

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2026

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. CO-52-25 (AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO CODIFY VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY COUNCIL DELEGATES AT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER AND STANDING COMMITTEE RULES OF ORDER TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY COUNCIL DELEGATES)

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and enacts the statutory laws of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 and 164(A).
- B. Resolutions enacting new law, or amending existing laws, are subject to veto by the President of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(10) and (11).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council has the authority to override a resolution vetoed by the Navajo Nation President through introduction of "veto legislation" requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(11).
- D. Veto legislation shall be submitted to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee before consideration by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(17).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. Council Resolution No. CO-52-25 was passed by the Navajo Nation Council and certified on October 21, 2025. The resolution, attached as **EXHIBIT 1**, is entitled, "AN ACT RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO CODIFY VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY COUNCIL DELEGATES AT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER AND STANDING COMMITTEE RULES OF ORDER TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY COUNCIL DELEGATES."

- B. The Navajo Nation President vetoed Resolution No. CO-52-25 on November 9, 2025, and provided a memorandum, attached as **EXHIBIT 2**, explaining his veto decision. The Navajo Nation Council does not agree with the President's reasons for his veto decision.
- C. Contrary to what is stated in the President's veto memorandum, passage of Resolution No. CO-52-25 will ensure that the Navajo Nation's governing body continues to operate and respond in instances where obstacles hinder in-person attendance, including but not limited to, public health emergencies, unavailability of travel budget funds, or other events that may threaten the operations of the Navajo Nation Council.
- D. During the COVID-19 shutdown, Navajo Nation Council Delegates were introduced to and provided a unique opportunity to expand the ways in which to conduct business through virtual meetings to continue the necessary and important work of the Navajo Nation while ensuring the health, safety, and general welfare of the public.
- E. Following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, the Navajo Nation Council, standing committees, and subcommittees moved to hybrid-style meetings, allowing in-person or virtual attendance by Delegates, presenters, government officials, and the public while mitigating the risk of contracting and/or spreading communicable diseases that threaten the public health of the Navajo Nation.
- F. The use of virtual meetings is not only effective, but it also provides more opportunities for Delegates to be present and advocate for their communities at Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committees meetings, as well as to provide enhanced transparency to the public.

SECTION THREE. OVERRIDING VETO

The Navajo Nation hereby overrides the Navajo Nation President's veto of Resolution CO-52-25.

SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this veto override shall be as provided for in 2 N.N.C. § 221(A).

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 25th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 21 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 27th day of January 2026.



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

2/9/2026

Date

Motion: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second: Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

Speaker Crystalyne Curley not voting

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - THIRD YEAR, 2025



AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO CODIFY VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY COUNCIL DELEGATES AT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER AND STANDING COMMITTEE RULES OF ORDER TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY COUNCIL DELEGATES

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the responsibility to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments to the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §§ 600(A) and 601(B)(14).
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the responsibility to review legislation requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A)(9) and 701(A)(3).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the authority to review and approve amendments to Navajo Nation laws. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102(A) and 164(A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. In 2020, the Navajo Nation was forced to quickly enact emergency measures to mitigate the deadly spread of the Coronavirus pandemic which has caused 84,206 positive COVID-19 cases and 2,162 COVID-19 related deaths, to date, on the Navajo Nation. These emergency measures included the enactment of the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and underlying Public Health Orders including, but not limited to, employees working from home, the shutting down of government offices and non-essential business, public gathering limits, mask mandates, closing borders to visitors and enacting curfews.
- B. To ensure that the Navajo Nation's governing body could continue to operate and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic without violating Public Health Orders, including stay-at-home

orders and public gathering limits, the Navajo Nation Council enacted CMA-04-20, which temporarily allowed Council Delegates to conduct and attend Council sessions, standing committee meetings, and subcommittee meetings using telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.

- C. The Navajo Nation Council enacted CMY-45-20, which extended the temporary deadline of CMA-04-20 and allowed Council delegates to participate in conduct and attend Council sessions, standing committee meetings, and subcommittee meetings using telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing, until the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management rescinds its March 11, 2020 declaration of the Public Health State of Emergency concerning COVID-19, unless otherwise determined through resolution of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.
- D. In 2021 and 2022, the Navajo Nation slowly began to open up government offices. Meeting and conducting the business of the Nation was done in person with certain limitations and safeguards in place, especially after the COVID-19 vaccine became available. The Council, standing committees, and subcommittees moved to hybrid-style meetings, allowing virtual attendance by delegates, presenters, government officials and the public.
- E. Council Delegates were provided a unique opportunity to use virtual meetings, which moved to hybrid in-person and virtual meetings, to continue the necessary and important work of the Nation. The use of virtual meetings was not only effective, but provided more opportunities for Delegates to advocate for their communities at Council and Standing Committees, as well as to provide enhanced transparency to the public.
- F. On June 15, 2023, the Commission on Emergency Management issued CEM-23-06-15 deactivating the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and returning government operations to pre-COVID-19 status.
- G. In order for the Navajo Nation Council to effectively carry out its duties for the Navajo Nation and the Diné People, Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code is amended to allow virtual attendance by Council Delegates at standing committee meetings and subcommittee meetings.

SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE

The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

TITLE 2. NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT
CHAPTER 3. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
SUBCHAPTER 2. Navajo Nation Council Meetings

* * * *

§ 106. Compensation of Council Delegates

- A. Delegates shall be compensated by an annual salary of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per year. All Council Delegates shall be paid bi-weekly. A salary increase may be approved by the Navajo Nation Council but shall not become effective unless ratified by two-thirds (2/3) of all Navajo Nation Chapters within one hundred twenty (120) days of approval by the Navajo Nation Council. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to mileage payments, per diem payments, deferred compensation benefits, or any other payments or benefits which are separate from the bi-weekly base salary established in this Section.
- B. Delegates attending ~~a Navajo Nation Council meeting or their respective committee meetings, either in person or virtually,~~ may receive sixty dollars (\$60.00) per diem for each day official business is conducted, ~~and mileage reimbursement for use of a private vehicle at the rate established in the Navajo Nation Travel Policy and Procedures Handbook, and amendments thereto.~~ Delegates attending Navajo Nation Council meetings in person may receive sixty dollars (\$60.00) per diem for each day official business is conducted. Chairpersons of standing ~~E~~committees may receive as compensation, for extra time spent by the Chairperson beyond meetings to execute committee business, a payment of eighty dollars (\$80.00) per diem for each committee meeting day.
- C. Delegates are required to attend Navajo Nation Council meetings in person. For every week of a Regular sSession of the Navajo Nation Council and per day for any Special Session, delegates shall be paid mileage equal to one (1) round trip to Window Rock from their residence and return, according to the official mileage chart of the Controller at the rate established in the

Navajo Nation Travel Policy and Procedures Handbook, as amended.

- D. For each complete committee meeting, delegates of the Navajo Nation Council, who attend the meeting in person, shall be paid mileage equal to one round trip to Window Rock, from their residence and return, according to the official mileage chart of the Controller at the rate established in the Navajo Nation Travel Policy and Procedures Handbook, as amended. Mileage shall not be paid for virtual attendance.
- E. ~~Full~~ Per diem shall be paid only for in person or virtual attendance of at least three (3) hours of meeting or until all agenda items are concluded. Mileage shall be paid only for in-person attendance of at least three hours of meeting or until all agenda items are concluded.
- F. Delegates, or their beneficiary in the event of death, are paid a deferred compensation benefit when they leave office.

* * * *

§ 110. Definitions

* * * *

- C. Attendance shall be verified by sign in sheet, and/or answering roll call.

* * * *

- Z. Virtual means remote access through an audio or video conferencing platform.

- AA. Virtual Attendance means that a person is not physically present at a meeting, but is still able to participate in the meeting, in a manner similar to those physically present, by means of an audio and/or video conferencing platform.

* * * *

§ 167. Failure to attend

Each sitting delegate of the Navajo Nation Council shall attend, in person, all Regular and Special meetings of the Navajo Nation Council and shall attend in person or virtually all Committee meetings, All delegates to the Navajo Nation Council shall attend, all regular and special meetings of the Navajo Nation Council or

~~Committees.~~ unless the delegate's participation is excused by the Speaker or Committee Chairperson, respectively. If any delegate is absent from sixty percent (60%) or more of the meeting days Council Sessions and/or standing committee meetings within a one-year period, the Navajo Nation Council may consider a motion to censure said delegate. If his/her absence continues after such censure, the Navajo Nation Council shall have the authority to declare the delegate's seat forfeited and vacant.

