



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council approves funding to sustain Legislative District Assistants program



Speaker Crystalyne Curley sponsored a legislation to fund the Legislative District Assistants Program after President Buu Nygren line-item vetoed critical funding to the Legislative Branch.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0228-25, reallocating \$177,434 from the Office of the Speaker's personnel budget to provide one month of operational funding for the Legislative District Assistants (LDA) Program. The action temporarily restores funding for 27 positions that were eliminated by President Buu Nygren's line-item vetoes.

"The Legislative District Assistants are the front line of communication between our communities and their Council Delegates," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley, who sponsored the legislation. "This reallocation is a short-term measure to protect critical services while we continue working toward a permanent solution to restore full funding for the Legislative Branch."

The legislation ensures that all 27 LDAs can continue serving their constituents while the Council develops long-term budget solutions. LDAs coordinate local meetings, assist with constituent outreach, and help Council members remain accessible and responsive to the people they represent.

Speaker Curley emphasized that the Council's action demonstrates transparency, accountability, and the continuity of government operations.

"The Council acted responsibly and in full view of the Navajo people," she said. "We held open debate, followed the five-day public comment process, and voted to keep critical positions in place. That is how government should function, openly and with accountability to the people we serve."

Curley noted that President Nygren's vetoes restored only a fraction of the necessary funding.

"The administration restored just seven percent of what was needed to keep the LDA Program operating for less than a month," she said. "It left our staff in limbo and placed an unfair burden on our legislative district assistants."

The approval of Legislation No. 0228-25 follows the Council's Sept. 25 passage of a legislation to restore \$8.1 million that had been vetoed from the Legislative Branch's FY2026 budget. Despite these efforts, critical positions and operations remained unfunded, prompting swift Council action to prevent disruptions to Legislative Branch positions.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously passed Legislation No. 0228-25 on a consent agenda with a vote of 17 in favor and none opposed, with the Council serving as the final authority.

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