



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRO, preliminary injunction notice by President Shirley prevents the Navajo people from exercising fundamental right to vote on referendum

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. -- Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, the 21st Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Board Election of Supervisors were served notice for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction today, which was filed by Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. The notice is an attempt to halt a referendum to elect Navajo Nation District Court judges and Supreme Court Justices in any way possible.

“The TRO that was filed by the Office of the President goes against Diné bi bóhoolnìh – the people’s choice. The Legislative Branch is the governing body that upholds public trust and is committed to being a responsive and accountable government branch that preserves, protects, and enhances Diné culture and sovereignty,” said Speaker Morgan.

On Sept. 14, the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors approved the referendum’s ballot language by a vote of 6-3, which affords the Navajo people the opportunity to vote during the Nov. 2 general election.

The Council passed the referendum to provide the Navajo people the fundamental right and freedom to participate in their democracy with an option to choose their leaders in the Navajo Nation courts. As a referendum, the resolution also ensures the Navajo people’s trust and confidence in the Navajo Nation judiciary to decide through a referendum vote whether Navajo Nation District Court judges and Supreme Court justices should be elected positions.

Chapter resolutions from Ojo Encino, Bird Springs and Leupp among various chapters are in support of the referendum to elect Navajo Nation judges.

“We are exercising democracy at its finest form,” added Speaker Morgan. “The TRO only delays what the Navajo people truly desire – comprehensive government reform in all fronts of the Navajo government.”

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