



SPEAKER'S REPORT

2026 SPRING SESSION
SPEAKER CRYSTALYNE CURLEY



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



Speaker Curley greets the color guard during the 2026 New Mexico Legislature's American Indian Day.

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Speaker Curley joined the 17th Annual Vietnam War Veterans Honor Walk in Smith Lake, N.M.



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SPEAKER'S REPORT

Yá'át'ééh and welcome, my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya, Madam Interim Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley, chapter officials, federal, state, and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné people. Thank you for joining us as we welcome you to the 2026 Spring Council Session.

First, I want to recognize and thank all my Council colleagues, advocates, and the victims and survivors who participated in this morning's walk in recognition and remembrance of missing and murdered children and relatives. Together, we continue to pray for the families who continue to search for their loved ones and those who have suffered the loss of a child or relative. The 25th Navajo Nation Council is committed to supporting our people and helping to bring resolve to these issues.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the hardworking staff members within the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch. April 22 is Administrative Professionals Day across the country. There is much work that often goes unnoticed and great sacrifices that are made by the administrative professionals on the Navajo Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank you for your service, and I also thank your families and loved ones for everything they do to support you.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I also recognize and congratulate all our Diné students who participated in the annual spelling bee in March. We honor and celebrate their remarkable courage and achievements, and we offer a special recognition to Tsaile Public School eighth grader Koen Harvey, who won this year's competition and will move on to the National Spelling Bee competition in Washington, D.C., in May. We are proud of Koen and wish him the very best.

I also want to take a moment to recognize all our Diné student-athletes who represented their schools and the Navajo Nation in the recent state high school basketball finals. We had many outstanding athletes who demonstrated great sportsmanship and several who won state championships. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank you, your parents, teachers, coaches, and fans for supporting one another and working hard in the classroom and on the basketball court.

Once again, I congratulate and welcome Honorable Titus Nez, who was appointed to serve as a member of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. He took the oath of office on March 18, representing the communities of Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, and Thoreau. He also serves as a member of the Law and Order Committee.



Crystalyne Curley, Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council



Speaker Curley called on community members to hold Vietnam veterans in prayer during a National Vietnam War Veterans Day event held at the Nahata Dził Chapter.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council also offers its prayers for the family of former Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim, who passed away in February. Among his great achievements, he leaves behind a legacy of strengthening Navajo education to build a stronger future for our children. We continue to honor and recognize his life and contributions to our Nation.

As we begin the spring session, I would like to reiterate that I encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the teachings of our elders in relation to the recent change in the seasons. Spring is a time of planting new seeds and embracing new growth that will provide us nourishment and see us through the coming seasons. The seeds that we plant during this session, with the words we speak as we deliberate over legislative actions, will have lasting impacts on our people. As our grandparents always taught us, Ni'hi'saad ayoo bi'dzil, our spoken words have power to create change that improves the livelihood of our people, but we must work together and move forward on a positive path.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the spring session, I am confident that we will continue to make progress and plan for the future of our Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné citizens for your guidance and support as we move forward.

Advancing the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council

On March 12, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved legislation confirming 12 young Diné leaders to serve on the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council, welcoming new advocates who were selected from a competitive pool of 41 applicants to represent Navajo youth across the Nation's five agencies and beyond.

Our youth are the future of the Navajo Nation, and their voices deserve to be heard at every level of governance. The Council is proud to support these 12 outstanding young leaders as they step into this role with purpose, determination, and a deep commitment to their communities. The 25th Navajo Nation Council stands behind them as they begin this important journey.

The Youth Advisory Council is a government entity within the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation, established to ensure that the voices of young Diné people are formally heard within the legislative

process. The Youth Advisory Council was moved from the Office of the President and Vice President to the Legislative Branch, a structural shift designed to strengthen the advisory council's role and effectiveness in shaping policy.

Representing the Central Navajo Agency are Vydell Willie of Round Rock, Ariz., who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Indian Country Criminal Justice at Northern Arizona University, and Aryiah James of Wheatfields, Ariz., who is working toward an associate degree in business administration and hopes to become an entrepreneur.

Representing the Fort Defiance Agency are Starr Joe of Fort Defiance, Ariz., a senior at Window Rock High School involved in youth leadership initiatives across the Navajo Nation and Arizona, and Makyle Dan of Fort Defiance, who is committed to empowering Navajo youth and promoting cultural preservation.

Representing the Northern Navajo Agency are Daelyn Benally of Tec Nos Pos, N.M., a post-baccalaureate student at Arizona State University focusing on food justice and sustainable food systems, and Tewakeedah Martin of Montezuma Creek, Utah, a U.S. Army veteran and Miss Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial Queen 2025-2026, who advocates for Native veterans and youth leadership.

Representing the Western Navajo Agency are Yanabah Smith of Oljato-Monument Valley, Utah, who is dedicated to strengthening opportunities for Navajo youth while preserving Diné culture, and Kaya Dickson of Kaibeto, Ariz., a Northern Arizona University graduate who works with the Community Assistance Teams of Flagstaff, assisting unsheltered individuals.

Representing the Eastern Navajo Agency are Nikko Yazzie of Church Rock, N.M., who encourages Navajo youth to connect more deeply with Diné arts and crafts, and Kendri Kinlacheeny of Smith Lake, N.M., a sophomore at McKinley Academy with interests in politics and psychology.

Two at-large members representing Navajo youth living off the reservation also join the council. Kaylee Bahe of Piñon, Ariz., is a student at Tufts University pursuing a path toward becoming an Indigenous rights attorney, while Louvannina Tsosie of Tohlakaj, N.M., recently earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Colorado Denver

and plans to pursue a master's degree in counseling.

On April 4, the Youth Advisory Council convened its inaugural meeting in Window Rock, Ariz., marking its establishment under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation. The Office of the Speaker coordinated an orientation session to provide foundational training, introduce governmental processes, and foster dialogue between elected officials and the next generation of leadership.

The Youth Advisory Council also elected Aryiah James to serve as the Chairperson, and Tewakeedah Martin as the Vice Chairperson. The 25th Navajo Nation Council extends its gratitude to all 41 young people who applied for these positions. Youth who wish to remain engaged in the policymaking process are encouraged to attend Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council meetings and participate in ongoing conversations about the future of the Navajo Nation.

Colorado River Post 2026

The Navajo Nation continues to closely monitor and engage in discussions regarding the future of Colorado River operations beyond 2026, as current interim guidelines approach expiration. These negotiations are critical, as they will determine how water shortages are managed and how allocations are distributed among basin states, tribes, and other stakeholders for decades to come.

In response, the 25th Navajo Nation Council has taken proactive steps to assert the Nation's position through the recent passage of legislation on February 26 that formally establishes our Nation's priorities and principles in the Post 2026 framework. This legislation emphasizes the protection of Navajo water rights, the recognition of tribal sovereignty, and the need for equitable inclusion of tribal nations in all decision-making processes.

The Navajo Nation remains one of the largest tribal water rights holders in the Colorado River Basin, yet much of our allocated water remains undeveloped due to longstanding infrastructure and funding gaps. The Council's action reinforces that any new operational guidelines must address these disparities and ensure that tribal water rights are not diminished or subordinated.

This effort has direct implications for Arizona's water future. As Arizona faces ongoing shortage

conditions and reduced allocations, it is essential that the state works collaboratively with the Navajo Nation to develop sustainable, long-term solutions. The Nation's position emphasizes that tribal water settlements and allocations must be fully honored and integrated into Arizona's broader water planning strategies.

