removal of McCabe. It raises more questions about whether Bradley is serving in the best interest of the Navajo Nation, or the President alone.

As the Speaker, I have a responsibility to ensure that the Department of Justice serves all three branches of our government, not just one. When critical questions go unanswered by the Acting Attorney General in public, but swift responses are delivered behind closed doors to the President, that raises serious concerns. When questions arise about the lawfulness of executive actions, the Attorney General must provide direct answers, not avoid them.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

On October 1, the federal government shutdown took effect after Congress failed to reach an agreement to fund the government beginning Oct. 1, largely due to disagreements related to Medicaid benefits. Since then, there have been numerous votes within the U.S. Senate that have failed to provide a path forward. The length of the shutdown and the extent of its impacts are uncertain.

Despite the uncertainties, the Navajo Nation Council continues to work with congressional leaders and federal agency officials to advocate and push back on the impacts of the shutdown. Although the federal government shutdown remains in effect,



Speaker Curley address inquiries to Acting Attorney General Colin Bradley.



Speaker Curley joined Gold Star mothers and families during a Gold Star Mother event held at the Veteran's Memorial Park.



Speaker Curley attended the Elder Fest during the Northern Navajo Fair, where she provided updates to the elders.

certain personnel and operations are deemed “essential” and will continue to function.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has released its official contingency plan in which many of their employees were furloughed. The furloughs apply across the entire BIA, including the Navajo Area Regional Office. The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announced that it does not anticipate furloughing any employees during the shutdown. Its contingency plan has also been made public.

Indian Health Service (IHS) received advanced appropriations and health care services have not been disrupted on the Navajo Nation. IHS continues to operate business-as-usual across Indian Country. We thank all of the IHS personnel for their dedication and commitment to our people throughout the shutdown.

It is becoming increasingly troubling as it relates to threats of termination to federal jobs that impact tribal communities, including under the U.S. Department of Education. Fortunately, tribal programs under the Department of the Interior have not been impacted to the extent of other agencies.

PROTECTING FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR NAVAJO FAMILIES

Above all, the Navajo Nation Council has taken positions and advocated to protect the critical services and needs of Navajo families related to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits, SNAP, and Medicaid. The Council adopted a resolution calling 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.

Recently, the Council was successful in pushing the Executive Branch to resolve internal bureaucratic delays that paused WIC benefits from being processed for Navajo families. We issued a memorandum to President Nygren urging him to direct his attention to this matter that took several months to address. Based on the Council's actions, the Office of Management and Budget took the necessary steps to make funding available to resume WIC benefits for Navajo families.

According to the Navajo Nation WIC Office, approximately 4,200 Navajo recipients rely on WIC assistance for infant formula, and food and nutritional support. Families should not suffer from bureaucratic slowdowns within our own government, especially when it comes to nourishing infants and children

As the shutdown continues, the Navajo Nation Council will closely monitor the situation to assess impacts to federal services and programs that directly affect Navajo citizens. We will continue to work with our federal partners to minimize the impacts and to call on Congress to end the shutdown as quickly as possible.

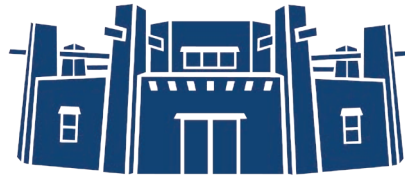
CLOSING REMARKS

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us for the 2025 Fall Council Session. We thank our Navajo people who have overwhelmingly thanked the Council for taking a stand for our people to hold the Office of the President and Vice President accountable and to answer for their questionable actions. As we move forward, the 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue to voice the concerns brought forth by our Navajo people to help resolve the challenges and put our Nation on a path of healing. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we move forward together.

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Crystalyne Curley, *Speaker*
25th Navajo Nation Council



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH PROGRAMS FY2025 FOURTH QUARTER REPORTS

NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FOURTH QUARTER

- The Navajo Utah Commission continued collaborative efforts with the San Juan County Economic Development Office in conducting a second grant writing training session for Utah chapters in Bluff, Utah on July 23, 2025. 18 participants representing 5 chapters and two tribal organizations were in attendance. The county and the NUC Office are available to assist the chapters with funding applications.
- The Navajo Utah Commission worked with the Utah Housing & Community Development under the Department of Workforce Services to amend and finalize a State of Utah housing contract to observe federal, state, and Navajo Nation environmental requirements for a housing project. The contract executed a grant of \$426,762 from the Utah Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund and matching funds of \$565,000 from the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund to construct 7 housing units at cost of \$991,762 for Utah chapters.
- Members of the Navajo Utah Commission, including Council Delegates Curtis Yanito and Shaandiin Parrish met with 12 state agencies at Utah Valley University as part of the 2025 Governor's Native American Summit on July 31, 2025 and August 01, 2025 to discuss Navajo issues and collaborative efforts.
- The Navajo Utah Commission submitted a funding application seeking \$40,000 from the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund (NRF) for a capacity building training series serving the 7 Utah chapters. The NUC Office also submitted a second application to the Utah NRF seeking \$200,000 for the Naatsis'Aan Chapter Senior Center Rehabilitation Project. The NRF Board approved the \$40,000 request on September 25th and will be considering the \$200,000 sometimes during October.

