

SPEAKER'S REPORT

2026 FALL SESSION
SPEAKER CRYSTALYNE CURLEY



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



Members of the Navajo Nation Council were joined by the 2026-2028 Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council after Legislation No. 0051-26 was approved, confirming 12 young leaders to serve on the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council.

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In May 2024, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council were joined by the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission for a commemorative photo after the Council passed the historic Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement.



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SPEAKER'S REPORT – FALL COUNCIL SESSION

Message from Speaker Crystalyne Curley

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, our Diné people. Thank you for joining us for the 2026 Fall Council Session.

The month of October is known as Ghááji', marking the transition of the seasons. On Oct. 10, 2026, we welcomed a new moon, signifying the beginning of a new year for our people. This is a special time when Nihimá Nahasdzáán, Mother Earth, reminds us to prepare our families and communities for the changing weather and seasons. It is also a time to reflect on where we are in our lives, offer prayers and renew our efforts for ourselves, our loved ones and our communities.

During this season, we reflect on the teachings of our elders, who remind us to prepare our homes for winter by gathering firewood, blankets, livestock supplies, food and water. As elected leaders, we encourage our children and grandchildren throughout the Nation to help care for their elders and ensure they are safe and prepared for the winter months ahead.

The strength of the 25th Navajo Nation Council has been our ability to work together to protect our people, uphold our sovereignty and safeguard the services our government provides to Navajo citizens.

Our work has included advancing water rights, advocating for uranium-affected families through the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, investing in senior centers and community emergency assistance, supporting Diné Bizaad, expanding transportation and broadband infrastructure, and responding to federal actions that impact tribal sovereignty and essential services. These efforts reflect our shared responsibility to address the needs of our people while laying a stronger foundation for future generations.

As we continue our work, I encourage everyone to reflect on the teachings of our elders regarding kinship and decision-making. As our grandparents always taught us, Ni'hi'saad ayoo bi'dzil, our spoken words have the power to create change that improves the lives of our people for generations to come. We must continue to work together, respect one another and move forward on a positive path. Through our collective efforts, we are



Crystalyne Curley, Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council



Speaker Curley was joined by Council Delegates Vince R. James and Brenda Jesus for a check presentation from the Diné Development Corporation during the 2026 Navajo Nation Fair.

helping establish a foundation for the next 100 years for our children and grandchildren.

In this Fall Council Session report, I would like to highlight and acknowledge some of the tremendous work accomplished by my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. The following pages reflect our collective efforts to protect our people, strengthen our communities, uphold our sovereignty and address the needs of Navajo citizens across the Nation.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the Fall Council Session, I am confident that we will continue to build on our accomplishments, address the challenges before us and plan responsibly for the future of our Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank our Diné citizens for your continued guidance, engagement and support.

Protecting Navajo Nation Water Rights

The 25th Navajo Nation Council has continued to advocate for the protection of Navajo Reliable water access and the protection of Navajo water rights remain critical priorities for the 25th Navajo Nation Council. The Council has continued to advance water settlements and advocate for the infrastructure needed to deliver water to families, schools, businesses and local governments throughout the Navajo Nation.

On May 23, 2024, the Council unanimously approved the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement, a historic step toward resolving the Nation's claims to Colorado River water in Arizona. Sponsored by Speaker Crystalyne Curley, the legislation advanced a priority of the 25th Navajo Nation Council since taking office in January 2023. Speaker Curley thanks her colleagues, attorneys and advocates who helped negotiate the settlement, which affirms the Nation's water rights and provides a pathway to funding essential water delivery infrastructure. The settlement also supports future development in areas such as housing, education, health care and economic growth.

In February 2026, the Council passed legislation establishing the Nation's priorities for Colorado River operations beyond 2026. The action emphasizes tribal sovereignty, the protection of existing water rights and meaningful tribal participation in negotiations shaping the future of the Colorado River Basin.

On March 11, 2026, Navajo Nation leaders joined representatives of the Hopi Tribe and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe in testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, urging congressional support for the Northern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement.

The Council continues to advocate for federal investments in water delivery systems, conservation and infrastructure to ensure that recognized water rights translate into reliable access for Navajo families and communities. As negotiations and federal approval efforts continue, the Council remains committed to protecting the Nation's interests and advancing long-term water security.

Advocating for Uranium-Affected Families Through RECA

For decades, Navajo uranium workers, downwinders and their families have lived with the consequences of uranium mining and the federal government's nuclear weapons program. The 25th Navajo Nation Council has supported efforts to reauthorize the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) and expand access to compensation for individuals affected by radiation exposure.

The federal reauthorization of RECA in 2025 extended compensation opportunities and expanded eligibility for certain affected individuals. The Council's advocacy has been part of the broader effort to ensure that Navajo uranium workers and downwinders are recognized and have access to the benefits available under federal law.

The Council has also emphasized the importance of making the claims process accessible to eligible individuals, many of whom are elders who may need assistance gathering records and completing

applications. Continued outreach and coordination with federal agencies are important to helping families understand eligibility requirements, application procedures and filing deadlines.

Beyond compensation, the Council continues to support efforts to address uranium contamination and strengthen accountability for cleanup. These efforts reflect the Nation's responsibility to protect public health, safeguard affected communities and ensure that the consequences of uranium development are not carried by future generations without meaningful action.

Investing in Senior Citizens and Community Needs

Support for elders and community services has remained a focus of the Council's work, with investments directed toward improving senior facilities and helping chapters respond to local needs.

In October 2024, during the Fall Council Session, the Council approved Legislation No. 0135-24, committing approximately \$148 million from the Síhasin Fund to improve senior centers across the Navajo Nation. Sponsored by Delegate Danny Simpson, the legislation supports renovations to more than 85 senior centers, construction of new facilities and improvements to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Planned upgrades include accessible restrooms, improved kitchens, updated heating and cooling systems, and safer environments for elders.

In April 2026, the Council also approved \$7,423,149.02 from the Síhasin Fund for construction of the Ramah Navajo Senior Citizens Center, addressing the community's longstanding need for a dedicated facility for elder services, activities and gatherings.

The Council has also recognized the importance of helping chapters respond to emergencies. In March 2026, the Council approved \$6 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to support all 110 chapters in providing emergency assistance and preparing for events such as flooding and drought.

These investments reflect the Council's commitment to honoring elders, improving access to services and helping communities address immediate needs while strengthening local capacity.

Establishing Diné Bizaad as the Official Language

Recognizing Diné Bizaad as the official language of the Navajo Nation marked an important milestone in preserving the language and strengthening cultural identity. On Dec. 16, 2024, during a special session, the Council passed legislation sponsored by Delegate Shawna Ann Claw amending Title 1 of the Navajo Nation Code to establish Diné Bizaad as the Nation's official language. President Buu Nygren signed the legislation into law on Dec. 24, 2024.

Delegate Claw described the legislation as a declaration of the Diné people's commitment to strengthening sovereignty by recognizing the language within the Nation's legal framework. Preserving Diné Bizaad affirms the values, identity and resilience of the Diné people.

Official-language recognition provides a foundation for continued efforts to strengthen language use throughout Navajo Nation government and communities, support language education and create opportunities for younger generations to learn from fluent speakers.

The Council recognizes that preserving Diné Bizaad requires continued commitment from families, educators, community leaders and government programs. This achievement honors those who kept the language strong and reinforces the responsibility to pass it on to future generations.

Defending Tribal Sovereignty Against Federal Actions

The 25th Navajo Nation Council has continued to respond to federal executive orders, proposed regulations

and policy changes that could affect tribal sovereignty, federal trust and treaty obligations, and essential services provided to Navajo citizens.

