



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

SPEAKER'S REPORT

SPEAKER CRYSTALYNE CURLEY
2024 FALL COUNCIL SESSION



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Message from Speaker Crystalyne Curley

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya, Madam Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, chapter officials, federal, state, and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné People. Thank you for joining us as we welcome you to the 2024 Fall Council Session.

The month of October is known as Gháájí', meaning the transition of the seasons. On October 2nd we had a new moon, which signifies the beginning of a new year for our people. This is a special time when Nihimá Nahasdzáán, Mother Earth, is letting us know that it is time for families to prepare for the changing of the weather and seasons. We also take this time to reflect on where we are in our lives, to pray and renew our efforts for ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities.

During this season, we are also reminded to prepare our homes for the upcoming winter season by gathering firewood, blankets, supplies for livestock, and food and water. As elected leaders, we strongly encourage children and grandchildren across our Nation to help their elders, so they are safe and taken care of through the upcoming winter season.

As we proceed with governing our nation, we recognize that the will of our people to be a part of the government process has never dwindled. In fact, the call of our people to be involved and informed continues to grow. As leaders, the responsibility to make our government open to the people rests on our shoulders. I thank my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for consistently being out in many communities listening to the issues brought forth by our people and offering your support and recommendations.

As we move forward, we encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the teachings of our elders in relation to kinship and decision making. As our grandparents always taught us, Ni'hi'saad ayoo bi'dzil, our spoken words have power to create change that improves the livelihood of our people for many years to come, but we have to work together and move forward on a positive path during this Council session. Together, we continue to set the foundation for the next 100 years for our children and grandchildren.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the fall session, I am confident that we will continue to make progress and plan for the future of our Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné Citizens for your guidance and support as we move forward.

I want to thank all of our Council members for their due diligence and unanimous support in passing a six-month Continuing Resolution in order to continue direct services, avoid employee layoffs, and continue government operations beyond the end of the current fiscal year which concluded on September 30.

Unfortunately, the Council's efforts were met with line-item vetoes that removed critical funding for legislative attorneys, Legislative District Assistants, and support for legislative staff. The President suggested we use other legislative department funding by moving funds from programs, but utilizing funds from different departments is not good financial accounting practice. It is considered financially irresponsible. Each program establishes a budget to achieve their program goals; therefore we should not take from those funds. These setbacks do not deter the Council's efforts or commitments to our people and communities.

As previously stated publicly, Council members also question whether the President abused and overstepped the presidential line-item veto authority, which was granted by Navajo voters through a



referendum passed in 2009.

Based on the law, line-item veto actions are not subject to override by the Council. However, Council members question the legality of President Nygren's latest line-item vetoes — many of which were portrayed as corrections to the Continuing Resolution, including the editing and deletion of exhibits. The use of the line-item veto authority has come under question many times in recent years. It's our responsibility to work together to ensure there is clarity on its intent and use.

Despite these challenges, the Council has since met with the President and Chief Justice to work toward solutions to develop and pass a Comprehensive Budget. The Council is in favor of adopting a Comprehensive Budget as soon as possible to provide the necessary funding for each branch of government to operate.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council has taken the lead in developing Legislation No. 0135-24, which will provide over \$148 million to nearly every senior center on the Navajo Nation. If the Council approves the legislation during the Fall Session and it is signed into law by the President, the funds will go toward critical needs including demolish or construction of new centers, electrical wiring, HVAC systems, renovations, and many other needs to help our elders enjoy services at the senior centers. We request the President's support for this great initiative.

I also want to thank the Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support, the Office of the Speaker staff, and all of my Council colleagues for their support in developing this legislation and moving it through the Standing Committees with no opposition. The Council understands the great needs for elders in their communities and this unified effort will have longstanding benefits for many elders throughout the Nation.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council made history in May when we unanimously passed legislation to approve the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement, which now seeks congressional support to finalize the largest Indian water rights settlement in the United States.

This agreement would resolve water claims by the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute Nation. The 17 participants to the settlement include the United States, the State of Arizona, and the Hopi and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribes. The settlement calls for the Navajo Nation to receive a substantial amount of the Colorado River Upper Basin water, some Lower Basin water, all groundwater underlying the Navajo Nation, all surface water that reaches the Navajo Nation from the Little Colorado River, and all wash water that reaches the Nation south of the Hopi Tribe's land.

In addition, the settlement provides the Nation the flexibility to move Arizona water from the upper basin to lower basin Navajo communities, and to divert Arizona water in New Mexico and Utah, which in some cases is closer to our Arizona communities. This settlement will also secure billions of dollars worth of funding to build critical water delivery infrastructure for the Nation that would not be possible through litigation.

The settlement has been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House by Senators Mark Kelly, Kyrsten Sinema and Representatives Juan Ciscomani, Greg Stanton, Eli Crane and David Schweikert. We are very grateful for their support and leadership in moving this bill forward.

My Council colleagues and I have traveled to Capitol Hill on several occasions to meet congressional leaders and federal officials to push the bills through Congress. We've also attended two congressional hearings when the President provided supporting testimony.



The 25th Navajo Nation Council also voted in support of the Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Agreement, quantifying the Nation's water rights in the Rio San José Stream System and the Rio Puerco Basin in New Mexico. This settlement directly impacts nine Navajo chapter communities nestled within the Rio San Jose Basin including Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Crownpoint, Littlewater, Mariano Lake, Ramah, Smith Lake, Thoreau, and Tóhajiilee, as well as seven chapters within the Rio Puerco Basin including Tóhajiilee, Torreon, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Whitehorse Lake, Counselor, and Littlewater.

The Council and the Office of the Speaker remain committed to pushing the Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Agreement through Congress to quantify our water claims and secure additional water infrastructure and resources in our New Mexico communities.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues making water rights a top priority to bring much needed water resources and infrastructure to communities across the Navajo Nation. I extend my appreciation to my Council colleagues, Department of Justice, the Navajo Water Rights Commission, the Office of the President and Vice President, and many others who continue to advocate for our water rights.

The Office of the Speaker is pleased to announce the appointment of Michelle Espino to serve as the new Chief Legislative Counsel, which will be subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. Espino is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is licensed to practice law on the Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico, the Federal District Court for the State of New Mexico, the 9th and 10th Circuit Courts of Appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court. She holds a law degree from the University of Iowa.

