



23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL LEGISLATION SPONSORSHIP WITHDRAWAL

I, Nathaniel Brown, Primary
Sponsor of proposed legislation hereby withdraw my
sponsorship of the proposed legislation. The legislation
tracking number is 0014-15.

If there are any co-sponsors, they may re-sponsor the same
bill by beginning a new legislation.

SPONSOR SIGNATURE:

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

DATE:

A handwritten date "6/08/15" in black ink is written over a horizontal line.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0014-15

DATE: January 16, 2015

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION;
AN ACT RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES
AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
OF THE NAVAJO NATION ELECTION CODE AT 11 N.N.C. §8(A)(4), §8(B)(8),
§8(D)(1)(f), §8(D)(2)(c) AND §8(D)(3)(e)


PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will amend the language requirements of the Navajo Nation Election Code.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: mmmm
Website Posting Time/Date: 7:28PM 1/16/15
Posting End Date: 1/21/15
Eligible for Action: 1/22/15

Law & Order Committee
THENCE
Naa'bi'iyáti' Committee
THENCE
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2015
INTRODUCED BY


(Prime Sponsor) Nathaniel Brown

TRACKING NO. 0014-15

AN ACT
RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND
THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING LANGUAGE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE NAVAJO NATION ELECTION CODE AT 11 N.N.C.
§8(A)(4), §8(B)(8), §8(D)(1)(f), §8(D)(2)(c) AND §8(D)(3)(e)

BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Findings

- A. The Navajo Nation empowered the Navajo Nation Law and Order Committee to review and recommend proposed Navajo Nation Code enactments and amendments. 2 N.N.C. § 601(B)(14)(2012); *see also* CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council Speaker shall assign “[a] proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council to...the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee”; this resolution proposes a positive law amendment and requires the Navajo Nation Council’s approval. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A) (9) (2012) and 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A) (2012) *see also* CO-45-12.
- C. 1 N.N.C. § 203(A), Diyin Bits’áádeé’ Beehaz’áanii declares and teaches it is the right and freedom of the Diné to choose leaders of their choice; leaders who will communicate with the people for guidance; leaders who will use their experience and wisdom to always act in the best interest of the people; and leaders who will also ensure the rights and freedoms of the generations yet to come.

- 1 D. 1 N.N.C. § 203(B), Diyin Bits'ááddéé' Beehaz'áanii declares and teaches that
2 all leaders chosen by the Diné are to carry out their duties and responsibilities
3 in a moral and legal manner in representing the people and the government;
4 people's trust and confidence in the leaders and the continued status as a
5 leader are dependent upon adherence to the values and principles of Diné bi
6 beenahazáanii.
- 7 E. 1 N.N.C. § 203(C), Diyin Bits'ááddéé' Beehaz'áanii declares and teaches that
8 the leaders of the Executive Branch (Alqají Hózhóójí Naat'áah) shall represent
9 the Navajo Nation to other peoples and nations and implement the policies
10 and laws enacted by the legislative branch.
- 11 F. 1 N.N.C. § 204(A), Diyin Dine'é Bits'ááddéé' Beehaz'áanii declares and
12 teaches that it is the right and freedom of the people that there always be
13 holistic education of the values and principles underlying the purpose of living
14 in balance with all creation, walking in beauty and making a living.
- 15 G. 1 N.N.C. § 204(C), Diyin Dine'é Bits'ááddéé' Beehaz'áanii declares and
16 teaches that it is the right and freedom of the people that the sacred Diné
17 language (nihiinéí) be taught and preserved.
- 18 H. 1 N.N.C. § 204(F), Diyin Dine'é Bits'ááddéé' Beehaz'áanii declares and
19 teaches that it is the right and freedom of the people that our children are
20 provided with education to absorb wisdom, self-knowledge, and knowledge to
21 empower them to make a living and participate in the growth of the Navajo
22 Nation.
- 23 I. 1 N.N.C. § 206(A), Diyin Nohookáá Diné Bi Beehaz'áanii declares and
24 teaches that the knowledge, wisdom, and practices of the people must be
25 developed and exercised in harmony with the values and principles of the
26 Diné Bi Beenahaz'áanii; and in turn, the written laws of the Navajo Nation
27 must be developed and interpreted in harmony with Diné Common Law.
- 28 J. 1 N.N.C. § 206(B), Diyin Nohookáá Diné Bi Beehaz'áanii declares and
29 teaches that the values and principles of Diné Common Law must be
30 recognized, respected, honored and trusted as the motivational guidance for

1 the people and their leaders in order to cope with the complexities of the
2 changing world, the need to compete in business to make a living and the
3 establishment and maintenance of decent standards of living.