* * * *

§ 183. Meetings; quorum

- A. All Regular and Special meetings of the Navajo Nation Council standing committees, subcommittees, and ~~or~~ commissions shall be held in Window Rock, Navajo Nation, (Arizona). Such meetings may be held elsewhere within the Navajo Nation if sufficient funds are available, and the meeting is approved, in writing, by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council.
- B. No standing committee, subcommittee, or commission meeting shall be held outside the Navajo Nation unless the meeting is with a legislative body of another sovereign, sufficient funds are available, and the meeting is approved, in writing, by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council.
- C. For a meeting to be deemed to have been held, each of the following acts shall occur: (1) a quorum is present; (2) an agenda is adopted; (3) substantive actions (approval, disapproval or table (voting or tabling) are taken; and (4) per diem and roundtrip mileage, as applicable, are paid to committee members or commissioners attending in-person only.
- D. Meetings shall not mean work sessions, workshops, orientations, trainings, or and business meetings with Navajo or non-Navajo entities, therefore, and no meeting per diem payment, as set forth in 2 N.N.C. § 106, for work sessions, workshops, etc. shall be paid for participation in such gatherings. See 2 N.N.C. § 106. Meetings held elsewhere within the Navajo Nation shall be written permission of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, provided that funds are available. No meetings shall be held outside the Navajo Nation unless by written permission of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, provided that funds are available; and further provided that the meeting is with a legislative body of another sovereign.

* * * *

SECTION FOUR. AMENDING RULE 22 OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER

The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends the Navajo Nation Council Rules of Order as follows:

Rule 22. Vote

* * * *

- D. For those delegates attending the Council Session in person, the recording of yeas and nays votes on all motions shall be done electronically. For those delegates attending the Council Session through a virtual method, the recording of yeas and nays votes on all motions shall be done by the delegate's verbal statement during the Session or via a dedicated text or email. All votes through virtual methods shall be announced on the record. When the delegates press the appropriate buttons making such vote. After all votes have been locked in, no other votes shall be cast, except where there is an electronic malfunction, Speaker will call for a roll call vote.

* * * *

- F. Voting by proxy or by any method by or on behalf of any delegate who is not physically present in the Council Chambers shall not be valid or permitted is prohibited and any such vote shall be invalid.

SECTION FIVE. AMENDING RULE 21 OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE RULES OF ORDER

The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends the Standing Committee Rules of Order as follows:

Rule 21. Vote

* * * *

- B. The recording of votes for, opposed, and abstentions on all motions shall be done by a roll call, including vote tally sheet, by all delegates attending in person except that. Votes

of delegates attending virtually shall be recorded by the delegate's verbal pronouncement or via a dedicated text or email. All votes through virtual methods shall be announced on the record. Abstention votes are not counted towards the votes for or opposed, but entered for the record only.

* * * *

- D. Voting by proxy ~~or by any method by or on behalf of any delegate who is not physically present in the meeting place shall not be valid or permitted~~ is prohibited and any such vote shall be invalid.

SECTION SIX. CODIFICATION

The provisions of this resolution that amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

SECTION SEVEN. SAVING CLAUSE

If any portion of this Act is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court or by a District Court of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

SECTION EIGHT. EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this Act shall become effective according to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).

SECTION NINE. DIRECTIVE

The Naabik'iyáti' Committee Title Two Reform Subcommittee shall review the implementation of virtual attendance by delegates at Council sessions and Committee meetings as a priority; and report any recommended amendments to the Navajo Nation Code or the Rules of Order to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee at least thirty (30) days before the start of the Navajo Nation Council's 2026 Spring Session.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 25th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 19 in Favor, and 04 Opposed, on this 21st day of October 2025.



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

10/30/2025

Date

Motion: Honorable Vince R. James
Second: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish

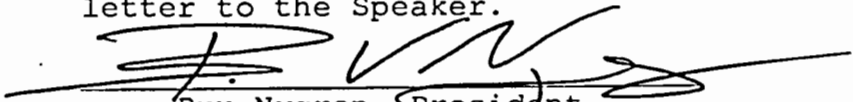
Speaker Crystalyne Curley not voting

ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I, hereby, sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10), on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Buu Nygren, President
Navajo Nation

2. I, hereby, veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11), on this 9 day of NOVEMBER, 2025 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.


Buu Nygren, President
Navajo Nation

NAVAJO NATION

Navajo Nation Council 2025 Fall Session

10/21/2025
01:20:12 PM

Amd# to Amd# New Business: Item C. (MAIN)
MOT James, V Legislation #0227-25: Amending
SEC Parrish, S Title 2 of the Navajo Nation
Code to Codify Virtual...(2/3)

PASSED

Yeas : 19

Nays : 4

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 0

Yea : 19

Arviso, S
Begay, H
Claw, S
Crotty, A
James, VJesus, B
Johnson, C
Mitchell, A
Nez, A
Notah, NParrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, GTso, O
Yanito, C
Yazzie, C
Yazzie, L