Espino previously worked with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice as an Assistant Attorney General for the Water Rights Unit. Her duties were to oversee the Water Rights Unit and led litigation, settlement, and lobbying efforts to protect the Navajo Nation's water resources. She also played a critical role in the development of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement.

Among her extensive professional experience, she previously served as a Chief Judge for the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Chief Judge for the Pueblo of Isleta, Senior Prosecutor for the Navajo Nation, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, and Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office.

We look forward to working with her and seeing how she will use her extensive experience to help the Legislative Branch. Once her appointment is finalized, she will serve in an 'acting' capacity until Council confirms her position.

In late September, I had the honor of standing shoulder to shoulder with former uranium miners and downwinders affected by uranium production, to call on U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson to swiftly bring the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) extension to the House floor for a vote. The Senate overwhelmingly voted in support of the bill five months ago.

RECA, which provides compensation to individuals exposed to harmful radiation due to uranium mining and nuclear weapons testing expired, leaving thousands without recourse. Together, we emphasized the urgency of this matter to congressional members.

The coalition of RECA advocates, including the Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee, led a march to Capitol Hill for a press conference with members of Congress including U.S. Sens. Josh



Hawley (R-MO), Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and U.S. Reps. Teresa Leger Fernández, Gabe Vasquez (D-N.M.), and Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.).

Many of the former miners and downwinders traveled over 37 hours by bus to advocate and fight for the RECA bill on Capitol Hill. We told congressional members that we stand united by a common purpose — to demand justice. This is not just a Navajo issue. It is a national issue, and it is a human issue.

RECA, first enacted in 1990, was a critical step in acknowledging the U.S. government's responsibility for the health impacts caused by radiation exposure from uranium mining and nuclear testing. The program provided benefits and compensation to tens of thousands of individuals, but many claimants remain.

Former miners and downwinders shared their personal stories during the press conference, underscoring the devastating and long-lasting effects of radiation exposure on their health and families. Many expressed their frustration with delays in extending RECA and their hope that Speaker Johnson will act before time runs out.

The push for the RECA extension has gained bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, with lawmakers recognizing the ongoing health crises in impacted communities, particularly in the southwest. Advocates argue that without immediate action, many more could lose access to life-saving benefits.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I commend the Law and Order Committee (LOC) for unanimously recommending the permanent appointments of Judges Victor Clyde, Malcolm Laughing, and Letitia Stover. These judges, each having successfully completed their probationary terms, are now awaiting final approval from the President to become permanent members of the Navajo judiciary.

The recommendation follows a thorough review of each judge's performance during their probationary period, during which they demonstrated their commitment to justice and the values of the Navajo Nation. Public hearings were held to evaluate the performance of each judge in the chapters in which they preside. We are hopeful that this step forward will benefit the Judicial Branch and all of our communities.

Prior to serving as a judge, Judge Victor Clyde held various positions in law enforcement and the legal field, including roles as a Justice of the Peace for Apache County's Chinle precinct, a criminal investigator, a police officer, and a prosecutor for the Navajo Nation. He referenced his deep respect for Diné traditions that guide his approach to justice, as he has worked with traditional practitioners to integrate cultural knowledge into his judicial philosophy.

Judge Malcolm Laughing, a resident of Crystal, New Mexico, has served the Navajo Nation judiciary with dedication and diligence. With over 17 years of legal experience, Laughing's career has spanned various roles, including positions with the Navajo Housing Authority, the Navajo Nation Public Defender's Office, and private legal practice.

Judge Letitia Stover is from Naatsis'áán and her academic background includes a Juris Doctor from the University of South Dakota School of Law and a Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Arizona. Before pursuing a legal career, Stover worked as a teacher, an experience that has influenced her patient and educational approach to the bench.



On behalf of the Council, I congratulate the appointed judges and thank them for taking on these challenging roles. Following the President's approval, the appointed judges will be subject to final confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council.

The New Mexico Council Delegates Caucus continues to establish priorities impacting Navajo communities in New Mexico regarding NM Capital Outlay Projects, the proposed Indian Education Trust Fund and senior centers. Speaker Crystalyne Curley and Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty recently made a passionate call for adequate funding, through a student count based formula, for Navajo students during the NM Government to Government Indian Education Summit. This helps create equity in funding by addressing the unique needs based on student enrollment.

Within the last quarter, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved emergency legislation to amend and strengthen the Radioactive Materials Transportation Act of 2012. The amended law strengthens the Navajo Nation's regulatory authority over the transportation of uranium and other radioactive materials across its lands.

In July, Energy Fuels Resources, a uranium production company, authorized two trucks carrying uranium ore to pass through the Navajo Nation, without prior consent from or notification to the Navajo Nation, raising significant concerns about the safety of Navajo residents and communities. The uranium ore was transported on a state route through the Navajo Nation to the White Mesa Mill in Utah, for processing.

This legislation was a necessary step to ensure that our sovereignty is respected and that our people are protected from the potential dangers of uranium transport. Council members discussed the implications of the proposed amendments, particularly considering rising uranium prices and renewed interest in uranium mining across the United States. Delegates expressed concerns about the potential long-term health impacts on communities along the transport routes and the need for greater regulatory oversight.

The amendments introduced interim regulations that serve as an initial framework for negotiating with companies involved in uranium transport. These regulations will be further developed through a comprehensive rulemaking process, ensuring that the Navajo Nation has the necessary tools to manage and oversee the transport of radioactive materials effectively.

The approval of these amendments marks a significant step forward for the Navajo Nation in its ongoing efforts to assert its sovereignty and protect its citizens from hazardous materials. I thank my Council colleagues for their assertive action to address the safety of our community members.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council was deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of John Kinsel Sr., one of the last remaining Navajo Code Talkers. Beyond his legacy as a warrior, he was also a proud Navajo man who upheld the values of his heritage while serving his country with distinction. As we honor his life, we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, loved ones, and the entire Navajo Nation. May his spirit rest in peace, and may his memory continue to inspire generations to come.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us during the 2024 Fall Council Session. As we move into the next quarter, the 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue to serve as the governing body of the Navajo Nation and work to improve the quality of life for our Navajo people. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we move forward together.



**OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

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NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER

The Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“NNHRC”) provides the following report of accomplishments for this reporting period.

1. 2020-2014 Commission closes tenure with NNHRC: Commission members, Dr. Jennifer Denetdale, Steven A. Darden, Cora Phillips and Steven Begay vacated their tenure with the Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission on September 30, 2024. Both Commissioners Denetdale and Darden served eleven and sixteen years on the Commission. On September 26, 2024 the Nabi Committee confirmed the appointments of three new Commissioners. Dr. Henry Fowler will serve as the Education expert, Dr. Wendy Greyeyes as the member at large and Roscoe Herrera the law enforcement expert. Two commission positions remain vacant and will be filled within the next quarter.
2. New Mexico Redistricting Activities: With the upcoming 57th New Mexico Legislative Session, this office and its New Mexico partners are working on legislation to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission. The proposed joint resolution, if passed by a simple majority by both the chambers of the Legislature, would put the question of creating an independent redistricting commission on the 2026 ballot. If the legislation is passed it would assign the responsibility for redistricting commission separate from the legislature. The legislature would be in charge with developing enabling legislation that follows the spirit of the amendment. The Independent Redistricting Commission will develop and adopt redistricting plans as provided by law for Congressional districts, State legislative districts and the districts of other districted state offices. The Navajo Nation designated body (program) to develop redistricting plans for the Navajo Nation will work with the new Independent Redistricting Commission should the referendum pass. The Office continues to work with the Native American Voters Rights Taskforce established by the New Mexico Secretary of State. In addition to examining voting issues at the county level, two staff members recently were certified as voter registrars. Taskforce members work with County liaisons to provide voter information and services to the public. NNHRC is also working with the non-profit program called Observe New Mexico. This group is training poll observers at various New Mexico chapters houses. This training includes equipment checks, ballot distribution and processing, ballot interpretation and same day voter registration.
3. San Juan County Utah Settlement Agreement: NNHRC continued its work with the legal team responsible for the finalization of the Settlement Agreement with San Juan County Utah Clerk/Auditor Office and this office. The terms of the settlement agreement preserve Section 203 of the Voters Right Act that addresses the Language Assistance provisions. Additionally, the services offered by the county to support an effective delivery of this service is also included in the agreement. Finally NNHRC is recommending the agreement be

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extended out to December 2030. It should be noted the team has engaged the Utah Lt. Governors Deputy Director for Utah Elections, Shelly Jackson to participate in future discussions on the settlement agreement. This is a significant accomplishment.

4. **Arizona Redistricting Activities:** Two major issues evolved in the review of Arizona's upcoming General election. First, many Navajo voters found their precincts changed during the Primary election. In researching this issue further, it was learned the Secretary of State for Arizona instituted a new software system that determines voter residency based on a point-to-point calibration. Most Navajo voters determine their residency from the location of their chapter house, thus following a road easement. One voter used his descriptive residency location of 10 miles northeast of the Nazline chapter house, which followed the main roadway to his house. Under the new system the point to point calibration does not take into consideration road access. Thus, in the new system, this voter was placed into a new precinct that was exactly 10 miles northeast of Nazline. The traditional descriptive route to a voter's residents is nil, which many voters maintain as identification information to their homes in almost every legal document or form that request this information. Upon realizing the error generated by the new software, NNHRC followed up with several calls, emails and meeting requests with county officials, chapter officials and government officials to discuss this development. After several weeks of no replies, a meeting was finally established with all Arizona stakeholders in September. It was disclosed at this meeting that there is a new law referenced as Section 190 that allows for county election officials to verify residency of voters. This allows county officials to check voter registration and residency with a accessible voting device that connects to the internet. It reportedly works in Coconino and Apache county but does not work in Apache county. While it remains unknown as to how effective the accessible voter device is on the Navajo Nation, the secretary of State office insists this mechanism will greatly minimize confusion in the General election. The second issue concerns Holbrook Unified School District wards (districts). There are five school wards and they do not conform to the principles of redistricting. Ward 3 is not contiguous and ward 1 is packed. The overall population for the school district is 9,715 people while the Native American population is 5,689, (58.%) persons. The deviation spread for this entire school district is unacceptable. Unfortunately, school board ballots for Holbrook Unified School Districts are printed for the General election based on the current ward boundaries. NNHRC will continue to follow the outcome of the voting activities in the northern counties of Arizona.
5. **Racial allegations follow up with Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller:** On September 5th, 2024, the NNHRC Commission met with Mayor Tim Keller, Albuquerque Police Chief Harold Medina, Equity and Inclusion Director, Sonya Lara and members of the Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs for the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico to address the use of derogatory, racist and offensive language police officers used while debriefing after a violent incident in April 2024. The language used by the officers referenced an Isleta woman, the Isleta nation and heightening the level of violence one officer wanted. Chief Medina sent a letter of apology to the Navajo Nation Speaker Crystallynn Curley and the Navajo Nation President expressing his disappointment with the conduct and behavior of the officers at the scene. The Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs offered recommendations to the Mayor and Chief Medina that included cultural sensitivity training, hiring of more Native American officers, open communication with the community and more collaboration with the Pueblo nations surrounding the city. The NNHRC offered the recommendation of securing a review from the Citizens Review Board, which was established because of the 2014 Settlement Agreement with the city, APD and the United States Department of Justice. NNHRC also recommended the officers address the Isleta nation directly, either through the traditional form of governance or through possible civil action from the Isleta nation. To the dismay of the attendees, it was announced that the officers served their suspension and were back on patrol. NNHRC requested a meeting with internal affairs and Union personnel to discuss a cultural mechanism of redress when officers are found to exhibit behaviors and actions as recorded by these officers. Future meetings are planned in the next quarter



with the Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs and city officials to assist with developing appropriate redress policies.

