



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nez-Lizer initiate public comment period for Council resolutions

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer are requesting input from the Navajo people in the form of written comments for several legislations that were recently approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council, many without any debate among delegates and without allowing the public to submit written comments. The eight resolutions are now awaiting consideration by the Office of the President and Vice President.

“We’re stepping up to provide an opportunity for the Navajo people to submit written comments to express their support, disapproval, or other concerns before we make a decision on the resolutions that were rushed through the legislative process, without affording any public input, and approved without debate. Not only do these legislations initiate new provisions, but they also waive existing laws and requirements. If certain delegates continue to take advantage of the emergency legislation and consent agenda provisions, we are going to initiate our own public comment period. We need transparency for the Navajo people and this process will allow for that,” said President Nez.

“We need well-thought-out legislations that allows the people their right to have a say in their government. As President and Vice President, we were elected by a vote of the entire voting population of the Navajo Nation so we have a responsibility to hear from the people. We’ll evaluate each public comment and allow it to guide us in our decision-making,” Vice President Lizer stated.

There are currently eight resolutions pending consideration at the Office of the President and Vice President including:

- CAP-22-20: approving supplemental funding from the UUFB in the amount of \$250,000 for burial assistance to the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services, waiving 12 N.N.C. §§ 820 (E) and (F) regarding the restriction of matching non-recurring revenues with recurring expenditures.
- CAP-24-20: relating to an emergency for the Navajo Nation; establishing the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Response Donation Fund to house financial donations made to the Navajo Nation to assist in the fight against COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation; replenishing

the CMA-06-20 supplemental appropriation to the COVID-19 emergency funds program; waiving Navajo Nation Code set-aside provisions.

- CAP-25-20: relating to an emergency for the Navajo Nation; approving supplemental funding from the UUFB in the amount of \$121,000 for the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch, Office of the Speaker, Business Unit 101015; waiving 12 N.N.C. §§ 820 (E) and (F) regarding the restriction of matching non-recurring revenues with recurring expenditures.
- CAP-26-20: relating to an emergency for the Navajo Nation; approving Diné College and Navajo Technical University to conduct meetings through telecommunication methods; approving a waiver of provisions requiring a physical presence at board of regents meetings.
- CAP-28-20: relating to an emergency for the Navajo Nation; temporarily authorizing and approving attendance at farm board, land board, and district grazing committee meetings through telecommunication methods.
- CAP-30-20: relating to an emergency for the Navajo Nation; requiring businesses on the Navajo Nation to require wearing of masks or face covering while in the place of business.
- CAP-31-20: relating to an emergency for the Navajo Nation; requesting the Governor of the State of New Mexico to enforce the public health order of April 6, 2020, stopping the sale of alcoholic beverages within state, leased or private lands located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Navajo Nation.
- CAP-32-20: relating to an emergency for the Navajo Nation; requesting the Governor of the State of Utah and San Juan Utah County Commissioners to prohibit the selling of liquor and eliminate the sale of beer in towns that border the Navajo Nation.

All of the resolutions are available online at the following link: <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/News-Media/Latest-News>.

The Office of the President and Vice President will accept written comments submitted on or before Thursday, April 30, 2020, by e-mail to nnopvp.communications@gmail.com or mailed to P.O. Box 7440, Window Rock, Arizona, 86515. Please clearly indicate your name and the Council resolution number(s).

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