Nay : 4

Daniels, H

Nez, R

Begay, N

Charles-Newton, E

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 0

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C



The Navajo Nation DR. BUU NYGRI

Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees | Think for

November 9, 2025



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
Office of the Speaker
Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: Resolution No. CO-52-25, An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings; Amending the Navajo Nation Council Rules of Order and Standing Committee Rules of Order to allow for Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates

Dear Honorable Delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council:

The Navajo Nation Council overwhelmingly adopted Resolution CO-52-25 with a vote of 19 – 4. The purpose of this resolution is to allow virtual attendance at Standing Committee meetings of the Navajo Nation Council. The resolution is unclear however, on whether Delegates can attend Council meetings – regular or special – virtually. This resolution would also allow the Council to meet outside of Window Rock and allow a standing committee, subcommittee or commission to hold an official meeting outside of the Navajo Nation if the meeting is with the legislative body of another sovereign.

I must veto this legislation for the following reasons:

1. The Council provides no reason as to why delegates should be given the opportunity to virtually attend standing committee meetings – or Council meetings, if that is what is intended;
2. Council should meet in “the Peoples’ Chambers” in Window Rock and not hold Council meetings elsewhere, and
3. The resolution is inconsistent on whether Delegates can attend Council meetings virtually.

No reason is given for the need to allow virtual attendance at standing committee meetings. The resolution references that virtual attendance was allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic and provides no justification for why Delegates should be able to attend meetings virtually in the year 2025 and into the future.

The resolution maintains the per diem allowed for attending committee meetings. Currently, Delegates – who are not Chairpersons - each receive \$60 per diem for attending each day of official business of a Standing Committee meeting or a meeting of the Navajo Nation Council. Chairpersons of Standing Committees and the Speaker receive \$80 per diem for attending each day of an official Standing Committee meeting or Council. This resolution would allow Delegates to continue to receive \$60 per diem for attending each day of a Standing Committee meeting in person or virtually. All twenty-four Delegates of the Navajo Nation Council receive mileage for attending a standing committee meeting or Navajo Nation Council meeting – regular or special.

The resolution would allow Council to meet outside of the Council Chambers – also referred to as “the Peoples’ Chambers” and would allow standing committees to conduct official business outside the Nation if they are meeting with the legislative body of another sovereign. The Council should hold all its meetings at the Council Chamber unless holding a meeting in the Council Chamber is impossible due to building issues. This consistency is important. The standing committees serve the Navajo people and should only conduct their business on the Nation.

The resolution is inconsistent on whether Delegates can attend Council meetings virtually. Section Three of the resolution at section 167. "Failure to attend" states: Each sitting delegate of the Navajo Nation Council shall attend, in person, all Regular and Special meetings of the Navajo Nation Council and shall attend in person or virtually all Committee meetings, unless the delegate's participation is excused by the Speaker or Committee Chairperson, respectively."

Section Three, Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, of the resolution at section 106 (B) of Title 2 states: "Delegates attending ~~a Navajo Nation Council meeting~~ or their respective committee meetings, either in person or virtually, ..." This language change makes it clear that virtual attendance is only allowed at standing committee meetings. The following language is also included in Section Three of the resolution in section 106 (C) of Title 2: Delegates are required to attend Navajo Nation Council meetings in person.

However, Section Four, Amending Rule 22 of the Navajo Nation Council Rules of Order, of the resolution states: For those delegates attending the Council session through a virtual method, the recording of yeas and nays votes on all motions shall be done electronically. For those delegates attending the Council Session though [sic] a virtual method, the recording of yeas and nays votes on all motions shall be done by the delegate's verbal statement during the Session or via a dedicated text or email. All votes through virtual methods shall be announced on the record. This Section Four language suggests that delegates can attend Council meetings virtually which conflicts with Section Three which states delegates can only attend Council meetings in person. Because Sections Three and Four are inconsistent on whether delegates can attend Council meetings – regular or special – virtually, I must veto this resolution.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Nygren'.

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

NAVAJO NATION

716

Navajo Nation Council 2026 Winter Session

1/27/2026

10:53:35 AM

Amd# to Amd# New Business: Item A. (CONSENT)
MOT Tolth, G #0008-26; #0011-26; #0016-26
SEC Yazzie, C (2/3)

PASSED

Yeas : 21

Nays : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 21

Begay, H	Jesus, B	Notah, N	Tolth, G
Begay, N	Johnson, C	Parrish, S	Tso, O
Charles-Newton, E	Mitchell, A	Simonson, G	Yanito, C
Crotty, A	Nez, A	Simpson, D	Yazzie, C
Daniels, H	Nez, R	Slater, C	Yazzie, L
James, V			

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 1

Claw, S

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C