In January 2026, the Council introduced emergency legislation opposing Executive Order 14242, which addressed the proposed closure of the U.S. Department of Education, and requesting formal tribal consultation. The action reflects concerns about federal decisions that could affect education programs and resources serving Native students and tribal communities.

The Council has also addressed proposed federal changes to financial assistance rules. Legislation No. 0236-26 sought approval of the Navajo Nation's written comments opposing provisions of a proposed federal financial assistance rule that could affect tribal sovereignty, trust and treaty obligations, and funding to the Nation. The measure also called for a formal government-to-government consultation process.

These actions reflect the Council's responsibility to engage federal officials when proposed policies could affect the Nation's ability to govern itself and provide essential services. Federal policy decisions can have significant consequences for education, health care, infrastructure and other programs that Navajo citizens depend on.

Expanding Transportation and Broadband Infrastructure

Investments in transportation and broadband are helping address longstanding infrastructure needs and improve access to essential services across the Navajo Nation.

In April 2026, the Council approved \$120 million through the Síhasin Fund for transportation infrastructure improvements. Reliable roads are essential for residents traveling to school, work, health care appointments and community services. Transportation investments also support emergency response and economic development across the Nation.

In July 2026, the Council approved a \$244.6 million broadband infrastructure investment intended to expand connectivity throughout all 110 chapters. The funding supports broadband expansion and related infrastructure to improve internet access for households and communities.

Reliable broadband can strengthen access to education, telehealth, public information and economic opportunities. For communities where distance and limited infrastructure create barriers to services, improved connectivity can provide additional ways to participate in government and access essential resources.

These investments represent an ongoing commitment to improving access and addressing disparities that have affected Navajo communities for generations.

Supporting Youth Leadership and Future Generations

Creating meaningful opportunities for young Diné people to participate in government has been an important step toward ensuring youth perspectives are represented in decisions that affect their future.

In March 2026, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved legislation confirming 12 members of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council. Selected from a pool of 41 applicants, the members represent the Nation's five agencies and Navajo youth living off the reservation.

The Youth Advisory Council operates within the Legislative Branch and provides a formal avenue for young people to share their perspectives on policy and community concerns. Its inaugural meeting in April 2026 marked an important step in establishing a structure for sustained youth engagement in the legislative process.

Providing opportunities for youth participation helps strengthen civic engagement and prepares future leaders to serve their communities.

Protecting Voting Rights

The 25th Navajo Nation Council has addressed issues affecting voting access and the protection of voter rights.

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee adopted a resolution opposing H.R. 7296, known as the SAVE Act, citing concerns that proposed federal citizenship documentation requirements could create additional barriers for Navajo voters. Many elders lack birth certificates because they were not born in hospitals, while rural residents may face long distances and added costs to obtain records and meet registration requirements. The resolution raised concerns about rural addressing challenges and access to mail-in voting, which many voters on tribal lands rely on.

The Council's position underscored that protecting voting access is closely tied to tribal sovereignty, treaty obligations and the federal government's trust responsibility.

Closing Remarks

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the collective work of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and the responsibility we share to serve our people. From water rights and infrastructure to language preservation, elder services, federal advocacy and fiscal oversight, our work has addressed issues that affect the daily lives and future opportunities of Navajo citizens.

I thank my colleagues for their service and commitment, as well as chapter officials, community advocates, legislative staff and our Diné citizens for their continued participation in the work of our government.

As we move forward, we must continue to work together, remain accountable to our people and protect the resources, rights and cultural values entrusted to us. Our responsibility extends beyond this session and this Council. It is a responsibility to the generations who came before us and those who will follow.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, ahéhee' for your continued support and prayers as we work toward a stronger future for the Navajo Nation.

Áhé'héé



Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council





LEGISLATIVE BRANCH PROGRAMS
FY2026 FOURTH QUARTER REPORTS

NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2026 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Contact: Clarence Rockwell, Executive Director
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

IT Upgrade

- The Navajo Utah Commission Office secured a \$15,000 grant from the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund in July to replace outdated computer equipment with modern hardware and software to enhance efficiency, security, and productivity for program operations. A limited operating budget prevented NUC from upgrading computer equipment for many years. This collaboration with the Utah NRF and recent support from San Juan County and the Utah Navajo Health System is enabling NUC to improve technological capacity and productivity for the program. As technology advances, older systems become slower, less reliable, and more vulnerable to cybersecurity threats. Modern hardware and software not only improve performance and reduce downtime, but also support the latest tools and applications needed for effective collaboration and communication. By keeping our equipment up to date, we ensure a smoother workflow, protect sensitive information, and create a more dependable environment for employees and customers alike.

State of Utah Collaborations

- The Navajo Utah Commission and elected leaders from the Aneth, Red Mesa, and Mexican Water chapters participated in government-to-government collaboration with Utah state agencies, Office of the Governor, and the Native American Legislative Liaison Committee of the Utah Legislature. The event took place on July 29 and 30 at Utah Valley University (UVU) and provided an opportunity to meet with individual state agencies in 30-minute intervals to discuss tribal-state issues. The 20th Annual Governor's Native American Summit took place on July 31, 2026, at UVU with keynote speeches and breakout sessions.

RBDG Project Completion

- The Montezuma Creek Market Analysis Project was substantially completed on August 1, 2026, with only final project meeting awaiting last payment from one of the project's funding partners. The market analysis report is recommending a plaza layout for Site 02 at the corner of SR 162 and SR 262 for a retail mixed use development area. The Navajo Utah Commission secured \$80,000 from U.S. Rural Development and \$69,608 from the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund to appropriate this project.

Completion of Energy Corridor Transportation Project

- The Utah Department of Transportation, Utah Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson, and local Navajo leadership conducted a project completion and ribbon cutting event for the completion of Energy Corridor Project in Montezuma Creek on September 02, 2026. This \$152 million transportation project was the culmination of a 20-year enduring effort involving the Utah Department of Transportation, Utah chapters, and the Navajo Nation. The State of Utah recognized and appreciated the support and contribution of present and previous Navajo leadership in accomplishing this urgently needed road improvement project.

Public Lands

- President Donald J. Trump significantly reduced the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument for a second time on July 13, 2026, pursuant to Proclamation 11043. As anticipated, 16 new mining claims were filed on opening day for new claims approximately 60 days after the presidential proclamation was issued. The Navajo Utah Commission is continuing to collaborate with the Utah chapters and other tribal and non-tribal organizations to oppose Proclamation

11043, including enactment of NUC resolution NUCAUG-011-26. The Navajo Utah Commission also enacted resolution NUCAUG-008-26 opposing dispersal of cremated human remains on or near sacred sites on lands surrounding the Navajo Nation and is working with the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department.

GOALS FOR 1ST QUARTER IN FY2027

- Seek FY27 unmet needs funding for program operations.
- Work with Naatsis'Aan, Oljato, Red Mesa, and Aneth chapters in rejuvenating idling capital projects.
- Submit funding application to Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund for one project ready Utah chapter project.
- Collaborate with Utah chapters in planning a Capacity Building Training during first quarter.
- Work with Utah chapters to implement the Utah OWHLF Housing Projects.

ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The FY27 Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget appropriated \$299,518 for Navajo Utah Commission and is sufficient only for personnel and related fringe benefits. The Navajo Utah Commission submitted an unmet needs budget for \$120,033 but was granted only \$41,116 for fringe benefits purposes. The Navajo Utah Commission is still lacking \$78,917 for FY27 unmet needs, including meeting stipends, meeting mileage, program vehicle usage and mileage, program related travel, office and operating supplies, communications, and special transactions. The NUC Office will be operating without workers comp at the beginning of the new fiscal year and most likely will have to return program vehicle, disconnect office phone, and discontinue internet services due to lack of funds. The Navajo Utah Commission is also apparently still required to meet quarterly program performance measures tied to NUC meetings. This includes 14 meetings and enactment of 24 resolutions. The Navajo Utah Commission respectfully seeks the support of the Office of the Speaker and Navajo Nation Council in appropriating unmet needs funding for the program.

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

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

Strengthening the NNHRC Plan of Operation and Legal Authority

- During this quarter, the office continued reviewing proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Plan of Operation to strengthen and clarify the Commission's responsibilities and authorities. The Executive Director met with Legislative Branch legal counsel regarding proposed language addressing litigation and legal representation. Attention was given to clarifying who may legally represent the Commission or an individual complaint when matters require court action. Legal counsel further recommended that the Plan of Operation avoid identifying individual outside law firms by name because professional relationships may change over time. Instead, proposed language is being developed to provide the Commission with flexibility to obtain appropriate legal representation when authorized and necessary.

Restoration of Attorney Position

- The office-initiated efforts to restore an Attorney position previously abolished after difficulties filling

the vacancy. The Executive Director began preparing the necessary justification and Commission documentation to support restoration of the position. The position is intended to provide dedicated to providing dedicated legal assistance in reviewing complaints, interpreting jurisdiction, supporting investigations, advising the Commission, reviewing agreements and policies, and assisting with matters that may require legal action.

Federal Policy and 2030 Decennial Census Coordination

- The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission collaborated with the Navajo Nation Washington Office, Navajo Department of Justice regarding proposed federal changes involving the Decennial Census. The Census Bureau announced a tribal consultation concerning proposed challenges affecting the 2030 Census. Because federal population data directly affects funding, representation, planning, and services within Indian Country, the Commission participated in reviewing the potential effects of the proposal on Navajo citizens. The Navajo Nation Washington Office subsequently identified NNHRC as one of the Navajo Nation offices involved in developing an analysis for Navajo nation leadership.

VOTER RIGHTS & ELECTION OUTREACH

First Annual Voting Rights Conference

- The office successfully coordinated the 1st Annual Voting Rights Conference at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort on August 24-25, 2026. The conference brought together presenters and stakeholders to discuss voting rights, election administration, regional voter data, legal protections, voter's access, and issues affecting Navajo voters in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. NNHRC staff were assigned responsibilities involving conference administration, registration, technology, public information, investigations, and policy reports. The event extended NNHRC's public education and voting rights outreach efforts.

San Juan County, Utah Voting Rights Coordination

- The office participated in ongoing discussion involving San Juan County, Utah, the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, election officials, and other stakeholders regarding voter registration information and provisional ballots affecting Navajo voters. One area of concern involved access to voter information associated with provisional ballots. Representatives indicated that Utah law restricted the release of certain voter information and that additional information was being maintained through the Utah Lieutenant Governor's office. The Commission continued participating in these discussions to better understand the issue and identify potential barriers affecting Navajo voters.

KTNN Radio Town Hall on Election

- At the request of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, the Executive Director participated in a KTNN Radio Town Hall on Election to provide election-related information directly to Navajo citizens. Information shared with listeners included the distinction between Navajo Nation and state election registration, the importance of verifying voter registration early, voting deadlines, and barriers that may affect Navajo citizen's access to the ballot.

Chapter Voting Rights Outreach and Seminar Series

- The Executive Director and staff participated in chapter-level outreach concerning voting rights and election education. The office also began organizing the "Shi Anishłí. Shi Dine Bıł Semiar Series to bring voter education and community information directly to Navajo communities. Planned presentations included Navajo voting rights, county election processes, Navajo Nation elections, voter registration, census information, community resources, and election-related public education.

Poll Worker Recruitment

- The office assisted with disseminating information concerning urgent poll-worker openings affecting Navajo communities in Apache and Navajo Counties, including recruitment deadlines and upcoming poll-worker training. These efforts supported election officials in identifying individuals capable of serving Navajo communities during the election.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Complaint Intake and Case Management

- The office began reviewing its complaint intake and case management process to establish clearer responsibilities among the Human Rights Investigator, Policy Analysts, Senior Office Specialist, Administrative Assistant, and Executive Director. A complaint processing workflow was developed to clarify how complaints are received, documented, reviewed for jurisdiction, assigned, investigated, elevated for policy or legal review, and presented for appropriate action or closure.

Personnel and Administrative Controls

- The Executive Director worked to establish clearer supervisory and administrative responsibilities within the Office. Actions included efforts to obtain appropriate Dayforce management and recruitment access, clarify staff reporting relationships, address employee payroll matters, and establish administrative procedures consistent with Navajo Nation personnel requirements. The office is also continued recruitment and workforce planning efforts to ensure vacancies can be filled and staff have the resources necessary to carry out the Commission's responsibilities.

WORK SAFETY AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

During the quarter, workplace environmental concerns required immediate attention following a Navajo Occupational Safety and Health Administration advisory involving elevated temperatures and potential microbial or mildew concerns within the Commission's office building. To protect employees while additional information was being evaluated, the Executive Director coordinated a temporary relocation of NNHRC staff to alternative Navajo Nation office space.

The temporary relocation included establishing employee work areas, telephone routing, sign in and sign out procedures, parking arrangements, computer relocation, and continued public access to Commission services. The office also reviewed environmental assessment information and sought additional clarification concerning air quality and microbial sampling results. These actions allowed NNHRC to maintain continuity of operation while addressing employee workplace safety concerns.

PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

Throughout the quarter, the Office increased coordination with Navajo Nation departments outside governmental entities, Chapters, and community partners. This included coordination or participation involving the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Nation Washington Office, Legislative Branch legal counsel, Navajo Nation Election Administration, state and county election officials, San Juan County, Utah, Arizona partners, Navajo Nation Chapters, and other entities involved in protecting the rights and interests of Navajo citizens.

CONTINUED DIRECT SERVICES AND UPCOMING EFFORTS

The office will continue providing direct services to Navajo citizens while expanding public education and policy activities. Upcoming priorities include continuing the "Shi Anishłí. Shí Dine Bįł. Seminar Series" strengthening complaint investigation procedures, finalizing proposed amendments to the Plan of Operation, pursuing restoration of the Attorney position, coordinating with election partners through the 2026 General Election, participating in federal policy and Census discussions, and expanding community education regarding voting and human rights.

The Office will also continue providing the Navajo nation Human Rights Commission with updates concerning significant cases, policy matters federal developments, administrative priorities, and matters requiring Commission direction.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

- Legislation No. 0183-26 – Supporting amendments to Navajo Nation Code Title 10: Education to add Restorative Justice definitions and specific actions intended to reduce unfair and harmful disciplinary actions toward Navajo students attending public schools.
- During the quarter, the Law-and-Order Committee approved the legislation with strong support. The measure advanced to the Naabik'iyati' Committee for further consideration. NNHRC's Commission Chair was identified as agents supporting the legislation.
- Resolution Supporting Restoration of the NNHRC Attorney Position – Supporting restoration of a dedicated Attorney position within the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and authorizing the Executive Director to proceed with necessary personnel, budgetary, administrative, and legislative processes.
- The proposed resolution recognizes the recurring legal issues encountered by the Commission and its staff, including jurisdiction, statutory authority, due process, confidentiality, subpoenas, investigations, administrative procedure, and interpretation of Navajo Nation, federal, state, and other applicable laws. The resolution supports restoring in-house legal capacity to provide institutional legal support to the Commission, Executive Director, and Human Rights Investigators.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
FISCAL YEAR 2026 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

- Provided legal representation for the 2026 Summer Council Session.
- Provided legal services and drafted legislation for the FY 2027 Comprehensive Budget and all related oversight committee hearings and sessions.
- Provided legal services to the Title II Reform Sub-committee and drafted amendments to the Standing Committee Rules of Order.
- Continued to represent Navajo Board of Elections Supervisors (NBOES), on election matters.
- Drafted and finalized 146 legislation requests and contract reviews.
- Provided legal guidance and assistance at over 78 Committee/Council meetings and work sessions, as well as over 57 Subcommittee/Boards/Commission meetings, work sessions and administrative hearings.
- Provided legislative legal services at all Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee regular and special meetings, leadership meetings and work sessions.
- Litigated on behalf of the Speaker and the Navajo Nation Council in matters currently before the Window Rock District Court and the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.
- OLC upholds its responsibilities to the public by maintaining mandatory training requirements for attorneys and advocates under professional responsibility rules.

