



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

[@navajo.org](mailto:navajo@navajo.org)

[@yahoo.com](mailto:navajo@yahoo.com)

[.navajonationcouncil.org](http://navajonationcouncil.org)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joe Shirley Jr. fails to produce reapportionment plan for 24 member Navajo Council, Oct. 30 deadline passed with no development

This clearly shows that there has been no planning in this initiative

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan was notified on Nov. 3 of Joe Shirley Jr.'s failure to produce a reapportionment plan for a 24 member Navajo Nation Council, its standing committees and Legislative Branch Reorganization.

The petition filed by Joe Shirley Jr. for reduction of the Navajo Nation Council from 88 to 24 members contained a provision that stated, "If the Navajo Nation Council is unable to approve the reapportionment plans by August 15, 2009, the President of the Navajo Nation will develop and approve the reapportionment plans no later than October 30, 2009."

Further, the petition states, "If the Navajo Nation Council is unable to approve the standing committee and Legislative Branch reorganization by August 15, 2009, the President of the Navajo Nation will develop and approve the standing committee and Legislative Branch reorganization no later than October 30, 2009."

The Oct. 30 date has since passed without any development or approval of either the "reapportionment plans" or the "standing committee and Legislative Branch reorganization" by the President of the Navajo Nation.

This is another instance wherein the President of the Navajo Nation failed to act in accordance with the self-imposed internal deadlines set forth in his Council reduction initiative petition. By the lack of such development and approval of the plans, the President of the Navajo Nation has failed to meet the intent stated in the "Full Text" of the petition, which he filed with the Navajo Elections Administration on April 29, 2008.

This clearly shows that there has been no planning in this initiative, the Navajo people still do not know what they are voting for, the initiatives were not given necessary thought and there are no plans in place for the reduction of the Navajo Nation Council

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