4 K. 1 N.N.C. § 206(C), Diyin Nohookáá Diné Bi Beehaz'áanii declares and
5 teaches that the values and principles of Diné Common Law must be used to
6 harness and utilize the unlimited interwoven Diné knowledge, with our
7 absorbed knowledge from other peoples. This knowledge is our tool in
8 exercising and exhibiting self-assurance and self-reliance and in enjoying the
9 beauty of happiness and harmony.

10 L. 2 N.N.C. § 1004(A) states, no person shall serve as President or as Vice-
11 President of the Navajo Nation unless he/she is an enrolled member of the
12 Navajo Nation, 30 years old or older.

13 M. 2 N.N.C. § 1004(B) states, no person shall serve as President or Vice-
14 President of the Navajo Nation unless he/she has continually, during the last
15 three years before the time of election been physically present within the
16 Navajo Nation. The "Navajo Nation" is defined at 7 N.N.C. § 254.

17 N. 11 N.N.C. § 8 provides qualifications for President and Vice-President to
18 include an age requirement at 11 N.N.C. § 8(A)(3), similar to 2 N.N.C. §
19 1004(A), a membership requirement at 11 N.N.C. § 8(A)(2), similar to 2
20 N.N.C. § 1004(A) and a residency requirement at 11 N.N.C. § 8(A)(1), similar
21 to 2 N.N.C. § 1004(B); along with other requirements such as being a
22 registered voter, be on the agency census roll of the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
23 fluently speak and understand Navajo and read and write English, not have
24 been convicted of a felony within the last five years, must have unswerving
25 loyalty to the Navajo Nation and must be competent and capable of upholding
26 the oath of office, among other qualifications.

27 O. The qualifications for President and Vice-President at 2 N.N.C. § 1004 and 11
28 N.N.C. § 8 are not in harmony.

29 P. As recent events have developed it is obvious there is much confusion and
30 misinformation among the Navajo people about the value of their participation

1 in the primary election; about whether their voice through their vote has been
2 heard.

3 Q. The Navajo Nation has been at this precipice 25 years prior at which time the
4 Navajo Nation was deeply divided, causing great disharmony to Navajo
5 families and the government; currently there is the potential to completely
6 destabilize the electoral process at various levels which will lead to instability
7 in government, threatening the functions of the executive agencies, law
8 enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services and other vital
9 services to public safety. There is a pressing public need for the Navajo
10 Nation Council to address this matter.

11 R. The issue of the ability to speak the Navajo language is an issue that is present
12 not just in the presidential election but also the other elections for public
13 office. It is time to address this issue.

14 S. The Navajo Nation Election Code lists numerous qualifications for elective
15 office. Included in these requirements are the ability to speak Navajo and
16 English. The Election Code, however, is not consistent as to these
17 requirements. For example, some positions merely require the ability to speak
18 Navajo, while others require speaking Navajo "fluently." Some positions do
19 not require any Navajo language requirements at all, such as for Chapter
20 Officers and school board members. And, all positions, except for school
21 boards and the Board of Education, require the ability to speak English.

22 T. These inconsistencies in the Election Code may potentially violate due
23 process rights of candidates, deny the right to the equal protection of the law
24 and infringe upon the fundamental right voters to select their own leaders. It
25 is necessary that all provisions on any language requirements, Navajo or
26 English, whether speaking or writing it, be amended to permit voters to
27 determine on their own who may be the best qualified candidate.

28 U. We are all Navajo people. In abiding by Diné Bi Beenahaz'áanii and our
29 Navajo Bill of Rights we do not want to provide impediments that prevent the
30 Navajo people, both young and old, from exercising their political leadership

qualities and other beneficial qualifies for the betterment of the Navajo Nation.

V. The Navajo Nation Council passed legislation in 1990 with regard to language requirements, among other qualifications, for elected office. The Navajo Nation Council now, for the reasons discussed above, determine that it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation that 11 N.N.C. §8 be amended in the manner described below.