Section Two: Goals for 1st Quarter in FY2026

- The Navajo Utah Commission will initiate the Montezuma Creek Market Analysis Project with the Southwest Business Development Consulting, LLC.
- Work with seven Utah Chapters and the Utah Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund (OWHLF) grant Office to select grant recipients for the Utah OWHLF grant.
- Prioritize Utah Navajo issues for the 2026 Utah Legislature.
- Plan and schedule a capacity building training session for the 7 Utah chapters regarding a topic selected by the chapters.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

The Navajo Utah Commission received a funding reduction of 17% for FY2026. The cut of \$55,000 will create a major challenge for FY26 in meeting program goals and objectives. The impact includes insufficient funds for meeting mileage, program vehicle mileage, elimination of office/operating supplies, and lack of funds for work related travel. Without additional funding, virtual collaboration may be the only option, but program efficiency and output would be more difficult to achieve.

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OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“Office”) addressed many significant issues this reporting period:

- **San Juan County Settlement Agreement:**

- While the Utah federal district court judge signed the settlement agreement between the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and San Juan County, Utah, the Office initiated meetings with the San Juan County clerk/auditor. These meetings are to facilitate communications between the parties. While there are only municipal elections in the county, the Office expressed concerns over the new Utah Law HB300 that has the potential to institute challenges for Navajo voters in San Juan County. The Office initiated several projects that require attention by both parties:
- Precinct Boundaries: It was brought up by the county that both parties need to examine the precinct boundaries so that Navajo voters are not challenged by canvassing the polling places during election day.
- Attend Chapter Planning Meetings: The county expressed concern about the meetings it needs to attend in order to inform the Navajo public about elections in the county. The county requested that the chapters in Utah place their reports on the agenda without having to attend the planning meetings.
- Enlist Navajo Election Administration: The Office is aware that Navajo Election Administration by law has responsibility to interface with counties on election activities. The Office has encouraged NEA to facilitate measures to interface with the counties, including San Juan County, Utah.
- Outreach to Chapters: There is new legislation that requires all voters in Utah to have a Utah ID card. It is important that the Plus Code that was used in the past when registering a voter continues, although there are requirements by HB300.

- **Meeting with USDOJ:**

- The Office has a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of Justice to facilitate communications and exchanging information. The Office made several attempts to contact USDOJ since January 2025 and finally in the middle of summer received a reply. Four issues were discussed at the September 22, 2025, annual meeting:
- Voting Rights: The 1965 Voting Rights Act is hanging by a thread in light of the various cases to be considered by the United States Supreme Court. If the Turtle Mountain case is accepted, the Office anticipates the Court may validate the district court decision that private parties cannot sue on voting rights.
- Rehabilitation: The Office has a written complaint filed about how a Navajo person was placed in rehabilitation facilities during the period when businesses took advantage of the Arizona Health Care Containment System. It is unfortunate that lawsuits against the businesses are for Arizona AHCCCS, not the individual Navajos.
- Public Schools: The Commission and Office conducted public hearings in September 2025 to assess race relations for Navajo students in the Gallup McKinley County School District. USDOJ will assist the Commission to further analyze the information gathered.
- Immigration: There is a written complaint filed in the Office about a spouse who is Mexican and detained by ICE. The Office is in communication with Phoenix ICE. USDOJ only listened to the presentation.

- **AAMCO Repair Shop:**

- The Office has been addressing the AAMCO issues for the past 4–5 years. Complaints were filed with the Federal Trade Commission and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), but there has not been resolution. CFPB examined the complaints but could not take them on because the credit issues for the Navajo consumers were cured. The Office also filed the written complaints with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office. On July 18, 2025, the Office, along with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, conducted follow-up meetings with the consumers at Tuba City. Since then, AZAG has made ongoing efforts to communicate with AAMCO’s national office to settle with the Navajo consumers. There are about 60 Navajo complaints. The consumers’ vehicles are substantially operable; however, the parts to be replaced have deteriorated because some were placed into the cargo spaces of vehicles and exposed to the elements.

- **Observe New Mexico Elections (ONME):**

The Office is a member of the advisory board for ONME. The organization published a report on the 2024 elections in New Mexico by staffing observers at half of the counties' polling places. ONME will continue to observe New Mexico elections in 2026. The Office contributes to discussions with ONME staff and the Carter Center. During the 2025 elections, ONME will observe select municipal elections across New Mexico. Some members of the advisory board include former New Mexico Governor Garrey Carruthers and former Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court Barbara Vigil. The board meets as needed to guide staff.

- **New Mexico Redistricting Task Force:**

The task force was resurrected in early spring to facilitate participation and educate New Mexico legislators. The Office, New Mexico Fair Districts, and League of Women Voters pushed for legislative membership on the task force. The Office and New Mexico Fair Districts presented to the New Mexico Indian Affairs Committee on July 17, 2025, at the Pinedale Chapter House. Since that meeting, the task force has met several times. Unfortunately, two legislators resigned due to national events on redrawing redistricting plans. One legislator questioned why the Pueblos are not voting members. The Office explained that outreach was made to the All-Pueblo Council of Governors, but no reply was received. Another issue raised was how redistricting commissioners would be selected.

