



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judiciary Committee passes piece of legislation addressing restrictions of political campaign signs

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz., — Political campaign signs may soon have restriction according to a piece of legislation (Legislation 0288-10) the Judiciary Committee approved today at a regular meeting. The piece of legislation is an attempt to further initiate an eco-friendly Navajo Nation by eliminating the neglect of signs which has caused unnecessary waste and would help generate revenue for the Navajo Nation.

The restrictions on the campaign signs encompass federal, state, county and Navajo Nation elections. According to the bill's language, the posting of political signs, posters, billboards and other political advertisements will not be allowed 60 days before an election begins.

The bill also states that candidates and appointed official(s) must omit all communication channels from Navajo Nation grounds within ten days after the election. Insubordination of the proposed law will result in an enforced civil fine and another fine everyday thereafter until signs are discarded properly. The fine amounts for such civil infractions are still under negotiation.

The money collected from the civil fines will be deposited into the Navajo Nation General Fund. According to the Navajo Nation Appropriations Act, money will need to be deposited into the general fund account before dissemination and will need to go through a budget session to appropriate money to a specific program.

Council Delegate Edward V. Jim, Sr., (Greyhills/Sheepsprings/Newcomb) vice-chairman for the committee, said: "If a person violates these possible laws, the funds will be hard to access. So the funds should be collected under the judicial account for further operations that will assist the People. There needs to be changes to the legislations regarding the collected monies."

The sponsor of the legislation, Council Delegate Orlanda Smith-Hodge (Cornfields/Greasewood Springs/Klagetoh/Wide Ruins), agreed and said, "We must first make this legislation law and then we can address the possibility of directing the collected funds to the Chapters."

Council Delegate Smith-Hodge added: "Posting has resulted to neglecting posters, which end up flying around the land. No one takes their posters down after elections. Thus, let's make it law and put our feet down to have them remove the posters from the Navajo Nation. If they do not, fines will be initiated."

Commercial billboards are exempt from this proposed legislation and are the responsibility of the Navajo Nation Department of Parks and Recreation.

Once all affiliated standing committees have negotiated and agree to the terms of the proposed legislation, it will be presented to the 21st Navajo Nation Council during the fall session for final adoption.

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If the legislation becomes law, non-commercial political signs posted on Navajo Nation property such as at intersections, chapter houses, along side roads, on fences and etc., will have regulations or a civil fine in place.

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