



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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President Nygren's line-item vetoes take effect as the new fiscal year begins, legislative programs seek solutions to maintain government services

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 25th Navajo Nation Council expresses deep disappointment with Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's failure to act on Legislation No. 0219-25, a resolution that would have restored critical operational funding for the Legislative and Judicial Branches.

With the start of the Navajo Nation's new fiscal year on Oct. 1, the harmful impacts of President Nygren's line-item vetoes on the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget have taken effect.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley clarified that there is no shutdown of the Navajo government, but the president's inaction does jeopardize jobs and government services and creates potential liabilities for the Navajo Nation as the Legislative Branch continues to function with no operational funding.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the Speaker continue working diligently to identify temporary measures to preserve 28 legislative staff positions and prevent disruption of government services that strengthen community engagement between the Council and the Navajo people.

"President Nygren's demands for more funding for his office and failure to approve operational funds for the Legislative and Judicial Branches weakens the Navajo Nation as a whole," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "This is not only a threat to employees and their families, but it undermines the ability of the Navajo Nation government to function effectively for the people we serve."

Despite the setbacks created by President Nygren, Speaker Curley stated that the Council and Legislative Branch will continue to fulfill their duties and represent the voices of the Navajo people to the best of their ability.

"The Council and Legislative Branch employees remain committed to keeping the government functioning and ensuring that community voices are heard, even as we operate under limited resources. We will not let President Nygren's petty politics undermine our duties and responsibilities to serve the Navajo people," Speaker Curley stated.

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

The Navajo people and chapters have voiced strong opposition to providing additional funds to President Nygren's office, citing concerns about his alleged misuse of resources and misconduct, including the ongoing investigation into his involvement in a subcontract with ZenniHome that continues to raise questions about \$24 million in ARPA funding.

Council members have questioned whether President Nygren's failure to approve funding for the Legislative and Judicial Branches is an attempt to interfere with or delay the investigation into the ZenniHome matter.

The Council calls upon the President to respect the will of the people and take immediate action to reverse his harmful vetoes. Numerous chapters and agencies have passed resolutions supporting the Council's position and opposing budget increases for President Nygren's office.

"The Navajo people deserve a government that works for them, not against them," said Speaker Curley. "We will continue to fight for accountability, fairness, and the protection of every branch of government."

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