6. United Nations Permanent Observer Designation: NNHRC continues to seek the designation as a Permanent Observer with the United Nations. Indigenous governments are not permitted to participate in the UN system by virtue of their status. A special standard and structure equal to permanent observers is being sought. This will allow indigenous nations, including the Navajo Nation to participate in the UN general assembly. Additionally, every part of the UN system impacts the Navajo and indigenous human rights, ranging from climate change, border crossing, education, citizenship, voting, land and resources and territorial integrity. The UN system recognizes nations based on the same variables indigenous peoples encompass. Tribal sovereignty and the existence of government-to-government relationships provide parity with other nation states in the world. There should be no other accreditation criteria that indigenous peoples are required to achieve before admittance to the UN general assembly. NNHRC will continue to work with its partners to advocate for the designation as a Permanent Observer.
7. Ed Corley/CARITE (on-going): The Ed Corley auto dealership in Gallup, New Mexico, is currently the subject of an investigation with the assistance of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (“NNDOJ”). The dealership is undergoing bankruptcy proceedings and has been found to have issues with its trade-in process, charging for services not provided, mishandling cash payments, and reports of missing vehicles. The Navajo Nation, taking proactive measures, has filed a motion to handle the abandoned vehicles and has submitted proof of claims, with expectations of additional complaints in the future. Allegations have been made against Carite of Gallup management for unfair trade practices, including failing to fulfill car loan payments as promised, not registering vehicles on time, and falsifying credit applications. These actions have reportedly caused significant and severe financial harm to consumers, damaging credit scores and leading to debt collection. Attorney General Torrez has filed a lawsuit to seek restitution for the victims and impose sanctions against the dealership. Both auto dealerships have been owned by the Corley’s. The New Mexico Attorney General’s Office and the Navajo Nation have been committed to assisting the victims of both dealerships. Earlier this year, the Attorney General’s Office included Corley’s Nissan in their case. Currently, their office has filed a lawsuit against Carite, and the investigation is actively and continuously ongoing.
8. AAMCO Repair Shop – Ongoing Issue: The Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the Arizona Attorney General’s Office have received numerous complaints regarding fraudulent and unfair practices by AAMCO Transmission in Flagstaff, Arizona. Former owner Kevin Lindsay allegedly overcharged for services, neglected to carry out repairs despite receiving upfront payment, and caused damage to customers’ credit. Following an investigation, approximately 23 vehicles were returned to their owners, albeit some in poor condition. The emotional and financial impact on the affected consumers has been substantial, necessitating accountability from the AAMCO Corporation. The corporate office has contacted consumers for settlements, with some customers opting for negotiations. These negotiations have considered costs such as meals, fuel, mileage, towing, and hotel expenses incurred during visits to AAMCO to check on their vehicles. Moreover, some customers were compelled to trade in their vehicles due to irreparable damage, constituting a significant loss. One customer residing in a rural area has been left without transportation, as his vehicle sustained further damage upon return. The Arizona Attorney General’s Office has entered into a common interest agreement with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. The investigation is presently pending.
9. Other Automobile Issues: There have been persistent concerns regarding unfair and deceptive practices within the automotive work order process. Instances have been noted where consumers are not provided with estimates of \$100.00 as required by New Mexico regulations. In compliance with state regulations, automotive repair facilities in New Mexico are obligated to furnish customers with a written estimate for



repairs exceeding \$100. The purpose of this communication is to ensure that you are fully informed about these regulations and your rights as a customer. In cases where the customer is not physically present during the finalization of the estimate, the repair facility can secure oral approval or proceed with the repairs after fully disclosing the content of the written estimate. It is imperative for the facility to maintain documentation specifying the authorizer of the repairs, the approved repairs, and the date and time of authorization. Subsequent authorization is necessary if the repairs surpass the estimate by a predetermined percentage or dollar amount. Customers can sign a waiver relinquishing the facility from the obligation to furnish a written estimate. However, it is essential for customers to comprehensively understand the potential consequences, including unforeseen charges, before doing so. This understanding is pivotal in ensuring transparency and helping customers comprehend the anticipated costs before utilizing the facility's vehicle servicing. To address these concerns, the Office and the New Mexico Attorney General's Office are instituting educational programs for Navajo consumers and businesses in the border towns of the New Mexico side of the Navajo Nation. These programs aim to increase awareness about the importance of written estimates and other consumer rights, and to provide guidance on how to navigate the automotive repair process.

10. **Public Information Activities:** Public Information activities for this reporting period were quite active. Advertising for all monthly commission meetings were published in local newspapers, announced on KTNN and posted on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission website. PIO activities included the planning and conducting of two radio forums with KTNN and KGAK. The KGAK forum addressed the Ed Corley Nissan bankruptcy case and allowed for the discussion on consumer rights as it applies to vehicle purchasing. The KTNN forum addressed voter residency issues as it relates to correct precinct voting/polling locations. NNHRC was presented with an opportunity to highlight Navajo voter and election activities through the production of a documentary with the CBC TV of Montreal, Canada. The documentary is directed by Jean-Francois-Belanger who included Leonard Gorman, NNHRC Director and former Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez on the collaborative redistricting activities NNHRC conduct in Arizona. Other major activities the PIO conducted included the public relations work during the Navajo Nation Fair. Resource documents and consumer pamphlets were provided to the public. The Utah ACLU, Stewardship at Utah (formerly the Rural Utah Project) and the New Mexico Law and Poverty Center also assisted with providing resource material and legal advice to Navajo consumers. Ms. Charley, PIO also assisted the office with meeting logistics for two important events this office coordinated. The meeting with the US Department of Justice was held on Thursday, September 19, 2024 with three members of the USDOJ Indian Working Group who visited the NNHRC office to discuss issues that require further legal dialogue and assessment. The other meeting involved logistics with the Utah Lt. Governor's office, on election matters in San Juan County Utah. Ms. Shelly Jackson, Deputy Director of Elections and Ms. Brook Taylor, Elections Coordinator met with members from the Utah Disability Law Center, Utah ACLU, Stewardship at Utah and NNHRC. Other day to day activities performed by Ms. Charley include the upkeep of the office website, authoring news releases, follow up with media inquiries, assisting staff with TEAM meeting schedules, coordinating upcoming events with external and internal offices on the Navajo Nation. The proposed Indigenous Language & Technology Conference is on hold due to no concurrence from Legislative Counsel on the letter of agreement between NNHRC and a fiscal agent. The timeline had expired on the agreement and therefore, the planned conference is on hold.
11. **Complaints/Investigations:** The Office played a pivotal role in the resolution to 12 new complaints this reporting period. Eight complaints were closed which did not substantiate any discrimination. There are currently 55 active cases. The office conducted 630 follow ups including phone calls, emails, public forums and meetings. This reporting period has surpassed the last quarter goal as the activities required coordination with external and internal partners who are instrumental in resolving the issues the complaining parties present.



**OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2024 FOURTH QUARTER

Internal Audits – 1 report

1. Iyanbito Chapter

Corrective Action Plan Follow-up Reviews – 2 reports

1. Four Corners Monument Tribal Park 2nd CAP follow-up review
2. Little Colorado River Tribal Park 2nd CAP follow-up review

Goals for FY2025 First Quarter (planned/ongoing projects and activities)

1. Office of the Speaker Special Review
2. Whippoorwill Chapter Internal Audit
3. Whiterock Chapter Internal Audit
4. Chinle Chapter Internal Audit
5. Huerfano Chapter Internal Audit
6. Red Lake Chapter 2nd CAP follow-up review
7. Upper Fruitland Chapter CAP follow-up review
8. Lukachukai Chapter CAP follow-up review
9. Hardrock Chapter 3rd CAP follow-up review
10. Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund Special Review
11. Ganado Chapter investigation (CONFIDENTIAL)
12. Outsource more chapter audits and performance audits of Navajo Nation depts/programs; will need to issue various request for proposals to utilize consulting budget.
13. Complete review of corrective action plans submitted to the Auditor General in response to audit reports; continue to work with chapters in revising these corrective action plans and obtaining supporting chapter resolutions. Thereafter, work with the delegates through the legislative process to obtain formal approval of the corrective action plans.
14. Complete tasks to update the OAG website; continue to work with Realtime Solutions.
15. Work with hired consultant to analyze chapter financial data based on their MIP accounting systems to generate reports on expenditures and available fund balances.
16. Work with hired consultant to use data analytics to detect any potentially fraudulent activities or misuse of funds.

Issues/Recommendations

1. Continue to recruit applicants to fill four (4) vacant positions including the Auditor General position, two Auditor positions and one Associate Auditor position; these are key positions for completing audits; will continue to advertise and recruit as diligently as possible.
2. Due to the vacancies, our office is challenged in completing the targeted number of projects with limited resources. In order to meet our performance goals, we will have to continue to outsource more audits but that also depends on our consulting budget.



3. Complete ongoing tasks to revise internal operating policies and procedures.
4. Complete ongoing tasks to amend the Auditor General plan of operation; revisions will incorporate the FY2025 budget legislative concern and condition of appropriation.
5. Continue to assist the Administrative Service Centers on a variety of chapter matters.
6. Continue to seek assistance from the Administrative Service Centers on chapter audits, corrective action plans, sanctions and LGA certification reviews.
7. Continue to work with the Wells Fargo Bank to address chapter banking issues such as the need for credit cards but there are no existing policies and procedures.

**NAVAJO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2024 FOURTH QUARTER

2024 NAVAJO NATION CHAPTER ELECTION

- Primary Election held on July 30, 2024 at 110 polling places (chapter houses).
- 26 Poll Officials and five (5) Chief Poll Judges (CPJ) Trainings were held at the agency level. The CPJ trainings were held on July 29, 2024; the ballots, supplies and voting tabulator were issued to each Chief Poll Judge.
- Ballots for the General Election have been ordered.
- 160 Voting Booths were purchased: 4 in 1 with wheelchair accessibility
- Absentee Voting held at all agency Election Offices, ballots available for all chapters at each agency office.

Agency	In Person Voting	Voting by Mail	TOTAL
Chinle	227	24	251
Eastern	230	79	309
Ft. Defiance	410	62	472
Northern	527	45	572
Western	326	37	363
TOTAL	1720	247	1967

CAMPAIGN EXPENSE REPORT

- 191 individuals were disqualified on August 16, 2024, for non-compliance of 11 N.N.C. (A), filing of campaign Expense Report.
- 104 filed Statement of Grievances with the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), regarding the disqualifications.
- 104 hearings were conducted by September 30, 2024.

VOTER REGISTRATION: 136,951 (1379 New Voter Registered)

- Chinle Agency: 19,105
- Eastern Navajo Agency: 35,547
- Fort Defiance Agency: 33,751
- Northern Navajo Agency: 27,052
- Western Navajo Agency: 24,496



FY25 BUDGET PREPARATION

- Navajo Election Administration: UUFB Request

RECALL

- Initiated against Navajo Nation President, Honorable Buu Nygren
- Number of required signatures: 29,803
- Last Day to submit petitions: March 2, 2025

NNC Vacancy: 1 position representing Houck, Klagetoh, Tsé si Áni, Nahata Dziil, and Wide Ruins Chapters

- Resignation by Mr. Lomardo Aseret

NAVAJO BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS

- Seven (7) meeting held
- Approved 12 resolution (canvassing and certification of special election results and timeline extensions for appointments).

SECTION TWO: GOALS FOR 3RD QUARTER IN FY2024

2024 Election

- Advertise candidate filing for positions not applied for after Primary Election.
- Proposed Election Date: December 10, 2024, for positions currently in grievance
 1. Conduct Special Election for NNC position.
 2. Prepare for 2025 Chapter Inauguration.

SECTION THREE: ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Election Code Amendments: collaboration between NEA and NBOES.
- Lack of Funding to conduct 2024 General Election, Special Elections, 2025 Chapter Inauguration, Voter Registration Update, and NNC Reapportionment.

ETHICS AND RULES OFFICE

FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

CONTACT PERSON: LEWNELL HARRISON, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2024 FOURTH QUARTER

- Lewnell B. Harrison, Ethics Investigator was appointed Interim Executive Director on October 15, 2021 to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office so that services to the Navajo Nation would not be interrupted. The Ethics and Rules Office continues to contract with Mr. Joe W. Washington, Attorney for all our filings and to prosecute all who have violated the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has collected \$ 4,110.00 in restitution payments this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has completed 497 ethics clearances for individuals that have applied for employment or have applied for candidacy with the Navajo Nation this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has filed seven (7) new ethics case and has had one (1) ethics hearings this quarter.