The Council's legislation also calls for increased federal support for water infrastructure, delivery systems, and conservation initiatives within the Navajo Nation. These investments are necessary not only to secure our water future but also to contribute to regional stability across the Colorado River Basin.

Moving forward, the Navajo Nation will continue to advocate for a fair, inclusive, and sustainable Post 2026 agreement—one that respects tribal sovereignty, fulfills legal obligations, and ensures that our communities have reliable access to this vital resource.

Northern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement

On March 11, leaders from the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe delivered unified testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, urging congressional support for legislation to enact the Northern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement.

During the hearing, tribal leaders emphasized the importance of securing federal approval and funding to implement the settlement, which represents years of negotiations among tribal nations, the State of Arizona, water users, and the federal government. The congressional bill seeks to resolve longstanding water rights claims and provide long-term water security for communities across northern Arizona.

In meetings with congressional members prior to the hearing, we noted that many Diné families still lack reliable access to clean water and that the settlement will help advance critical water infrastructure and economic development for future generations. This agreement represents decades of work and collaboration among tribes, the state, and the federal government.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren provided testimony on behalf of the Navajo Nation, along with Hopi Tribal Chairman Lamar Keevama, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribal President Carlene Yellowhair, and Department of the Interior's Principal Deputy



Speaker Curley and members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council met with Arizona Senate President Warren Petersen during the 57th Legislature.

Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget Scott Cameron.

The settlement involves 17 parties, including the United States, the State of Arizona, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe. Under the agreement, the Navajo Nation would receive allocations from the Colorado River Upper Basin, a portion of Lower Basin water, all groundwater underlying the Navajo Nation, surface water that flows to the Nation from the Little Colorado River, and wash water that reaches the Nation south of Hopi lands.

The bill has bipartisan support in Congress and has been introduced in the Senate by U.S. Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) in the House by U.S. Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ). Senator Kelly also served as a witness during the hearing. The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to prioritize the protection of tribal water rights and the advancement of critical water infrastructure to serve communities throughout the Navajo Nation.

Chapter Emergency Funds

On March 19, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved \$6 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) to support the 110 Navajo Nation Chapters in helping Navajo

citizens in times of emergencies such as flooding or drought situations, and also to help prepare for such emergencies in advance.

The effort was shaped through collaboration across multiple chapters emphasizing local input and culturally grounded solutions to ensure resources are directed where they are most needed. The resolution was signed into law on April 2, which brought together Navajo Nation leadership, chapter officials, and community members to mark the enactment of the legislation.

The funding will assist chapters in delivering direct emergency services, enhancing preparedness plans, and responding quickly to protect life, property, and community well-being. The resolution builds on coordinated efforts across all five agencies, ensuring equitable support for chapters facing diverse environmental and infrastructure challenges.

The signing of Resolution CMA-20-26 signals a continued commitment by the Navajo Nation Council to invest in community-driven solutions, reinforcing the role of chapters as the front line in emergency response and preparedness.

Fiscal Year 2027 Revenue Projections

The Navajo Nation Council's Budget and Finance

Committee has received the Fiscal Year 2027 revenue projections as presented by the Office of the Controller, which provide an important snapshot of the Nation's current fiscal outlook and the challenges that lie ahead.

The Office of the Controller projects total revenues of approximately \$301 million for FY2027. After accounting for mandated annual set-asides totaling \$83.3 million, an estimated \$218 million will be available to support the Nation's general fund budget. While this reflects a steady revenue projection consistent with recent years, it also underscores the limitations we continue to face in meeting the growing needs of our communities.

The projection is driven by several key revenue sources, including \$64.9 million in anticipated tax revenues, \$39.6 million from coal-related revenues, and approximately \$84.7 million in investment income, inclusive of grant fund earnings. Additional contributions, such as the Forest Carbon Enterprise Fund, are expected to generate over \$5.5 million, with a portion supporting the general fund.

At the same time, these projections remain highly sensitive to external economic conditions. Ongoing global instability, including war-related impacts involving the United States, continues to influence energy markets, interest rates, and broader financial conditions. These factors directly affect Navajo Nation revenues, particularly in areas such as coal, oil and gas, and investment performance.

The Nation's overall financial position includes approximately \$630.8 million in in-house investments, \$306 million in long-term investments, and a substantial \$1.38 billion grant fund portfolio. While these figures demonstrate financial strength, they also highlight the importance of strategic management and long-term planning to ensure sustainability.

The projections also indicate that the Navajo Nation cannot rely solely on existing revenue streams. There is a strong need for the Executive Branch to increase its efforts to expand and diversify revenue generation. This includes advancing economic development initiatives, strengthening enterprise performance, pursuing new investment opportunities, and ensuring more aggressive and coordinated strategies to grow the Nation's revenue base.

The Council remains committed to responsible fiscal oversight, but meaningful progress will require a stronger partnership and increased leadership from the Executive Branch to secure long-term financial stability for the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation Reapportionment Plan

In March, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted in support of legislation approving the 2025 Reapportionment Plan, which is an important responsibility that ensures fair representation for our Navajo people.

The Council thanks the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors and the Navajo Election Administration for the many months of work to analyze data, hold public hearings, and update the plan to ensure our communities are represented fairly for the next decade.

Reapportionment is required under Navajo Nation law and must occur every ten years to maintain substantially equal legislative districts based on population while also considering chapter boundaries, agency boundaries, and the unique geographic and cultural structure of the Navajo Nation.

The plan is intended to designate voting precincts and legislative districts that are approximately equal in population and consistent with Navajo Nation law. During the review process, the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors developed several draft plans using primarily 2020 federal census data. Public hearings were held across the Navajo Nation's five agencies in October 2025, to gather input from chapter officials, community members, and other stakeholders. After reviewing feedback and conducting additional analysis, the Board recommended several options to the Council.

Protecting Navajo Voting Rights

The Navajo Nation formally opposes H.R. 7296, a congressional bill known as the SAVE Act, citing significant concerns over its disproportionate impact on Navajo voters and tribal communities across the country. The bill would require people to provide proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote and to cast ballots in federal elections through a REAL ID, U.S. passport, military ID, or other forms of ID that often require birth certificates, birthplace or other documents to prove citizenship.



Speaker Curley joined Council Delegate Curtis Yanito in recognizing SP4 Alexis Michele Begay during the 2026 Winter Session.

For many Navajo people, this is not a Democrat or Republican issue. We are thinking about our elders and grandparents, many of whom were not born in hospitals and do not have birth certificates. Under the SAVE Act, they would be required to travel long distances, multiple times, just to register to vote and cast their ballots. Many Navajo elders were not born in modern hospital facilities and often lack vital records documents such as birth certificates.

Many Navajo voters could be forced to travel more than 100 miles to comply with the proposed new requirements, making multiple trips for registration, primary elections, and general elections. With current gas prices averaging around \$4 per gallon on the Navajo Nation, the additional trips would present a financial setback, particularly for low-income voters.

The resolution adopted by the Naabik'iyati' Committee also highlights the growing influence of Navajo voters in Arizona and New Mexico. Navajo voters, along with other tribes, represent a powerful voting bloc. We have seen how our communities can influence the outcome of federal and state elections, as demonstrated in 2020.

Federal elections carry great importance for tribal nations due to treaty obligations and the federal government's trust responsibility. The outcome of federal elections directly affects our representation, resources, and future as tribal nations. As the First People of this country, we must stand together to protect our fundamental right to vote.

