



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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December 31, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Office of the Speaker schedules work session for New Mexico council delegates**

*Session scheduled at 10 a.m. on Jan. 6 at Navajo Nation Museum*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The Office of the Speaker has scheduled a legislative work session for New Mexico council delegates to be held at 10 a.m. on Jan. 6 at the Navajo Nation Museum.

A wide range of issues will be discussed concerning the upcoming 2009 New Mexico Legislative Session and it is important the Navajo Nation is aware of the issues they will be addressing since Navajo constituents will be affected. The state's legislative session convenes at noon on Jan. 20.

One of the issues the state will be dealing with is the budget deficit. The state of New Mexico revenues are projected to fall \$454 million short of covering spending in this year's \$6 billion budget. The state constitution requires the government to have a balanced budget and the legislature is examining how to balance this year's budget.

A combination of steps have already been discussed by the legislature, including trimming spending, canceling capital improvement projects to free up one-time money and finding ways to potentially boost revenues.

For the Navajo Nation, this could mean certain previously funded capital outlay projects will be de-obligated and any new funds for programs, projects and services could be minimal. It is projected that budget problems will not end this year and more cutbacks will be necessary in the next fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Because of this, it is important the Navajo Nation has a prioritized needs list when they approach the state for any funding requests. Ideas and strategies on how to do this will be presented by the Office of the Speaker at the work session, and suggestions and ideas are being sought by council delegates.

A similar legislative work session concerning the 2009 Arizona Legislature was held two weeks ago by the Office of the Speaker and all council delegates received a written report on the session.

If you have any questions concerning the upcoming work session, please contact Charles Long, legislative staff assistant with the Office of the Speaker, at 928-871-7160.

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