



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalayne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2019

Nez-Lizer commend passage of FY2020 Comprehensive Budget

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer commend the 24th Navajo Nation Council for approving the Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Budget on Tuesday, by a vote of 16-4. President Nez will have 10 calendar days to consider the budget resolution once it is delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President from the Legislative Branch.

In a written letter delivered to the Council at the start of Tuesday's budget session, President Nez and Vice President Lizer thanked the Council members for their time and dedication in moving the Comprehensive Budget through the Standing Committees and to the full Council. They also touched on the fiduciary responsibility and accountability that is mandated by the Navajo people in the budget process.

"As leaders of the Navajo government, we are responsible to account for public funds, to manage finances wisely, and to plan for the adequate funding of services desired by the Navajo People. Furthermore, we assert the 2018 Navajo Nation election, expressed the will of the Navajo People to change how government manages its financial resources. We as leaders can no longer tolerate poor use of the resources of the people by the government. The Nez-Lizer Administration honors and supports this position of responsible, accountable, and effective use of all public funds as we carry out the mandate of change," they stated.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also requested the Council to hold a special session to discuss and consider unmet needs, including funding to complete a women and children's shelter in Shiprock, funding for the Department of Aging and Long Term Care Services, and more.

"We are aware of unexpected and unmet needs. To this end, the Nez-Lizer Administration will consider proposals that use the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFb) to address unmet program and project needs. Each offered UUFb request will be individually evaluated based on its own merits. We ask that you work directly with Division Directors to create meaningful legislation that resolves a particular need and keeps us within our budget," states the written letter.

"We thank all of the Council members, Office of the Speaker, Office of Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Services, Division Directors, and many others who spent many long hours over the

course of several weeks to develop the Comprehensive Budget,” said President Nez. “We will take a very close look at the budget and determine if it meets the priorities of the Navajo people and also to determine areas where we need to continue working with the Council to address.”

“Our team remains committed to working together for the Navajo people. With this budget, we were successful in working with the budget allocations that were put forth in the three branch chiefs agreement. Thank you to the 24th Navajo Nation Council,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

In accordance with Navajo law, the President has the option to approve, veto, or use the presidential line item authority when considering the budget resolution.

#

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.