GOALS & PRIORITIES

- Continue to advise and assist the NNC, Standing Committees and sub-committees. Attend all meetings, advise on procedural and substantive legal questions.
- Continue to attend 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.

- Continue 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.

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

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

During the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026, ERO focused on looking at its internal systems and case load to identify areas where lean processes can be implemented for efficiency. The Team has focused on prioritizing cases and identifying those cases that are considered priority and those that can be closed. Communication with the Special Prosecutor has ceased for now.

Efforts to communicate with Navajo Nation Executive Programs as well as Chapter officials and staff for case related inquiries continue on a daily basis. As part of this effort, ERO also met with its Oversight Committee during the FY27 budget process and was able to obtain support from the Chair to submit a request to Council to secure additional funding by submitting an Unmet Needs Request. Unfortunately, the unmet needs was not included in the FY27 Comprehensive Budget. Additional financial support will be needed and requested to strengthen ERO's capacity to fully serve the Navajo Nation and ensure that essential services, resources, and initiatives continue to meet community needs.

The ERO has taken proactive efforts toward updating the Plan of Operations. The overall goal is to ensure we are able to maintain our current operations while positioning ourselves to meet future demands by expanding our internal and external resources to support the high-volume case load throughout the entire Navajo Nation. The ERO met with the Law and Order Committee during a two-day work session and identified areas of the Plan of Operation as well as the statutory language of the Ethics in Government Law to focus on. The LOC began the process of updating Title 2 of Ethics in Government Law. Future Work Sessions will be scheduled with the LOC to continue to collaborate efforts to draft, update, and finalize the Plan of Operations as well as the statute governing Ethics and Rules.

The ERO continues to experience a high volume of Intakes which includes Intakes that should be handled within the Executive Divisions from where the complaints originate or within the Office of Human Resources; however, ERO has experienced cases where individuals have exhausted this option. Mere communication from an ERO Investigator generally mitigates the issue by forcing the Divisions to focus on the matter and do their due diligence to address the concerns.

The goal is to ensure that all complaints receive the level of attention and follow through required as part of ERO's due diligence.

There is a significant increase in requests to do presentations. One of the goals for ERO during the next quarter and moving forward is to increase presence by offering presentations to elected officials on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. In addition to elected officials, ERO target audience will also include new employees during New Employee Orientation. ERO will collaborate to schedule these presentations. The

intent is to make sure everyone is aware of their obligation to adhere to ethical conduct while performing their duties on behalf of the Navajo Nation. By signing in on the sign-in sheets during these presentations, attendees will essentially acknowledge they have received the training and have the basic awareness of the required ethical standards.

Investigative Highlights & Case Management

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

- Interviews & Evidence Gathering: 148 Cases Starting from FY26 (October 2025 to Present Date)
- Supreme Court Ruling: 0
- Ethics Intakes: 57
- Ethics Clearance: 339
- Office Visitors: 145
- Incoming Telephone calls: 182
- Restitution Collections: \$3125.00
- Order to Show Cause Hearings: 5
- Case hearing: 4

Inter-Agency Collaboration

- Previous collaboration with Special Prosecutor has been suspended for now. ERO is focusing primarily on obtaining outside Counsel to assist with presenting the high volume of cases to the Office of Hearing and Appeals.
- ERO Presentations have been in high demand and requests continue to be made by Chapters, Boards, and Programs.
- Collaborating with internal resources to update Plan of Operations and other internal systems for efficiency.

Administrative & Operational Tasks

- Program Performance: ERO program performance measures continue to meet or exceed established benchmarks.
- Data Organization: Continued efforts to improve office efficiency by developing case-tracking tools and restructuring internal office systems.
- Compliance: Staff and operations remain compliant, consistently initiating and following required processes.
- Order to Show Cause Listing: As part of updating internal systems and processes, efforts are being made to find ways to hold Respondents accountable to the terms of their payments. ERO will be going through adjudicated cases to identify individuals who are behind on payments and scheduling OTCS hearings. ERO will be posting the information on the website and sharing it with news media for broader public access.
- Technology Advancement: ERO is actively exploring new technologies to enhance daily operations and investigation methods to ensure we meet standard investigation practices.
- Leadership Oversight: Ms. Henrietta Wauneka continues to monitor and evaluate budgetary needs and operational requirements.

EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2026 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Contact: Leonard Tsosie, Executive Director

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

- The Office continues to deliver LBB maps to ENA Chapters and some of the Land Use Committees (e.g., Casamero Lake, Littlewater, Crownpoint, Alamo, Torreon Chapters). Newly elected Chapter officials are requesting maps. Although being a planning entity for Chapters is not in the plan of operation for the

Office, the Office has been helping Chapters with their requests. Chapters are requesting more developed maps from the Office. In fact, ENLC LBB maps are the preferred maps now because they show Indian Allotment numbers and the interest share of the Navajo Nation. ENA BIA is no longer assisting the ENA Chapters with the maps. The Office has expressed its serious concerns about BIA offices diminished work due to lack of budget and personnel.

- The Office continues to give reports at Eastern Navajo Agency Council (ENAC) meetings like the recent meeting at Tsayatoh Chapter.
- 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 Disa and Navajo Nation entities have received indication of an approval of the grant. The Commission passed a Resolution in support of the grant. The Office worked with NNEPA to have ENAC pass a supporting Resolution.
- The Office continues to attend meetings and give comments to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others regarding remediation of Uranium mining waste. Before, the Commission and Office worked closely with NNEPA to examine the use of new technology called High-Pressure Slurry Ablation (HPSA) as to minimize uranium mining waste. This is part of the new approach as a public-private partnership with BHP, Disa. USEPA has recently announced that it signed an action memo to finalize the plan to transport low-level radioactive material from Churchrock site to the Red Rock Landfill property near Thoreau Chapter. USEPA has also announced action plans for mining waste near Mariano Lake and Smith Lake. To our disappointment, USEPA is still proceeding with its Cap-In-Place (CIP) alternative. The Office, along with NNEPA and DURAC, fervently pushed for NN version of its remediation plan at a recent meeting. USEPA did not consider ENLC (neither the Navajo Nation or Thoreau Chapter's) request to remove the waste from Navajoland or its objections to the proposed repository in Thoreau, NM. Due to the reluctance of USEPA to remove uranium mining waste from Navajoland, the policy is being reexamined. Director attended Resources & Development Committee (RDC) meeting with USEPA to air concerns about USEPA reluctance and about its plans to do regional repositories at the borders of Navajo Nation. RDC has positively accepted the new approach. Previously, met with Congressman Jamie Raskin and Congresswoman Leger-Fernandez to seek their assistance with Senator Kelly's bill and with federal departments. ENLC Director worked with various Principle Responsible Parties (PRP) and NNEPA to plan an alternative to USEPA's CIP alternatives. PRPs are accepting of the new approach. President Nygren has requested an action plan and the Office has been working with NNEPA and others to compile such a plan for the President to review. The plan or Playbook has been developed and ready for review.
- 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 Director attended two conferences where these new mining plans were discussed. 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. Discussions were had with Senator Pinto and plans are being made to have an information meeting with NM legislators.
- 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 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 Chapter and the Office did meet with identified families and they decided to go with homesite leases. The Chapter is helping the families to submit applications for Homesite Leases. The Office did advise the Chapter and families that since the Homesite Lease option was selected, the Office's service may no longer be required.

