



NAS-26-02-019

## RESOLUTION OF NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

**NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE HEREBY REQUESTS THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL, OFFICE OF NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT, THE NAVAJO BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS, AND THE NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR OFFICE OF NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR GOVERNMENT REFORM, WHICH IS MARCH 6, 2026**

### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to N.N.C. Title 26 Chapter 1, Section 3 (A), Section 1(B)(1), and Section 1 (B)(2) under the Local Governance Act, Naschitti Community Governance is a duly certified local governmental entity of the Navajo Nation Government, and is vested with the authority to address local concerns and the authority to make decisions with responsibility and accountability; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 1(B), the Naschitti Community Governance is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community to make appropriate corrections when necessary and to make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions; and
3. The Naschitti Community Governance is a Navajo Nation Chapter and part of a system established in 1923 as the primary community forum for discussion and petitioning. Chapters across the Navajo Nation lack autonomous power and remain under central government control, regardless of certification status, while awaiting local autonomy and home rule, as Naachidi Nahat'ah envisioned exercising in the 1995 Local Empowerment Initiative; and
4. Due to strong objections from the Navajo Nation Department of Justice regarding local autonomy, the 1998 Local Governance Act was enacted instead. This system has imposed ongoing restrictions, likened to promised homeownership but with continuous requirements and penalties for any errors, leading to further limitations: and
5. The Naschitti Community Governance understands that the community feels excluded from the administrative process and believes the Local Governance Act needs reform, yet no one has sought our input. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice (NNDOJ), who is acting at the "principal legal advisor", nor has the Office of Navajo Government Development (ONGD) has sought the advice or input from our constituents. They are



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- supposed to empower Chapters by proposing changes aligned with *Diné'é Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsí Siléí* at 2 N.N.C. §§201-206 (CD-92-20, DEC. 23,2020); and
6. We have been aware of NNDOJ's attempts to modify the Local Governance Act due to its stance against local autonomy. More recently, we learned that ONGD plans to override the Local Governance Act entirely and permanently separate Chapters from Navajo Nation property and resources, without notifying Chapters, holding hearings, or releasing the FULL 108-page Government Reform Document – only 48 pages are readily available; and
  7. ONGD's proposal is intended to be rushed onto the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 Ballot as a Referendum Question; it calls itself "*Diyin Nohookáá Diné'é Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsí Siléí – The Collective Will*" but it contains nothing but man-made law; perhaps it is simply using that name to technically comply with the conditions of its plan of operations; and
  8. ONGD has set March 6, 2026, as the deadline for public Input on its document, though this date is not prominently listed on its main website. This appears to be the final opportunity to provide feedback before the document is revised for certification by the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors in May. ONGD seems to aim to bypass usual review process procedures, including Navajo Nation Council consideration and majority Chapter approval required by 26 NC §1(E); and
  9. The Naschitti Community Governance understands that the Principal Legal Advisor, the NNDOJ, is aware of the ONGD's massive effort, including a chapter restructure at least since the November 25, 2025, Special Work Session of the NN Resource and Development Committee (RDC), which discussed ONGD's document; and
  10. We believe the NNDOJ is unable to serve as our principal legal advisor, especially in this case, because there is an inherent structural conflict of interest in the DOJ, which simultaneously reports to the central government and must defend and provide amendments in keeping with central government initiatives; and
  11. We have many concerns: How can we respond to a 108-page document when only 48 pages are available? Why is there a March 6, 2026, public input deadline before the full document is released? Does this align with the Navajo Statutory and Dine Fundamental Law? What is the urgency for a referendum on a proposal that treats the Diné Nihi Kéyah as a commodity focused on business interests?; and
  12. It is our position on behalf of our people that the Navajo Board of Elections' Supervisors' Resolution BOESS-070-14, which mandates that each referendum question address a single subject, not multiple subjects. This would confuse voters, and it should be prevented by not allowing the certification of unspecified or insufficiently reviewed content to be expedited onto the ballot as a single referendum question.

# Naschitti Community Governance

PO Drawer D, Sheepsprings, New Mexico 87364

Phone: 505-732-5400/5402 Fax: 505-732-5406



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## **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Naschitti Community Governance requests that the ONGD immediately release the 108-page document, that this proposal be considered by the Navajo Nation Council, and that it be subjected to a formal and legally sufficient legislative review process pursuant to 26 N.N.C. 1(E).
2. We assess that the NNDJ faces a structural conflict that hinders its ability to adequately protect chapters' local governance interests. This concern is underscored by its lack of disclosure regarding the ONGD's strategy to supersede the LGA.
3. We demand that the Navajo Nation Council promptly allocate emergency funds or permit the utilization of alternative resources for the 110 chapters to engage an Independent Special Counsel for a thorough review of the amendments proposed by the DOJ chapter unit and the OGND proposal.
4. We formally petition the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors to review the ONGD Reform Proposal for compliance with Resolution BOESS-070-14.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly considered by Naschitti Community Governance Commission and moved for adoption by Orlin Skyberg and seconded by Alexis Wood at a duly called meeting at Naschitti, (San Juan County), (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of -2- yeas and -0- nays on this 22nd day of February 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willis Nez", is written over a horizontal line.

Willis Nez, Commission President  
Naschitti Community Governance