



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation secures several key Tribal Interior Budget Council positions



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and 24th Navajo Nation Council members at the Tribal Interior Budget Council meeting in Washington D.C. on Nov. 13, 2019.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council successfully secured several key seats on the Tribal Interior Budget Council, during a meeting with the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions in Washington D.C. on Wednesday.

The Tribal-Interior Budget Council provides a forum and process for tribes and federal officials to work together in developing annual budget requests for programs under the U.S. Department of the Interior. This week's meetings focus on budget priorities for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

President Nez made several nominations during Wednesday's meeting including appointing Council Delegate Jamie Henio to serve as a member of the TIBC's Budget Subcommittee and

recommending Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. to serve as the co-chair of the Road Maintenance Subcommittee.

In addition, Council Delegate Pernell Halona was confirmed as a member of the Data Management Subcommittee, Council Delegate Eugenia Charles Newton is now the chair of the Public Safety Subcommittee, and Council Delegate Paul Begay was appointed as a member of the Education Subcommittee.

“These appointments are key to securing more resources from the Department of the Interior for critical services and projects related to road maintenance, education opportunities for our young people, and public safety for our communities,” said President Nez. “By securing these key positions, the Navajo Nation will have greater influence in the federal budget process in the coming years.”

Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Officer Director Christopher Becenti will serve as a technical advisor for the Data Management Subcommittee, Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith will be the technical advisor for the Road Maintenance Subcommittee, and Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance Director Rose Graham will be the technical advisor for the Education Subcommittee.

“Working together with the Navajo Nation Council, we presented a strong and united voice before the Tribal Interior Budget Council. As we move forward, it’s important that careful coordination continues so that we can help secure more resources and policy changes to help our Navajo people,” said President Nez, who serves as the Navajo Nation’s primary representative along with Speaker Seth Damon.

In addition to securing more resources, President Nez continues to advocate for advanced funding for critical programs and services to prevent a disruption in services for the Navajo people during government shutdowns.

“The Navajo people should not be impacted by federal government shutdowns under any circumstances. Federal government shutdowns are a breach of trust responsibilities to tribes, so to prevent this we will continue to push for advanced funding for areas that are critical to the livelihood of our people,” added President Nez.

Also, in attendance were Council Delegates Charlene Tso and Raymond Smith, Jr. and Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Director Dr. Rudy Shebala, Division of Community Services Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Division of Public Safety Director Jesse Delmar, and Navajo Nation Washington Office Director Santee Lewis.

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