Section Two. Amendments to Title 11 of the Navajo Nation Code

The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation Code, Title 11, §§ 8 *et seq.*, as follows:

TITLE 11. ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 1. NAVAJO ELECTION CODE OF 1990

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

* * * *

§8. Qualifications for office

A. Qualifications for President and Vice-President are:

* * * *

4. Must fluently speak and understand Navajo and read and write English, which language proficiency shall be determined by the People voting in favor of the person upon the right and freedom of the Diné to choose their leaders;

* * * *

B. Qualifications for Delegate to the Navajo Nation Council:

* * * *

8. Must be able to speak and understand Navajo and/or English, which language proficiency shall be determined by the votes cast by the People in favor of the person upon the right and freedom of the Diné to choose their leaders;

* * * *

1 C. Qualifications for Chapter Officers

2 ****

3 12. Must be able to speak and understand Navajo and/or English, which
4 language proficiency shall be determined by the votes cast by the People in
5 favor of the person upon the right and freedom of the Diné to choose their
6 leaders;

7 ****

8
9 D. Qualifications for Other Elected Officials:

10 1. Qualifications for the Land Board Candidates:

11 ****

12 (f). Must be able to speak the Navajo Language fluently, and to read and
13 write the English language, which language proficiency shall be determined
14 by the votes cast by the People in favor of the person upon the right and
15 freedom of the Diné to choose their leaders;

16 ****

17 2. Qualifications for Farm Board Candidates:

18 ****

19 (c). Must be fluent in the Navajo and English language, which language
20 proficiency shall be determined by the votes cast by the People in favor of the
21 person upon the right and freedom of the Diné to choose their leaders;

22 ****

23 3. Qualifications for District Grazing Committee Candidates:

24 ****

25 (d). Should be able to read, write, and speak the English language, which
26 language proficiency shall be determined by the votes cast by the People in
27 favor of the person upon the right and freedom of the Diné to choose their
28 leaders;

29 (e). Must be able to converse fluently in the Navajo language, which
30 language proficiency shall be determined by the votes cast by the People in

1 favor of the person upon the right and freedom of the Diné to choose their
2 leaders;

3 ****

4 4. Qualifications for Candidates for School Board:

5 ****

6 1. Must be fluent in the Navajo and English language, which language
7 proficiency shall be determined by the votes cast by the People in favor of the
8 person upon the right and freedom of the Diné to choose their leaders;

9 ****

10 5. Navajo Nation Board of Education:

11 f. Must be fluent in the Navajo and English language, which language
12 proficiency shall be determined by the votes cast by the People in favor of the
13 person upon the right and freedom of the Diné to choose their leaders

14 ****

15
16 **Section Three. Enactment of the Amendments to the Navajo Nation Election Code**
17 **Act of 2014**

18 The Navajo Nation hereby approves the Amendments to the Navajo Nation
19 Election Code, Title 11, Section 8, Act of 2014.

20
21 **Section Four. Effective Date**

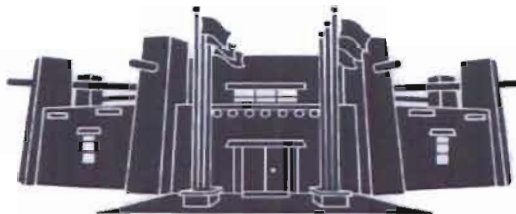
22 The Navajo Nation Code amendment enacted herein shall be effective pursuant to 2
23 N.N.C. § 221(B).

24
25 **Section Five. Codification**

26 The Office of Legislative Counsel shall redesignate all subsequent sections of 11
27 N.N.C. §8 affected by these amendments. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall
28 incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation
29 Code.
30

Section Six. Saving Clause

Should any provisions of this ordinance be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions of this ordinance which are not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Nathaniel Brown
Navajo Nation Council

FROM: Mariana Kahn
Mariana Kahn, Acting Chief Legislative Counsel
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: January 16, 2015

SUBJECT: AN ACT RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NAVAJO NATION ELECTION CODE AT 11 N.N.C. §8(A)(4), §8(B)(8), §8(D)(1)(f), §8(D)(2)(c) AND §8(D)(3)(e)

Pursuant to your request, attached is the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet. Based on existing law and review of the documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with all legislation, it is subject to review by the courts in the event of a challenge.

Please review the proposed resolution to ensure it is drafted to your satisfaction. If this proposed resolution is acceptable to you, please sign it where it indicates "Prime Sponsor", and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services for the assignment of a tracking number and referral to the Speaker.


If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, or if you have further questions, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. You may contact me at (928) 871-7166. Thank you.



January 16, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO : *Honorable Members*
Law and Order Committee
Naa'bik'iyati' Committee
Navajo Nation Council

FROM : 
Hon. Kee Allen Begay, Jr., *Speaker Pro Tem*
23rd Navajo Nation Council

SUBJECT : **ASSIGNMENT OF LEGISLATION**

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C § 164 (A)(4), this memorandum serves to inform and advise you that I assign the following legislation to the Law and Order Committee, Naa'bik'iyati' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council;

Legislation No. 0014-15

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'İYATI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NAVAJO NATION ELECTION CODE AT 11 N.N.C. § 8(A)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(F), § 8(D)(2)(C) AND § 8(D)(3)(E)

As the Committee assigned to consider the legislation, Legislation No. 0014-15 must be placed on the Law and Order Committee, Naa'bik'iyati' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council's agenda at the next regular meeting for final consideration.