We call on our Congressional leaders to oppose the

SAVE Act and instead partner with tribes to expand voting access. The Council is ready to work with both Republicans and Democrats to find meaningful solutions. The legislation further points to existing barriers that already impact Navajo voters, including rural addressing challenges that have led to thousands of rejected ballots in past elections. A majority of voters on tribal lands rely on mail-in voting, an option that could be undermined by the SAVE Act's provisions.

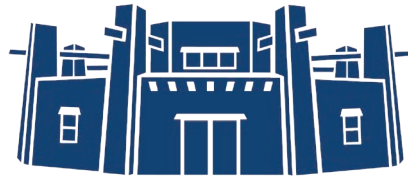
The Naabik'iyati' Committee's action reaffirms the Navajo Nation's commitment to protecting voting rights, upholding tribal sovereignty, and ensuring that every eligible voter has a fair and accessible opportunity to participate in all elections.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us for the 2026 Spring Council Session. As we move forward, the 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue to voice the concerns brought forth by our Navajo people to help resolve the challenges and put our Nation on a path of healing. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we move forward together.

Áhé'héé

Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH PROGRAMS
FY2026 SECOND QUARTER REPORTS

NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

- **2026 Utah Legislature**

The Navajo Utah Commission identified Navajo priorities for the 2026 Utah Legislature at the beginning of second quarter and subsequently secured the support of the Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee pursuant to resolution NABIJA-02-26. Funding challenges for the Navajo Nation’s FY26 budget created some uncertainty regarding the availability of lobbying services for Navajo priorities during the 2026 Utah legislative session. The Navajo Utah Commission had to rely on resolutions and virtual communications with legislative leaders and state agencies. Delegate Shaandiin Parrish initiated the process of enacting HB 52 (Driver’s License Tribal Endorsement) during the Utah legislative interim committee process and was strongly supported by NUC and other Utah tribes during the 2026 Utah legislative session. The Navajo Utah Commission worked successfully with the San Juan School District Superintendent to secure amendments addressing technology challenges on the Navajo Nation with HB 273 (Classroom Technology Amendments). The Navajo Utah Commission also worked with Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to prevent the elimination of the tribal liaison position in Utah DHHS. The Navajo Utah Commission further supported HB 75 (American Indian and Alaska Native Education Amendments) for establishment of a Utah Indian Education Plan but was not fully supportive of HB 61 (Navajo Trust Fund Amendments) due to the absence of consultation with Utah chapters. The Navajo Utah Commission collaborated with Stewardship Utah and CERDA to seek \$100,000 in legislative appropriations for a wood stove replacement and weatherization project serving Utah chapters, but despite a strong effort was unsuccessful. The Navajo Utah Commission will continue efforts and advocacy in addressing the 2026 Utah legislative priorities by meeting with state agencies and elected representatives during the 2026 Governor’s Native American Summit in Orem, Utah on July 30 & 31, 2026.

- **Utah Chapters Housing Project**

The Navajo Utah Commission initiated a low income housing project for the seven Utah chapters during the first quarter with finalization of contracts for the Utah Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund (\$426,762) and Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund (\$565,000). The acquisition of the two grants will enable the Navajo Utah Commission to construct one single family housing unit at each of the seven Utah chapters at per unit cost of \$142,000. The project will provide fully subsidized housing units and will require Utah residency, income eligibility, and an approved homesite lease. The Navajo Utah Commission Office is currently engaging Utah chapters in collecting housing applications to finalize grant recipients. The project qualified two applicants by the end of quarter two and currently has five chapters making substantial progress in qualifying their applicants.

- **Montezuma Creek Market Analysis Project**

The Navajo Utah Commission, stakeholders, and project consultant (Southwest Business Development Consultants, LLC) continue to make progress in finalizing a regional market analysis for Montezuma Creek. Engineering assessments for four potential development sites were conducted in the first quarter and the top priority selected during the second quarter. Project stakeholder’s meetings were held during the second quarter to ensure input and participation by the public. Three invoices were processed for the project with two paid out and one still pending at contract administration. Collaboration with Navajo Nation Shopping Centers, Inc., Navajo Nation RBDO, and San Juan County Department of Economic Development are also ongoing. Progress reports for funding agencies are up to date.

- **Public Lands**

The Navajo Utah Commission continues to monitor State of Utah efforts to modify monument designation for Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase-Escalante. The Navajo Utah Commission enacted resolution NUCMAR-003-26 opposing congressional or presidential action reducing the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM), including modification of Proclamation 10285 and the BENM monument management plan. The Utah Legislature considered various legislative proposals and appropriations during the recent legislative session to gain more control of federal lands including, national monuments. Utah Sen. Mike Lee and Rep. Celeste Maloy of Utah also introduced a joint resolution to both houses of congress on March 4, 2026 to weaken protection of the two national monuments in Utah without consultation with impacted tribal nations. The continuous support and leadership of the Navajo Nation Council and the Bears Ears Commission are critical for this important issue.

GOALS FOR 3RD QUARTER IN FY2026

- Complete selection of Utah OWHLF housing project grant recipients.
- Initiate construction process for at least three of the seven housing projects appropriated by the Utah OWHLF grant.
- Plan and organize a capacity building training session for the 7 Utah chapters.
- Seek unmet needs funding for the Navajo Utah Commission’s FY26 budget.
- Complete draft amendments of Navajo Utah Commission’s Plan of Operation.

ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Navajo Utah Commission’s FY26 budget is close to exhausting funds for meeting stipends/mileage at the midway point of the current fiscal year. The Navajo Utah Commission understood funds (\$25,131) requested by the commission from the Employee Personnel Pool was approved and implementation instructions would be forthcoming. Administrative procedures for vacant positions were received in October 2025 but did not address procedures to access stipend funds. The Navajo Utah Commission is currently seeking clarification and guidance from OMB and NN Department of Personnel Management before meeting stipends run out for the commission. The second part of this issue is lack of meeting mileage funds for the remaining NUC meetings.

**OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

- **CONSUMER PROTECTION AND RIGHTS**

The Office initiated a meeting with representatives from the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office to address concerns pertaining to deceptive practices by automobile dealership. Notably, many of these dealerships serve Navajo citizens as their primary customer base. The predominate complaints received by our Office relate to the purchase of vehicles, specifically regarding questionable sales contracts. While certain investigations reveal instances of buyer’s remorse, there remain legitimate findings substantiating these complaints-particularly in cases involving fraudulent inflation of income and other recurring deceptive practices.

Consequently, the partnership with the Consumer Fraud section of the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office is regarded as essential and is being actively cultivated. Both offices have agreed to collaborate on

developing and disseminating enhanced public education initiatives for Navajo citizens. These efforts will involve local radio, in-person training, and additional platforms to inform consumers about best practices and their rights when purchasing vehicles.

In relation to this ongoing issue, the Office also intends to publish the names of automobile dealerships that are the subject of complaints filed with our office. This proposed action is currently on-going legal review prior to any information being posted on the Office's website. The publication is intended to apprise the public of complaints associated with specific dealerships, thereby affording dealers the opportunity to address and resolve such matters and enabling consumers to make informed decisions.

- **ICE AGENT ENCOUNTERS AND RECOGNITION OF TRIBAL IDs**

This Office has made significant strides this quarter in advocating for the rights of Navajo citizens, particularly regarding encounters with ICE agents and the necessity for federal recognition of Navajo Nation Identification cards. Responding to concerns raised by Navajo citizens residing in Minnesota—specifically those who experienced fear and uncertainty amid heightened ICE activity and protests—our Office initiated a virtual meeting with the Minnesota American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). This meeting aimed to gather information about immediately available resources for native communities, ensuring support during interactions with ICE or in the event of detention. The collaboration with Minnesota ACLU has proved invaluable, and this Office remains committed to ongoing cooperation with both the ACLU and other organizations across the country to address issues stemming from ICE encounters and to advocate for the acceptance of tribal IDs as valid proof of citizenship.