- **UPR Process for the USA:**

While the Commission submitted its shadow report in March 2025 for the United States' Universal Periodic Review, the United States has informed the Human Rights Council it will forgo its November 10, 2025, review. It is rare for a nation-state to opt out of the UPR. This has drawn international attention and concern from U.S.-based human rights organizations, which are requesting the review proceed despite the U.S. refusal.

- **Community Listening Sessions:**

The Office sponsored and facilitated a series of listening sessions on July 15, 2025, in Sheepsprings, NM, and Shiprock, NM, and on July 16, 2025, at Huerfano Chapter. These sessions informed the public about two critical issues: the 2023 San Juan County Commissioner redistricting map and the 2023 Native American Voting Rights Act passed by the New Mexico Legislature. The Office collaborated with the San Juan County Clerk and the Native American Voter Alliance. The forums were well attended and received positive feedback. The Office invited representatives from the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President.

- **Public Hearings – Gallup McKinley County School District:**

Public hearings were held on the treatment of Navajo and Native American students at the following locations:

- Bááháálí Chapter – September 16, 2025
- Tohatchi Chapter – September 17, 2025
- Pueblo Pintado Chapter – September 24, 2025

A total of 92 individuals attended, and 34 requested to speak.

- **Citizen Complaints:**

The Commission currently has 48 open cases, with 18 newly opened and 3 closed during the quarter.

- **Public Engagement:**

During the Navajo Nation Fair, the Office hosted an informational booth and provided materials on:

- The role and services of the Commission
- Vehicle purchase guidance
- The complaint process
- Public hearings related to Gallup McKinley County School District

Staff also conducted a public survey during the event.

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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 4th QUARTER – FY 2025

OLC's major accomplishments this quarter include, but are not limited to:

- Provided legal representation for the 2025 Summer Council.
- The following employees joined the program this quarter:
 - July 21, 2025 – A Principal Tribal Court Advocate, Chris P. Benally was hired.
 - August 08, 2025 – A Legislative Analyst, Kyron Hardy was hired.
 - August 25, 2025 – An Attorney Candidate, Jonelle Clytus, was hired.
 - September 02, 2025 – An Office Aide, Aiyana Gatewood was hired.
- Provided legal services and drafted legislation for the FY 2025 Comprehensive Budget and all related oversight committees hearings and sessions.
- Provided legal services to the Title II Reform Committee and draft amendments to the Council Rules of Order.
- Continued to represent Navajo Board of Elections Supervisors (NBOES), on election matters.
- Drafted and finalized 147 legislation requests and contract review.
- Provided legal guidance and assistance at over 83 Committee/Council meetings and work sessions, as well as over 54 Subcommittee/Boards/Commission meetings, work sessions and administrative hearings.
- OLC upholds its responsibilities to the public by maintaining mandatory training requirements for attorneys and advocates under professional responsibility rules.
- Provided legislative legal services at all Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee regular and special meetings, leadership meeting and work sessions.

GOALS & PRIORITIES

- Continued to advise and assist the NNC, Standing Committees and sub-committees. Attend all meetings, advising on all procedural and substantive questions.
- Continued to attend all Office of the Speaker meetings to keep abreast of all pertinent information received to ensure that OLC is kept updated and proactive concerning legislative needs, projects, and priorities.
- Continued filling remaining vacant attorney and staff positions to meet the increase in meetings and legislation requests.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Upon completion and Council approval of proposed amendments to the Rules of Order for Council and Standing Committee meetings, it is recommended that OLC facilitate a work session to orientate and address questions for Navajo Nation Council Delegates and Legislative Staff.

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NAVAJO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FOURTH QUARTER

2025 NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL REAPPORTIONMENT

Public Hearings have been scheduled for the last week of October. Four (4) maps, using the 2020 U.S. Census Count and Navajo Nation Voter Registration data off-reservation voters, will be produced for public input.

- CAMPAIGN EXPENSE REPORT NON-FILERS/DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

Agency	July 15	July 29	August 26	September 30	TOTAL
Chinle (CHA)		15		2	17
Eastern (ENA)		3	1		4
Fort Defiance (FDA)	*1		2		3
Northern (NNA)					0
Western (WNA)					0
	1	18	3	2	24
*Quorum Reduction					

-Absentee Voting for Special Elections

Agency	July 15		July 29		August 26		September 30		TOTAL
	Walk In	Mail	In Person	Mail	In Person	Mail	In Person	Mail	
Chinle			25				16		41
Eastern									0
Fort Defiance	1				14	1			16
	1		25		14	1	16		57
In person Voting: 56				Voting by Mail: 1					

Two (2) individuals were disqualified for failure to file Campaign Expense Statements for special elections held in July.

- APPOINTMENTS BY THE NAVAJO BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS - UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES**

Agency	Chapter Official or AFOG official	Grazing Committee	Land Board	Farm Board	School Board	TOTAL
Chinle	1			1	3	5
Eastern	2				6	8
Fort Defiance	4	1			4	9
Northern	1				2	3
Western		2		1	5	8
Total	8	3		2	20	33

- **OATH OF OFFICES**

Agency	July	August	September	TOTAL
Chinle	2	5	3	10
Eastern	2	4	4	10
Fort Defiance	1	5	4	10
Northern	1	0	1	2
Western	5	0	3	8
Total	11	14	15	40

- **STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCES/HEARINGS/SUPREME COURT APPEALS**

Agency	No. Filed with Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA)	No. of Dismissal by OHA	No. of Hearings Held by OHA	Appeals Navajo Nation Supreme Court
Chinle	2	1	1 (Continuance)	0
Eastern	3	2	2	0
Fort Defiance	1	1	4	1
Northern	0	0	0	0
Western	0	1	0	2
Totals	6	5	7	3

*Due to lack of a hearing officer, election grievances are not being addressed. Status remains the same from last quarter.

