



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Nez-Lizer continue partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure accurate 2020 census count**

**WINDOW ROCK** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer continue to build their partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure an accurate 2020 census count for the Navajo people.

On June 26, President Nez and Council Delegate Otto Tso met with U.S. Census Bureau Associate Director of Field Operations Tim Olson and Chris Stanley with the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs in Washington D.C., to discuss raising public awareness to encourage the Navajo public to participate in the upcoming census count.



**PHOTO: (left to right) Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Chris Stanley with the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau Associate Director of Field Operations Tim Olson, and Council Delegate Otto Tso in Washington D.C. on June**

“There’s a great need for the Navajo Nation to remain actively involved in the planning and implementation of the 2020 census count so that our people are well-informed and to ensure that those living in remote areas are counted,” said President Nez. “Accurate census data has very critical implications in terms of funding, policy development, political representation, and other factors at every level of government.”

President Nez and Delegate Tso reaffirmed the need to allocate efficient resources to reach the elderly, disabled, and those living without the internet or other means of communication.

“We have many of our people living in areas that lack basic infrastructure, so we need to make sure that we work together to include them and make sure they are counted in the upcoming census,” Delegate Tso stated.

On May 29, Vice President Lizer along with members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council met with U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham in Tohajiilee, N.M., followed by a visit to the home of an elderly Navajo resident. Along the way, the Navajo delegation had the opportunity to show Director Dillingham the challenges of collecting census data due to road conditions, lack of telecommunications infrastructure, rural addressing, and more.

U.S. Census Bureau officials said the recruitment of workers also presents another challenge, which includes recruiting individuals that are bilingual in the Navajo and English languages.

The bureau is working with the Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission, which consists of five Council members and five members appointed by the President and Vice President, to raise public awareness including the recruitment of workers. The five members appointed by the Executive Branch include Kathleen Arviso, Lena Fowler, James Adakai, Jesse Thompson, and Myron Tsosie.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer recommended that the bureau consider recruiting experienced Navajo election poll workers who are also required to be fluent in the Navajo and English languages, to assist with the 2020 census data collection.

“Accurate census data affords us a better opportunity to advocate and secure more federal funds for the Navajo Nation,” stated Vice President Lizer. “For example, census data was a key component in determining the designation of ‘opportunity zones’ across the country to provide support and incentives to promote economic interests. The Navajo Nation continues to urge members of Congress and the Trump Administration to include portions of the Navajo Nation in the opportunity zones designations.”

U.S. Census Bureau Associate Director of Field Operations Tim Olson stated that the Navajo Nation has the commitment of the bureau to work together to secure an accurate census count of the Navajo people living on and off the Navajo Nation. He also noted that the Census Bureau plans to establish a temporary office in Window Rock in September to continue its public awareness and outreach campaign.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the U.S. Census Bureau, the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, and the Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission for their support and for working together to make the census count a success.

The Census Bureau continues to recruit members of the Navajo Nation to assist with the upcoming 2020 census count. For more information on job opportunities, please visit: <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs>.

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