- The Office continues to monitor NN Department of Agriculture's request to acquire a land withdrawal or assignment for its office and livestock processing facility on a land west of Crownpoint, NM. BIA notified the ENLC Office that this may be a land that is equivalent to tribal trust land. Upon confirmation, ENLC will assist the department to prepare the proper land withdrawal.
- The Office continues to work with BLM to plan Navajo cultural sites visit. Unfortunately, the assisting BLM culture employee has resigned and this effort is suspended. A meeting was held with NN Historic Preservation Office, Diné Haatali Association and from local Chapters to learn more about cultural sites, including Chaco Canyon. A good meeting was held with Superintendent for Chaco Canyon Historical Park as chaired by ENLC Chairman. Allottees' concerns, artifacts and Chaco Buffer Zone were discussed.
- ENLC met with BLM to discuss the programmatic agreement (PA) and is awaiting further meetings. BLM has advised that the new discussion on PA does not involve Navajo lands. The Office is reluctant to accept such a view and is monitoring the new discussions. Recently, the Office and NN Historic Preservation Office (NNHPO) met with BLM in March 2026 for further discussions. A meeting with BLM was held in Crownpoint to proceed to finalization. Finalizations is now underway.
- 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, but there is uncertainty about the function of GLDD.
- 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. In a recent meeting with NM Oil & Gas Association, it was learned that Allottees are benefitted through the new way of leasing.
- ENLC used to meet and dialogue with the Regional BIA Office to discuss the many land issues in ENA. ENLC will continue these dialogues. Due to the federal government shutdown, uncertainty on BIA functions have arisen. At field meetings, the Director has stressed to Regional BIA office to carry out its trust responsibility duties to the NN.
- The Office applied for a federal grant for its land acquisition work and has not received notice of approval. A far, 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.
- The Office had discussion with Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company (NNOGC) regarding oil and gas reserves in ENA. No new development has occurred, but the Office continues to monitor.
- Before, ENLC Director participated in consultation meetings with US Department of Interior (DOI) along with the Speaker's office to encourage the Trump administration to not do away with ENA BIA office. Director attended the federal Indian Energy Resources meeting in Lakewood, CO, near Denver. This continues to be a concern with many federal programs being targeted for closures. Much of the Commission and Office's work depends on dialogues with federal agencies. The federal government continues to reduce the number of employees through incentives to retire. Many seasoned BIA employees have retired or participated in the buy-out. The Office has expressed its concerns to Washington DC BIA Office and NN leadership.
- 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. Formal notice has finally arrived for comments and ENLC prepared its comments along with Navajo Allottees and Navajo Nation President. The comments were submitted to BLM website.

- 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, not much has happened. BIA is now at a stage of renewing grazing permits for ENA for grazing permittees.
- The FY2027 budgets for the Eastern Navajo Land Commission (Commission) and its Eastern Navajo Land Commission Office (Office) has been approved as part of Navajo Nation overall budget. 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 have received a slight increased budget from FY2026.

Section Two: Goals in FY2026:

- Wait for communication about the rescission of Public Land Order 7923 as a priority.
- Finish LBB maps, give PDF digital copies to Navajo Land Department, ENA Chapter officials, and paper copies to at 2 libraries
- 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. Wait for information about the grant.
- 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.
- 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.
- Work with BLM regarding programmatic agreement and try to finalize.
- 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:

- Provide comments on Public Land Order and begin to work with Congressional members for a permanent solution.
- 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 AUDITOR GENERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Contact: Jeanine Jones, Auditor General
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

Internal Audits – 2 report

- Office of the Speaker Special Review
- Cameron Chapter Internal Audit

Corrective Action Plan Follow-up Reviews – 3 reports

- Manuelito Chapter
- White Cone Chapter - Implemented CAP
- Tohajiilee Chapter

Investigation – 1 referral

- Navajo Nation Fair

Goals for FY2026 Fourth Quarter

- Hazard/Special Duty Pay Report
- IDSA/Zenihome Special Review
- Native Community Capital Special Review
- Rock Point Chapter CAP FU
- Tsayatoh Chapter CAP FU
- Shiprock Chapter Special Audit
- Twin Lake CAP FU - outsourced
- DED P-card CAP FU
- Tsidii To'ii (Birdsprings) CAP FU
- Tuba City Chapter Internal Audit
- Fort Defiance Chapter CAP FU (14 findings)
- Iyanbito Chapter CAP FU (7 findings)
- Tsalani/Cottonwood CAP FU (3 findings)
- Leupp Chapter CAP FU (5th follow-up)
- Directives (programs/entities): (1) OPVP was outsourced, (2) Audits for IDSA/Zenihome and Native Community Capital are currently underway, 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 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, and (4) Fleet Management included in CAP follow-up review is currently underway, conducted by our internal audit team. Other program/entity audit requests, (1) Naataani Devol. Corp. will be working with ERO since it's related to potential fraud, (2) Native Broadcast Enterprise, (3) Judicial hiring practices, and (4) San Juan River Dine Water Users- waiting for audit request letter from the requestors.
- Corrective Action Plan (CAP): One (1) (Pinon Chapter) CAP submitted to the Auditor General in response to audit reports and working on sponsorship, two (2) (Low Mtn Chapter, OOC) waiting for CAPs to be submitted to our office and five (5) legislations for CAP approval at BFC (Baahaali Chapter, Red Rock Chapter, NN Bus. Site Lease, NN Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, NN Vet. Adm).
- 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.
- Financial Audit (Certified Chapter only) –Three were submitted in FY 2026, (1) Houck-Qualified Opinion,

- (2) Teesto-Unqualified Opinion and (3) Tuba City – Unmodified Opinion.
- Lifted sanctions on Whitecone Chapter due to reasonable implementation of the CAP.
- 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.
- Complete CMCA quarterly reports - Work with the consultant to analyze chapter financial data based on their MIP accounting systems to generate reports on expenditures and available fund balances. This is put on hold due to unavailable consulting funds.

ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to recruit applicants to fill three (3) vacancies, one Associate Auditors, one Auditor and one Senior Auditor. Received 2 applications for Auditor and Sr. Auditor positions.
- The primary challenge in auditing the Navajo Nation continues to be the retention of supporting documentation. A significant portion of our budgeted hours are spent tracking down missing records. Chapters, programs, and entities are ultimately responsible for maintaining and providing their documentation, and delays in this area directly impact audit efficiency.
- 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.

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

Contact: Marcarlo Roanhorse, Chair
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

During the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2026, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM), under the leadership of Chairperson Marcarlo Roanhorse, continued its efforts to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Navajo Nation communities impacted by severe monsoon storms, flash flooding, and infrastructure damage.

The Commission convened three special emergency meetings on July 24, September 15, and September 17, 2026, along with a flooding logistics coordination meeting on September 16, 2026, to address emerging emergencies, coordinate resources, and strengthen communication among Navajo Nation departments, chapters, and emergency response agencies.