- **VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS/VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES**

-Total Registered Voter: 139,531 (1,245 - New)

-Chinle Agency: 19,620

-Eastern Navajo Agency: 33,234

-Fort Defiance Agency: 34,940

-Northern Navajo Agency: 27,668

-Western Navajo Agency: 25,314

-Voter registration drives conducted by NEA: 7

NAVAJO NATION VOTER REGISTRARS

The NEA conducted fourteen (14) Navajo Nation Voter Registrar Trainings. The NEA is continuously recruiting individuals to serve as Navajo Nation Voter Registrars at the chapter level and in metropolitan areas where there is a large population of Dine People.

Most chapter administration, some chapter officials, and interested voters are trained and certified as Navajo Nation Voter Registrars. Additionally, voter registration services are available in urban areas such as Phoenix Indian Center, Salt Lake City Indian Center, Las Vegas Indian Center, certain County Recorder/Clerk Offices, Arizona State University, and National Indian Youth Council Centers in Albuquerque and Farmington.

RECALL

Ongoing recalls: 3 Recall Inquiries: 8

OTHERS:

- School Board Background Clearance

The Navajo Election Administration, the Navajo Department of Division of Dine Education, Dine Bi Olta School Board Association, Navajo Department of Justice, Office of Background Investigations are

currently discussing amendments to school board qualifications specifically background checks to be complete at the time of candidate filing. Meetings will continue.

- 11 N.N.C. (Election Code) Amendments
 - §6 – Elected officials not taking Oath
- 2025 Navajo Nation Council Reapportionment
 - Public Hearings have been scheduled for the last week of October.
 - Four (4) maps, using the 2020 U.S. Census Count and Navajo Nation Voter Registration data off-reservation voters, will be produced for public input.

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EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FOURTH QUARTER FY 2025

- The FY2026 budgets for the Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC) and its Eastern Navajo Land Commission Office (Office) worked with Speaker's office to submit a budget for FY2026. ENLC budget was included in the comprehensive budget passed by the Navajo Nation Council at a reduced amount. For the office and Commission FY2026 budgets, requests were made for regular budgets, fixed cost budget and unmet needs budget. Recently, the budgets for the regular operation budget and fixed cost budget for office rental were granted, but not the Unmet Needs budget.
- Numerous Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC) meetings (regular, special, worksessions or leadership meetings) were planned and carried out.
- Recently, the Office discovered a more recent data regarding the Land Buy-back (LBB). The Office no longer accepts the booklet edition of the LBB and is now incorporating the new data to make the LBB maps for the 29 Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Chapters more current. Also, the Office has undertaken effort to incorporate new data on the Navajo Nation percent interest in Land Buy-back (LBB) land additions. Maps will be made for the ENA Chapters. The work was delayed due to vacancy for the GIS Technician position, but that position is now filled. Upon full completion, a digital booklet will be published for use by Chapters, NN departments and the public.
- The Office continues to deliver LBB maps to ENA Chapters and some of the Land Use Committees (e.g., Littlewater, Crownpoint Chapters). Newly elected Chapter officials are requesting maps. Although being a planning entity for Chapters is not in the plan of operation for the Office, the Office has been helping Chapters with its requests.
- Continue to give reports at Eastern Navajo Agency Council (ENAC) meetings
- Continue to monitor Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board to obtain approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BIA, BLM and Navajo Nation regarding grazing. Due to federal office and budget uncertainties because of the shutdown, not much has happened.
- Continue to implement suggested work from the Eastern Navajo Land Conference that was held for Chapter officials, Navajo Nation officials and members of the public in 2024; with focus on NELI.
- Continue to attend meetings and give comments to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others regarding remediation of Uranium mining waste. Before, worked closely with NNEPA to examine the use of new technology called High-Pressure Slurry Ablation (HPSA) as to minimize uranium mining waste. This is part of the new approach in public-private partnership with BHP. USEPA has recently announced that it signed an action memo to finalize the plan to transport low-level radioactive material from Churchrock site to the Red Rock Landfill property near Thoreau

Chapter. USEPA has announced action plans for mining waste near Mariano Lake and Smith Lake. To our disappointment, USEPA is proceeding with Cap-In-Place (CIP) alternative. USEPA did not consider ENLC (and Navajo Nation, Thoreau Chapter's) request to remove the waste from Navajoland its objections to the proposed repository in Thoreau, NM. Due to the reluctance of USEPA to remove uranium mining waste from Navajoland, the policy is being reexamined. Director attended Resources & Development Committee (RDC) meeting with USEPA to air concerns about USEPA reluctance and about its plans to do regional repositories at the borders of Navajo Nation. RDC has positively accepted the new approach. Previously, met with Congressman Jamie Raskin and Congresswoman Leger-Fernandez to seek their assistance with Senator Kelly's bill and with federal departments. ENLC Director with various Principle Responsible Parties (PRP) and NNEPA to work out an alternative to USEPA CIP alternatives. PRPs are accepting of the new approach. President Nygren has requested an action plan and the Office will be working with NNEPA and others to compile such a plan for the President to review. The plan or Playbook has been developed and ready for review.

