



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation Council commends President Jonathan Nez for signing Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2023 Comprehensive Budget into law

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PHOTO: Speaker Seth Damon welcomes council members riding to the Navajo Nation Council Chambers on horseback for the start of the 2022 Summer Session in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Hon. Speaker Seth Damon and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council commend Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer for signing the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) Comprehensive Budget on September 24, 2022.

“As elected leaders, we are committed to serving our people in which I am greatly appreciative of the cooperation among the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of the Navajo Nation. With this budget, vital services will be fully funded and directed to our Navajo families, elders, veterans, and communities” said Speaker Damon. (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh). “I want to thank Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, the Office of Management and Budget, the Budget & Finance Committee, as well as the rest of my colleagues of the 24th Navajo Nation Council for their endless dedication to the betterment of our Nation.”

Resolution No. CS-42-22 was unanimously approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council during a Budget Session held September 7-8, 2022. The resolution approved the Navajo Nation’s Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and waived the mandated Capital Improvement Plan, as well as Resolution No. CF-07-11 and No. CF-07-12.

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During a caucus held among the 24th Navajo Nation Council, the Office of Legislative Counsel (OLC) guided council to make recommendations to pause approximately \$32 million in amendments from Council Delegates in order to give President Jonathan Nez the full 10 days to view and approve or veto the legislation before the start of FY2023 on October 1st.

Without the guidance from OLC, the Navajo Nation would not have an approved and completed budget before FY2023 began. The Nation will complete the reconciliation process by mid-October and the allocation of funding for uncompleted projects will resume thereafter.

The approved Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget for FY2023 is as follows:

- Statutory Allocations for Special Funds - \$54,885,000
- Overall FY2023 Operating Budget - \$2,524,344,626
- Legislative Branch - \$18,589,526
- Judicial Branch - \$30,609,111
- Executive Branch - \$2,436,211,447
- Personnel Lapse - \$9,642,806
- Permanent Fund - \$27,911,000
- Fixed Costs - \$38,934,542
- Carryovers - \$16,071,269.68
- Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance - \$20,000,000

In August, the Budget and Finance Committee worked with oversight committees to approve departments, divisions, and programs' FY2023 budgets to be included into the Navajo Nation's Comprehensive Budget.

The 24th Navajo Nation Council thanks the Office of Management and Budget for compiling all Budget Summary Reports, as well as modifying the reports to reflect up-to-date amendments at each hearing session.

According to the Office of the Controller, the Navajo Nation's Permanent Fund had an excess amount which allowed the Navajo Nation to increase the General Wage Adjustment for all employees from 2% to 5% for FY2023. In addition, the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration was allocated an additional \$1,856,108 to cover shortfall funding for Veterans Assistance which will be equally distributed among the five agencies.

"The budget reflects the peoples' priorities by increasing funding for public safety, senior centers, ranchers, the Office of the Prosecutor, and our Diné Veterans," said Hon. Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley, Tsé'ahnáoozt'i'i, Sheep Springs, Beclabito, Gad'ii'áhi/Tó Ko'i). "Working together, leadership can continue to prioritize funding shortfalls and increase employee salaries who provide direct services to our people. Thank you staff for your assistance and we recognize more is needed."

In compliance with the Condition of Appropriations (COAs), various Navajo Nation Divisions and Departments must present a verbal and written report to the respective oversight committees of the Navajo Nation Council by the end of the 1st or 2nd Quarter of FY2023.

Before signing the FY2023 Comprehensive Budget, President Nez exercised his line item veto authority to remove the Navajo Department of Health, Division of Social Services, and the Division of Economic Development from the COAs.

Furthermore, the 24th Navajo Nation Council made directives to the Department of Health, Division of Human Resources, Department of Diné Education, Division of Social Services, and the Division of General Services to address several legislative concerns.

“I also want to thank the Office of Legislative Services for adhering to timelines and communicating with all of our Executive Directors of the Navajo Nation to submit complete budgets and speak on their budget needs,” added Speaker Damon. “I appreciate my Legislative Staff for working around the clock to keep the Nation moving forward.”

To review the full Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, please visit the Legislative Branch’s legislative tracking website, Diné Bibeeshaz’anii binaaltsoos at www.dibb.nnols.org

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