



NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Statement by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Executive Director *To welcome historic inauguration day in Navajo County of Arizona and commend its redistricting efforts*

SAINT MICHAELS, Navajo Nation—The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission's Executive Director welcomes the historic inauguration day in Navajo County of Arizona and commends the county's redistricting efforts with the following statement:

"I'd like to express my appreciation to Navajo county to not only solicit comments and input from all county citizens but more importantly for addressing the requirement of the Voting Rights Act Section 5 and that the county met with the Navajo Nation and incorporated the Navajo Nation's recommendation into the county's redistricting plan.

The Navajo Nation has taken very seriously the need to ensure that Navajo voting strength is enhanced and protected in districts that cover the Navajo Nation throughout the course of redistricting activities.

It also made a recommendation to the southern-most end of Navajo county in District 5 to increase the voting strength of White Mountain Apaches. The Navajo Nation recommended increasing the Native American Voting Age population in District 5, which resulted in electing a Native American to represent District 5.

NNHRC is very excited that the 1965 Voting Rights Act continues to have an impact in protecting minority voting strength."

*NNHRC and five Navajo Nation Council Delegates serving the Nation's redistricting workgroup whom are **Jonathan Nez** (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin), **Alton Joe Shepherd** (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat), **Leonard Tsosie** (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake), **Lorenzo Bates** (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland), and **Kenneth Maryboy** (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tolikan, Red Mesa) began in 2011 to ensure proper Navajo representation in Arizona redistricting efforts by enhancing Native Americans' voting power.*

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