



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Council amends the Navajo Nation Election Code to shorten the filing and application review periods

WINDOW ROCK – On Thursday, the Navajo Nation Council considered Legislation No. 0098-17, which would amend the Navajo Nation Election Code 11 § 22 and 23 to shorten the candidate filing period from 90-days to 14-days, and the candidate application review period from 30-days to 14-days.

According to the legislation, the initial purpose of the 90-day filing period was to allow candidates sufficient time to circulate nomination petitions to gather supporting signatures, but the election laws have since been amended and nomination petitions are no longer required.

Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill), co-sponsor for the legislation, said amending the election code is needed because it would streamline the filing and review process.

“As many of us know, some Navajo Nation Codes are outdated and this is an attempt to update one of them. In the past, a petition was required to be nominated to run for an office, however, laws have been changed to just needing to submit an application,” said Delegate Witherspoon.

He added that the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors made the recommendation to amend the election code and provided a supporting resolution. The Navajo Board of Election Supervisors said they have determined that filing and review periods no longer need a significant amount of time to process.

Council members voted 16-0 to approve Legislation No. 0098-17. President Russell Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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