This Office stands firmly on its position that the refusal by Homeland Security and ICE agents to recognize tribal identification cards is an infringement upon the due process rights of Navajo citizens. It is imperative that our Office, in concert with tribal leadership, persists in its advocacy efforts to ensure these identification cards are recognized by federal agencies.

The Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission assisted the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council in presenting a resolution urging the Homeland Security to recognize Navajo Nation IDs. The resolution was unanimously adopted at the Council's 2025 Winter session. Following this action, the Office organized and facilitated a Know Your Rights seminar in Albuquerque, NM on February 25, 2026, in collaboration with the City of Albuquerque. Over 50 attendees received information on legal rights during ICE encounters, procedures for obtaining a Navajo Nation ID, and New Mexico Native American policies regarding tribal identification. The seminar was a successful outreach initiative, and the Office will continue to provide similar advocacy and educational events for urban Navajo citizens.

- **VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTION OUTREACH**

Activities undertaken by our Office focused on efforts to protect and advance Navajo voting rights, collaborative initiatives with county officials, and the planning of a Voting Rights Conference.

- **COUNTY MEETINGS**

The Office initiated meetings with several counties whose actions directly impact Navajo voters, to address challenges and foster dialogue between Navajo Nation and county officials. Key topics discussed included election deadlines, polling location accessibility, and voter registration procedures. County officials acknowledged the complexities faced by Navajo voters and expressed willingness to review and improve current processes. Our Office facilitated constructive exchanges, helping clarify the needs and concerns of Navajo communities.

- **VOTER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

Through these meetings, the Office identified a strong need for collaborative voter education efforts. The Office continues to engage county officials, advocating for the development of a joint informational campaigns and outreach materials. In the next quarter, the Office has scheduled several election seminars throughout the Navajo Nation.

- **UCLA-Voting Project**

During this reporting period, the Office continued to be engaged in several important meetings and collaborative efforts with the UCLA-Voting Rights Project. UCLA researchers, who have extensively studied the election history of San Juan County, New Mexico, provided valuable feedback on statistical data analysis by their institution. Their insights have helped inform our strategies for educating voters in San Juan County, ensuring that our outreach is both data-driven and responsive to the unique challenges faced by our chapters. The Office will continue to foster a long-term partnership with UCLA, enabling us to remain actively involved and informed about the changing landscape of voting rights impacting our Navajo people.

- **VOTING RIGHTS CONFERENCE PLANNING**

The Office began planning a Voting Rights Conference in partnership with the New Mexico and Utah ACLU and DLA Piper Law Firm. The conference is designed to bring together grassroots community leaders and tribal stakeholders, fostering dialogue on voting rights and legal protections. Key objectives include increasing awareness of election issues, empowering local leaders, and promoting best practices for voter engagement. The Office intends to make the conference an annual event, establishing a platform for ongoing discussion and collaboration to support our peoples' right to fair representation.

- **PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING REPORT**

During this quarter, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission published an official public hearing report concerning the Gallup McKinley County School District (GMCS D), following a series of hearings conducted in the Fall of 2025. This report compiles and unifies testimony from parents, grandparents, guardians, both former and current GMCS D staff, tribal leaders, and community representatives. The Commission undertook these hearings in direct response to troubling reports that Navajo students within GMCS D were being disciplined at a disproportionately higher rate compared to their peers in other schools across the state- a matter the Commission identified as indicative of systemic discrimination.

The testimonies collected underscores the deep concerns held by Navajo citizens whose children, grandchildren and relatives are impacted by the school district. Key recurring themes emerged, notably allegations of marginalization and discrimination, inequities in school funding, excessively punitive disciplinary policies, a lack of awareness and integration of Navajo culture with the school environment, and substantial communication gaps between the Navajo Nation communities and GMCS D administrators. These issues collectively offered a picture of the challenges faced by Navajo students and their families and highlight areas where urgent attention and intervention are necessary.

In the conclusion of its report, the Commission articulated several specific and actionable recommendations. These included a formal request for the NM Attorney General to conduct a thorough investigation into the matters raised, the enhancement of data sharing protocols between the Navajo Nation and the New Mexico Public Education Department, and the adoption of restorative justice principles as a preferred approach to school discipline. The Commission emphasized that restorative justice has the potential to foster a more equitable and supportive educational environment, enabling constructive resolution of conflicts and promoting Hózhooji k'ehgo.

Importantly the Commission's imitative remains ongoing. Looking ahead to the next quarter, there are plans to propose amendments to Title 10, the Navajo Sovereignty in Education Act. These amendments are intended to address systemic issues identified in the report and to strengthen the framework for educational equity and cultural inclusion within the school systems. Through these continued efforts, the Commission reaffirms its commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of Navajo students, ensuring their voices are central to policymaking and reform, and advancing the cause of equality in education.

- **FOSTERING RELATIONSHIP WITH BORDER TOWN AGENCIES**

During this reporting period, the Office has also continued its proactive engagement with cities and towns where our Navajo citizens reside. Notably, the Office has made significant progress in strengthening Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with Albuquerque, ensuring stronger coordination and support for Navajo residents. Plans are underway for negotiating similar agreements with Farmington, NM and Flagstaff, AZ which will further expand protections and collaborative efforts in these key border communities.

- **STAFFING AND CONDITIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS**

The position of the Executive Director for this Office is being readvertised and subject to the Navajo Nation Personnel Policy Manual and the statutory authorities provided to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

This Office received supplemental appropriations for FY 2026 to hire an Attorney. An attorney position will strengthen office efficiency and capacity for legal advocacy. The Office formulated a Position Classification Questionnaire (PCQ) for the Attorney position and submitted to DPM and continues to request of DPM to expedite the process to recruit applicants. The Office will continue to closely monitor this personnel matter and fulfill the conditions of appropriation from the Navajo Nation Council.

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution recommending amendments to its enabling legislation and its plan of operation. These proposed amendments have been referred, in this quarter, to Honorable Speaker for consideration to sponsor legislation. The Office will continue to monitor this initiative and ensure that changes in the law are supported and approved.

- **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION**

NNHRCFEB-01-26: Approving the 2025 Public Hearing Report on the Gallup McKinley County School District

NNHRCFEB-02-26: Opposing the Application for the Sale of Liquor by Chieftain Mobil located in Chambers, Arizona and Urging the Apache County Board of Supervisors to do the same; and the Arizona State Liquor Board to Deny the Application.

NNHRCMAR-03-26: Approving and Recommending Proposed Amendments to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Enabling Act and the Plan of Operations.

NNHRCMAR-04-26: Approving the Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Navajo Nation on Behalf of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico on Behalf of the Office of Equity and Inclusion.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Budget Form 2 is attached indicating this Office met its performance measures.

- **UPCOMING INITIATIVES**

The Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission is preparing to launch expanded public outreach initiatives in the coming months. Emphasizing the importance of the upcoming elections, the Office will prioritize engaging Navajo voters and providing resources to support participation.

Additionally, the Office will host public hearings to address Arizona health care fraud, specifically targeting cases that have impacted Navajo victims and publish a comprehensive report related to the Diné voices that were not heard in legal proceedings involving individuals and businesses who are the subjects of federal and state fraud cases.