Emergency Declarations and Legislative Actions

Resolution CEM 26-004 – Monsoon and Flooding Emergency Declaration

On July 24, 2026, the Commission unanimously approved Resolution CEM 26-004, declaring a Navajo Nation-wide emergency due to severe monsoon storms, flash flooding, and road infrastructure damage. The declaration received concurrence from President Buu Nygren and established a framework for coordinating emergency response and assistance to affected communities.

On September 15, the Commission reaffirmed the existing declaration following severe flooding in Chinle, Many Farms, and surrounding communities.

On September 17, the Commission unanimously approved modifications to CEM 26-004 by a vote of 6-0, strengthening provisions for emergency procurement, resource deployment, damage assessments, chapter emergency assistance, and coordination with the Federal Highway Administration for potential road emergency relief funding.

Resolution CEM 26-005 – Proposed \$5 Million Emergency Preparedness and Response Reserve

On July 24, the Commission approved Resolution CEM 26-005, requesting that the Navajo Nation Council and President allocate \$5 million to establish a dedicated Emergency Preparedness and Response Reserve.

The proposed reserve would support immediate emergency response, equipment and personnel deployment, transportation, shelter operations, infrastructure stabilization, and potential financial obligations associated with approved mutual-aid agreements. This proposal remains a funding recommendation requiring appropriate legislative and executive action.

Emergency Response and Interagency Coordination

Throughout the quarter, the Commission worked with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT), Division of Public Safety, Administrative Service Centers, affected chapters, and other emergency response partners.

Attention was given to flooding and infrastructure damage affecting Chinle, Many Farms, Tonalea, Birdsprings, Teesto, Dennehotso, and other communities across the Navajo Nation.

The Commission emphasized the importance of maintaining emergency access routes, conducting damage assessments, coordinating heavy equipment and personnel, supporting displaced families, and prioritizing vulnerable residents.

The Commission also worked to strengthen coordination through the Emergency Operations Center, including the use of Incident Command System (ICS) documentation and resource request procedures.

Communication and Public Safety

Chairperson Roanhorse maintained communication with Navajo Nation leadership and Commissioners by distributing emergency declarations, Department of Emergency Management situation reports, public safety advisories, and updates regarding ongoing response and recovery activities.

Chapters were encouraged to activate local emergency response plans, report damages, maintain expenditure documentation, and coordinate requests for emergency assistance through DEM and their respective Administrative Service Centers.

These efforts supported greater situational awareness and coordination among the three branches of the Navajo Nation government and responding agencies.

Continuing Priorities and Recommendations

The Commission identified the need to strengthen Navajo Nation emergency preparedness and response capacity through continued interagency collaboration, standardized incident reporting, improved chapter-level emergency planning, timely resource deployment, and adequate emergency funding.

The Commission will continue working with DEM and other agencies to monitor ongoing recovery operations, assess infrastructure damage, identify unmet community needs, and support the development of sustainable emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

The Commission remains committed to protecting Navajo Nation communities, supporting local chapters and first responders, and ensuring that the Navajo Nation maintains the coordination and resources necessary to respond effectively to emergencies and disasters.

NAVAJO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FISCAL YEAR 2026 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Contact: Veronica Curley, Interim Executive Director

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

- 2026 NAVAJO NATION ELECTION**

The 2026 Navajo Nation Primary Election was held on July 21, 2026 at all 110 Navajo Nation Chapter House. The voter turnout was 34.48 percent (Registered voters: 142,912; Total Votes Cast: 49,274) On Election Day, minor election issues were resolved by NEA staff; there was a power outage in southwest region, but it did not affect the voting for Navajo Nation.

Absentee Voting Statistics:

Position	AGENCY					Total
	Chinle	Eastern Navajo	Fort Defiance	Northern	Western	
Early In-Person Voting (at agency offices)	1127	1081	1856	2098	1645	7807
Ballots Mailed	200	336	449	248	303	1536
TOTAL (By Agency)	1327	1417	2305	2346	1948	9343

A total of 25 Poll Official Trainings were conducted by NEA as follows: Chinle Agency-7; Eastern Navajo Agency-2; Fort Defiance Agency-6; Northern Agency-3; and Western Navajo Agency-7.

The final Chief Poll Judges' (CPJ) trainings were held at each agency location; election supplies, ballots, and voting equipment were distributed to each CPJ. All items were returned to agency headquarters (election offices) election night.

State of Grievances: Three (3) Statement of Grievances were filed with Office of Hearings and Appeals; two (2) on the conduct of election and one (1) on ineligibility for not filing a Campaign Expense Report.

- SPECIAL ELECTIONS:** 4
Chinle Agency-1; Eastern Navajo Agency-1; and Northern Agency-2.
- CAMPAIGN EXPENSE REPORT NON-FILERS:** 3
Chinle Agency-1; Northern Agency-1; and Western Navajo Agency-1
1 Statement of Grievance filed chla
- OATH OF OFFICES – 2**
Chinle Agency – 1; and Western Navajo Agency - 1

All Oath of Offices were administered by Honorable Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley of Navajo Nation Supreme Court

- APPOINTMENTS BY NBOES OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES:** 5
Chinle Agency -2; Eastern Navajo Agency-1; Fort Defiance Agency – 1; and Western Navajo Agency -5

- STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCES FILED/OHA HEARINGS HELD/SUPREME COURT APPEALS: 3

Agency	Grievance filed 4th Quarter	Hearings Held?	Order by OHA	Appealed to NN Supreme Court	Grievances filed prior to 4th quarter; Awaiting hearing dates, OHA decision/Order, or Navajo Nation Supreme Court decision/order
CHA	0	0		0	0
ENA	0	0		0	0
FDA	0	0		0	1 (NNSC Appeal)
NNA	1	0	Dismissed (1)	1	1 (Awaiting OHA Order)
WNA	2	0	Dismissed (2)	0	2 (1-NNSC Appeal; 1 OHA)
	3	0	3	1	4

- **VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS/VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES**

-Total Registered Voter: 146,421 (1,032 - New)

-Chinle Agency: 20,484

-Eastern Navajo Agency: 34,221

-Fort Defiance Agency: 36,346

-Northern Navajo Agency: 28,720

-Western Navajo Agency: 26,650

- Voter registration drives conducted by NEA: 16
- Voter registration drives were held on the Navajo Nation and in metropolitan locations such as Flagstaff (AZ), Phoenix (AZ), Albuquerque (NM), and Las Vegas, NV.

- **NAVAJO NATION VOTER REGISTRARS**

The NEA is continuously recruiting individuals to serve as Navajo Nation Voter Registrars at the chapter level and in metropolitan areas where there is a large population of Dine People.