- At an ENAC meeting, the Office was made aware of possible uranium mining in the Mt. Taylor area. NNEPA also apprised the ENLC Office. The Office is monitoring uranium transport issue.
- The Office met with Commission Chairman and Crownpoint Chapter to advise of the presence of uranium within the Chapter boundaries. Further discussion is being planned.
- Previously, the Office and NNEPA worked with Sen. Munoz's office regarding SB316 regarding uranium transport. Called upon NNEPA, NNDOJ and DURAC to assist with amendments. Speaker's office and ENLC met with Sen. Munoz in Santa Fe at NM legislative session. SB316 did not pass, but ENLC Office has recommended presentations to the NM legislative interim committee for further discussions. The Office is monitoring interim committee's activity.
- Continue to monitor ENLC's recommendation to DURAC office to get recommendations for an additional commission position that will represent ENA and an at-large position. Before, submitted necessary recommendation documents to DURAC and Office of Legislative Counsel which prepared the legislation. ENLC Director attended DURAC meeting at Thoreau Chapter. It appears that all of DURAC Commissioner positions have been filled and DURAC is beginning to hold meetings again. ENLC intends to work with DURAC.
- Before, held various meetings regarding the plight of Rock Springs Chapter Navajo families living on private lands owned by Gallup Land Partners. The leases have expired and the effort, in concert with OPVP and NLD, is to work out a solution. The ENLC Office continues to monitor the progress. Navajo Nation Land Department office has stated its position. OPVP was encouraged to negotiate on the land acquisition. Recently, a meeting was held with Rock Spring Chapter to give them a report. The non-Navajo landowner was not accepting of NN's offer to purchase the lands for the benefit of the residents. A different plan is being looked at.
- Previously, the Commission met with Regional BIA office in a leadership meeting to begin preparations for a Fee-to-Trust application to BIA. Before, ENLC managed to have the President sign a letter deferring to ENLC to submit fee-to-trust application to BIA. ENLC Office is now working to prepare for the application. Before, worked with OPVP to approve the deferral to ENLC in the submission of an application for fee-to-trust conversion of Navajo Nation fee lands (approx. 380,000 acres). Continue to monitor NN Department of Agriculture's request to acquire a land withdrawal or assignment for its office and livestock processing facility on a land west of Crownpoint, NM. BIA notified the ENLC Office that this may be a land that is equivalent to tribal trust land. Upon confirmation, ENLC will assist the department to prepare the proper land withdrawal.
- Continued to work with BLM to plan Navajo cultural sites visit. Unfortunately, the BLM culture employee has resigned.
- Continue to create maps for Navajo allottees referred from BIA.
- ENLC met with BLM to discuss the programmatic agreement (PA) and is awaiting further meetings. BLM has advised that the new discussion on PA does not involve Navajo lands. The Office is reluctant to accept such a view and is monitoring the new discussions.
- Certain members of ENLC and the Office met with BLM to discuss the plan for the acquisition of

federal disposal lands (approximately 340,000 acres) in Eastern Navajo Agency. Before, the Office, in coordination with the Chairman, requested President Nygren to defer to the ENLC to submit the application. He has signed a letter to that effect. Due to federal office and budget certainties, not much has happened. This is part of the NELI effort.

- The Office is now using ARC GIS Pro software version. Before, the Office sought a license with NN Land Department, but eventually decided to get its own software. Previously, met with NN General Land Development Department (GLDD) office to obtain maps prepared by GLDD for use by ENLC Office. ENLC Office wants to further the work with GLDD to improve maps for ENA.
- Monitored Crownpoint Chapter's effort to resolve the cemetery land issue. BIA gave a report back and this issue may get resolved so that funds can be used by Crownpoint Chapter to provide maintenance of the Crownpoint/ENA cemetery. Funding may have reverted back to the State of New Mexico. Follow-up needs to occur.
- Continue to meet on the divided/undivided oil & gas leasing in northern ENA. Planned further meetings with BLM, BIA and FIMO in an attempt to resolve the issues for the benefit of Navajo allottees. ENLC is proud to report that it convinced BLM to change its policy as to give preference to Navajo Indian Allottees' lands (Indian Allotments). Recently, ENLC held an update meeting with BLM and oil/gas operators. No new issues have arisen with respect to this issue and it appears that this issue is resolved.
- Before, procured from a law firm the documents of legal litigation acquired through the years; and made plans to prepare the documents for archiving. ENLC will make preparations for receiving further documents. Procurement of equipment for archival is being done. The Office has planned the incorporation of the historical land information into a database.
- ENLC used to meet and dialogue with the Regional BIA Office to discuss the many land issues in ENA. ENLC will continue these dialogues. Due to the federal government shutdown, uncertainty on BIA functions have arisen.
- The Office applied for a federal grant for its many land acquisition work and has not received notice of approval. A few federal litigations have developed over these USEPA grants. It appears that the Office will not receive its grant.
- Had discussion with Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company (NNOGC) regarding oil and gas reserves in ENA.
- Before, ENLC Director participated in consultation meetings with US Department of Interior (DOI) along with the Speaker's office to encourage the Trump administration to not do away with ENA BIA office. Director attended the federal Indian Energy Resources meeting in Lakewood, CO, near Denver.
- ENLC and its Office has been working with the President Trump's administration to rescind the Chaco Canyon Law Withdrawal Order while being mindful of Navajo Nation Department of Justice lawsuit regarding the same matter. Possible settlement talks are underway and the Office has been involved.
- ENLC Office, at the direction of ENLC Chairman, has been working with BLM and some ENA Chapters to identify Customary Land Users (CLU). 72 locations have been identified and efforts are now being undertaken to determine if these are Navajo families living on BLM lands. Upon final determination, ENLC hopes to negotiate with BLM to allow for infrastructure developments to the Navajo homes on BLM lands. The Office has met with all Chapters and now is at a stage to develop a plan.
- Regarding the Legislative Concern, there has been no performance evaluations of staff members.

