



October 12, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council**

Contact: Alastair L. Bitsoi, Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2943

Fax: (928) 871-7255

[abitsoi@navajo.org](mailto:abitsoi@navajo.org)

[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

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### **President Shirley denied preliminary injunction, Navajo people are encouraged to cast absentee votes before next legal challenge**

*All completed absentee ballots must be received back by mail by the Navajo Election Administration by Oct. 29*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Monday, District Court Judge Allen Sloan issued his Order following six-hours of oral arguments held last Friday evening on Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley's application for preliminary injunction. After consideration of the evidence presented at the hearing and being fully advised in the matter, Judge Sloan denied President Shirley's application.

President Shirley's application for preliminary injunction was intended to prevent the Navajo people from being able to vote on whether they want to elect Navajo Nation judges and justices. President Shirley has already publicized his intent to continue to block the election of judges and justices and will undoubtedly continue his efforts through the date of the Navajo Nation General Election on Nov. 2.

Judge Sloan did not explain his ruling in Monday's order, but stated that a full explanation of the court's decision will follow shortly.

Under Navajo law, at the hearing on the preliminary injunction the President, who obtained a temporary restraining order on Oct. 4 to block the vote of the Navajo people, had to his right a preliminary injunction. Since the President did not prove to the court that a preliminary injunction should be entered, the Navajo people who vote prior to Nov. 2 by absentee vote are now free to cast their votes by absentee ballots.

Absentee ballots can be obtained from the Navajo Election Administration at its central office in Window Rock or in any of the five Navajo Election Administration offices in each of the agencies of the Navajo Nation. Voters may cast their absentee ballots at the offices of the Navajo Election Administration through Oct. 29.

Voters may also request that they have absentee ballots mailed to them by the Navajo Election Administration. Requests for mailed absentee applications must be physically in the Navajo Election Administration offices by the end of the day on Oct. 18. All completed absentee ballots must be received back by mail by the Navajo Election Administration by Oct. 29.

Since President Shirley has publicized his intent to continue to block the Navajo people's right to vote, it is suggested that persons wanting to cast absentee votes do so before his next legal maneuver to deny them their right to vote.

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Persons interested in the full text of the referendum measure can access the full text on the Navajo Election Administration website, at any Navajo Election Administration office, or at their polling place on the day of the election. Copies of the referendum measure are also being sent to each of the 110 Navajo Nation Chapters to allow voters to become familiar with the measure prior to Nov. 2.

In addition to these education efforts, which are now allowed since the lifting of President Shirley's temporary restraining order, the Navajo Nation Council has on its proposed Fall Session agenda for next week a proposed resolution to appropriate an additional \$173,330 in funds for educational costs related to the referendum. The proposed resolution, which is sponsored by the Honorable Amos F. Johnson (Forest Lake/Black Mesa), would go to President Shirley for signature into law, or possible veto, if passed by the Navajo Nation Council.

For more information on absentee voting, please visit [www.navajoelections.navajo.org](http://www.navajoelections.navajo.org) or toll free at 1-800-775-8683.

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