- **RECALL: 2**

Chinle Agency - Recall Election set for two positions

Information on process: 5

- **OTHERS:**

- Conducted the 2026 Navajo Nation Primary Election.
- Attended required Day Force Trainings sponsored by Department of Human Resources.
- Provided administrative support to Navajo Board of Election Supervisors; preparation of resolutions, agenda, general claim forms, wage adjustment forms, etc.
- Attended election related hearings held by Office of Hearings and Appeals.
- Report by Office of Navajo Government Development regarding referendum election placement on 2026 General Election.
- Eastern Navajo Election Building related activities.
- NEA Work Session.
- Meetings with County and State Election and Records Office regarding General Election
- Updated "Affidavit of Assistance Form"

SECTION TWO: GOALS FOR 1st QUARTER IN FY2027

- Conduct the 2027 Navajo Nation General Election
- Initiate 2027 Voter Registration Update Project
- *Identify non-voters from last two major elections (2024 and 2026)
- NEA and NBOES Plan of Operation
- Attend Election Hearings conducted by Office of Hearings and Appeals.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

FISCAL YEAR 2026 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

Contact: Rodney Tahe, Executive Director
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

- OLS processed 55 Legislation this quarter, as well as closing out 74 resolutions.
- OLS finalized 46 journals/transcripts of official meetings.
- OLS personnel participated in 125 council/standing meetings and work sessions during this quarter.
- OLS received their FY 2026 operating funds last quarter and continues to spend the funds until the end of the fiscal year. To date, all delinquent accounts due to the Navajo Nation President's line-item vetoes have been paid. Utilizing the funds, new computers and recording equipment have been ordered for replacement.
- LDA program received FY 2026 operating funds and were able to reimburse LDAs for mileage and travel from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026.
- OLS participated extensively with Budget and Finance Committee, NABI, and NNC to complete and submit the FY 2027 proposed budget. The Navajo Nation FY 2027 Comprehensive Budget was approved and signed by President Nygren on September 28, 2026. OLS received the Unmet Needs budget requested to fully operate the program.
- OLS is in the process of advertising three (3) vacant positions to strengthen our support staff and improve operational efficiency.
- OLS management staff scheduled and organized a three-day staff development, training and wellness in Albuquerque, New Mexico on September 16-18, 2026. Unfortunately, the staff development, training and wellness had to be cancelled and rescheduled to November 18-20, 2026.
- OLS has continued to utilize Dayforce for timekeeping. Staff have been attending scheduled training courses for various modules within the Arctic system (i.e. procurement, personnel, travel, etc.). The "Go Live" date has scheduled for October 1, 2026.
- OLS will start preparing for FY 2028 budget session. Committee support staff have been instructed to attend all meetings dealing with the budget. This will ensure that when the budgets are at the oversight committee it will be an easier process when reviewing budgets at the committee level.
- BFC Committee has scheduled Investigatory hearings regarding Zennie Homes in July – August 2026. OLS ensures committee meetings are adequately covered with support staff.

GOALS FOR THE 4TH QUARTER

- Expand and enhance training opportunities for staff to further develop their skills and competencies.
- Expand OLS educational initiatives to the public and other Navajo Nation Divisions/Departments, focusing on the Navajo Nation Legislative Process and Budget Process.
- Update current Strategic Plan (last updated in 2017) and plan for the incoming new administration.
- Continue the OLS Tracking and Archive Project to ensure comprehensive documentation and accessibility of legislative records.
- Implement Legislative Tracking and Archive backup storage for personnel to ensure secure and efficient record-keeping.
- Introduce proposed electronic signature procedure into the NN Legislative Process and update the OLS policies & procedures.
- Fill Vacant Positions: Legislative Advisor (2) and Legislative Secretary (1)
- Enhance internal policies

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue:

- OLS is short on staff and needs to find qualified individuals to fill vacant positions.

Recommendations:

- OLS continues to work with DHS-DPM to identify qualified individuals for vacant positions. OLS continues working with internal staff on assessments for other positions to determine qualifications. OLS utilizes Dayforce for recruitment and will schedule interviews immediately after the closing date to fill vacant positions.
- Issue guidelines and instructions to ensure a coordinated approach is being taken on legislative action.
- Training presentations on the Navajo Nation Legislative Process in collaboration with the Office of Legislative Counsel. Outreach.

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

Contact: Aryiah C. R. James, Chair

Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council

Phone: (928)871-7160

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

- National UNITY Conference: The NNYAC sent eight youth council members and two staff members to the annual National UNITY Conference. The event provided an invaluable networking platform to help representatives expand their community connections. Workshops focused on youth advocacy and professional development, equipping members with advanced leadership strategies. Notably, Central Navajo Agency Representative Vydell Willie was formally recognized as a member of the prestigious UNITY 25 Under 25 Native Youth Leaders class.
- NNYAC Leadership Orientation: Held at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort in Flagstaff, Arizona, this intensive two-day training session was attended by four council members. Day One focused on the structural operations of the Navajo Nation government, detailing Peacemaking, Fundamental Law, official decorum, and mental health awareness, concluding with a therapeutic painting session. Day Two shifted toward administrative compliance, covering Travel Authorizations (TA) and travel policies, alongside a presentation from the Department of Dine Education (DODE) regarding the historical timeline of Navajo education and modern youth leadership models.
- Central Navajo Fair Parade: Six NNYAC members participated directly in the parade procession, distributing treats and informational items. This public outreach allowed local youth and families to get acquainted with their regional council representatives, fostering stronger community bonds.
- Window Rock High School Sheep Butchering Workshop: Four NNYAC members hosted a hands-on cultural workshop at Window Rock High School. The event successfully engaged the student body, highlighting the practical and spiritual importance of traditional food systems. The interactive format demonstrated the profound value of integrating cultural teachings into modern curricula to help youth reconnect with the teachings of our Elders.
- DODE Tribal Consultations: NNYAC representatives were invited by the Department of Diné Education to sit in on four critical school Tribal Consultations with Tuba City USD, Pinon USD, Chinle USD, and Ganado USD. Council members gained first-hand insight into systemic educational barriers, specialized school needs, and localized academic achievements.
- Council Resignations & Structural Transition: Four NNYAC members stepped down from their terms this month to prioritize urgent school and employment commitments. The resigning members include At-Large Member Louvannie Tsosie, Northern Navajo Agency Representative Tewakeedah Martin, Western Navajo Agency Representative Kaya Dickson, and Eastern Navajo Agency Representative Nikko Yazzie. In response to these vacancies, the Council voted to initiate a recruitment cycle to fill the empty seats. The application for public announcement will shortly be announced for those who are interested.
- Navajo Nation Fair Kid's Day and Elderly Fest: The NNYAC actively supported the 25th Navajo Nation Council's fair booth, collaborating with DJ Granger to operate a public hydration station during both Kids Day and Elderly Day. The station served complimentary traditional hydration tea and electrolyte drinks, helping fairgoers stay cool and safely hydrated under extreme heat conditions. Fruits were available onsite for those who needed a fresh snack.
- Navajo Nation Fair Parade Integration: Following a last-minute sponsorship opportunity, the NNYAC

mobilized to join the annual parade lineup. The council partnered with visiting White Mountain Apache Royalty, who walked alongside NNYAC representatives. Every representative introduced themselves via the public address system, acknowledging the community members in attendance and elevating the visible profile of tribal youth governance.

- Sheep Butchering Workshops: The NNYAC partnered with the Page High School, Page USD American Indian Education Program and Chartwells to host a traditional Sheep Butchering Workshop for 125 students. Despite experiencing initial administrative friction and structural resistance from the school's administration regarding the appropriateness of the cultural workshop in a Bordertown environment, the event was a resounding success, creating a bridge for cultural knowledge. Building on this momentum, Tuba City High School formally invited the NNYAC to host a subsequent workshop for 100 students during their annual Warrior Rising Symposium. Both workshop were successful at both locations, NNYAC members received gratitude from staff, youth and community members for bringing this workshop to their school campus to gain better knowledge of making bread, butchering, cooking and enjoying good food with their peers.

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

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 4TH QUARTER

The Labor Commission managed a total of 81 employment complaint cases in the 4th quarter. Through dismissals, settlements, appeal, and formal closures, the Commission successfully resolved 19 cases, leaving a total of 61 active cases moving into the next quarter.