ATTACHMENT: Legislation No. 0014-15

xc: Hon. Ben Shelly, *President*
The Navajo Nation
Harrison Tsosie, *Attorney General*
Mark Grant, *Controller*
Dominic Beyal, *Executive Director, OMB*
Honorable Nathaniel Brown, Council Delegate (*Prime Sponsor*)

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15_____ SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown

TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)

Date posted: January 16, 2015 at 7:28pm

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

**Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7590**

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

LEGISLATION NO.: 0014-15

SPONSOR: Honorable Nathaniel Brown

TITLE: Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'ivati' Committees And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)

Posted: January 16, 2015 at 7:28 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: January 21, 2015

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting (10)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diana J. DeChilly 2. Roberta Padilla 3. Evelyn Roanhorse 4. Marie Enfield 5. Lorene Legah 6. Everett Hanova 7. Yvonne Multine 8. Henrietta Lewis 9. Vee Harvey 10. Jesse Crabtree
Comments Opposing (4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chuck Charleston 2. Natani Pete 3. Geraldine Pete 4. Geraldine D. Begay
Inconclusive Comments (5)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vesta J. Begaye 2. Marilyn Daw 3. Ellavina Perkins 4. Victor Cly 5. Lucinda Kirby

1.5211

**Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services**

1/22/2015 - 9:40 AM

Date/Time

Legislation No. _0014-15___

Diana DeChilly <dd.chilly@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 8:39 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Legislation #_0014-15___

Sponsor: Nathaniel Brown

Title: An Action Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) and § 8(D)(3)(e).

Date posted: January 16, 2015 at 7:28pm

Honorable Council Delegates and Staff,

I am writing to express my support for this legislation and to urge you to vote green and affirm the right of the Navajo people to choose their leadership.

This is more than one presidential candidate who was disqualified. This is about all the young Navajo people who live off the reservation in the cities either attending college/university or working on their professional careers, who may desire to return to the reservation to help their people. We have all been told to get an education and return home to help our people, yet when we do we are ostracized and told we are not Navajo enough. This discriminatory practice must cease or we risk alienating the 1000s of young people who are away from the reservation.

Please think far into the future when you debate this legislation. This is more than just a fix to this year's election. This affects your great grandchildren and the very future of our great nation.

Blessings,

Diana J. DeChilly

0014-15

Padilla, Roberta <rpadilla@sjcounty.net>

Wed 1/21/2015 8:58 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I'm in support of this legislation. Although, our current President, Chief Justice, or Hearing Officer cannot accept responsibility to any action to correct, then this legislation will leave it to the people to determine. Let our votes and voices be counted and heard. If anything, the Office of Hearings and Appeals should be at fault for not updating the requirements on a regular basis. This is common business practice to review and update. This is and indicated in this legislation, inconsistencies in the requirements, please correct this immediately. Also, hold those individuals accountable that are responsible for overseeing and maintaining this functions. Seriously, do you wait until someone finds errors or concerns before you do anything or you take control of your responsibilities and correct it.

Please honor our votes and voices, allow this legislation to pass.

Regards,
Roberta Padilla
Lake Valley, NM
100% Dine

Legislation 0014-15 Sponsor: Nathaniel Brown

evelyn roanhorse <nanasbah@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 12:08 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

This is Evelyn Roanhorse, C# [redacted] affiliated with Nahata Dził Chapter, writing in to support the language requirement amendment. I truly believe it is the law makers (Navajo Tribal Council) that should clarify/define the meaning of "fluency" rather than the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. Yes, there should be a degree of Dine language fluency spoken by Navajo Nation Elected Officials in order to communicate with, and plan with the Dine of all ages. President Shelly suggested a referendum down the road, but without a specific definition of "fluency", this suggestion is not helpful now. I believe there are different levels of fluency in the real world for various profession, such as fluency for a medicine man. This takes years of training to become fluent in prayers and songs one must know in order to perform this duty. The Navajo Nations candidates level of language fluency for elected officials is what needs to be decided by this legislation. This is a very important subject matter to be under taken by the 23rd Navajo Nation Tribal Council so we can move forward. Thank You for your sponsorship of this legislation - we look forward to the outcome of the definition of "fluency",

--

Evelyn Roanhorse
961 E Orchid Lane
Chandler, Arizona 85225

0014-15

Marie Enfield <marieenfield@msn.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 12:48 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Tso the NN Council:

Regarding Legislation NO: 0014-15 sponsored by Nathaniel Brown, I believe strongly that, although the Navajo language is of utmost importance, I also believe that having candidates who are well educated, experienced, and understand the world around us are as important.

