



# THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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## Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., issues executive order to declare override attempts of line item veto 'null & void'

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., today issued an executive order to prevent the processing of any appropriation that has been subject to a line item veto.

“Any attempt by the Navajo Nation Council to override a Presidential line item veto is null and void and in violation of Navajo law,” the order reads.

The order carries the effect of law and remains in effect until rescinded by the President.

The executive order comes three days after Navajo Nation Attorney General Louis Denetsosie issued a legal opinion that states it would be unlawful for the Navajo Nation Council to attempt to override a Presidential line item veto.

In his July 9 opinion, Mr. Denetsosie said that the Navajo Nation Supreme Court held in its May 28 ruling in *Nelson v. Initiative Petition Committee* that the results of the December 15, 2009, special initiative election was “valid and proper.”

The initiative election was approved by a majority of Navajo voters by a vote of 24,568-to-16,944.

That constituted more than 59 percent of the voter turnout.

“There can be no dispute that the Budget Line Item Veto is now valid Navajo law,” Mr. Denetsosie said.

*“Any attempt by the Navajo Nation Council to override a Presidential line item veto is null and void and in violation of Navajo law.”*

– Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr

The executive order reads:

“To preserve the integrity of governmental operations, to carry out fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities entrusted to elected and public officials by the Navajo People, and to protect the financial interests of the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller, the Office of Management and Budget and the Division of Community Development are hereby directed to refrain from processing any and all appropriations related to the override of a Presidential line item veto.”

The initiative states that, “...budget line items vetoed by the President of the Navajo Nation will not be subject to Navajo Nation Council override.”

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