Goals in FY2026:

- Finish LBB maps, give PDF digital copies to Navajo Land Department, ENA Chapter officials, and paper copies to at 2 libraries
- Work with Joint Land Board to finish the MOU with NN, BLM and BIA; and seeks approvals by NNC and RDC
- Continue to assist Chapters with the land use meeting requests. Education of ENLC's mission with

newly installed Chapter officers will be planned.

- Continue to work with NN EPA and US EPA on uranium mining waste remediation
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with NM and OPVP (NN EPA office) regarding the use of Ambrosia Lake for repository and the use of technology to minimize uranium mining waste and continue to be supportive of NN EPA. Encourage the testing or study of the new technology.
- Continue to work with Principal Responsible Parties (PRPs) to develop workforce development and other related matters for the teaching of heavy equipment operation. Navajo Nation Workforce Development Office will be contacted to assist in developing such a training program.
- Work with NNC's Resources & Development Committee (RDC) to incorporate the use of technology in minimizing uranium mining waste as part of the plan for cleanup. Work with RDC and NNC to develop a position statement for NN.
- Implement the cultural site visits
- Monitor the FY2026 budget and continue to make continued requests for unmet needs budget for the ENLC and the office.
- Finalize land withdrawal for NN Dep't Agriculture office in ENA
- Start the process of submitting a Fee-to-Trust application, including drone-based studies of possible environmental hazards on NN Fee lands.
- Start the process for submitting an application for Federal disposal lands, including drone-based studies of possible environmental hazards on surplus lands.
- Continue to give reports to ENA Chapters and Agency Council
- Continue to create maps for upcoming proposed projects
- Hire a new GIS Technician Aide position or a Project Specialist position.
- Improve the mapping software for the Office
- Begin archiving of documents and maps, including the use of database.
- Work with BLM regarding programmatic agreement.
- Make preparations for further meetings of ENLC with the federal government in Washington, DC. Secretary Burum is now the U.S. Department of Interior Secretary, and the initial meeting with him was productive. Extends meetings out to other Secretaries (i.e., Secretary of Energy).
- Prepare further dialogues with Regional BIA office on the many land issues.
- Monitor the federal grant application.
- Implement performance evaluations of staff members.
- Assist ENLC Chairman in planning the development of better roads for CR7900 Road and N46 Road.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations:

- Increased budgeting of unmet needs will go a long way to accomplishing the goals of ENLC
- Convince NN Executive branch offices to support deference to and respect ENLC to apply for fee-to-trust land conversions and the federal disposal lands
- Coordinate with NNEPA to procure Congressional assistance re uranium remediation issues
- Encourage the Navajo Nation, federal and state offices to adopt the new and different approach on uranium cleanup.
- Continue to work on land acquisitions in ENA.
- Assist in the streamlining of contracts for consultants.

Contact:

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NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The NNLC continues to conduct formal hearings as mandated by the NPEA. The staff are processing complaints from start to finish and comply with the NPEA, adopted Case Management Policy, Fiscal Year performance measures.
- The NNLC office continues to successfully obtained settlement documents to close out several pending cases. We continue to close out more cases with settlements.
- The NNLC members made amendments to the NNLC Plan of Operation for Stipend and have been approved by NNC.
- The Commission staff have continued to improve the office storage with the closure of cases and disposing of pleadings, exhibits etc.
- The Commission continues to review and Amend the Rules of Procedure for Proceedings before the Navajo Nation Labor Commission.
- NNLC closed cases are being scanned for further storage.
- NNLC continues to participate in the 25th NNC/Committee meetings
- NNLC Office will be upgraded with new furniture.

ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- NN Presidential Appointment of NNLC Membership per CJY-42-16. Continue to refer candidate(s) to appointing authority.
- Efficient use of allocated funds
- The program will continue to review and amend NNLC Rules of Procedure.
- NNLC requested assistance of the IT staff for a Zoom account for NNLC hearings. NNLC office is still in need of permanent account for future hearings.
- Re-classifying the Programs and Projects Specialist position.
- NNLC & staff will continue to preserve substantial rights of all employees and employers in accordance to Navajo Law.
- Need laptop computer equipment for staff.
- Create a website for the NNLC office.