I also, strongly believe that the level of fluency should be left to the voters to decide.

Please consider passing this Legislation. Thank you.

Sent from Windows Mail

0014-15

Lorene Legah <llegah@dinecollege.edu>

Wed 1/21/2015 12:48 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I, Lorene Legah, strongly support this legislation No: 0013-15 amending the language requirement. It is individual responsibility to learn their native tongue. The NN government can only encourage language learning through education policies and at chapter level to use the Dine language during meetings. Ahehee', LL

THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INTERNET PUBLIC
REVIEW PUBLICATION LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15____
SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown TITLE: An Action Relating To Law
And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The Navajo Nation
Council; Amending Language Requ...

ehanova2 . <ehanova@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 1:01 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Everett Hanova. I'm an enrolled Navajo tribal member with the census #. and a combat veteran who served in the U.S. Navy.

I support this Legislation that leaves it up to the people to determine how fluent a person is in the Navajo language to run as a candidate for the Navajo Nation Presidency.

What's fluent to me might not be fluent to another person. If the individual has the education, experience and leadership skills from what ever organization then they should be allowed to run for tribal presidency.

It's only in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and for the generations to come that we leave them with a government that is fair and unbiased. They will inherit what we leave for them just as our elders left us to inherit mother earth.

Thank you.

Legislation #0014-15, amendment #0013-15

Yvonnr <y_multine@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 7:18 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

January 21, 2015

President Mr. Ben Shelly

I am writing to show my support for legislation amendment number 0013-15. This amendment allows for a write in candidate that I feel would give the people choices for the office of the president.

I feel that the current position held for the last 8 years serviced its purpose and new blood would bring new ideas. I feel that staying with the same allows for complacency and we can't grow with state leadership. By creating new legislation #0014-15 this amends the language requirements in the Navajo Nation code.

We as Dine' people will not lose our language, it is born to us and as long as we are a nation that is bonded to sovereignty we will help our ancestors and still maintain quality of life and self pride. We know who we are, by requiring this is redundant.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Multine

Newcomb chapter

1124 N. Fairgrounds Rd#13

Farmington, N.M. 87401

y_multine@yahoo.com

Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code

H M LEWIS <lewis_401@msn.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 9:07 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

1 attachment

THE NAVAJO NATION Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation.docx;

Honorable Delegates:

Attached you will find my letter on LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15_____ SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown

TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)

Thank you for providing an opportunity for Public Review which affords letters to be submitted.

*Best Regards,
Henrietta Lewis//s
e-mail: lewis_401@msn.com*

HONORABLE NAVAJO NATION DELEGATES:

RE: THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION

LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15_____ SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown

TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The

Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation

Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)

Date posted: January 16, 2015 at 7:28pm

COMMENT:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Public Review for the LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15_____

SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown.

TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The

Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation

Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)

With respect to the Legislation, I believe it gives an appearance of segregation of our Dine' – if you speak the language, Navajo fluently vs if you cannot speak the language, Navajo, the lines form here. I must share that it is "bullying" to be singled out because of language disparities. I have seen and heard many times, and more times than any, even years before and to the present time, the Representation of The Navajo Nation not speaking the Navajo language to conduct the Official Business, including in the House of the People, the Council Chambers-I see Internet displays, reading of documents, all in English. Although I cannot relate to the BIA Boarding School syndrome, but I am told of the times students were severely disciplined, many other forms of actions taken against them for speaking the Navajo language or Native language. Comparably, as voted delegates to represent the many Dine' people, to cause atrocity to our own relatives by creating a biased code. How many can say in the local levels of the Government and in Offices serving the Navajo Nation that a majority of the communication is done in the Navajo language? In the mainstream society, outside the Reservation that is grounds for discrimination.

Therefore, in closing I request that your decisions be with broad minds, intelligence and just, in order for our Navajo Nation to flourish to support and recognize Bi-lingual-ness.

