



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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Naabik'iyáti' Committee convenes special meeting to address concerns with Fiscal Year 2025 Comprehensive Budget



Budget and Finance Committee Chair Shaandiin Parrish presented Legislation 0012-25 with her agent Controller Sean McCabe.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyáti' Committee held a special meeting to review and discuss Legislation 0012-25, approving the proposed Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2025 Comprehensive Budget.

"We're here to discuss the comprehensive budget and recommendations, not only from myself as sponsor but also from the Budget and Finance Committee, the 25th Navajo Nation Council, and the oversight committees," said Budget and Finance Committee Chair Shaandiin Parrish. "For the first time in 30 years, the BFC held public hearings across all Navajo agencies and Navajo-Utah Chapters. We heard from the Navajo people on what they need, and this budget reflects those recommendations."

The committee acted on several amendments, focusing on fiscal diligence to address issues benefiting the Navajo Nation Division of Water Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, waste disposal and recycling, education, and public safety.

Resources and Development Committee Chair Brenda moved \$60,000 from the Executive Branch's regular expenses budget to the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency's budget to fund a criminal enforcement position and operational costs.

"The NEPA criminal enforcement oversees illegal dumping and other environmental impacts

on Navajo land," Chair Jesus said. "With just two staff members, one part-time, it's critical to fund these positions as they work closely with chapters on public outreach."

Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie introduced two amendments. The first directed NEPA to provide oral and written reports on mitigation efforts regarding climate change and illegal dumping on the Navajo Nation, due to the Resources and Development Committee by the end of FY2025's third quarter.

"We need to keep gathering data on waste disposal and recycling efforts to help the Nation create its own waste management program," Yazzie said.

Yazzie's second amendment called on all Navajo Nation branches, divisions, and departments to submit reports identifying unnecessary expenses and potential cost-saving strategies in preparation for future budget cuts.

Law and Order Committee Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton addressed the disparity in public safety officers across the Navajo Nation compared to the six Executive Protection Service (EPS) officers assigned to the Office of the President and Vice President. Chair Charles-Newton passed an amendment reallocating all EPS funding to support an additional officer in six Navajo Police Districts.

"The president is one person with six people guarding him," Chair Charles-Newton said. "We need to move those six EPS positions into the agencies."

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) Chair Vince James introduced an amendment proposing the use of \$2 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) for scholarships. It also directed the Division of Diné Education's Office of Navajo Scholarship and Financial Assistance to provide a written and oral report to HEHSC by the end of the third quarter of FY2025. The amendment passed unanimously.

A final amendment, offered by Budget and Finance Vice Chair Carl R. Slater and modified by Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Cherilyn Yazzie, and Chair Charles-Newton, moved \$650,000 from the Office of the President and Vice President's budget to the Department of Water Resources to address shortfalls in operating costs. It also allocated \$7,351,671 from the UUFB for capital outlay expenses for Emergency Medical Services and directed the Division of General Services to submit a final structural assessment report for the Washington House to the 25th Navajo Nation Council by the end of FY2025's third quarter.

"I thank my colleagues for implementing these critical measures today to address budgetary issues impacting the safety and well-being of Navajo communities," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "As the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we are leading efforts on the FY2025 Comprehensive Budget and will continue to do so as this legislation moves forward."

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee voted 12 in favor with one opposed in approving Legislation 0012-25 before adjourning the special budget session on Monday, Feb. 24. The legislation will now move forward to the full Council.

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