# 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
## OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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## Steven Begay sworn-in as a member of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council

***Photo: Newly elected Council Delegate Steven Begay being sworn-in as a member of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council by Window Rock District Court Judge Geraldine Benally on April 13, 2017.***

**WINDOW ROCK –** At the beginning of Thursday's Naabik'íyáti' Committee meeting, Navajo Nation Council members welcomed Council Delegate Steven Begay after he was sworn-in to begin his term as a member of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council. Delegate Begay will represent the communities of Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, and Bahastl'a'a'.

Delegate Begay is originally from Naschitti and is married to Carlene Tahe-Begay, and they have two children. He is Tł'ááshchí'í (Red Bottom People Clan) and born for Áshįįhí (Salt Clan). His maternal grandfather is Todích'íi'nii (Bitterwater Clan), and his paternal grandfather is Táchii'nii (Red Running Into the Water Clan).

“My heart is full of pride, respect, and compassion as I humbly address you today my relatives, friends, neighbors, and constituents. I want to thank my communities because they believe I can stabilize our district and reaffirm their voice on the Navajo Nation Council,” said Delegate Begay.

He added that his communities urged him to fill the vacancy and expressed his gratitude for their support, and said he would do his best to represent his constituents because his communities now look to him for guidance on critical issues affecting their areas, as well as Navajo Nation issues as a whole.

Speaker of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) welcomed Delegate Begay and congratulated him for being elected to serve on the Council.

“My colleagues and I are eager to begin working with Delegate Begay, and we now have a permanent and consistent full membership of Council that can move issues forward. With a myriad of issues the Nation is facing, I have full confidence that Delegate Begay is up to the challenge,” said Speaker Bates.

Speaker Bates and the Council also expressed their appreciation to outgoing interim delegate Peterson Yazzie, who filled the vacancy for the last eight months. Delegate Yazzie is originally from Tohatchi, and he served as a member of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee during his time on Council.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí’, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) said in the short amount of time that Delegate Yazzie served, he accomplished many things for his communities in terms of road construction development.

“It has not only been a privilege and an experience, but also a personal honor to work with Delegate Yazzie. You encouraged me and the rest of my colleagues in New Mexico to save the capitol outlay funds. Thank you for sticking by my side, Delegate Yazzie,” said Delegate Damon. “The $800,000 that went to Johnson Road in Twin Lakes and Coyote Canyon area could have been lost if it wasn’t for honorable Peterson Yazzie and his due diligence.”

Delegate Begay also thanked Delegate Yazzie for serving their communities, and presented a blanket on behalf of himself and his family for representing their chapters on the 23rd Navajo Nation Council.

“I want to thank you for the significant amount of work you did for our communities. I look forward to picking up where you left off,” said Delegate Begay. “As our five communities move forward, we must cooperate and help each other succeed through the promotion of local governance to help our chapters thrive and become successful.”

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