Respectfully,

Henrietta Lewis//s

e-mail: lewis_401@msn.com

LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15_____

vee harvey <vharvey004@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 10:12 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Ya'at'eeh! This is relating to the following information:

LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15_____ SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown
TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)

I am asking the NN Council to VOTE FOR this Legislation 0014-15, PLEASE. I am asking because of several reasons:

1. As a Dine Language Teacher on the Dine Nation; I am sad to say that only about 2% of children are able to grasp Dine thoughts. But, they cannot respond back in Dine Language. It is sad to see that & the whole Dine Nation is not even trying to aid in any form. Like even NN Education Department is not even doing anything to put the metal to the petal to "reserve" and "preserve" the Dine Language/Culture. I feel like in this public school which I am teaching isn't really for Dine Lang/Culture and not part of a requirement. The Dine Classes I teach is just for 'enrichment' & not important. The Dine students we say are our future but if we don't do anything, then in 8 years (next elections) we WILL NOT have "FLUENT" Dine speakers.
2. SO therefore, this LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15 needs to pass. I am urging the Council to think about this!! T'aashodi Yee Nabik'iyadaalti'.
3. If we choose not to vote for it, then we are getting no where. We need to think about the future; which are our children.
4. We need to make the future ready for our children -- WE Want to AMEND the language requirement so our children can be Leaders!!!

Ahxehee'!!

VHarvey

Legislation No. 0014-15

19warriors91@cox.net

Wed 1/21/2015 10:28 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

January 21, 2015
Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, Arizona. 86515.

Ref: For, "An Action Relating to Law and Order, Naabik'iyati' And Then Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code At 11N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)". Legislation No. 0014-15.

Executive Director,

I am writing this letter to show my support for the above mentioned legislation. I strongly urge members of the Navajo Nation Council to approve this legislation.

This election process has been crazy, filled with ups and down, negativity, and not in harmony with the values of the Navajo Nation. Elections are intended to elect people that voters want and trust enough to run the affairs of the different positions. This is true in local, state, national elections, including the Navajo Nation. I voted this pass election in the Navajo Nation elections for people I thought would look out for the best interest of the Navajo Nation and represent our Nation with integrity and honesty. I listen to the debates and studied the different candidates and made my choice, only to have my vote disenfranchised and wiped away. My vote should count for something. Let the chips fall where they may by the number of votes that the different candidates received, and let the people choose who they want in the different offices of the Navajo Nation.

My first language was the Dine language. I went to school and received an education. I went on to a university and obtained my Bachelor of Science degree and later my Master's degree. I was always told by my grandparents that I needed to go to school and learn. My grandparents would sell sheep, cattle and wool to get money to help me out in my schooling. In addition, I was privileged to get funding by the Navajo Nation Scholarship Office to get my education and am forever grateful for that. I currently work off the Nation and anticipate on returning to the Nation one day to serve my Nation in honor of my grandparent's and the Nation's investments. I stay involved in local elections because I believe that without my vote, I am not able to voice my concerns. I do the same for state and federal elections. But with this last Navajo election, I get the impression that off reservation Navajos are not allowed to come back the Nation to do their civic duties for the Nation. I want to have the opportunity to fairly participate in my Navajo government. By approving this legislation, I will have the opportunity to vote for who I feel is best suited for the different elected offices, even if it means that I have to Write-In my candidate. In addition, approving this legislation will re-install my confidence in the Navajo Nation electoral process.

I beg the Navajo Nation Council approve the above legislation for the good of the Navajo Nation and the Dine voters.

Sincerely,
Jesse Crabtree
Enrolled and Registered voter of the Great Navajo Nation
10658 E. Bogart Ave.

Mesa, Arizona. 85208.
19warriors91@cox.net

IN OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION NO: 0014-15

Chuck Charleston <crusader910@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 6:54 AM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov> ,

01/21/15

Position Letter: IN OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION NO: 0014-15

LEGISLATION NO: 0014-15 SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown

TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)

Please OPPOSE this legislation based on the following grounds.

It neutralizes the language requirement in a sneaky way. If you're going to get rid of the fluency rule, at least do it up front involving all sectors of the Dine in referendum.

Respectully, Charleton Charleston, PO Box 213, Sanostee, NM 87461

0014-15 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Pete, Natani T 1LT USARMY (US) <natani.t.pete.mil@mail.mil>

Wed 1/21/2015 5:29 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov> ,

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

LEGISLATION NO: _0014-15_____

To Navajo Nation Council,

Do not change the language requirement leave the standard as is. Lowering the standard increases the chance of losing the language leaving the standard as is guarantees a president knows and understands Dine Bizaad. The amendment states that "we leave it up to the voters to decide". This does not need to be said or made into a law because the voters already decide this and have been deciding this ever since we started voting. This statement is an insult to the Navajo People because we do not need to be told this. Of course we can and will and always will decide on language fluency. Voters always had this right and always will. It does not need to be stated. If we do away with the current language requirement we are lowering the standard plain and simple. It shouldn't have to be said the importance of a leader understanding Dine Bizaad and the effect this will have on the youth to ensure they strive to learn. Lead by example. To lower the standard we are telling all of us we are not capable of learning Dine Bizaad. I heard an argument by Council Delegate Honorable Leanord Tsosie about the concern that three Navajo interns not fluent in Navajo would not be able to help the tribe. He said we need these students so we should lower the standard. In that one sentence he effectively said these students or any students are not capable of learning the language. This is an insult to everyone as I believe we can learn enough to pass any test. I am a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army and if I lower the standards in my platoon I am effectively weakening my platoon. Keep the language strong.

