

Contact: Karen Francis, Public Information Officer
Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker
(928) 871-7160
karenfrancis@navajo.org
www.navajonationcouncil.org

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CONGRESSMAN RENZI ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Congressman Rick Renzi announced that he joined the list of House of Representatives supporters of the Voting Rights Act shortly after he was given a pack of letters from Window Rock High School students calling for its reauthorization delivered by Leila Help-Tulley during a house dedication in Ganado, Arizona on May 31, 2006..

Ms. Help-Tulley, a staff assistant to Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale), has been traveling to high schools throughout the Navajo Nation educating students on the importance of voting and the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Key provisions that affect Navajo voters are up for reauthorization by Congress.

“Native American people would be affected because the Voting Rights Act requires that certain areas provide election materials in different languages, for example,” Speaker Morgan said.



The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is considered one of the most important legislations on civil rights. It gave the federal government and the courts the authority to enforce the 15th Amendment, which states, “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged . . . on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution calling for the Voting Rights Act reauthorization. A sub-committee of IGR, the Navajo Election Administration and the Office of the Speaker are taking the lead in advocating for its reauthorization.

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Photo: Congressman Renzi reads the letters from Window Rock High School students delivered to him by Leila Help-Tulley from the Speaker's office.