



## 23<sup>rd</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL LEGISLATION SPONSORSHIP WITHDRAWAL

I, LEONARD TISOISIG, Primary  
Sponsor of proposed legislation hereby withdraw my  
sponsorship of the proposed legislation. The legislation  
tracking number is 0013-15.

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 "Leonard Tisoisig", is written over a horizontal line.

DATE:

6/9/2015

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0013-15

**DATE:** January 16, 2015

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACT RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIKIYATI AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 11 N.N.C. §§ 2, 4, 8, 42, 145 AND 824 REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIVE OFFICES WHILE ALLOWING NAVAJO VOTERS TO ALTERNATIVELY ELECT A CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE BY MEANS OF WRITE-IN VOTING

**PURPOSE:** This resolution will amend 11 N.N.C. §§ 2, 4, 8, 42, 145 and 824 regarding qualifications for candidates for elective offices while allowing Navajo voters to alternatively elect a candidate of their choice by means of write-in voting

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

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: W/4/15  
Website Posting Time/Date: 7:24am 11/14/15  
Posting End Date: 1/21/15  
Eligible for Action: 1/22/15

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

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
23<sup>rd</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2015

INTRODUCED BY



(Prime Sponsor)



(Nathaniel Brown)

TRACKING NO. 0013-15

AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIKIYATI AND THE NAVAJO  
NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 11 N.N.C. §§ 2, 4, 8, 42, 145 AND 824  
REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIVE  
OFFICES WHILE ALLOWING NAVAJO VOTERS TO ALTERNATIVELY  
ELECT A CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE BY MEANS OF WRITE-IN  
VOTING

BE IT ENACTED:

**Section One. Findings**

A. Navajo Nation government consists of three branches of government. The Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation government consists of the Navajo Nation Council and other programs and offices. 2 N.N.C. §102 *et seq.* The Council is a representative body, consisting of members elected by voters of the Navajo Nation. Under the structure of Navajo Nation government, the Council exercises legislative powers of government. As a law-making body, the Navajo Nation Council enacts law through legislation and sets and establishes policy for the Navajo Nation (including its entities and programs). The President executes laws passed by the Council and the Courts, when necessary, interpret such laws.

1 B. The 2014 Navajo Nation election was disrupted when a Navajo Nation  
2 presidential candidate was challenged about his fluency in Navajo language and was  
3 eventually removed from the ballot by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. This  
4 resulted in the formation of at least two groups of Navajo people. One group is  
5 concerned about the need to keep fluency requirement for a Navajo presidential  
6 candidate. Another group, composed largely of a younger generation of Navajo  
7 people, is insisting upon the recognition of their right to vote and elect a leader of  
8 their choice. Despite the bifurcation of ideals, Navajo Nation needs to remain whole  
9 and address the concerns of both groups. This division in ideals is unnecessary.

10 C. Navajo parents and their leaders have consistently sent Navajo youth to seek  
11 and obtain Western education and to return to help the Navajo Nation. Many have  
12 obtained this education but at institutions far from Navajoland. Further, young  
13 Navajo persons are getting their Western education at state-controlled school systems  
14 which do not prioritize the teaching of Navajo language and culture. As a result,  
15 many of our Navajo youth have become less fluent or proficient in the Navajo  
16 language. In 1980, it was reported that 80% of Navajo people spoke Navajo.  
17 However, today, this percentage is down to 68%. Navajo Times, January 15, 2015.

18 D. All Navajo people, particularly our youth, should be encouraged to participate  
19 in government, including the electoral process. If young Navajo persons are not  
20 allowed to participate in the election of offices as candidates, there could be a long-  
21 lasting division incongruent with the Navajo concept of harmony or hózhó.

22 E. Aside the Navajo Nation Presidential position, there are “fluency” provisions in  
23 Navajo law for other offices within the Navajo Nation government.

24 F. Write-in voting procedure is necessary to allow Navajo voters to vote for an  
25 alternative candidate in recognition of the principle that Navajo voters are allowed to  
26 vote for candidates of their choice.

27 G. Navajo Nation Council has received many requests from chapters and members  
28 of the voting public that the law or the electoral process be immediately reviewed or  
29 otherwise amended to permit a broader more inclusive system which encourages fair  
30 participation in government.

1 H. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to accommodate the concerns of  
2 the Navajo voting population by designing a law which promotes confidence in the  
3 electoral process, particularly the ability and interest to vote in elections again.  
4

## 5 **Section Two. Amending Title 11, Navajo Election Code**

### 6 **§ 2. Definitions**

7 \*\*\*\*\*

8 II. "Special elections" - Elections called by the Navajo Nation Council or Board  
9 in the event of a sufficient recall or referendum petition or to fill a vacancy in  
10 accord with this Title.

11 \*\*\*\*\*

### 12 **§ 4. Voting; number of votes**

13 A. Except as provided by Navajo Nation law, V voting shall be by secret pictorial  
14 ballot. If a candidate fails to comply with the provisions of 11 N.N.C. § 27, Ballot  
15 Picture, his or her picture will be deleted from the ballot.