Language requirement has been there for awhile and I believe it is based on the honor system of each candidate. I don't believe anyone anticipated a candidate being dishonorable or lying on the application as most presidential candidates have a high degree of integrity. However, if a candidate is believed to not speak Dine Bizaad we have a system to challenge this in court. Currently we have a stronger system in place. If a candidate is honorable he will be able to pass all tests. This ensures candidates are fluent in Navajo.

1LT Pete, Natani T
1-66th Armor Battalion, 3rd Armor Brigade
Fort Carson, Colorado
Armor Tank Platoon Leader
natani.t.pete.mil@mail.mil

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

0014-15

Geraldine <geraldine.pete@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 8:27 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: geraldine.pete@gmail.com <geraldine.pete@gmail.com>;

Geraldine Pete

6817 Sasser

Colorado Springs, CO 80902

geraldine.pete@gmail.com

(719) 314-5393

Executive Director Office of Legislative Services

P.O. Box 3390

Window Rock, AZ 86515

(928) 871-7590

January 21, 2015

Ya'at'eeh Shi'Naataanii, Navajo Nation Council Delegates.

I am writing in regards to "An Action Relating To Law And Order And Naabik'iyati' Committees And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code At 11 N.N.C. § 8(a)(4), § 8(B)8, § 8(D)(1)(f), § 8(D)(2)(c) And § 8(D)(3)(e)."

I oppose the idea of Amending Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code, because Dine' (children of the holy beings) Nation must remain Dine' in language, in culture, and in leadership. This amendment idea suggests that some leaders are willing to give up their identity in order to participate in Biligaana practices. This concept of amending the language requirement of the Navajo Nation Election Code places Dine' language, culture, and leadership in serious danger. It's a grave danger to our future generations because this idea convey's a notion so inconsiderate; a proposition stating that Dine' Bizaad is not important, nor Dine' Culture, therefore it's ok to change. I language requirements for Navajo Nation leadership. In other words, it blatantly says "Navajo's are willing to increase the speed of their very own cultural genocide via leadership."

There are other countries who are exemplary, where members of those regions speak five different languages; their own tongue and languages of neighboring countries. Take the Mexican language for instance, their language is printed on labels, translated across the US. It's implemented into mainstream America, literally. And it's probably because they did not sacrifice their language to make life easier, instead they became creative and now it's inclusive in American function.

Language can be learned. It's been proven over and over. All it takes is "will" to learn; determination and dedication. Our people have these abilities. Please do not convey to our children that they do not possess language learning abilities by amending Navajo Language requirements of the Navajo Nation Election Code.

In all due respect,

Geraldine Pete, MA

Educator: Counselor Education

Current US Army Family Team Building Instructor

at Fort Carson, Colorado

Quarterly Student at Institute for Dine' Culture, Philosophy & Government, LLC.

Amending language requirements of the Navajo Election Code

Geri B <geri_begay@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 8:32 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Greetings!

No amendment to 'Language Requirements Of The Navajo Nation Election Code. ' Dine' is who we are, Dine' bizaad is our language & culture. We are not members of the Caucasian Western culture. The Mexican culture never changed their language for Western idealism!

Thank you,

Geraldine D Begay
HC 61, Box 38919
Tucson, AZ. 85711

Write in and language

vbegaye08 <vbegaye08@citlink.net>

Wed 1/21/2015 9:41 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov> ,

Dear Leaders of Diné Nation

Yateehe abinii Nataaniis. As we all have said our prayers in the early dawn this morning. I ask you, our leaders, whom were voted and chosen by the people and for the people, to make your decisions on the "write in candidate" and "language" legislations on behalf of your people. Not for yourself BUT on behalf of your people. Let our votes count. There has been enough mental, emotional, financial, and spiritual abuse done to our children, elders, and veterans. I appreciate your help on these issues. God bless!

Thank you,
Vesta J. Begaye
PO Box 2628
Shiprock, NM 87420

vbegaye08@citlink.net

Legislation 0014-15

Marilyn Daw <dawmarilyn@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 12:58 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Title: An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik'iyati' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements of the Navajo Nation Election Code.