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- The Ethics and Rules Office did presentations of the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government for the following Navajo Nation Chapters Chichiltah, Tsayyatoh, Manuelito, Red Rock, San Juan, Newcomb Beclabito, Nenahnezad, Gadil'ahi, Shiprock, Upper Fruitland, Sanostee and Cove Chapters. Also the following Navajo Nation programs Navajo Nation ARPA and the Navajo Nation Elections Office.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has met with seventy-one (68) individuals for consultation or mediate issues concerning possible Ethics violations.
- The Ethics and Rules Office met with ten (08) different Navajo Nation departments and programs concerning possible ethics violations and recommendations.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has received eighteen (18) new ethics intakes this quarter.

Section Two: Goals for 1st Quarter in FY2025

- We will continue to look for qualified people to fill our vacant positions with this office.
- Update the Ethics and Rules Office's plan of operations.
- Continue to collect restitution owed to the Navajo Nation by filing on the Respondents that are not in compliance and work on other solutions to collect restitution owed to the Navajo Nation.
- Work towards establishing a more efficient office procedure regarding case management, including appropriate retention timelines.
- Establish procedures to identify fixed timelines for the filing of Orders to Show Cause and Garnishment proceedings to avoid missing the statute of limitations.
- Recommence working and collaborating with the Division of Community Development, Administrative Services Centers, Navajo Nation Prosecutor's White Collar Crime Unite, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Elections Administration, and Office of Government Development in providing consultations for local governments (110 chapters).
- Continue Ethics in Government Law/Standards of Conduct training for Chapters, School Boards, and other Navajo Nation Departments, including training for newly hired employees.
- Work cooperatively with other NN departments, the Public Integrity Task Force, FBI, Office of Inspector General and Internal Revenue Service on various task forces and workgroups that concern the public trust to more effectively hold individuals accountable for violations of the Ethics in Government Law.
- Continue to take Ethics intakes on elected and appointed officials and employees of the Navajo Nation and complete Ethics Clearances for candidacies, business loans, veteran's loans and the Navajo Nation Office of Background Investigations.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- Secure funds to continue to upgrade and renovate our office building.
- To send staff to training for continued education to sharpen their skills.
- To reestablish a MOA/MOU with Navajo Nation departments that would help better establish the referral and prosecution process.
- Security cameras to cover office building and parking lot.
- Audio and video recorder to document interviews.



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2024 FOURTH QUARTER

Section One: Accomplishments from 4th Quarter FY 2024

- OLS processed 83 Legislation this quarter, as well as closing out 68 resolutions.
- OLS finalized 72 journals/transcripts of official meetings.
- OLS personnel participated in 121 council/standing meetings and work sessions during this quarter.
- Addressed Fire Code Violations through preventive measures and correctional actions, ensuring compliance and enhancing safety protocols.
- Recruited one (1) Legislative Assistant and one (1) Office Aide to strengthen our support staff and improve operational efficiency.
- Enhanced our operational efficiency this quarter by providing staff with new equipment to support their daily duties and streamline meetings.
- Upgraded the surveillance camera system, enhancing security measures and monitoring capabilities.

Section Two: Goals for 1st Quarter FY 2025

- Expand and enhance training opportunities for staff to further develop their skills and competencies.
- Expand OLS educational initiatives to the general public and other Navajo Nation Divisions/Departments, focusing on the Navajo Nation Legislative Process and Budget Process.
- Update current Strategic Plan (last updated in 2017).
- Continue the OLS Tracking and Archive Project to ensure comprehensive documentation and accessibility of legislative records.
- Implement Legislative Tracking and Archive backup storage for personnel to ensure secure and efficient record-keeping.
- Introduce proposed electronic signature procedure into the NN Legislative Process, and OLS policies & procedures.
- Fill Vacant Positions: Executive Director (1); Legislative Advisor (1); Records Clerk (1);
- Enhance internal policies

Section Three: Issue(s) and Recommendation(s)

Issue:

1. OLS is short on staff and need to find qualified individuals to fill vacant positions.

Recommendations:

1. OLS continues to work with DPM to identify qualified individuals for vacant positions. OLS continues working with internal staff on assessments for other positions to determine qualifications.
2. Issue guidelines and instructions in order to assure a coordinated approach is being taken on legislative action.
3. Training presentations on the Navajo Nation Legislative Process in collaboration with the Office of Legislative Counsel. Outreach.



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2024 FOURTH QUARTER

- The drafting oversight committee Budget legislation, including amendments and attorney coverage at all oversight committee meetings.
- The drafting and finalization the Continuing Resolution, CS-39-24, for a six-month time limit.
- Provided legal representation to Navajo Board of Election Supervisors during the implementation of CJA-08-24 An act relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; amending Campaign Expense Provisions of the Navajo Election Code at §§ through 209 and 404.
- Provide legal representation to the Law and Order Committee for its Probationary Judge Performance Evaluation Public Hearings held in Kayenta, Ramah and Navajo Nation Council Chambers.
- The drafting and finalization of over 123 legislation requests and contract reviews.
- Provided legal guidance and assistance at over 100 Committee/Council meetings and work sessions, as well as over 50 subcommittee/Board/Commission meetings, work sessions and administrative hearings.
- The Chief Legislative Council recognizes the work and dedication of OLC staff who have continued to serve the public throughout the pandemic. Legal staff virtually attended teleconference committee and leadership meetings on a daily basis, including numerous meetings that ran long into the evening.
- OLC upholds its responsibilities to the public by maintaining mandatory training requirements for attorneys and advocates under their professional responsibility rules.
- OLC also provided legislative legal services at all Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee regular and special meetings, leadership meetings and work sessions. Despite the reduction of OLC legal staff through the retirement of our Chief Legislative Counsel, the OLC legal staff continues to strive to provide legal services to its Legislative Branch offices and the Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committees.

OLC GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR 4th QUARTER - FY 2024

- Continued to advise and assist the NNC, Standing Committees and sub-committees . Attend all meetings, advising on all procedural and substantive questions.
- OLC prioritized the FY2025 Comprehensive Budget process and then the Continuing Resolution.
- Continued to attend Office of Speaker's meetings related to the Budget and to keep abreast of all pertinent information received to ensure that OLC is kept updated and proactive concerning legislative needs, projects, and priorities.
- Continued advocating for more attorney staff as the increase in meetings and legislation requests has drastically increased while OLC staffing declined due to the Chief Legislative Counsel's retirement.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- OLC has over 125 legislation requests currently pending. OLC is recommending that each delegate identify their top two legislation requests. OLC will prioritize completing the selected priority legislations for each delegate before the end of the term.



NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2024 FOURTH QUARTER

- Efficient use of allocated funds, NNLC held (20) hearings by teleconference or Zoom or in person with counsels of record and parties.
- NNLC and program timely processed (03) appealed NNLC cases to Navajo Nation Supreme Court.
- NNLC program timely processed (16) formally filed complaint by mail, fax & email.
- NNLC timely adjudicated / settlement conferences (16) NPEA cases.
- NNLC and program timely closed and issued (19) continuance orders.
- NNLC & program timely issued and mailed (650) subpoenas and notice of hearings & NNLC Rules by certified mail, first class, facsimile and email to counsels of record or parties.
- NNLC will continue to adjudicate (72) pending NPEA cases.
- NNLC program made (07) audio copies at parties' request.
- Amended NNLC Rules of Procedure effective April 19, 2021
- NNLC staff continues to participate in 25th NNC and Committee leadership meetings

Section Two: Goals for First Quarter of FY 2025:

- NN Presidential appointment of NNLC membership per CJY-42-16. Continue to refer candidate(s) to appointing authority.
- Efficient use of allocated funds and timely processed appealed NNLC case(s).
- NNLC & program will timely adjudicate NPEA cases by teleconf., Zoom, and authorized in person hearing(s) from July 08, 2021.
- NNLC & program will timely process formally filed NPEA complaint(s) and/or petition(s).
- NNLC & program will timely issue and close out NPEA cases.
- NNLC & program will continue review and amend NNLC Rules of Procedure.
- NNLC to assist and complete proposed amendments to NNLC Plan of Operation
- NNLC & program will continue to preserve substantial rights of all employees and employers in accordance to Navajo Law.
- NNLC employees to obtain FMIS certification.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s):

- NNLC lacks three (3) Navajo Nation Presidential duly appointments, Vacancy been advertised.
- NNLC will continue to expedite office renovation & funding per cov10-12 guidance.
- Continue need of sanitation supplies re; COVID-19 issues.
- Need equipment for audio Zoom NNLC hearings; upgrade speaker system; Internet availability in NNLC hearing room and scanning project,
- NNLC & office updating NNLC Plan of operation, Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton processing legislation.
- Continuing compliance with Federal American Disability Act.
- FMIS (6(B) - NNLC continues to use the system when needed, average of one or twice, The problem is once an in put is made, the process becomes lengthy and only due to NN employee in official capacity do not immediately



make the appropriate decision to approve, disapprove or request for more information or justification or the request sits there and time expires and is returned to the requester for untimely submission,

- The NNLC Business Unit 101014 continues to expend allocated fiscal funds as outlined in FY 2024 / 25 budget, The critical complication in expending funds are compliance with those matters that involved contract(s): 164 process; compliance to NN procurement process and FMIS. Navajo Nation employees have to be FMIS certified.

**EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2024 FOURTH QUARTER

- Prepared budget documents requesting FY2025 budget for the office and Commission for regular budget, fixed cost and unmet needs. Unfortunately, regular budget was not passed, but will work with Speaker's office to address regular budget.
- Planned and carried out numerous ENLC meetings (regular, special, worksession, leadership). Meeting in Ramah Chapter identified new issues for ENLC and the Office.
- Monitoring the expiration of leasing of lands by Navajo families living on private lands owned by Gallup Land Partners.
- Implement suggested work from the Eastern Navajo Land Conference held for Chapter officials, Navajo Nation officials and members of the public.
- Continued to finish the Navajo Nation interest numbers for addition to Land Buy-back (LBB) maps for 29 Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Chapters. Maps completed for 26 Chapters. Upon completion, digital booklet will be published for use by Chapters, NN departments and public.
- Delivered more LBB maps to ENA Chapters (Alamo, etc.) and some of the Land Use Committees
- After meeting with ENLC, BLM and BIA to prepare for Fee-to-Trust application to BIA, managed to have President signed a letter to defer to ENLC to submit fee-to-trust application to BIA. ENLC Office will now work on the application
- Work with NN Dep't of Agriculture to acquire a land withdrawal or assignment for its office and livestock processing facility
- Continued to attend meetings and give comments to USEPA and others regarding Uranium waste remediation. Working closely with NNEPA to examine the use of new technology as to minimize uranium mining waste. Met with Congressman Jamie Raskin and Congresswoman Leger-Fernandez to seek their assistance with Senator Kelly's bill and with federal departments.
- Attended the USEPA uranium remediation meeting at Lukachukai Chapter.
- Worked with DURAC office to get recommendations for commission position that will represent ENA and submitted necessary recommendation Resolution with documents to Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Gave report to Eastern Navajo Agency Council (ENAC)
- Assisted Delegate Tolth in the presentation of 2 Resolutions to ENAC
- Monitored Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board to obtain approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BIA, BLM and Navajo Nation regarding grazing.
- Attended various grazing meetings held by BIA.
- Continued to work with BLM to plan Navajo cultural sites visit

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- Created maps for allottees referred from BIA.
- Attended meeting(s) with certain ENA Chapters, NN Departments, IDIQs and others regarding ARPA projects.
- Attended Crownpoint Chapter and Baca Chapter Land Use meeting at their invitations
- Director continued to attend budget overview meetings regarding the FY2025 budget
- Worked with Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President (OPVP) to approve the deferral to ENLC of the deferral of the submission of application for fee-to-trust conversion of Navajo Nation fee lands (approx. 380,000 acres).
- Met with NN Land Department to receive data of NN Fee Lands and this data will be compared with the Office's data and later, submitted to BIA as part of the fee-to-trust application.
- ENLC passed a Resolution in support of the acquisition of federal disposal lands, approximately 340,000 acres. Requested of OPVP to defer to the ENLC to submit the application.
- Working to upgrade the ARC GIS software used for mapping through a licensing with NN Land Department.
- Monitored NNC session for possible assistance to Speaker's office.
- Met with NN GLDD office and Crownpoint Chapter to discuss leases within Crownpoint Chapter.
- Monitored Crownpoint Chapter's effort to resolve the cemetery land issue. Waiting for BIA and BLM.
- Continued to meet on the divided/undivided oil & gas leasing in northern ENA. Planned further meetings with BLM, BIA and FIMO in attempt to resolve the issues for the benefit of Navajo allottees.
- Procured from law firm the documents of legal litigation acquired through the years; will prepare the documents for archiving.

