JOURNAL OF THE

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

Navajo Nation Council Chambers,
Window Rock, NN (AZ)

October 12, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDING: Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson
Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice-Chairperson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; INVOCATION; ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting called to order by Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson at 10:08 a.m. Roll Call was made by Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant with four (4) members present.

Honorable Members present: *Honorable Vince R. James (9:55 a.m.); *Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (10:04 a.m.); *Honorable George H. Tolth (10:01 a.m.) and *Honorable Curtis Yanito (9:35 a.m.).

Honorable Members not present:
Honorable Germaine Simonson (absent); Honorable Helena Nez Begay (10:11 a.m.)

Honorable Vince R. James provided the Invocation.

Announcements:
Chairperson Vince R. James, made two announcements regarding Proposition 141 on the Arizona ballot for 2026. The first proposition involves imposing ties and fees based on vehicle mileage traveled and establishing rules to monitor or limit vehicle miles traveled without a person's consent. This measure is considered more beneficial for electric vehicles, raising questions about the contributions made by their owners. The second announcement pertains to Proposition 320, which also appears on the Arizona ballot for 2026, concerning public education funding and governance. There is encouragement for voters to oppose Proposition 320, which mandates that certain school districts allocate at least 60% of their budgets to direct instructional expenses. These are to the main points to communicate to registered voters in Arizona, and encourage to vote against both Propositions.

2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS

- Honorable Crystalyne Curley, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker
- Honorable Arbin Mitchell, 25th Navajo Nation Council
- Honorable Eugenia Charles Newton, 25th Navajo Nation Council
- Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr., 25th Navajo Nation Council
- Honorable Otto Tso, 25th Navajo Nation Council
- Office of Legislative Services Staff, Office of the Speakers Staff, Committee Members, Guest in the gallery and individuals who have joined on-line.
- *Reference Attach Sign-In Sheet*

3. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE AGENDA

The Proposed Agenda for October 12, 2026, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

Honorable Helena Nez Begay entertained a motion for ***Amendment #1****; Seconded by Honorable Dr. Andy Nez. The vote was 04 in favor, 00 opposed* (**Yeas**: HNB/AN/GHT/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS).

Amendment #1*: Modify the agenda as follows:*

1. *Move New Business 7: A) Legislation #0223-26, B) Legislation #0226-26, C) Legislation #0227-26, and D) Legislation #0235-26 before item number 5, Reports. Additionally, combine all Legislations into a consent agenda.*

Motioned by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 04 in favor, 00 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB/AN/GHT/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS)

4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNAL(S):

September 14, 2026; September 16, 2026; September 21, 2026

Motioned by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB/AN/GHT/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: HNB/VRJ/AN/GS/GHT/CY, Presiding Chairperson)

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
Consent Agenda

A. Legislation No. 0223-26: Action Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services; Budget and Finance; and Naabik'íyáti' Committees; Approving and Authorizing a Contract Between the Navajo Nation and the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 5301 Et Seq. (Public Law 93-638, as Amended), for a Seven (7) Year Term Beginning January 1, 2027 and Ending December 31, 2033, for the Navajo Nation Higher Education Program ***Sponsor:*** *Honorable Vince R. James*

Legislation No. 0226-26: An Action Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services and Naabik'íyáti' Committees; Approving a Tribal Resolution Supporting the Navajo Epidemiology Center's Participation in the Launching of the Tribal Implementation Center Program Diné Bikéyah Naałniih Naalkaah (Disease Tracking on the Navajo Land) Data Modernization Initiative ***Sponsor:*** *Honorable Dr. Andy Nez*

Legislation No. 0227-26: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; Establishing an Investigatory Hearing to Determine Compliance with Navajo Nation Laws, Regulations Rules, and Policies Concerning the Navajo Nation's Veterans Funding and Related Matters; Adopting Investigatory Hearing Rules ***Sponsor:*** Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Legislation No. 0235-26: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services, Resources and Development, Budget and Finance and Naabik'íyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Allocating $1,700,000 from the Síhasin Fund to Division of General Services for Accessibility Improvements at Chapter Houses and Other Public Facilities; Approving and Adopting the Project Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §§ 2501-2508. ***Sponsor:*** *Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton* ***Co-Sponsor:*** *Honorable Crystalyne Curley*

Motioned by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB/AN/GHT/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS)

6. **REPORT(S):**
A. Report: Update on the Navajo Veterans Administration Veteran housing utility connections.

Motioned by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB/AN/GHT/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS)

B. Report: Completion of construction of a Veteran's home in Shiprock, NN (NM)

Motioned by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB/AN/GHT/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS)

C. Report/Update: Veteran housing utility connections.

- Bitco Corporation

Motioned by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB/AN/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS/GHT)

- Southwest Indian Foundation (SWIF)

Motioned by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB/AN/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS/GHT)

- The Sparrow Group

Motioned by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB/AN/CY; **Nays**: None; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS/GHT)

D. Report: Navajo Veterans Administration

Motioned by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Vote: 01 in favor; 02 opposed
(**Yeas**: HNB; **Nays**: AN/CY; **Not voting**: VRJ/GS/GHT)

7. OLD BUSINESS: *None*

8. **CLOSE OF MEETING; ANNOUNCEMENTS; ADJOURNMENT NEXT MEETING(S) / TRAVEL:**

Announcements:
Honorable Vince R. James has requested to schedule meetings with Arizona DES, Hiyolcal Treatment Center – NDOH, and Reva Stewart (Fraudulent Sober Living) in Phoenix, Arizona, during the last week of October. I request that staff be present to record all three meetings. Additionally, it would be advisable to ensure that all meetings are recorded and officially documented.

Honorable Curtis Yanito motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 5:11 p.m.; Second by Honorable Dr. Andy Nez, with a vote of 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/GS/GHT)