



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan announces Dec. 22-23 Special Session agenda

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan announced the agenda for a two-day Navajo Nation Council Special Session on Dec. 22-23 at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber.

The session will begin at 10 a.m. with 15 legislative action items: two items under old business and 13 items listed for new business. There are no reports.

Under old business, Honorable Ernest D. Yazzie, Jr. (Baahaali/Church Rock), a member of the Judiciary Committee, has two pieces of legislation.

One of Yazzie's legislation would amend Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code. The Title 26 amendments would strengthen the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act and help improve the local management systems and administration of local governance at the chapter level.

Mr. Yazzie's other legislation would enact the Navajo Nation Cross-Commission Agreements Act of 2010. The Navajo Nation Cross-Commission Agreements Act of 2010 would prohibit searches and arrests of members of the Navajo Nation, or other tribal members, by state officers except by a cross-commission agreement or by agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as approved by the Navajo Nation.

In new business, there are 13 legislative action items.

Honorable Francis Redhouse, chair for the Ethics and Rules Committee, is sponsoring legislation to override Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr.'s veto of Resolution CS-43-10, which would amend provisions in the Navajo Nation Election Code. The amendments to the election law would prohibit individuals with prior felony convictions from becoming elected officials, including the elected positions of the President, Vice President and the Navajo Nation Council. On Oct. 21, the Council passed the resolution by a vote of 53-8, but the resolution was later vetoed by President Shirley on Nov. 8.

Honorable Kee Yazzie Mann, a member of the Public Safety Committee, is sponsoring three pieces of legislation, which includes the removal of Navajo Attorney General Louise Denetsosie and Navajo Deputy Attorney General Harrison Tsosie.

Both the Government Services and Ethics Rules Committees voted in favor of advancing both pieces legislation, which call for the removal of both attorneys, who serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council.

Mr. Yazzie Mann said the Navajo Nation Council expresses its displeasure with the continued employment of AG Denetsosie and Deputy AG Tsosie.

“Pursuant to Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, the Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation,” said Yazzie Mann. “According to provisions in Title 2, the attorney general and deputy attorney general serve at the pleasure of the Council, and if the attorney general and deputy attorney general are not performing up to standards then they are subject to removal.”

As outlined in the Navajo Nation Code, the Navajo Nation Council is exercising its authority by upholding public trust of being a transparent branch of government and protecting Diné culture, language and sovereignty.

Mr. Yazzie Man is also sponsoring a third legislation that would enact the 88-member Council Election Referendum Act of 2010. If passed by the Navajo Nation Council, the referendum would go before Navajo voters in a special election to decide whether the Navajo Nation Council should be increased to an 88-member legislative body. Mr. Yazzie Mann’s legislation, if approved, would not take effect until January 2012.

Two pieces of legislation sponsored by Honorable Lawrence R. Platero, chair for the Ethics and Rules Committee, are also on the special session agenda.

One of Platero’s legislation would confirm the appointment of Martha L. King, Esq., to serve a four year term as a board member to the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors. The other legislation would also confirm a four year appointment for Danielle Her Many Horses as a board member to the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors.

The Council will also consider the Navajo Nation Liquor Control Act of 2010. Mr. Ernest Yazzie is sponsoring this piece of legislation in an effort to provide economic development within the Navajo Nation by permitting the lawful possession, sale, delivery, manufacture and transport of alcoholic beverages on the Navajo Nation. The passage of the legislation would require liquor establishments, manufacturers, distributors and retailers to maintain regulation and licensing, as set forth by the Navajo Tax Commission.

In an effort to provide Navajo Nation Chapters more voice on natural resources, Honorable Amos F. Johnson, a member of the Government Services Committee, is sponsoring legislation that would amend provisions in Title 18 of the Navajo Nation Code. If the legislation passes, mineral leases and energy-related agreements and amendments or modifications would be reviewed by Navajo Nation Chapters impacted by such mineral leases and energy-related agreements.

A complete copy of the special session agenda can be found online at www.navajonationcouncil.org.

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