Amend the code. More and more of our people are non-speakers of the Navajo language, our younger population, and should also have a voice in their government, regardless. There are also some Delegates that do not speak Navajo and for the majority of Navajo Government business in and out of the Chambers is done in English.

Many of younger people are leaving the reservation to get an education to return to the Nation to help our people and there should be no restriction to their desire to return even if they can't speak Navajo as well as others may. We, as Navajo people, we, as voters, who, for many is their only voice, have a constitutional right to choose and elect the leaders of our choice. With the majority of those that return to the Nation after obtaining their degrees from college, many have the experience, education, determination and desire to help our people. They will be more capable than one that isn't not educated. Nowadays, we need as many educated Navajo people in key positions to serve our people. With their expertise, they will be able to do what is best when handling Navajo Nation business on and off the Nation.

The Council met and changed their requirement. This same requirement should be across the board.

Bottom line, our voice matters. Our votes matter. Our rights must be honored. Bring hozho back to our people and change the language roadblock so that the people we need can help our people. Thank you.

Marilyn Daw
Position Title: Navajo Nation voter, community member
dawmarilyn@yahoo.com

PO Box 3842
Chinle, AZ 86503

Ellavina Perkins <ellavinaperkins@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 12:14 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

1 attachment

I would like to offer my comments on the Amending Language Requirements 0041.doc;

To whom ever: Please consider my comments. Thank you. Ellavina Perkins

I would like to offer my comments on the Amending Language Requirements 0041-15, hoping that they will be helpful in any decision-making effort.

First of all, no one can define what language fluency means because it is wide in range, covering many things in all walks of life. Therefore the definition of fluency is very broad. As a result, fluency cannot be measured in a solitary situation as it encompasses all aspects of living.

Secondly, are the Tribal Council sessions conducted all in Navajo, regarding topics of interest or concern? Do such imperative issues like communal, health, education, economic, government, and science, all conducted in Navajo? If not, then fluency in Navajo is desirable but not a requirement for a presidential position or other elected offices.

Thirdly, I believe fluency in Navajo is desirable for an elected leader only when s/he is interacting with his/her constituents. Thank you.

Daa' g^one' 'ǂ' 'idaahashne'doo. Shǂ 'ǂiyǂ Ellavina Perkins dashijinǂ. Kiyaa'janii d^{oo} T^otsohnii d^{oo} TǂbTMTMhǂ, d^{oo} T^odǂch'ǂinii 'ǂ' bits'ǂǂd^{oo} hosǂǂǂ'. Shinaanish 'ǂ' saad naalkaahǂǂ binashnish d^{oo} saad naadzoh d^o'. email: ellavinaperkins@gmail.com

0014-15

Victor Cly <victor.cly1@icloud.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 11:56 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>,

I don't think it should be a requirement for the navajo nation president.

I would rather have an educated leader than someone that is fluent in navajo and doesn't have a clue what they're doing.

Sent from my iPhone

0014-15

Lucinda Kirby <lkirby@nacog.org>

Wed 1/21/2015 10:13 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am requesting that the language requirement of the Navajo Nation election board be amended from fluent to proficiency. Fluent by dictionary definition states to be able to read and write in a certain language, Navajo is a spoken language and only recently has it been written so major of us including myself are not fluent. We, Dine, should decide who would want as our leader as times are changing fast and we someone who is FLUENT in the ENGLISH language. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lucinda Kirby
lucki62@hotmail.com
Teesto Chapter

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the intended recipient(s). If you are not the named recipient you should not read, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately via e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake; then, delete this e-mail from your system.

**LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE
23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

FIRST YEAR 2015

COMMITTEE REPORT

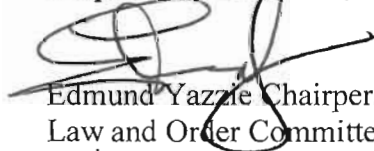
Mr. Speaker,

The **LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

Legislation # 0014-15: An Action relating to Law and Order, NAABIK'IYATI' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Language Requirements of the Navajo Nation Election Code at 11 N.N.C. §8(A)(4), §8(B)(8), §8(D)(1)(f), §8(D)(2)(c), and §8(D)(3)(e)

Has had it under consideration and report the matter **NO SECOND MOTION** with no amendment and thereafter the matter will be referred to **NAABIK'IYATI' Committee.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmund Yazzie', written over the printed name.

Edmund Yazzie Chairperson
Law and Order Committee of the
23rd Navajo Nation Council

Date: February 18, 2015
Motion: Honorable Otto Tso
Second: None
VOTE: None

NOTE: A quorum of 5 members were present