Contact: Leffew R. Denny, Navajo Nation Labor Commission
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NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF ETHICS AND RULES FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

- Lewnell B. Harrison, Ethics Investigator was appointed Interim Executive Director on October 15, 2021 to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office so that services to the Navajo Nation would not be interrupted. The Ethics and Rules Office continues to contract with Mr. Joe W. Washington, Attorney for all our filings and to prosecute all who have violated the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has collected \$ 4,110.00 in restitution payments this quarter.

- The Ethics and Rules Office has completed 497 ethics clearances for individuals that have applied for employment or have applied for candidacy with the Navajo Nation this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has filed seven (7) new ethics case and has had one (1) ethics hearings this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office did presentations of the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government for the following Navajo Nation Chapters Chichiltah, Tsayyato, Manuelito, Red Rock, San Juan, Newcomb Beclabito, Nenahnezad, Gadil'ahi, Shiprock, Upper Fruitland, Sanostee and Cove Chapters. Also the following Navajo Nation programs Navajo Nation ARPA and the Navajo Nation Elections Office.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has met with seventy-one (68) individuals for consultation or mediate issues concerning possible Ethics violations.
- The Ethics and Rules Office met with ten (08) different Navajo Nation departments and programs concerning possible ethics violations and recommendations.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has received eighteen (18) new ethics intakes this quarter.

Section Two: Goals for 1st Quarter in FY2026

- We will continue to look for qualified people to fill our vacant positions with this office.
- Update the Ethics and Rules Office's plan of operations.
- Continue to collect restitution owed to the Navajo Nation by filing on the Respondents that are not in compliance and work on other solutions to collect restitution owed to the Navajo Nation.
- Work towards establishing a more efficient office procedure regarding case management, including appropriate retention timelines.
- Establish procedures to identify fixed timelines for the filing of Orders to Show Cause and Garnishment proceedings to avoid missing the statute of limitations.
- Recommence working and collaborating with the Division of Community Development, Administrative Services Centers, Navajo Nation Prosecutor's White Collar Crime Unit, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Elections Administration, and Office of Government Development in providing consultations for local governments (110 chapters).
- Continue Ethics in Government Law/Standards of Conduct training for Chapters, School Boards, and other Navajo Nation Departments, including training for newly hired employees.
- Work cooperatively with other NN departments, the Public Integrity Task Force, FBI, Office of Inspector General and Internal Revenue Service on various task forces and workgroups that concern the public trust to more effectively hold individuals accountable for violations of the Ethics in Government Law.
- Continue to take Ethics intakes on elected and appointed officials and employees of the Navajo Nation and complete Ethics Clearances for candidacies, business loans, veteran's loans and the Navajo Nation Office of Background Investigations.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- Secure funds to continue to upgrade and renovate our office building.
- To send staff to training for continued education to sharpen their skills.
- To reestablish a MOA/MOU with Navajo Nation departments that would help better establish the referral and prosecution process.
- Security cameras to cover office building and parking lot.
- Audio and video recorder to document interviews.

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NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2025 FOURTH QUARTER: 5 REPORTS

Internal Audits – 1 report

- Pinon Chapter

Investigation - 1 report

- Ganado Chapter

Corrective Action Plan Follow-up Reviews – 4 reports

- Standing Rock Chapter
- Round Rock Chapter
- Upper Fruitland Chapter
- Lukachukai Chapter

Goals for FY2026 First Quarter (planned/ongoing projects and activities)

- Cameron Chapter Internal Audit
- Low Mountain Chapter Internal Audit
- Office of the Speaker Special Review
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Performance Audit (Outsourced)
- Navajo Arts and Craft Enterprise for a performance audit (Outsourced)
- Whitehorse Chapter CAP Follow-up
- Manuelito Chapter CAP Follow-up
- IDSA/ZenniHome Initial Audit
- Native Community Capital Initial Audit
- Homesite Lease CAP Follow-up
- OPVP Initial Audit (waiting on contract for signature)
- Directives (5): (1) The OPVP contract remains on hold pending signature, which has delayed the audit start. (2) Audits for IDSA/Zennihome and Native Community Capital are currently underway, being conducted by our internal audit team. (3) Social Services and the Department of Health are still under evaluation to determine whether their audits will be outsourced or handled in-house. Both departments receive federal funding and are audited by KPMG; however, we are assessing the use of the general funds within each to determine the appropriate audit approach.
- Complete nine (9) reviews of corrective action plans submitted to the Auditor General in response to audit reports; continue to work with chapters and programs in revising these corrective action plans and obtaining supporting chapter resolutions. Thereafter, work with the delegates through the legislative process to obtain formal approval of the corrective action plans.
- Complete tasks to update the OAG website; continue to work with Realtime Solutions.
- Work with the consultant to analyze chapter financial data based on their MIP accounting systems to generate reports on expenditures and available fund balances.
- Completed the amendments to the Plan of Operation and currently at LOC for review. Once amendments are complete, they will be presented to the standing committees.
- Complete CMCA quarterly reports
- Complete Chapter Debit/Credit Card Audit
- Complete Speaker audit
- Complete Special Duty/Hazard Pay audit

