



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

[joshualavarbutler@navajo.org](mailto:joshualavarbutler@navajo.org)

[joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com](mailto:joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com)

[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

February 23, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Navajo Nation Council overrides vetoes by Navajo President

*Foundation of Diné, Diné Law and Diné Government Act of 2009 becomes law*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council overrode two vetoes by Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. today, making the Foundation of Diné, Diné Law and Diné Government Act of 2009 and the Office of Legislative Counsel Amendments Act of 2010 Navajo Nation law.

By a majority vote of 69-11, the Navajo Council easily overrode the veto of Resolution CJA-08-10, which enacted the Foundation of Diné, Diné Law and Diné Government Act of 2009. The vote far exceeded the two-thirds majority of the full Navajo Nation Council and it was a milestone in the development and implementation of the Diné Fundamental Law first adopted by the Council by a simple majority vote in November 2002.

The amendment clarifies the use of the Diné Fundamental Law as a general statement of guiding principles, which will assist the Diné in acknowledging, protecting, observing and becoming more educated in the values and principles inherent in the Diné Life Way. Further, the amendments maintain respect for the various spiritual beliefs, practices and contributions of all persons within the Navajo Nation and maintain the specific roles, responsibilities and authorities of the three branches of contemporary Navajo Nation Government.

The amendments to the law also maintain the principles set forth in the Diné Fundamental Law, while clarifying the proper of the law within the Navajo Nation government. The law will not be used to supersede or replace Navajo Nation statutory laws or policies adopted by leaders of the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch, and it provides for consensual resolution of the law through the peacemaking process.

In other Council action, Resolution CF-12-10 overrode a second veto by President Shirley by a vote of 66-14. This legislation pertains to the Office of Legislative Counsel Amendments Act of 2010. The vote clears the way for the Office of Legislative Counsel to provide additional legal services to the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation.

Chief Legislative Counsel Frank Seanez explained, "The Office of Legislative Counsel has received additional tools with which to serve the Legislative Branch. The Office will use these tools in a responsible manner to help build a stronger Navajo Nation for the future of the Diné. I am humbled by the support of the Council in providing additional responsibilities to the Office of Legislative Counsel and dedicate myself to fulfilling the additional duties delegated to the Office."

The Navajo Nation Council also confirmed Donaldson A. June to the board of directors for the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise for a three year term by a vote of 77-0.

###