



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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Speaker Morgan thanks the Navajo people for voting in primaries, congratulates presidential, Council delegate candidates

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan sends his appreciation to Navajo voters who participated in the 2010 Navajo Nation Primary Election and offers his congratulations to presidential candidates Lynda Lovejoy and current Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly, and the 48 Council delegate candidates who advanced to the general election on Nov. 2.

Lynda Lovejoy, who is a New Mexico State Senator, won the primary election with over 16,000 votes. Vice President Shelly came in second with nearly 8,000 votes.

“The 2010 Navajo Nation Primary Election went well and the turnout is probably less than what we expected,” Morgan said. “I congratulate all the candidates and appreciate the people voting for the incumbents. The general election will be unique because both presidential candidates, Lynda Lovejoy and Vice President Ben Shelly, are from the eastern part of the Navajo Nation, which has not happened since Jacob C. Morgan, who served as chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council.”

“The presidential candidate who selects the best candidate for the vice president position will win but it is pretty much determined by the Navajo people who will be our next president,” Morgan said.

The participation of Navajo voters also resulted in the selection of 34 incumbent candidates and 14 political newcomers vying for one of the 24 member seats in the 22nd Navajo Nation Council.

On May 28, the Navajo Nation Supreme Court ruled in Shirley vs. Morgan and Nelson vs. Initiative Committee to Reduce Navajo Nation Council and Dr. Joe Shirley that the 22nd Navajo Nation Council will consist of 24 Council members, not 88 Council members.

“The new president, vice president and new Council will need to be mindful of the economics of the Navajo Nation,” Morgan said. “Past presidents and vice presidents have always said they will bring in jobs and big companies, but where are those developments today? The only major development is the establishment of the Fire Rock Navajo Casino, which the 21st Navajo Nation Council initiated and developed.”

“When our top executive official is not producing any economic development as promised that is when the Council often resorts to finding resources to stimulate the Navajo economy and improve market conditions,” Morgan added. “This new Council of 24 will be here for a long time, they have people to worry about.”

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