16 B. Each registered voter shall be entitled to cast one vote for each position that  
17 his or her precinct is entitled to elect in the primary, general, and chapter  
18 elections; provided, however, that no voter may cast more than one vote for any  
19 one candidate.

20 C. In an election involving a write-in candidate, a name stamp or other form of a  
21 voting device, furnished by the write-in candidate and approved by the Navajo  
22 Election Administration, may be used by voters in casting ballots. Write-in  
23 candidates shall furnish, prior to an election, such stamp or device to the Election  
24 Administration.

25 \*\*\*\*\*

### 26 **§ 8. Qualifications for office**

27 All elective offices of the Navajo Nation, including those specified in this section,  
28 shall be subject to the following qualifications provisions except as otherwise  
29 provided herein.

30 **A. Qualifications for President and Vice-President are:**

1 \*\*\*\*

2 5 4. Must fluently speak and understand the Navajo language and read and  
3 write the English language, except as otherwise provided by Navajo Nation  
4 law.

5 \*\*\*\*

6 **B. Qualifications for Delegate to the Navajo Nation Council:**

7 \*\*\*\*

8 8. Must be able to speak and understand Navajo and/or English, except as  
9 otherwise provided by Navajo law;

10 \*\*\*\*

11 **C. Qualifications for Chapter Officers**

12 \*\*\*\*

13 **D. Qualifications for Other Elected Officials:**

14 1. Qualifications for the Land Board Candidates:

15 \*\*\*\*

16 f. Must be able to speak the Navajo language fluently, and to read and write  
17 the English language, except as otherwise provided by Navajo Nation law;

18 \*\*\*\*

19 2. Qualifications for Farm Board Candidates:

20 \*\*\*\*

21 c. Must be fluent in the Navajo and English language, except as otherwise  
22 provided by Navajo Nation law;

23 \*\*\*\*

24 3. Qualifications for District Grazing Committee Candidates:

25 d. Should be able to read, write and speak the English language, except as  
26 otherwise provided by Navajo Nation law;

27 e. Must be able to converse fluently in the Navajo language, except as  
28 otherwise provided by Navajo Nation law;

29 \*\*\*\*

30 4. Qualifications for Candidates for School Board:

1                   \*\*\*\*

2                   5. Navajo Nation Board of Education.

3                   \*\*\*\*

4                   F E. \*\*\*\*

5                   F. A candidate disqualified due to fluency qualifications provisions of this section,  
6                   or pursuant to other fluency provisions of Navajo Nation, shall be permitted to run as  
7                   a write-in candidate in a primary election, or any election designated as such,  
8                   provided:

9                   1. He or she meets all other qualifications for office;

10                   2. He or she files as a write-in candidate, is determined and certified as qualified  
11                   prior to the time the Navajo Election Administration prepares and submits ballots  
12                   for official printing.

13                   G. A write-in candidate who receives a sufficient number of votes to qualify for a  
14                   general election, or any run-off election, shall be permitted to have his or her picture  
15                   appear on a general, or other run-off, election ballot.

16                   \*\*\*\*

17                   **§ 42. No primary in special election; write-in candidacies not allowed; exceptions**

18                   A. There shall be no primary election in a special election unless otherwise  
19                   provided for by resolution of the Navajo Nation Council.

20                   B. All candidates determined eligible by the Navajo Election Administration  
21                   following review of candidate applications shall be placed on the special election  
22                   ballot.

23                   C. ~~Notwithstanding authorization in other elections, W~~write-in candidacies shall  
24                   not be allowed in special elections unless otherwise provided for by resolution of  
25                   the Navajo Nation Council.

26                   \*\*\*\*

27                   **§ 145. Conduct of special elections**

28                   In the absence of a Navajo Nation Council resolution setting out a procedure for  
29                   conducting a special election, or unless otherwise provided by Navajo Nation law,

1 Special elections shall be conducted in the same manner as other elections except as  
2 follows:

3 A. There shall be a 14-day filing period upon a declaration of vacancy.

4 B. Candidate applications for the Offices of the Navajo Nation President and Vice  
5 President shall be filed at the same time.

6 C. Upon the expiration of a filing period, the Navajo Election Administration shall,  
7 within five days, review applications filed and determine whether applicants should  
8 be certified as eligible for candidacy. An applicant disqualified or otherwise deemed  
9 ineligible for office may file a grievance pursuant to 11 N.N.C. § 341.

10 \*\*\*\*

11 **§ 321. Board of Election Supervisors—Powers and duties**

12 \*\*\*

13 **§ 322. Authority to make rules and regulations**

14 \*\*\*\*

15 **§ 323. Composition; election**

16 \*\*\*\*

17 **§ 324. Qualifications**

18 \*\*\*\*

19 E. Must be able to understand and speak Navajo and English and write the English  
20 language, except as otherwise provided by Navajo Nation law, including 11 N.N.C. §  
21 8.

