



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Court temporarily blocks removal legislation from proceeding

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, the Window Rock District Court granted Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's request for a temporary restraining order to block the Naabik'íyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council from taking action on Legislation No. 0263-25, which proposes the removal of President Nygren and Vice President Richelle Montoya from office for extensive findings of malfeasance, misfeasance, and breaches of fiduciary trust duties under Navajo Nation law.

"It's not surprising that President Nygren continues to avoid answering the many allegations facing the Office of the President and Vice President. While we do not agree with the Court granting the temporary restraining order, we respect the ruling of the court. We will continue to stand up for the Navajo people, to hear the many requests to hold the President and Vice President accountable," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

The TRO preserves the status quo, until at least the December 8, 2025 hearing date, while the case proceeds and provides both parties an opportunity to present arguments, before the Court issues a final ruling on whether the Council may move forward with the removal process.

In the court filing, President Nygren makes multiple arguments against his removal that are very similar to arguments previously made by attorneys for former President Joe Shirley, Jr. when he was placed on emergency administrative leave under an entirely different statute.

During oral arguments, the Office of Legislative Counsel strongly rejected the characterization of Legislation No. 0263-25 as an "illegal power grab" by Nygren's attorneys. This claim is false, misleading, and ignores the clear authority granted to the Council under Navajo Nation law.

The legislation provides the President and Vice President the opportunity to address the removal legislation when it is considered by the Naabik'íyáti Committee and again before the Navajo Nation Council, following the removal process established under 11 N.N.C. § 240(A), which governs removal proceedings.

President Nygren's filing repeatedly invokes *Shirley v. Morgan*, but fails to acknowledge that the decision did not invalidate 11 N.N.C. § 240(A), the statute outlining presidential removal. The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has never addressed or invalidated the Nation's removal statute, and it remains binding law. The Council is exercising its lawful authority.

Approximately 70 chapters across the Navajo Nation have approved resolutions calling for the removal of President Nygren and Vice President Richelle Montoya, or to place them on administrative leave, or expressing no confidence in their administration.

The Council will continue to operate in a manner that respects Diné Bii Beehaz'ání, the Navajo Nation Code, and the voice of the Navajo people as the legal proceedings move forward.

The public may submit written comments for Legislation No. 0263-25 by email to comments@navajo-nsn.gov or by mail to: Executive Director, Office of Legislative Services, P.O. Box 3390, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

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