Issues/Recommendations

- The OPVP audit was scheduled to begin on September 1, 2025, as outlined in the contract. However, the contract remains unsigned by LOC, and no explanation has been provided regarding the delay. I was intending to utilize remaining FY2025 consulting funds on this audit project. Given that the scheduled start date has passed, I now need to determine how to proceed with the contract execution, ensure appropriate payment arrangements, and prepare a response for the external auditor.
- Continue to recruit applicants to fill two (2) vacant Principal and Auditor positions and will continue to advertise and recruit as diligently as possible.
- Social Services and Department of Health are big departments and need more assessment to conduct to focus on the high-risk areas.
- Continue to work with Administrative Service Centers on chapter audits, corrective action plans, sanctions and LGA certification reviews.
- Continue to work with the Wells Fargo Bank to address chapter banking issues such as the need for credit cards but there are no existing policies and procedures.
- Our office need more outsourcing funds (consulting)

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MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVE TASK FORCE FISCAL YEAR 2025 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

The Missing and Murdered Diné Relative Task Force is working towards finalizing an updated 2025 Navajo Nation Tribal Community Response Plan to ensure that missing person reports are handled with the best practices and are used as a guideline for all public safety entities, advocates, and communication specialists best to serve our missing Diné Relatives and their families.

Simultaneously, the Task Force is also working on the first-ever MMDR Database that will be hosted at the Navajo Technical University to help track missing person cases on and off the reservation, and provide access to real-time data to help build stronger policies to change the way the Navajo Nation handles, reports, and stores missing person reports.

The Task Force's goal is to educate the community about resources and services that can assist with locating and recovering their loved ones and reuniting families. Through community engagement, training, and education to chapter houses, schools, and community events, we can ensure that all Navajo Nation members have the right information to file and report a missing person case.

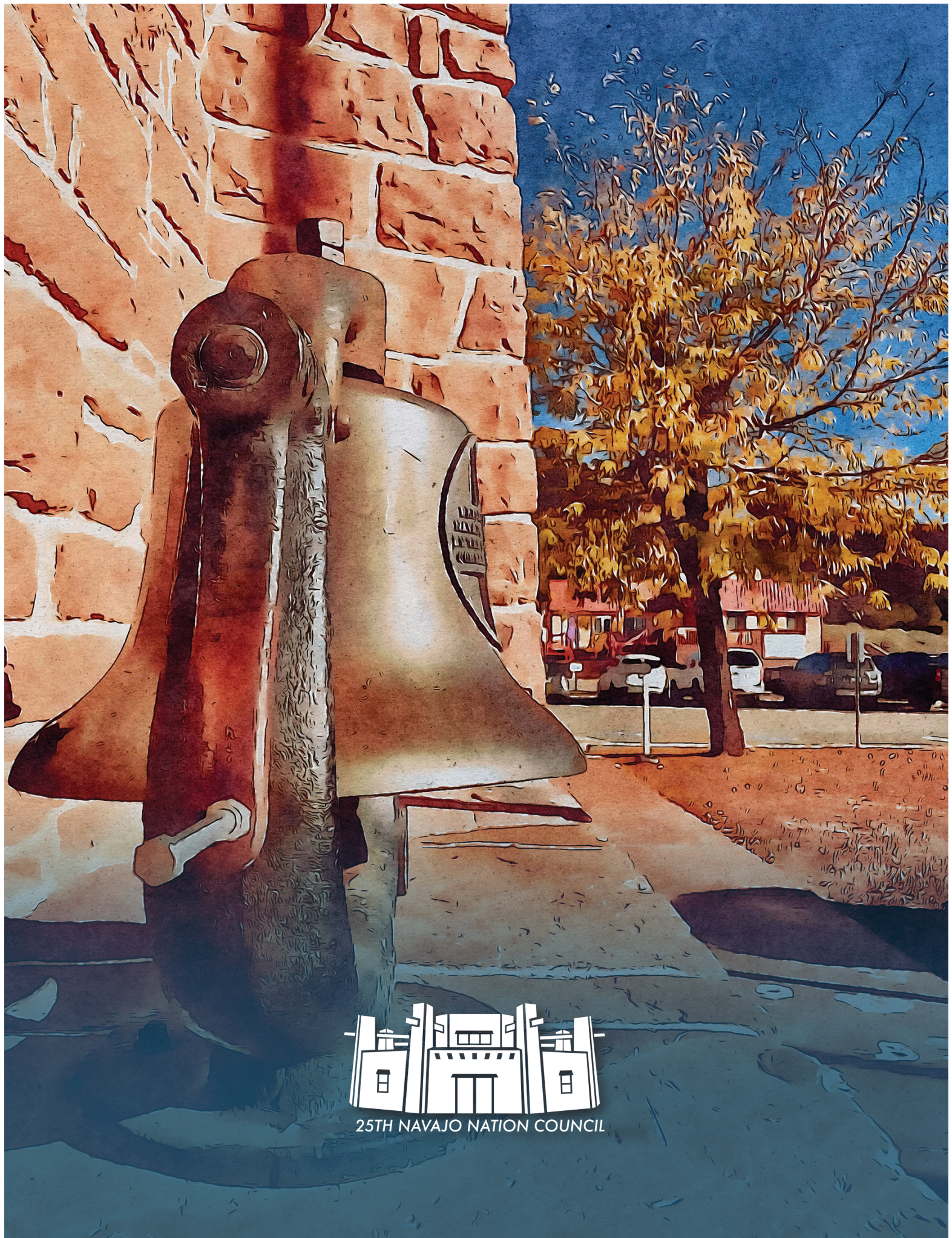
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