



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

CONTACT: Rick Abasta, Press Officer
Office of the President and Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION
Phone: 928-871-7925
Fax: 928-871-4025
Email: rickyabasta@navajo-nsn.gov

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President Begaye elected vice president for Coalition of Large Tribes



This week, President Begaye was in Albuquerque with the Coalition of Large Tribes and Vice President Nez was in Spokane, Wash. with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (Photo by Ramona Antone-Nez)

ALBUQUERQUE—The Coalition of Large Tribes, or COLT, convened in Albuquerque on August 4 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

Comprised of members from large Indian tribes throughout Indian Country, the coalition serves as an advocacy group for issues facing American Indian tribes with land bases exceeding 100,000 acres.

These tribes include the Navajo Nation, Crow Nation, Blackfoot Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, Ceyenne River Sioux Tribe and others.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye was elected as COLT Vice President on Tuesday afternoon.

“I am very excited with the opportunity to serve as vice president for COLT,” said President Begaye. “I appreciate the opportunity to work with other large land base tribes to find solutions for issues from our

communities.

“From transportation to law enforcement to housing to economic development, larger tribes have unique challenges that stem from geographic distances,” he added.

President Begaye is also attending the Tribal Interior Budget Council meeting this week in Albuquerque, hosted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Vice President Jonathan Nez was also elected as co-chairman of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Tribal Advisory Committee.

He was elected during the tribal consultation session in Spokane, Wash. on August 4.

The advisory committee establishes policies and guidelines for tribal consultation, focusing exclusively on tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relations.

“It is a privilege and an honor to serve in this capacity. I look forward to working with my colleagues from across Indian Country on behalf of our respective nations,” Vice President Nez said.

The Navajo Nation provided testimony and recommendations on the budget priorities and formulation process. Vice President Nez advocated for direct funding, overall disease prevention and the wellness of Navajo citizens.

Tribal leadership from around Indian Country respect the newly elected top two leaders of the Navajo Nation and want to work with them nationally.

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