



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Transportation Stimulus Plan referendum election set for October 24th

WINDOW ROCK – The Navajo Board of Election Supervisors passed a resolution last Thursday, which authorizes the Navajo Election Administration to hold a referendum on Oct. 24, 2017 to allow registered Navajo voters to determine whether or not the Navajo Nation should utilize \$216 million from the Permanent Trust Fund principal to fund the Transportation Stimulus Plan.

The Navajo Nation Council approved the referendum on Oct. 27, 2016. On July 10, the Council approved funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to hold the referendum election, which was then signed by the President on July 28.

Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii), who sponsored the referendum legislation, is encouraging Navajo voters to support the referendum to fund road improvements that are greatly needed in many communities.

“The Navajo Nation’s road maintenance and improvement needs are enormous. There is not a single chapter on our Nation that does not have critical road improvement needs. An additional infusion of \$36 million per year over the next six years will be a welcomed relief,” stated Delegate Phelps.

The approved ballot language/question will ask voters the following:

“Should the fund principal of the Navajo Nation Permanent Trust Fund in the amount of \$216,000,000 over six years at \$36,000,000 per year be used to support the Navajo Nation Transportation Stimulus Plan?”

According to information provided by the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation, a total of 480-miles of roads would be improved across the Navajo Nation over the course of a six-year period, or 20-miles of roads within each of the 24 regions of the Navajo Nation.

Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) said he encourages the public to take time to learn about the proposed Transportation Stimulus Plan in order to make an informed decision on Oct. 24.

“I ask the Navajo people to study and become informed about the details of the proposed plan, weigh the pros and cons based on your knowledge and experience, and make an informed decision for yourselves,” Speaker Bates said.

The resolution passed by the Board of Election Supervisors stated that the Navajo Election Administration shall ensure that all procedural requirements of referendum provisions of the Navajo Election Code are complied with, including providing public notices of the referendum election date and correcting errors in ballot layout that do not affect the intent or substance of the measure proposed by the Council.

It further states that the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation is requested to coordinate and ensure that the voting public is adequately informed of the substance of the Transportation Stimulus Plan.

The deadline to register to vote in the referendum is Sept. 25, 2017. Absentee in-person voting will end at 5:00 p.m. on Oct. 20, 2017. You may visit <http://www.navajoelections.navajo-nsn.gov> or call the central elections office at 1-800-775-8683 for more information.

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