To further advance its mission, this Office will continue to actively urge the New Mexico Attorney General and Arizona Attorney General to review and act on cases referred by this Office.

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

Contact: G. Michelle Espino, Chief Legal Counsel
Email: olc@navajo-nsn.gov
Phone: (928) 871-7166

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

- Provided legal representation for the 2026 Winter Council.
- Provided legal services and drafted legislation for the FY 2026 Comprehensive Budget and all related oversight committees hearings and sessions.
- Provided legal services to the Title II Reform Committee and draft amendments to the Council Rules of Order.
- Continued to represent Navajo Board of Elections Supervisors (NBOES) on election matters.
- Drafted and finalized 127 legislation requests and contract review.
- Provided legal guidance and assistance at over 63 Committee/Council meetings and work sessions, as well as over 56 Subcommittee/Boards/Commission meetings, work sessions, and administrative hearings.
- OLC upholds its responsibilities to the public by maintaining mandatory training requirements for attorneys and advocates under professional responsibility rules.
- Provided legislative legal services at all Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee regular and special meetings, leadership meeting and work sessions.

GOALS & PRIORITIES

- Continued to advise and assist the NNC, Standing Committees, and sub-committees. Attend all meetings, advising on all procedural and substantive questions.
- Continued to attend all Office of the Speaker meetings to keep abreast of all pertinent information received to ensure that OLC is kept updated and proactive concerning legislative needs, projects, and priorities.
- Continued filling remaining vacant attorney and staff positions to meet the increase in meetings and legislation requests.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Upon completion and Council approval of proposed amendments to the Rules of Order for Council and Standing Committee meetings, it is recommended that OLC facilitate a work session to orientate and address questions for Navajo Nation Council Delegates and Legislative Staff.

**EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

Contact: Leonard Tsosie, Executive Director
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

- The Office continues to attend or assist the Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President (OPVP) and DURAC Uranium Leadership meetings in a different format. Previously, the ENLC and its Office participated in plans to brief OPVP and Navajo Nation Council (NNC) leadership along with Navajo Nation Environmental Protection (NNEPA) to design and plan a different approach to remediation of uranium mining waste. NNEPA, in consultation with Disa, applied for a federal grant. The Commission passed a Resolution in support of the grant. The Office worked with NNEPA to have ENAC pass a supporting Resolution.

- In March 2026, the Commission and Office worked closely with RDC to plan and convene a worksession with five federal departments (USEPA, U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), BIA and IHS) to hear progress reports on the federal 10-year cleanup plan. All five federal departments were present to give a report. Congratulations to RDC for carrying out this important meeting.
- The Commission Chairman and Director accompanied Navajo Nation leadership to Washington, D.C., to meet with several federal departments. NNEPA also met with more departments. As result, an EPA department director held a facilitating session in December 2025 with various Navajo Nation and federal departments. USEPA held another facilitating session in March 2026 to talk about procuring consents on Indian Allotments for uranium remediation work.
- At an ENAC meeting, the Office was made aware of possible uranium mining in the Mt. Taylor area. NNEPA also apprised the ENLC Office. The Office attended a meeting with NNEPA at Baca Chapter to hear Grants Energy company plan to develop an In-Situ Recovery (ISR) mining north of Milan, NM. The Office continues to monitor uranium transport issue.
- Previously, the Office met with Commission Chairman and Crownpoint Chapter to advise of the presence of uranium within the Chapter boundaries. Further discussion is being planned. Plans have to be made to do so.
- Previously, the Office and NNEPA worked with Sen. Munoz's office regarding SB316 regarding uranium transport. The Office called upon NNEPA, NNDOJ and DURAC to assist with amendments. Speaker's office and ENLC met with Sen. Munoz in Santa Fe at NM legislative session. SB316 did not pass, but ENLC Office has recommended presentations to the NM legislative interim committee for further discussions.
- The Office previously recommended to DURAC office to get an additional commission position that will represent ENA and at-large position. ENLC Director attended DURAC meeting at Thoreau Chapter. It appears that all of DURAC Commissioner positions have been filled and DURAC is beginning to hold meetings again. ENLC intends to work further with DURAC and has jointly attended meetings with them.
- Before, the Office held various meetings regarding the plight of Rock Springs Chapter Navajo families living on private lands owned by Gallup Land Partners. The leases have expired and the effort, in concert with OPVP and Navajo Land Department (NLD), is to work out a solution. OPVP has taken the lead role. The ENLC Office continues to monitor the progress. NLD office has stated its position. OPVP was encouraged to negotiate on the land acquisition. Recently, a meeting was held with Rock Spring Chapter to give them a report. The non-Navajo landowner was not accepting of NN's offer to purchase the lands for the benefit of the residents. A different plan is being looked at. A map for the different plan was developed for the Chapter and the Office is currently awaiting the Chapter's response. OPVP wants to reinstate the discussions and is waiting for the Chapter to meet with the affected families.
- The Office continues to work with BLM to plan Navajo cultural sites visit. Unfortunately, the assisting BLM culture employee has resigned.
- Previously, the Office met with NN General Land Development Department (GLDD) office to obtain maps prepared by GLDD for use by ENLC Office. ENLC Office wants to further work with GLDD to improve maps for ENA.
- Previously, the Commission and Office met with various offices on the divided/undivided oil & gas leasing in northern ENA like BLM, BIA and FIMO in an attempt to resolve the issues for the benefit of Navajo allottees. ENLC is proud to report that it convinced BLM to change its policy as to give preference to Navajo Indian Allottees' lands (Indian Allotments). Recently, ENLC held an update meeting with BLM and oil/gas operators. The Office continues to monitor and no new issues have arisen with respect to this issue. It appears that this issue is resolved.
- The Office applied for a federal grant for its land acquisition work and has not received notice of approval. A few federal litigations have developed over these USEPA grants. It appears that the Office will not receive its grant. The Office continues to monitor the grant application.
- ENLC and its Office has been working with the President Trump's administration to rescind the Chaco Canyon Law Withdrawal Order while being mindful of Navajo Nation Department of Justice lawsuit regarding the same matter. Possible settlement talks are underway and the Office has been involved. This has reached the stage of consultation. The Commission and Office recently attended the consultation with BLM and is thankful for Speaker Curley and Chairperson Jesus attending. News about

the rescission have picked up, but no formal notice has been received. The Commission will soon be meeting with BLM again.

- ENLC Office has finalized the contract for its legal consultant. The Office will be working to renew the contract. It is taking too long to simply extend a contract for another year. The final authorization for the contract has not been given. The Speaker has signed off on the contract.
- ENLC Office, at the direction of ENLC Chairman, has been working with BLM and some ENA Chapters to identify Customary Land Users (CLU). 72 locations have been identified and efforts are now being undertaken to determine if these are Navajo families living on BLM lands. The Office has been waiting for two Chapters to submit its listing. Upon final determination, ENLC hopes to negotiate with BLM to allow for infrastructure developments to the Navajo homes on BLM lands. The Office has met with all Chapters and now is at a stage to develop a plan.
- The Office continues to monitor Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board to obtain approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BIA, BLM and Navajo Nation regarding grazing. Due to federal office and budget uncertainties and shutdown, not much has happened. BIA is now at a stage of renewing grazing permits for ENA for grazing permittees.
- The Office continues to implement suggested work from the Eastern Navajo Land Conference that was held for Chapter officials, Navajo Nation officials and members of the public in 2024; with focus on NELL.
- The FY2027 budgets for the Eastern Navajo Land Commission (Commission) and its Eastern Navajo Land Commission Office (Office) is starting up. Recently, the Speaker's office to held a virtual informational meeting on the budget for FY2027. For the office and Commission FY2027 budgets, requests are expected to be made for regular budgets, fixed cost budget and unmet needs budget. The Commission and Office may receive a reduced budget. The reduced budget is having an impact on the operation of the Commission and Office, but the Office is doing its best to not reduce services.
- Regarding the Legislative Concern, there has been no performance evaluations of staff members.

