



The 22nd Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

Contact: Michael Wero, Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-7160

Cell: (928) 255-3428

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nncpress@gmail.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

NNC Passes Title II Draft Amendments

Navajo Nation Council Concludes its Spring Session Agenda

Window Rock, AZ — On the fourth day of its Spring Session, the Navajo Nation Council passed N.N.C. 148-11, also known as the Title II Draft Amendments by a 22-0 vote. The legislation was needed to pass so the Legislative Branch could finish reorganizing after the Navajo Nation Council reduced its membership from 88 Delegates to 24 as a result of a public referendum passed in December 2009.

“By passing this legislation we addressing the reform the people voted for in 2009,” said Navajo Nation Council Speaker Johnny Naize. “Now the Legislative Branch can operate even more responsive and streamlined for the people during a time that responsible government and leadership is all the more important.”

Thursday’s actions come after 12 weeks of discussion and debate by members of the Navajo Nation Council, some of whom served on Title II Subcommittee that was delegated by the larger Nabik’iyati’ Committee to create language on how the new structure of the Legislative Branch would operate.

Subcommittee Chairperson Leonard Tsosie (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor) submitted the legislation for consideration on the Spring Session agenda on April 2.

“This legislation was expected to be complex and required many hours of work to assemble,” said Speaker Naize. “We’ve traveled a long way from our initial debates on how the new Council would conduct its business and this legislation solidifies much of that intention.”

“I thank the Subcommittee and the Council for the leadership and wisdom they brought to these deliberations,” continued the Speaker. “This document is a result of input from all of our delegates.”

After the vote, Delegate Nelson S. BeGaye (Lukachukai, Round Rock, Tsaille/Wheatfields, Tse Ch’izhi, Rock Point) asked that a blessing be offered to start this new guiding document for the Council on a positive note. Utah Delegate Kenneth Maryboy (Mexican Water, To’likan, Teenospos, Aneth, Red Mesa), provided a prayer and song

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Speaker Naize also asked that, to acknowledge the many different religious beliefs on the Navajo Nation, an additional prayer be offered which was said by Chinle Delegate Leonard Pete.

Both prayers complemented each other and focused on blessing the document and the work gone into it while instructing the Council to continue its work to ensure its actions benefit the Navajo people.

Speaker Naize also acknowledged the many others who helped review, comment, and provided legal provisions to the legislation.

“I want to thank our staff at the Office of Legal Counsel, the Navajo Department of Justice, and the Executive and Judicial Branches for working together to make this document possible.”

With this aspect of the reorganization completed, the Navajo Nation Council and its new standing committees will continue identifying the issues affecting the Navajo Nation.

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