Here is the structured breakdown of the caseload as of September 30, 2026:

Year	Cases
2013	1
2019	1
2021	1
2022	1
2023	7
2024	3
2025	8
2026	39
Total	61

A total of 19 new complaints were filed during the third quarter:

- July: 5 cases
- August: 5 cases
- September: 9 cases

Upcoming Evidentiary Hearings

All 19 new Q4 cases have been immediately fast-tracked for scheduling. Based on the data provided, there are a total of 48 cases scheduled to be heard by the end of January 2027.

Here is the breakdown by month:

- October: 16 hearings
- November: 9 hearings
- December: 13 hearings
- January: 10 hearings

Hearings conducted in 4th Quarter

Twenty-eight (28) hearings were conducted in the Q4 and four (4) deliberative sessions. Here is the breakdown of hearing types.

Hearing Type	No.
Evidentiary hearing	12
Motions hearing	13
Status Conference	1
Remedies hearing	1
Total	28

An evidentiary hearing is a formal legal proceeding where both sides present evidence and witness testimony to the Commissioners. Its primary purpose is to establish the facts of a case before a final decision is made. Evidentiary hearing can last all day.

Unlike an evidentiary hearing, a motion hearing usually focuses on resolving legal arguments and procedural issues rather than presenting new facts or calling witnesses. The Commissioner reviews written documents submitted beforehand and makes a ruling on the request after the motion hearing.

A status conference is a routine meeting between the Commissioner and the attorneys or parties involved in a lawsuit. Its primary purpose is to check on the progress of the case and establish a timeline for future legal steps.

Remedies hearing takes place only if the Commission has already ruled that workplace harassment or hostile workplace, wrongful termination, or a labor violation occurred. The sole purpose is to determine what compensation, penalties, or corrective actions the losing party must provide to fix the wrong.

A deliberative session is a closed-door meeting where Commission members privately discuss cases to analyze the evidence, debate legal arguments, and arrive at a decision on all hearings (evidentiary, motion, remedies and final decision). The deliberative session is completely closed to the public, the parties involved, and their attorneys. It takes place after all evidence and arguments have been formally presented. In Q4, the Commission conducted four deliberative sessions and covered 30 or more cases.

Adjudicating employment complaints requires a massive, highly coordinated administrative and legal effort. For an agency like the Labor Commission—which is currently managing active workload of 61 cases (39 from 2026 and 22 backlogged) - moving cases through the various adjudication phases represents an intensive workflow, rigorous legal analysis, and administrative oversight.

For maintaining consistency across quarters, the standard format from previous reports has been utilized to present this information.

Reported Areas	Q3	Q4
New Formal Complaints filed during this quarter	18	19
Pending Cases for Review – Pending Orders	24	9
Scheduled Cases – July, August, September for Q4	34	40
Overall scheduled cases - July, August, September for Q4	38	31
Petition for Preliminary Relief in form of injunction or other equitable remedy	0	0
Petition for Enforcement of and Failure to pay prevailing wages	0	0
Petition for Enforcement of Investigation, Modification, or Revocation of Subpoena(s)	0	1
Order to Show Cause	0	0
Evidentiary Hearings	29	12
Motion Hearings	2	13

Damage/Remedies Hearings	2	1
Pre-Trial Conference/Status Conference	1	1
Commission Deliberative Sessions	4	4
Hearings before Navajo Nation Supreme Court	0	0
Pending & Stayed cases	1	0
Final Decision(s) entered and Closed cases	2	11
Settlement Agreement(s) and Closed cases	7	6
Pending cases in the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation	23	23+
Closed cases from the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation	3	1
Notice of Appeal filed by parties	3	2
Notice of Cross Appeal filed by parties	0	0
Prepared cases indexing and record filed with the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation	3	2
NNLC remanded back from the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation	2	1
Request for Record (Case file)	1	0
Requested copies of Recording of Proceedings	5	0
Joint Meeting held with the Commission with other Committees of the Navajo Nation Council or Directed or Requested for Appearance before a Committee of the Navajo Nation Council	0	0
Commission Resolution or policy issued	0	0
Staff meeting held	3	2
In-Service Training, Workshop, Conference, Seminar(s) attended	2	0
Appealed cases		2

- New Executive Director: Marie R. Nez has officially been hired as the new Executive Director. August 10, 2026 was her starting date.
- Successful Transition: This follows a successful transition period led by Acting Director Mr. Arthur Hardy, who concluded his assignment on August 10, 2026. During his tenure, Mr. Hardy modernized the role by reclassifying the job description, managing the recruitment process, and overseeing the hiring of Ms. Nez.
- 2027 Budget Approved: The Commission's 2027 Budget has been successfully prepared and passed. This effort was directed by Mr. Hardy and heavily supported by Leffew Denny, who played an integral role in its completion.
- Nona Lou Etsitty and Richie Nez, Sr. are the two mainstay Commissioners whose terms remain fully valid. Loretta Danzuka, Casey Watchman, Jerry Bodie, and Ben Smith continue to actively serve as Commissioners to maintain a quorum and handle cases until they are formally replaced through the legislative and executive appointment processes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To move forward with advertising for the three (3) open Commission positions, we need to secure funding to publish the job announcements. Per requirements, the recruitment will target candidates who meet the specific statutory qualifications under the Navajo Nation Code. The targeted qualifications for the three vacancies are structured as follows: (2 Positions): Candidates must possess a strong familiarity with labor laws, hold an active membership in the Navajo Nation Bar Association (NNBA), and be licensed to practice law in Arizona, New Mexico, or Utah. (1 Position): Candidate must possess a strong familiarity with labor laws and hold an active membership in the NNBA.
- To improve operational efficiency and ensure strict confidentiality, the Navajo Nation Labor Commission requires a direct investment in office equipment. Relying on an outside legal office to shred sensitive, closed-case documents creates logistical delays and data security risks. The procurement priority should focus on the following two items:
 1. Commercial Document Shredder: A heavy-duty, high-capacity shredder is required on-site. This will allow staff to securely destroy confidential case files immediately, eliminating the need to transport sensitive legal documents to external offices.

2. Robust Computer Workstation: A high-performance desktop workstation is needed to act as a centralized hub. This system will house the Commission's database and manage large legal files, ensuring faster search times, efficient data access, and reliable local storage.
- To prevent a critical lapse in operations when the current legal counsel's contract expires in December 2026, the Navajo Nation Labor Commission must establish a permanent fiscal structure for independent legal counsel. Because this was not factored into the approved FY 2027 budget, it represents a major unmet need that threatens the Commission's ability to rule on cases independently and without conflicts of interest. Executive Director Marie R. Nez has been officially directed by the Commissioners to secure these services and aggressively pursue emergency funding. To execute this directive before the December deadline, the following steps must be taken immediately.
 1. Draft an Unmet Needs Budget Proposal: Collaborate with legislative staff
 2. to calculate the full cost of a dedicated, independent legal counsel contract for the remainder of FY 2027. This proposal must be submitted directly to the Navajo Nation Council and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for emergency funding.
 3. Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP): Prepare and advertise a formal RFP to solicit bids from qualified independent attorneys. This ensures a competitive selection process.
 4. Establish a Permanent Budget Line Item: Work to ensure that future fiscal year budgets inherently include a distinct, dedicated line item for "Independent Legal Counsel" so the Commission is never again vulnerable to representation gaps.
 - The backlog of more than 23 cases pending before the Navajo Nation Supreme Court without a final decision is a significant operational concern. Because Supreme Court decisions set binding legal precedents for labor law enforcement across the Navajo Nation, these delays directly impact the Commission's ability to resolve its own 61 active cases with absolute legal certainty. This appellate bottleneck leaves employers, employees, and the Commission itself in a prolonged state of legal limbo.



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