Section Two: Goals in FY2026:

- Finish LBB maps, give PDF digital copies to Navajo Land Department, ENA Chapter officials, and paper copies to at 2 libraries
- Work with Joint Land Board to finish the MOU with NN, BLM and BIA; and seek approvals by NNC and RDC
- Continue to assist Chapters with the land use meeting requests. Education of ENLC's mission with newly installed Chapter officers will be planned.
- Continue to work with NNEPA and USEPA on uranium mining waste remediation. It is hoped that HPSA verification study will occur soon.
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with NM and OPVP (NNEPA office) regarding the use of Ambrosia Lake for repository and the use of technology to minimize uranium mining waste and continue to be supportive of NN EPA. Encourage the testing or study of the new technology.
- Continue to work with Principal Responsible Parties to develop workforce development and other related matters for the teaching of heavy equipment operation. Navajo Nation Workforce Development Office will be contacted to assist in developing such a training program.
- Work with NNC's Resources & Development Committee (RDC) to incorporate the use of technology in minimizing uranium mining waste as part of the plan for cleanup. Work with RDC and NNC to develop a position statement for NN.
- Plan and implement the cultural site visits
- Monitor the FY2027 budget and continue to make continued requests for unmet needs budget for the ENLC and the office.
- Finalize land withdrawal for NN Dep't Agriculture office in ENA
- Start the process of submitting a Fee-to-Trust application, including drone-based studies of possible environmental hazards on NN Fee lands; or work on an alternative plan.
- Start the process for submitting an application for Federal disposal lands, including drone-based studies of possible environmental hazards on surplus lands; or, work on an alternative plan.
- Continue to give reports to ENA Chapters and Agency Council
- Continue to create maps for upcoming proposed projects

- Hire a new GIS Technician Aide position or a Project Specialist position.
- Improve or upgrade the mapping software and equipment for the Office
- Begin archiving of documents and maps, including the use of database.
- Work with BLM regarding programmatic agreement.
- Make preparations for further meetings of ENLC with the federal government in Washington, DC, for Navajo Nation leadership meetings.
- Continue to encourage and provide support for Navajo Nation leadership meetings with members of U.S. Congress.
- Prepare further dialogues with Regional BIA office on the many land issues.
- Monitor the federal grant application.
- Implement performance evaluations of staff members.
- Assist ENLC Chairman in planning the development of better roads for CR7900 Road and N46 Road.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations:

- Increased budgeting of unmet needs will go a long way to accomplishing the goals of ENLC
- Convince NN Executive branch offices to support deference to and respect ENLC to apply for fee-to-trust land conversions and the federal disposal lands
- Coordinate with NNEPA to procure Congressional assistance re uranium remediation issues
- Encourage the Navajo Nation, federal and state offices to adopt the new and different approach on uranium cleanup. Continue to support Disa-NNEPA grant application.
- Continue to work on land acquisitions in ENA.
- Assist in the streamlining of contracts for consultants and recommend extended contracts.

**NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF ETHICS AND RULES
FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

Contact: Rodriquez Morris, Executive Director
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

During the second quarter of fiscal year 2026, the focus was on the advancement of several high-priority cases, including case No. ERO-070-2025, and various Navajo Executive programs and Chapter-related inquiries.

Our office is currently operating with limited staff-four ERO Investigators (One Interim Director) and two administrative staff; however, we are actively working to fill two vacant positions: Director of Ethics and Rules, and Ethics Presenting Officer. We are exploring various recruitment methods to ensure these roles are filled efficiently and with qualified candidates. Looking ahead, the office also plans to establish several additional positions to further strengthen our organizational capacity.

Investigative Highlights & Case Management

The following activities represent the core investigative workload for the quarter:

- Interviews & Evidence Gathering: 89 Cases Starting from FY26 (October 2025 to Present Date)
- Supreme Court Ruling: 2
- Ethics Intakes: 61
- Ethics Clearance: 180
- Office Visitors: 243
- Incoming Telephone calls: 254
- Restitution Collections: \$3,640.00 (Working Creating Page on existing website to display names of unpaid restitutions)
- Order to Show Cause Hearings: 4

- Case hearing: 1

Inter-Agency Collaboration

- Legal Coordination: ERO is still currently working with and referring cases when needed with internal and external sources. The Navajo Nation Prosecutors and Special Prosecutors to transfer files via SharePoint and discuss case referrals; one case referred. External
- ERO Presentations has been highly requested by multiple entities, programs and Navajo Nation Programs.
- Collaborating with internal resources to update a new planned ERO operational policy. On-going for a few years

Administrative & Operational Tasks

- Program Performance: ERO program performance measures continue to meet or exceed established benchmarks.
- Data Organization: Improved office efficiency by developing Excel-based case-tracking tools and restructuring both physical and digital filing systems.
- Compliance: Staff and operations remain compliant, consistently initiating and following required processes.
- Order to Show Cause Listing: Assisted with maintaining the listing; recommended posting the information on the website and sharing it with news media for broader public access.
- Technology Advancement: Actively exploring new technologies to enhance daily operations and investigative workflows.
- Leadership Oversight: Ms. Wauneka continues to monitor and evaluate budgetary needs and operational requirements.
- Vacant Positions will be posted for advertisement-until filled.

NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Contact: Arthur Hardy, Jr., Acting Executive Director
Phone: (928) 871-6805

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

- The NNLC continues to conduct formal hearings as mandated by the NPEA. The staff are processing complaints from start to finish and comply with the NPEA, adopted Case Management Policy, Fiscal Year performance measures.
- The NNLC office continues to successfully hear grievance cases. We continue to assist parties and await a final decision from the NNLC presiding members.
- The NNLC members are making amendments to the NNLC Rules and are in the process of finalizing them.
- We continue to dispose of pleadings, exhibits etc. of closed cases which are from the NNLC commissions files.
- NNLC closed cases are being scanned for further storage.
- NNLC office has upgraded furniture for the staff and waiting room area for witnesses.

ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Advertise for NNLC membership. Continue to refer candidate(s) to appointing authority. (NN Presidential Appointment of NNLC Membership (2) & HEHSC (3) per CJY-42-16)
- Efficient use of allocated funds.
- NNLC requested assistance of the IT staff for a Zoom account for NNLC hearings. NNLC office is still in need of permanent account for future hearings. D. Re-classifying/Finalize the Programs and Projects Specialist position.
- E. NNLC & staff will continue to preserve substantial rights of all employees and employers in accordance to Navajo Law. F. Create a website for the NNLC office.

**NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL
FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

Contact: Jeanine Jones, Auditor General
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Phone: (928) 871-6303

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

Internal Audits – 1 report

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

Corrective Action Plan Follow-up Reviews – 4 reports

- Navajo Land Department
- Leupp Chapter
- Whitecone Chapter
- Shonto Chapter

Investigation – 2 referrals

- OPVP Unpaid Invoices
- Sheepsprings Chapter

Goals for FY2026 Third Quarter

- Cameron Chapter Internal Audit
- Office of the Speaker Special Review
- IDSA/ZenniHome Initial Audit
- Native Community Capital Initial Audit
- Tohatchi Chapter F/U Audit
- Tohajiilee Chapter F/U Audit
- Torreon Chapter F/U Audit
- Fleet Management F/U Audit
- Indian Wells Chapter F/U Audit
- Chapter Debit/Credit Card Report
- Hazard/Special Duty Pay Report
- Directives (6 programs/entities): (1) The OPVP contract failed due to pending signature, and it now passed the audit start date/no budget. (2) Audits for IDSA/Zennihome and Native Community Capital are currently underway, being conducted by our internal audit team. (3) Social Services and the Department of Health are still under evaluation to determine whether their audits will be outsourced or handled in-house. Both departments receive federal funding and are audited by KPMG; however, we are assessing the use of the general funds within each to determine the appropriate audit approach. (4) Fleet Management will be assigned to one of our internal Auditor. Other program/entity audit requests (1) Native Broadcast Enterprise. (2) Judicial hiring practices (3) Naataani Devol. Corp. and (4) San Juan River Dine Water Users. Currently, there are not enough outsource funds to cover these audits, unmet need of \$314,091 for outsourcing.
- Complete three (3) reviews of corrective action plans submitted to the Auditor General in response to audit reports; continue to work with chapters and programs in revising these corrective action plans and waiting on six (6) corrective action plans to be submitted. Thereafter, work with the delegates through the legislative process to obtain formal approval of the corrective action plans. Obtained sponsorship for three (3) legislations to approve the CAP that will be going through.
- Plan of Operation: Completed the amendments to the Plan of Operation and currently at LOC for review since July 2025. Presented to BFC for an update. In a recent meeting with Chair Parrish and Controller McCabe, we decided to move the fraud hotline to OAG. I will be planning on working a PCQ for an investigator, moving the fraud email to our office and setting up a line specifically for fraud reporting. The fraud hotline will be added to the Plan of Operation after we receive feedback from the LOC.

- Continue to work with Administrative Service Centers on chapter audits, corrective action plans, sanctions and LGA certification reviews.
- Continue to work with ERO and WCCU on fraud, waste and abuse for chapters and programs.
- Website: Complete tasks to update the OAG website; continue to work with Realtime Solutions.
- Work with the consultant to analyze chapter financial data based on their MIP accounting systems to generate reports on expenditures and available fund balances.
- Complete CMCA quarterly reports
- **ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS**
- The OPVP audit was scheduled to begin on September 1, 2025, as outlined in the contract. However, the contract remains unsigned by LOC, and no explanation has been provided regarding the delay. Given that the scheduled start date has passed and the funds are no longer there. RFP will be advertised again.
- Continue to recruit applicants to fill three (3) vacancies, Principal position was closed as of March 16, 2026, and will be interviewing an applicant. The two Auditor positions are currently advertised. With the DPM assistance, we should be able to fill the two Auditor positions. Thereafter, we should be able to advertise the two (2) Assoc. Auditors.
- Social Services and Department of Health are big departments and need more assessment to conduct to focus on the high-risk areas.
- Continue to work with the Wells Fargo Bank to address chapter banking issues such as the need for credit cards but there are no existing policies and procedures.
- Our office needs more outsourcing funds (consulting)

MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVES TASK FORCE FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Contact: Tatyana Billy, Co-Chair
 Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force
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 Phone: (928)380-8180

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

Over the past six months, the MMDR Task Force expanded its work in outreach, training, policy development, and direct family support. Despite ongoing funding limitations and operational constraints, the Task Force continued to fulfill its mandate and serve Diné families with consistency and care.

- Training and Capacity Building - The Task Force hosted multiple trainings aimed at strengthening response systems and improving coordination among first responders, agencies, and community members:
 - Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise (Level 1) – September 2025
 - Human Trafficking Awareness Training – January 2026
 - Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise (Level 2) – March 2026
 - Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) Training – March 2026
 - Upcoming: MMDR Symposium (May 4-5, 2026)

The Task Force faced restrictions on in-person meetings due to President Nygren’s veto for virtual attendance, so the Task Force shifted to weekly virtual sessions. These sessions maintained momentum in education, coordination, and outreach, and included participation from grassroots advocates, national organizations, Navajo Nation departments, and affected families.

Presentations were delivered by organizations such as Turtle Island Woman Warriors, NamUs, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, Southwest Indigenous Women’s Coalition, and others. These sessions helped bridge gaps in awareness and strengthened collaboration across sectors.

- Direct Family Support - The Task Force directly assisted eight Navajo families seeking updates and support for missing or murdered loved ones. Coordination efforts included collaboration with the Navajo Police Department, Criminal Investigations Unit, and the nonprofit organizations.

All work was conducted with strict confidentiality, cultural respect, and attention to the needs of each family. Maintaining trust and protecting sensitive information remains central to the Task Force's role.

- Policy and Legislative Progress - The Task Force advanced several key policy recommendations under Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code. These include:
 - Removal of statutes of limitations for murder and sex crimes against children.
 - Creation of new criminal offenses, such as human trafficking and kidnapping laws.
 - Strengthening victim rights subchapter.
 - Proposal for a Department of Medical Examiners within the Navajo Nation.
 - Strengthen the definition for Strangulation and Suffocation.
- MMDR Database Development - In partnership with Navajo Technical University, progress continues on a community-centered MMDR database. The system is designed to support families by allowing them to report information, track services, and stay connected with agencies. Planned features include:
 - Family and agency profiles.
 - Public safety data intake (non-confidential).
 - Case communication tracking tools.
 - Poster creation tools for public awareness.
 - Survey and outreach tools.
 - Text and communication updates for families.
 - This system prioritizes accessibility and community engagement while maintaining necessary data protections.
- 2026 Goals and Priorities - The Task Force has identified several priorities for the current year focused on strengthening systems, improving legal protections, and expanding services:
 - Finalize and adopt the Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP).
 - Advance Title 17 amendments, including victim rights protections and statute of limitations reforms.
 - Continue development and implementation of the MMDR database.
 - Amend and improve the 2023 Victims' Rights Act.
 - Increase community outreach through trainings, school safety sessions, and public education events.

COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Contact: Marcarlo Roanhorse, Chair
Commission on Emergency Management
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

During the Spring Session reporting period, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) continued its efforts to strengthen emergency management systems through policy development, intergovernmental coordination, and legislative engagement. The Commission remained focused on improving operational clarity, enhancing coordination with partner agencies, and addressing identified gaps in emergency preparedness and response.

A primary focus of the Commission during this period has been the continued development of its Plan of

Operations (POO). The Commission has completed a working draft and is actively reviewing and refining the document to ensure it reflects current emergency management needs and aligns with Navajo Nation laws and federal standards. The Commission anticipates submitting a final draft to the Office of Legislative Counsel for legal sufficiency review prior to seeking legislative approval. As part of this process, the Commission is developing an appendix section to include standardized definitions and operational guidance, as well as incorporating a secondary cost framework to improve cost tracking, documentation, and eligibility for federal reimbursement. Additional updates include providing clearer guidance to Chapters on emergency declarations, access to Chapter Emergency Funds, and alignment with Title 26 emergency management provisions.

The Commission also engaged in intergovernmental coordination with leadership from the State of New Mexico, including Senator George Muñoz, representatives from the Governor's Office, and the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM). Discussions focused on improving coordination between tribal, state, and federal emergency management systems, including emergency declaration processes, FEMA requirements, and response coordination. The Commission identified the need for expanded training at the Chapter level, particularly in understanding federal processes, and discussed opportunities for joint training initiatives and technical assistance. Additional discussions addressed challenges related to grant funding, reimbursement, and administrative processes, as well as opportunities to support emergency management capacity through potential state collaboration. The engagement also highlighted the need to improve emergency communication systems, strengthen infrastructure and hazard mitigation planning, and establish formal points of contact to enhance coordination across jurisdictions, including county governments and multiple FEMA regions.

