



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:
Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275
Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758
Timothy Benally, Public Information Officer
(928) 871-7000

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2022

Budget discrepancies and unspent funding among reasons for line-item veto of election funds, support requested to address deficiencies

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez exercised the presidential line-item veto authority to overstrike \$3 million in funding from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance intended for the Navajo Election Administration for the 2022 elections, due to discrepancies contained within budget documents including miscalculated dollar amounts and unsigned budget forms, approximately \$300,000 in current unspent funding, and lack of a supporting resolution from the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors.

The bill was deemed an “emergency legislation,” which allowed it to bypass the review of all legislative Standing Committees before it was approved by the Navajo Nation Council on May 13. The legislation was not reviewed or considered by the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, which oversees the Navajo Election Administration.

Despite repeated requests to have the Navajo Election Administration office revise and correct the budget forms prior to the passage of the bill, the legislation was approved with missing signatures, incorrect dollar amounts, and incomplete forms. The errors and miscalculations were outlined in a memorandum from the Office of Management and Budget.

In November 2021, President Nez approved \$600,000 for the Navajo Election Administration for unmet needs and to carry out the 2022 elections. Of that amount, \$300,000 remains unspent.

“We previously approved \$600,000 for unmet needs and for the upcoming Navajo Nation elections and now, we are being asked to approve an additional \$3 million. I appreciate the work of the Navajo Election Administration and we fully support funding the upcoming elections, but we also need to be fiscally responsible and comply with our laws and requirements, which ensure accountability of public funds. There are far too many errors and inconsistencies to support the resolution as is. We respectfully ask the Council to address the errors through Legislation No. 0051-22, which is a similar bill that has already been introduced,” said President Nez. The line-item veto of Resolution CMY-27-22 is not subject to override by the Council.

###

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.