



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Dwight Witherspoon resigns as a member of the Navajo Nation Council

WINDOW ROCK – In a letter addressed to Speaker LoRenzo Bates, Dwight Witherspoon submitted his resignation as a member of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council on Monday. The Navajo Election Administration on Wednesday officially declared a vacancy for the position.

“This letter is notice of resignation of public service as a Navajo Nation Council Delegate and the communities that I have been greatly honored to represent for seven years and 10 months,” wrote Witherspoon. “I have been asked by President Russell Begaye to serve as his Chief of Staff to serve the Navajo Nation Executive Branch. I deem this request like the President of the United States asking a Senator to serve as a Secretary of State or Attorney General. I will continue to serve the Navajo Nation, including my Dził Yijiin communities in this new capacity.”

Witherspoon represented the communities of Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, and Whippoorwill beginning in January 2011. Under the previous Council, he served as a member of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee.

Under the current Council, Witherspoon served as the vice chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, chair of the Naabik’iyátí’ Committee’s State Task Force, and vice chair of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission. He was also a member of the Naabik’iyátí’ Committee’s Sacred Site Task Force, Arizona Gaming Subcommittee, and Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee.

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation Council, I thank Mr. Witherspoon for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors,” stated Speaker Bates.

In accordance with 11 N.N.C., each of the impacted chapters will have 45 days to recommend an individual to fulfill the vacant position. Appointment of an individual to fill the vacancy will be at the discretion of the speaker of the Council, pursuant to Navajo Nation law.

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