



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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The 25th Navajo Nation Council confirms Jeanine Jones as Auditor General



Jeanine Jones (left) and Speaker Crystalyne Curley respond to discussions centered on performance improvement and financial accountability.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed the appointment of Ms. Jeanine Jones as the Navajo Nation Auditor General, following deliberation centered on restoring public trust, enhancing audit efficiency, and strengthening financial accountability across local chapters and government programs.

“This position is vital to rebuilding trust between our government and our people,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. “We must move away from delays, confusion, and fractured communication. Ms. Jones brings a strong background in forensic auditing and a commitment to change.”

Jones, who previously served as acting Auditor General, outlined her vision to modernize audit procedures, improve chapter training, and establish consistent follow-up protocols. Her goals include quarterly reviews of audit findings, implementation support for corrective action plans, and closer coordination with the Division of Community Development (DCD) and Administrative Service Centers (ASC).

“I am committed to building relationships with chapters and programs while maintaining the highest standards of audit quality, independence, and confidentiality,” said Jones. “Auditing should not be viewed as punishment it is a tool for performance improvement and accountability.”

Council delegates raised concerns about recurring audit findings, limited training at the local level, and a lack of follow-through on enforcement.

“We continue to see the same findings year after year. That tells us we’re not doing enough to provide guidance or oversight,” said Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty. “There must be a systematic plan and quarterly review process to keep everyone accountable—from local chapters to federally funded programs.”

Delegate Brenda Jesus highlighted the importance of restoring an independent audit hotline and increasing cooperation with ethics offices and law enforcement to address fraud and abuse concerns.

“The Auditor General’s Office must have the authority, resources, and autonomy to initiate investigations and make referrals when misconduct is identified,” Jesus said.

Jones also addressed questions about her approach to rebuilding staff morale and tackling the office’s chronic understaffing. She pledged to foster a collaborative work environment and ensure that staff are properly supported and trained.

Council members also discussed long-term reforms, including potential updates to Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to strengthen compliance enforcement and clarify fiscal management responsibilities. Jones voiced her support for reforming outdated chapter policies and improving the standardization of financial procedures.

Speaker Curley closed by emphasizing the significance of the confirmation: “Our communities expect accountability. It’s time we deliver with clear policies, reliable reporting, and leadership that reflects the best interests of our Nation.”

Serving as final authority, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted 14 in favor and three opposed, approving the confirmation of Ms. Jeanine Jones as Navajo Nation Auditor General.

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