Section Two: Goals for 4th Quarter in FY2024 (list using bullet points)

- Finish LBB maps, give PDF digital copies to Navajo Land Department, ENA Chapter officials, and paper copies to at 2 libraries
- Work with Joint Land Board to finish the MOU with NN, BLM and BIA; and have it be approved by NNC and RDC
- Continue to assist Chapters with the land use meeting requests
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with NM and OPVP regarding the use of Ambrosia Lake for repository and the use of technology to minimize uranium mining waste
- Continue to work with Principal Responsible Parties (PRPs) to develop workforce development and other related matters
- Continue to work with Chapters regarding their ARPA and Revenue Replacement Reserve (RRR) projects
- Conclude and implement the cultural sites visits
- Monitor the FY2025 budget and request unmet needs budget for the ENLC and the office.
- Install a representative on DURAC Commission to represent ENA
- Finalize land withdrawal for NN Dep't Agriculture office in ENA
- Start the process for submitting a Fee-to-Trust application
- Start the process for submitting an application for Federal disposal lands
- Continue to work with NN EPA and US EPA on uranium waste remediation
- Continue to give reports to ENA Chapters and Agency Council
- Continue to create maps for upcoming proposed projects
- Improve the mapping software for the Office
- Begin archiving of documents and maps.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations (list using bullet points)



- Increased budgeting if unmet needs will go a long way to accomplishing the goals of ENLC
- Worked with Speaker's Office to reverse line-item veto of fixed cost budget for office rental.
- Convince OPVP to defer to ENLC to apply for fee-to-trust land conversions and the federal disposal lands
- Coordinate with NNEPA to procure Congressional assistance re uranium remediation issues

**OFFICE OF NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM FY2024 FOURTH QUARTER

Program Performance Criteria Goal Statements

Work on the Navajo Government Reform Project

Goal: 2 Actual: 2

1. Continuing to develop the Diyin Nohookaa Dine'e Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsí Siléí as part of the Navajo Government Reform Project.
2. Developing goals & objectives for the Navajo Government Reform Project and public engagement.

Draft the government reform proposal (measure by articles, sections)

Goal: 3 Actual: 3

1. Drafted the local governance reform proposal as article 15 of the Navajo Government Reform Project.
2. Held the first local governance subcommittee session on July 25, 2024 at ONGD Conference Room as a full day review of the local governance section of the working document government proposal.
3. Held a local governance work session on August 26, 2024 at ONGD Conference Room. Staff provided presentations regarding options for the future of local governance, recommendations from the Red Rock State Park Convention of 2002, and current ideas in the working document government proposal.

Empower the Navajo people by proposing amendments to Initiative procedures

Goal: 1 Actual: 2

1. The Office met with the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors Commission on August 8, 2024 to discuss the proposed amendments to the initiative section of the election code as well as the referendum regarding the governing body language in Title 2. Further discussion took place during the August 16 CNGD Regular meeting. Council Delegate Danny Simpson also participated in the meeting.
2. CNGD and ONGD participated in NBOES strategic work session in Albuquerque, NM on August 27, 2024 to present amendments to the Initiative procedures in Title 11: Elections.

Public Engagements regarding Navajo Government Reform Project proposal.

Goal: 3 Actual: 6

1. Remaking Tribal Constitutions Seminar: June 26-27, Commissioners and Director Tsosie attended the Remaking Tribal Constitutions Seminar hosted by the Native Nations Institute from the University of Arizona to learn valuable insights to tribal governance and government reform.
2. Cove Chapter: July 23, Director Tsosie made a presentation to summer youth employment students at Cove Chapter on Traditional Navajo Governance and the History of The Navajo Government since 1923.
3. Diné College Commissioner Recruitment: August 22, Staff reached out to Associated Students of Diné

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College (ASDC) and facilitated a Diné College Commission Recruitment session. Information and education materials were distributed to students and ONGD is waiting for ASDC to provide a nominee

4. ICWA Judge Forum: August 30, Director Tsosie, Tsinnaajinii Ranger, and Alex Zhao provided a public presentation at Quality Inn about the structure and constitutional nexus of the Navajo Nation government to ICWA Judges from the state of Arizona.
5. Navajo Agency Council Meetings:
 - July 13th 2024, the Ft. Defiance Agency Council meeting took place at Fort Defiance Chapter. Commissioner Sharon Warren attended and provided a report.
 - September 14th 2024, the Eastern Agency Council meeting took place at Tohajiilee Chapter. Policy Analyst Tsinnajinni Ranger and Commissioner Anselm Morgan attended and provided a report.
 - September 14th 2024, the Western Agency Council meeting took place at Kayenta Boarding School Cafeteria. Director Tsosie attended and provided a report.
 - September 14th, 2024, the Northern Agency Council meeting took place at Nenahnezad Chapter. Statistical Research Analyst Intern Alex Zhao and Commissioner James Benally attended and provided a report.
 - September 28th, 2024, the Central Agency Council meeting took place at the Rough Rock Community School. Director Tsosie attended and provided a report.
 - Red Rock Chapter Presentation: September 26th, 2024, the Legislative District composed of Delegate Lester Yazzie's Chapters requested ONGD to provide a presentation regarding updates on the Navajo Government Reform Project. Staff presented such updates and also informed the audience about ongoing research and initiative reform proposals.

Develop proposals for alternative forms of central and chapter government

Goal: 3 Actual: 3

1. CNGD established a local governance subcommittee to explore options to review, suggest, and provide recommendations to local governance & chapter amendments as an avenue for developing proposals for alternative forms of central & chapter governance.
2. ONGD Staff created presentations regarding options for alternative forms of Navajo governance such as unitary state theory, the pros and cons to regionalization, and fixing the current federal system.
3. ONGD Staff researched the legal roots of federal-indian law to create a presentation regarding the constitutional nexus of the Navajo Nation government. This presentation informs audiences the legal constraints regarding proposals for alternative forms of government.



For the latest news from the Navajo Nation Council, please visit
<https://www.navajonationcouncil.org> or search for "Navajo Nation Council" on social media.



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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