On March 10, 2026, the Commission met with the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force to address concerns regarding the Navajo Nation emergency alert system. The system has been inactive since October 2025 due to contract and administrative issues, including outstanding payments and lack of clear operational oversight. The discussion identified the need for clearly defined roles and responsibilities, improved accountability, and enhanced training and public awareness. The Commission committed to supporting efforts to expedite the reactivation and funding of the alert system, assist in the development of a fund management plan, and work collaboratively with the Department of Emergency Management, Navajo Nation Police Department, and the MMDR Task Force to improve coordination and ensure long-term sustainability of emergency communication systems.

The Commission continued its legislative engagement with the Law and Order Committee by providing updates on emergency declarations and response activities related to Resolution CEM-25-010 and Resolution CEM-25-011. These reports included detailed information on the impacts of tornadoes in the Aneth, Utah area and severe flooding in the Birdsprings and Dennehotso Chapters. The Commission and the Department of Emergency Management outlined damages, response efforts, and ongoing recovery needs, while also identifying operational challenges, including gaps in training, coordination, and administrative processes. Committee discussions focused on federal assistance thresholds, documentation requirements, and the use of Chapter Emergency Funds. The Commission emphasized the importance of accurate documentation and improved coordination to ensure eligibility for federal reimbursement and effective emergency response.

During these discussions, the Commission also clarified its role as a coordination and oversight body that supports emergency management efforts, facilitates communication with external partners, and provides recommendations to Navajo Nation leadership. The Law and Order Committee requested follow-up reporting on the Commission's Plan of Operations, review of the Commission's establishing legislation, and clarification on the use of Utah Navajo Trust Fund resources for disaster-related repairs.

Overall, the Commission's work during the Spring Session reporting period reflects continued progress in strengthening emergency management governance, improving coordination with partner agencies,

and addressing critical gaps in policy, training, and operational capacity. The Commission will continue to prioritize completion of its Plan of Operations, support intergovernmental collaboration, and enhance emergency preparedness and response systems to better protect public health, safety, and community infrastructure across the Navajo Nation.

**NAVAJO NATION YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
FISCAL YEAR 2026 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

Contact: Jacob James, Legislative Staff Assistant
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER

Program Development and Foundational Infrastructure

A significant focus was placed on building the institutional infrastructure necessary to sustain the NNYAC as a functioning legislative body. This included drafting a comprehensive Plan of Operations grounded in statutory language from 2 N.N.C. §§ 890–897, developing procedural reference guides for the Executive Director role to support long term institutional continuity, and completing a formal FY 2026 Q2 report package — inclusive of an unmet needs tracking report and Plan of Operations update — submitted to the Naabik’íiyáti’ Committee. A statute-compliant Rules of Order was drafted and cross-referenced against the Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee Rules of Order, incorporating Diné Fundamental Law and K’e traditional principles as required under 2 N.N.C. § 892(E).

Member Recruitment, Selection, and Outreach

The inaugural NNYAC member application was designed, launched, and executed under the Office of the Speaker. A 100-point scoring rubric was developed to guide equitable evaluation of applicants. Social media outreach was conducted across all five agency regions — Fort Defiance, Eastern, Northern, Western, and Central — and an applicant webinar was hosted to explain eligibility requirements and member expectations. A Selection Committee was coordinated and convened to conduct formal review.

A total of 41 applications were received from enrolled Navajo Nation members ages 14 through 24. Twelve members were selected, representing all five agency districts as well as two at-large appointments, fulfilling the membership structure authorized under 2 N.N.C. § 892. Individual notification letters were issued to all 41 applicants — 12 acceptance letters and 29 non-selection letters. Parental consent processes were managed for all members who are minors.

On March 12, 2026, NNYAC members were formally introduced to the Navajo Nation Council at a Naabik’íiyáti’ Committee meeting in Window Rock.

Orientation Program

The NNYAC completed a two-phase onboarding process. Orientation I provided an initial virtual orientation covering the NNYAC’s statutory framework, member expectations, and advisory council structure. Orientation II was conducted on April 4, 2026, in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) and marked the first time all NNYAC members convened as a body in person.

Orientation II was a full-day event and included the first official NNYAC regular meeting. A Delegate-based session was facilitated using anchor questions tailored to each Delegate’s regional context. One member from the Central Agency and one At-Large member were unable to attend in person.

Welcome packets were distributed to all members, including a branded hoodie, crewneck, tee shirt, an iPad, magic keyboard, apple pencil, notebook, and pen.

Governance Actions and Resolutions

The first official meeting of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council was convened in April 4, 2026, in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), with a quorum present. All official actions were taken pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 893(D), which requires a majority vote of members present and voting at a duly called meeting where a quorum is present. Two resolutions were considered and passed, both by a vote of 11 in Favor and 0 Opposed with the Chair not voting.

Resolution NNYACAP-01-26 confirmed the NNYAC's selection of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 892(F). Aryiah James was confirmed as Chairperson and Tewakeedah Martin as Vice-Chairperson. The resolution was motioned by Starr Joe, seconded by Vydell Willie, and signed and certified by Chairperson Aryiah James.

Resolution NNYACAP-02-26 approved the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council Rules of Order for meetings throughout the 2026-2027 term, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 892(E) and § 895. The Rules of Order incorporate Diné Fundamental Law and K'e traditional principles as required by statute and provide the governing meeting structure for the council's term. The resolution was motioned by Kendri Kinlacheeny, seconded by Daelyn Benally, and signed and certified by Chairperson Aryiah James.

Member Engagement and Emerging Policy Priorities

As part of Q2 reporting, NNYAC members submitted written responses identifying the issues facing Navajo youth that they are most passionate about resolving and the priorities they believe the council should formally champion.

Across member responses, several priority themes emerged with consistency. Youth mental health and suicide prevention were identified repeatedly. Members cited data showing that suicide rates on the Navajo Nation are higher than the national average, compounded by trauma, economic instability, and limited access to care. Members also identified language and cultural revitalization as a root-cause issue. Preservation of Diné arts and traditional crafts was raised as a matter of urgent cultural concern. Research cited by members indicates that more than half of items commercially sold as "Native" crafts are inauthentic.

Additional themes included the lack of community connection and leadership opportunities for youth, as well as the compounding barriers faced by urban and off-reservation Indigenous youth who have reduced access to Diné culture, language education, and culturally safe spaces. Members also raised land and environmental protection as a priority issue. As a next action item, the council will collectively determine as a body which issues it will formally champion during its term, moving from individual perspectives toward a unified council policy agenda.

External Engagement and Intergovernmental Participation

The NNYAC has also been invited to participate in several important external initiatives, including the Diné Action Plan (DAP) Advisory Group and the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force. As a next action item, the Office of the Speaker will facilitate a process for the NNYAC to collectively identify and coordinate member participation in subcommittees, task forces, coalitions, and intergovernmental initiatives relevant to Navajo youth.

Conclusion

The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council has completed a foundational quarter of operations that reflects the depth of commitment, coordination, and care that the Office of the Speaker has invested in this initiative. The council is now positioned to move from establishment into action, and the Office of the Speaker will continue to provide the support, oversight, and coordination necessary to ensure the NNYAC fulfills its mission of empowering Navajo youth and strengthening their role in governance.



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