



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council approves legislation to provide emergency assistance to 110 chapters



The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0029-26 to support emergency assistance for 110 Navajo Nation chapters.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Thursday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0029-26 allocating \$6,000,000 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) to support emergency assistance for 110 Navajo Nation Chapters for Fiscal Year 2026, following extensive discussion, amendments, and review of legislative findings.

The legislation was introduced as a measure to address urgent needs across the Navajo Nation, where recent weather conditions have impacted community safety and access to essential services.

Council delegates reviewed findings that confirmed the funding would support non-recurring emergency expenditures, consistent with requirements outlined under Title 12 of the Navajo Nation Code. Supporting documentation from the Office of the Controller verified that the \$6,000,000 request is considered non-recurring and appropriate for UUFB use.

Delegates discussed and adopted amendments to clarify how funds may be used. One amendment allows chapters to prepare for emergencies in advance, rather than waiting for a formal emergency declaration. This change supports proactive planning at the local level and aligns with chapter emergency response plans discussed during Council debate.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate George Tolth highlighted the importance of acting swiftly to support chapters facing ongoing environmental and infrastructure challenges.

“This funding provides critical resources directly to the chapters, allowing them to address emergencies at the local level and safeguard the health and safety of our people,” said Tolth.

Co-Sponsor Delegate Shawna Ann Claw emphasized that the legislation reflects both immediate needs and long-term community resilience.

“This legislation ensures that our chapters are not only responding to emergencies but are also able to prepare ahead of time. By clarifying the use of these funds and aligning them with non-recurring expenditures, we are strengthening local capacity and ensuring our communities are better equipped to protect our people,” said Delegate Claw.

The approved funding will be distributed among all 110 chapters using an established allocation formula, ensuring equitable support across the Navajo Nation. Funds will be used for emergency-related needs such as public assistance, community response efforts, and preparedness activities identified by each chapter.

The legislation also includes findings confirming that required budget forms, Controller review, and Office of Management and Budget memorandums were submitted and attached, reinforcing accountability and compliance with Navajo Nation financial policies.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0029-26 with a vote of 19 in favor and none opposed meeting the two-thirds vote requirement. The Navajo Nation Council serves as final authority for the legislation.

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