



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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## OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **25th Navajo Nation Council approves budget revision to maintain Legislative Branch legal services**



**Speaker Crystalyne Curley sponsored Legislation No. 0011-26 that approved essential funding for legal services to the Legislative Branch.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Tuesday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted unanimously to approve Legislation No. 0011-26, authorizing a budget revision for the Office of Legislative Counsel (OLC) to ensure continued operations for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) and the continued provision of essential legal services to the Legislative Branch.

The legislation restores funding for non-personnel operating expenses that directly align with the Council's ability to draft, review, and enact legislation in accordance with Navajo Nation law, and which were eliminated by presidential line-item veto.

Legislation sponsor Speaker Crystalyne Curley said the measure reflects the Council's responsibility to protect the legislative process and maintain an independent and fully functioning branch of government.

"This action protects the integrity of our laws and ensures the Navajo Nation Council has the legal support necessary to carry out its duties," Speaker Curley said. "Without operational funding for the Office of Legislative Counsel, the Council's work and the Nation's lawmaking process would be at risk."

Legislation No. 0011-26 approves a budget revision request of \$285,000 to support the Office of Legislative Counsel's operating expenses. These funds will cover required costs such

as attorney licensing fees, continuing legal education, and other professional obligations mandated by the State of Arizona.

The funding had been removed from the Fiscal Year 2026 Comprehensive Budget through a line-item veto issued by President Buu Nygren, which eliminated all non-personnel operating expense line items for the Office of Legislative Counsel. As a result, the office was left without funding to meet mandatory operational requirements. A subsequent request to restore funding through the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance was also vetoed, leaving the office without an approved source of operating funds.

To ensure continuity of services, the approved legislation authorizes the Office of Legislative Counsel to reprogram funds from its personnel budget to a non-personnel operating account. This action required a waiver of certain budget and policy provisions and approval by a two-thirds majority of the full Council.

The approved funding will support three attorneys licensed in the State of Arizona and ensure the continued delivery of legal services to the Legislative Branch. By restoring these essential operating expenses, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to effective governance and the preservation of the Navajo Nation's laws.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0011-26 on the consent agenda with a vote of 21 in favor and none opposed. The measure required at least two-thirds approval, or 16 affirmative votes. The Council's action serves as final approval of the legislation.

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