



# THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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CONTACT: GEORGE HARDEEN  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR  
OFFICE – 928-871-7917  
CELL – 928-309-8532  
pressoffice@opvp.org

## Navajo Board of Election Supervisors OKs historic last step with final reapportionment plan for a Council of 24 delegates

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – After an effort that began 25 months ago, the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors today approved the historic last step to give the People the 24-delegate Navajo Nation Council they voted for last December.

The Board voted 9-0 to approve a third and final reapportionment plan called “J4,” which is a slightly-modified version of J2 that Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., presented to the Board last week.

The Board also voted to extend the Council delegate candidate filing deadline until Monday, June 14.

The reapportionment plan changes include:

- Having one delegate serve the satellite communities of Ramah, Alamo and To'hajilee.

- Adjusting to have Chilchinbito in a district with Kayenta and Dennehotso.

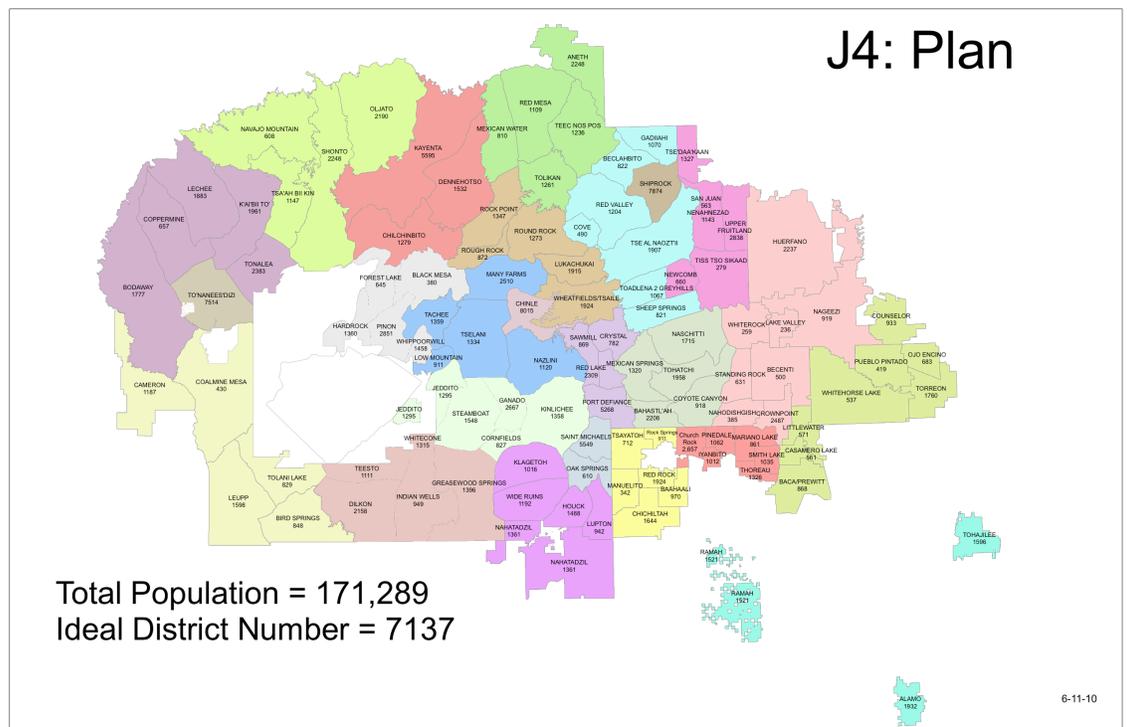
- Adjusting to have Many Farms in a district with Tachee, Tselani, and Nazlini, and

- Adjusting to have Tsaile/Wheatfields in a district with Lukachukai, Round Rock, Rock Point and Rough Rock.

The plan is based on a total population of 171,289. Divided by 24 districts, the ideal number per district is 7,137 in population.

The final plan ensures:

- Keeping chapter boundaries intact and consistent with the recognized BIA grazing management unit maps.



- Consistency with the “one man, one vote” principle to approximate equal population within each voting precinct, and to ensure each Council delegate represents approximately the same number of people from precinct to precinct.

- The map recognizes voting precincts only.

- The map incorporates four of the six chapters within voting precinct 21 to address the satellite communities in the Eastern Navajo Agency.

President Shirley he appreciates the Board's efforts and willingness to fulfill the will of the People.

"No one accomplishes anything alone," he said. "We all approached this task with heart, integrity, diplomacy and a sacredness of mind. We were willing to compromise to achieve the goal set before us by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court and, ultimately, by the Navajo People we all serve. This is another step toward giving them the government they have said they want."

Navajo Nation Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie, who assisted the President in the development of the several reapportionment plans, gave credit to the President for listening to concerns that came in at the last moment.

"This shows the President has a big heart, and in the end addressed these concerns," Sen Tsosie said. "The President has delivered on his promise to the People and it was good to see the President do the calculations by himself. That's how involved he was in taking care of the People's concerns."

In its May 28 decision, the Navajo Nation Supreme Court ordered NBOES to approve the reapportionment plan recommended by the President by July 18.

The President had his staff begin work on a series of reapportionment plans shortly after the Dec. 15, 2009, special election.

The plans were introduced to the public at a series of 20 meetings throughout Navajoland to obtain the People's recommendations. Following the May 28 decision, another series of meetings were held in each agency to familiarize the public with a plan called "J2," based upon those recommendations.

The President presented this plan to NBOES on June 4 and again on June 8. Today, NBOES heard last minute concerns before adopting the final plan known as "J4."

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