



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Naabik'íyáti' Committee approves legislation to move Navajo Youth Advisory Council under Legislative Branch**



**Council Delegate Germaine Simonson sponsored Legislation 0066-25 during the recent Naabik'íyáti' Committee meeting.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved Legislation 0066-25, which formally relocates the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) from the Executive Branch to the Legislative Branch with a vote of 15 in favor and one opposed.

This legislation reflects the Naabik'íyáti' Committee's commitment to empowering the next generation of Diné leaders by embedding them directly into the legislative process. The move ensures that Diné youth have more access to government, leadership development, and policy-making experiences that are grounded in Diné values and governance.

"This legislation is about more than just a transfer of authority — it's about investing in our youth and giving them the tools to lead," said Council Delegate Germaine Simonson, the sponsor of the legislation. "By bringing the NYAC under the Legislative Branch, we are giving our young people a front-row seat to lawmaking and government operations. We are preparing them to serve, to speak up, and to shape the future of the Navajo Nation with confidence and cultural strength."

Established in 2017 under the Executive Branch, the NYAC was created to amplify the voices of young Navajo people and to provide policy recommendations on issues impacting Diné youth and families. Under the newly approved amendments to Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, the NYAC will now operate within the Legislative Branch as an official board of the government, with oversight from the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.

The revised plan of operation establishes the NYAC as a 12-member advisory body composed of youth ages 14 to 24, with representation from each of the five Navajo agencies and two at-large members appointed by Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

Members will be confirmed by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and serve two-year terms. Once confirmed, the council will elect a Chair and Vice Chair and hold regular monthly meetings, with additional special meetings as needed.

An Executive Director position will be created to support the NYAC's daily operations, assist in drafting resolutions, coordinate meetings, and ensure adherence to Navajo Nation policies and Diné Fundamental Law. The NYAC will function similarly to other standing committees of the Council, while retaining youth-specific rules that prioritize mentorship, cultural education, and leadership development.

As volunteers, NYAC members will not receive salaries but will be reimbursed for travel expenses related to official duties, in accordance with Navajo Nation travel policies.

Additionally, the NYAC is mandated to provide quarterly reports to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and may propose youth-led programs, events, and policy initiatives.

"The Legislative Branch is honored to welcome and guide the NYAC," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "This is a meaningful step forward to build future leaders for our Nation."

With this transition, the Navajo Nation Council affirms the power of youth participation in governance and the importance of cultural mentorship in leadership.

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