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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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## Budget and Finance Committee begins FY2019 budget process

**WINDOW ROCK –** During a special meeting held on Tuesday, the Budget and Finance Committee took the first steps to approving the Navajo Nation's General Fund revenue projection, establishing the General Fund budget amount, and allocations for the three branches of government in preparation for the Comprehensive Budget for fiscal year 2019, which begins on Oct. 1, 2018.

Legislation No. 0182-18 sponsored by Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) indicates that the gross FY2019 revenue projection for the Navajo Nation totals $205,770,000.

Following set-asides for the Permanent Trust Fund, Land Acquisition Trust Fund, Capital Outlay Match Funding Special Revenue Fund, Water Rights Claim Fund, Diné Higher Education Grant Fund, and the Veterans Trust Fund, the net general fund for the FY2019 budget would total $152,331,000. This amount combined with $19,828,000 from the interest earned from the Permanent Trust Fund principal provides a total projected revenue amount of $172,159,000.

On May 23, the three branch chiefs met to discuss budget allocations for the executive, legislative, and judicial branches for FY2019. The Budget and Finance Committee on Tuesday revised several of those recommended allocations to reflect the following amounts:

| | |
|---|---|
| - Fixed Costs | $17,724,696 |
| - Executive Branch | $102,568,267 |
| - Legislative Branch | $14,643,003 |
| - Judicial Branch | $14,373,994 |
| - Chapters – Non Admin. | $12,040,299 |
| - External Funds Cash Match | $4,400,000 |
| - Permanent Fund Contingency | $3,345,918 |

Budget and Finance Committee chair Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) was adamant about including approximately $3 million in the base budget for compensation for the Nation's grazing officials, farm board members, and the Eastern Navajo Land Board members.

The Budget and Finance Committee approved Legislation No. 0182-18 by a vote of 3-0. The committee will hold budget hearings prior to the Navajo Nation Council's consideration of the Comprehensive Budget for FY2019 in September.

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