



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Elections Administration announces 76 elected positions not filed for

The upcoming deadline for vacant positions is Tuesday, Sep. 2, at 5 p.m.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Election Administration has announced there are still 76 chapter house elected positions still not filed for as of Friday morning.

There are open positions in each of the five agencies — the Chinle Agency, the Eastern Navajo Agency, Fort Defiance Agency, Northern Navajo Agency and the Western Navajo Agency. A majority of the unfiled positions are for school board members, but a number of them also include farm board members, grazing committee members and others. Officials from the Navajo Elections Office said it is not unusual to have positions still vacant.

"It is common for chapter elections, because there are so many offices up for election and some of these positions cover more than one chapter," said Kimmeth Yazzie, program project specialist for the Navajo Nation Elections Office. There are a total of 276 school board member positions on the Navajo Nation and the office currently has 57 which have not been filed for.

"Some of these positions cover an entire agency and some even cover two or three agencies," Yazzie said. "Whoever gets elected must represent a number of chapters as specified by the school board."

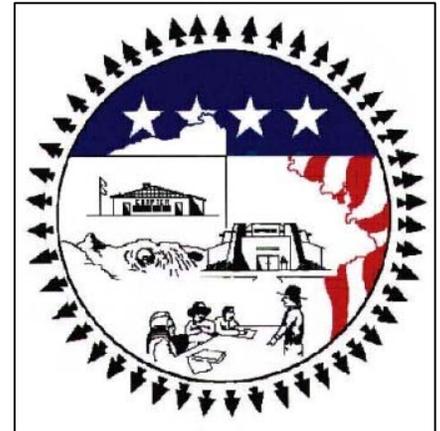
It is also not unusual to officials that some grazing committee and farm board positions have not been filed for in some agencies. There are three grazing committee member positions and one grazing official position which have not been filed for, and there are nine farm board positions which have not been filed for either. There are a total of 43 farm board positions and 78 grazing committee positions on the Navajo Nation.

"Those positions require more specialized qualifications in dealing with grazing rights, land and livestock," Yazzie said. "This might be one of the reasons for the vacancies."

The original closing date for filing with the positions closed at 5 p.m. on May 7, with filing deadlines extended twice. The upcoming deadline for current vacant positions is at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sep. 2.

"We can only extend the positions for so long because of the election ballots printing timeline," Yazzie added. "We cannot go beyond a certain time because it cuts into the time frame for printing. The deadlines are set with a printing timeline schedule."

There are a total of 848 elected offices within the Navajo Nation, with 748 positions up for election in the 2008 Navajo Nation Chapter elections. This includes Chapter Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretary/Treasurers, Land Board



Members (Eastern Navajo Agency only), Farm Board Members, Grazing Committee Members, Election Board Members, School Board Members, the Kayenta Township Commission and officials for the newly formed Alternative Form of Government chapters.

The Navajo Nation Election Code (Title 11) specifies the qualifications for each position available. Interested individuals can obtain additional information and forms at any Navajo Nation Election Office located in Window Rock, Chinle, Tuba City, Shiprock and Crownpoint.

The 2008 Navajo Nation Chapter General Election will be held the same time as the county, state and national elections on Tuesday, Nov. 4. The Navajo Election Administration will set up an information and voter registration booth at the Navajo Nation Fair as well as the Northern Navajo Fair in Shiprock, N.M. and Western Navajo Fair in Tuba City, Ariz.

The Navajo Elections Office wants to remind Navajo voters to bring two forms of identification to the polls on Tuesday, Sept. 2, when they go to vote in the Arizona State Primary Election.

The Navajo Nation Election Administration is always looking for poll officials to work on Election Day. For more information, contact your Agency Election Office or call the main office at 928-871-6367.

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