



**The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council**  
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## **Intergovernmental Relations Committee passes resolution overriding President Shirley's veto, approves Council Term Limits Act of 2010**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council passed several resolutions today, including a resolution overriding Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley's veto of Resolution CJY-30-10, the proposed Western Navajo Agency Decentralization Pilot Project.

The override resolution, sponsored by Honorable Leslie Dele (Tonalea), passed the Intergovernmental Relations Committee with a vote of 7-0. On August 6, the Transportation and Community Development Committee passed the same resolution, 7-0.

"The decentralization of government programs and services to the agency level is similar to the '638 Self Determination Act to the federal government," Dele said. "The people at the hogan level are in agreement and encouraging the passage of this override resolution."

On July 25, President Shirley vetoed the proposed pilot project and cited duplication of services among other reasons for the veto. In a vote of 52 in favor and 9 opposed, the Council passed the resolution during a special session on July 13.

"Under the current system, there is a duplication of services," Dele said, explaining the home site lease process as an example. "It takes four steps before getting an approval or answer for a home site and it should only take two steps. All we are doing is reassigning services to go to the agency level; it is not a duplication of services."

Navajo governmental entities such as the Division of Finance, Department of Justice and Payroll and Personnel Department among other entities would bring much needed services and transparency to the agency level.

Dele said 18 resolutions passed by 18 chapters supported Resolution CYJ-30-10 and that chapters are currently producing resolutions supporting the override.

In a vote of 8 in favor and 0 opposed, the committee passed the Navajo Nation Council Term Limits Act of 2010. Under the act, Council delegates would not "serve more than four consecutive terms, beginning with the term of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council."

Honorable LoRenzo Bates (Upper Fruitland) questioned the intent of the legislation, saying, "It definitely goes against Diné Fundamental Law, which states that 'It is up to the people to decide who their leader is,' and in this case you are going against that."

Sponsor Harry Claw (Chinle) responded and said those familiar with Diné Fundamental Law know it stays at home, not in the tribal government. "This is the people talking, the president has a two term limit and they want a term limit on the Council. This is what the people want."

Both resolutions proceed to the Ethics and Rules Committee and then to the full Council for final consideration.

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