



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Nation Council approves FY2009 comprehensive budget

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 21st Navajo Nation Council concluded their annual budget session to adopt the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2009 Comprehensive Budget Sept. 2-5.

After two-weeks of budget hearings from divisions and the three branches of the Navajo Nation government, the Council made several amendments with leaders focusing on funding programs to finish projects already in progress.

Overall, the legislative branch of the Navajo Nation's approved operating budget is \$17,356,855, the executive branch will receive \$513,482,703 and the judicial branch will receive \$18,161,473.

In addition to the proposed comprehensive budget prepared by the Budget & Finance Committee, the Council voted 59-3 to move \$10,876,500 from the Undesignated-Unreserved Fund Balance (UUFB) to be dispersed as follows: \$2,392,500 to the chapter officials of the 110 chapters for stipends; \$3,220,000 to the Office of the Speaker and the Navajo Nation Council for discretionary funds; \$264,000 to the Navajo Nation Council and \$5,000,000 to Navajo Nation Chapters.

The amendment was proposed by Navajo Council Delegate Young Jeff Tom (Mariano Lake/Smith Lake) and seconded by Woody Lee (Sweetwater). Tom proposed a second amendment, seconded by Charles Damon II (Baahali/Church Rock) to move \$24,200 from the UUFB to the Navajo Nation Election Administration to increase official stipends. The amendment passed 30-26.

Tom also made a third amendment to move \$4,919,152 from the UUFB to the following: \$468,000 to District Grazing Committees for stipends; \$193,152 to the Eastern Navajo Land Board for stipends and insurance premiums; \$258,000 for Farm Boards stipends and \$4,000,000 for Navajo Nation Chapter scholarships.

In addition, a total of six amendments were made to Tom's proposed amendment and each successfully passed. Each of the following projects and programs will receive monies from the UUFB: \$200,000 for the transportation and community development motioned by Sampson Begay (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain) and seconded by Katherine Benally (Dennehotso) passed with a vote of 55-9; \$100,000 to the Education Committee motioned by Willie Tracey Jr. (Ganado/Kinlichee) and seconded by Leonard Anthony (Shiprock) passed with a vote of 49-9; \$1.3 million to Baby Rocks Commercial Center for site and building improvements motioned by Katherine Benally (Dennehotso) and seconded by Elmer L. Milford (Fort Defiance), and passed with a vote of 64-6.

Other amendments included \$458,288 to the Chinle Nursing Home for the purchase and upgrade of appliances and interior equipment was motioned by Lorenzo Bedonie (Hardrock/Pinon) and seconded by Nelson Gorman Jr. (Chinle) passed 68-0; \$160,000 to the Dineh Cooperatives Inc. (Black Mesa Solar Project) was motioned by Amos F. Johnson (Forest Lake) and seconded by Cecil Frank Eriacho (Ramah) passed 49-13; \$290,000 was for the Facilities Maintenance Department for maintenance service at the five agencies was motioned by Roy Laughter (Chilchinbeto/Kayena) and was seconded by Tommy Tsosie (LeChee) with a vote of 51-17.

Young Jeff Tom proposed a fourth amendment to carry over all unexpended general funds from Fiscal Year 2008 to Fiscal Year 2009 for all Legislative Branch Programs, which passed 73-1.

Roy B. Dempsey (Oak Springs/St. Michaels) motioned to move \$942,000 from the Minimum Fund Balance to the Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center. The motion was seconded by Francis Redhouse (Tecnospos) and was passed 34-15.

Harold Wauneka (Fort Defiance) motioned to move \$2,348,064 from the Minimum Fund Balance to the Office of Youth Development in Fort Defiance for designing and engineering purposes. It was seconded by Larry Noble (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain) and passed 45-30. An amendment added by Leonard Teller (Lukachukai/Tsaile/Wheatfields) and seconded by Tom LaPaha (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whippoorwill) to move \$1,250,000 from the Minimum Fund Balance for the Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter Senior Citizen Center was passed as well.

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