



Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-7160

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

joshualavarbutler@navajo.org

joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

January 1, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Speaker Morgan encourages Native Americans to register to vote in upcoming 2008 elections

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) would like to encourage all eligible Native Americans to register to vote by Monday, Jan. 7, 2008, in order to vote in the 2008 Presidential Preference elections (PPE) on Feb. 5.

The PPE elections are for voters of the Republican and Democratic parties, and if you are registered with any other political party, you are not eligible to vote in the PPE.

The Navajo Nation would like to highly encourage new voters to be aware of new voter registration requirements that must include proof of citizenship or your form will be rejected.

There is a list of acceptable documents that will validate your citizenship in order to get registered to vote. In Arizona, these forms include: an Arizona Driver's license number, a state-issued identification number if issued by the Motor Vehicle Division after 09/30/1996, your Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, or your tribal enrollment number.

In addition, acceptable documents can also include a legible photocopy of a driver's license or non-operating license issued by another state within the United States, if the license indicates that the applicant has provided satisfactory proof of citizenship.

If you wish to change your political party affiliation or to register to vote on-line, you are encouraged to access the Service Arizona website at <https://servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter/> and make sure to click on the 'Register to Vote Online' icon. You may also register in person at any county or state elections office in Arizona.

In New Mexico, you can access <https://voterview.state.nm.us/> to view voter information and to register to vote online. You may also register in person at any county or state elections office in New Mexico.

"Our vote is the only way that we can hold our nation's leaders accountable to the challenges and aspirations of Indian Country," Speaker Morgan said. "We need to build political power in Indian Country throughout America and we can do this one vote at a time."

Speaker Morgan added that "we can develop power through the voting

process, which will lead to positive change for Native Americans.”

This election year, Arizona and New Mexico are being considered battleground states and we as Native Americans have the power to determine the outcome of elections. “We are garnering national attention and our Native vote will be important this year – let us exercise our right to vote and be heard.”

As Native people, we have shown our strengths in swinging important elections throughout the country by voting in large numbers. Our vote gives us an opportunity to be heard and we can change the way politics is played for Native Americans.

“Let us maximize our leverage as Native American nations. Political change will not come about, until Native people take action by exercising their right to vote,” Speaker Morgan added. “Let us mobilize as voters and demand the attention that we deserve as Indian people. We have the power to bring about great change in Indian country.”

It is very unfortunate that the First Americans are the last Americans to be able to vote. We have the power to make positive change one person at a time. Once we are powered by a strong unified voting block, will change finally come about.

“Let us honor our ancestors and register to vote today,” Speaker Morgan explained. “Let our Native voices be heard – GET OUT AND VOTE!”

Encourage others to get registered and invite a friend along on voting day. Our Navajo elderly may also need help as well – vote early and vote by mail.

Speaker Morgan explained that “it’s up to you to accomplish what you want and voting can accomplish that - T’ááhó Ájít’éigo T’éiyá.”

For more information, contact Joshua Lavar Butler with the Office of the Speaker at 928-871-6384.