22  
23 **Section Three. Savings Clause**

24 Should any provision of this Act be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme  
25 Court or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation  
26 Supreme Court, the remainder of the Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

27  
28 **Section Four. Codification**

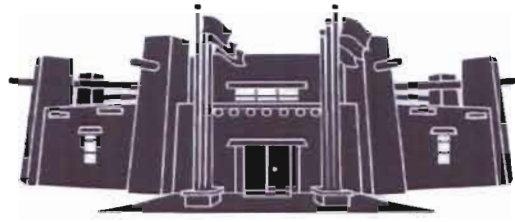
29 The provisions of this Amendment shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel.  
30 The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate this amendment into the next codification



1 or supplement of the Navajo Nation Code.

2  
3 **Section Five. Effective Date**

4 These amendments shall become effective in accord with 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).



## MEMORANDUM

To : Hon. Leonard Tsosie, Delegate  
Navajo Nation Council

From :   
Ron Haven, Attorney  
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date : January 16, 2015

Re : AN ACT RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIKIYATI AND THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 11 N.N.C. §§ 2, 4, 8, 42, 145  
AND 824 REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR  
ELECTIVE OFFICES WHILE ALLOWING NAVAJO VOTERS TO  
ALTERNATIVELY ELECT A CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE BY  
MEANS OF WRITE-IN VOTING

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. As to format, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. Regarding substance, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge. Please ensure that this particular resolution request is precisely what you want.

If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment. If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. Ahéhee'.


OLC # 15-145-1



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*  
23<sup>rd</sup> 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. 0013-15**

**RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'İYATI' AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 11 N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 AND 824 REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE WHILE ALLOWING NAVAJO VOTERS TO ALTERNATIVELY ELECT A CANDIDATE OF THEIR CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE BY MEANS OF WRITE-IN VOTING.**

As the Committee assigned to consider the legislation, Legislation No. 0013-15 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. 0013-15

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

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0013-15\_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR: Leonard Tsosie

**TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order, Naabik'iyati' And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending 11 N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 And 824 Regarding Qualifications For Candidates For Elective Office While Allowing Navajo Voters To Alternatively Elect A Candidate Of Their Candidate Of Their Choice By Means Of Write-In Voting**

***Date posted: January 16, 2015 at 7:24pm***

**Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto: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.: 0013-15**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Leonard Tsosie**

**TITLE: Relating To Law And Order, Naabik'iyati' And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending 11 N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 And 824 Regarding Qualifications For Candidates For Elective Office While Allowing Navajo Voters To Alternatively Elect A Candidate Of Their Candidate Of Their Choice By Means Of Write-In Voting.**

**Posted: January 16, 2015 at 7:24 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: January 21, 2015**

**Digital Comments received:**

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Comments Supporting<br/>14()</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roberta Padilla</li> <li>2. Nellie Bennett; Tuba City</li> <li>3. Evelyn Roanhorse; Chandler, AZ</li> <li>4. Victor Cly</li> <li>5. Marie Enfield</li> <li>6. Lorene Legah</li> <li>7. Everrett Havona</li> <li>8. Florence Riggs</li> <li>9. Winiferd Page</li> <li>10. Maggie Blackhat</li> <li>11. Henrietta Lewis</li> <li>12. Natani Pete</li> <li>13. Jesse Crabtree</li> <li>14. Elsie Benally</li> </ol> |
| <b>Comments Opposing<br/>(3)</b>     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aaron Billie</li> <li>2. Chuck Charleston</li> <li>3. Geraldine Pete</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Inconclusive Comments<br/>(2)</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hattie Young</li> <li>2. Lucinda Kirby</li> </ol>  |

1.711

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**Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services**

1/22/2015 . 9:40 am

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**Date/Time**

0013-15

Padilla, Roberta <rpadilla@sjcounty.net>

Wed 1/21/2015 8:44 AM

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

I respectfully support this legislation as I want my vote to count. As elected leaders representing your Dine' constituents, please consider all your people, let our votes and voices be heard and counted. The 2014 Navajo Nation Election was so convoluted and quite honestly, a disgrace. How can you, our leaders, have allowed this to happen? I kept my emotions to myself, but not I said it. We are proud Dine' with strong ancestral history, please respect and honor what our past leaders and people had to overcome to have a sovereign Navajo Nation Government. Please support and allow this legislation so we the people, can elect our leader.

Regards,  
Roberta Padilla  
Lake Valley, NM  
100% Dine member

0013-15

greeley60@yahoo.com

Wed 1/21/2015 9:45 AM

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

Re: Legislation Number 001315      Sponsor: Leonard Tsosie

Date: January 21, 2015

As a Dine voter, I feel it is only fair and proper, to request that the Legislation Number 001315 become law to grant voters the right to write-in a candidate of our choice for the Navajo President and other candidates for elections on the next and future voting ballots.

From: Nellie Bennett, Dine voter, PO Box 2533, Tuba City, AZ 86045

Sent from Windows Mail



## Legislation 0013-15, Sponsor Leonard Tsosie

evelyn roanhorse <nanasbah@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 11:32 AM

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

This is Evelyn Roanhorse, C# , writing in to support electing a candidate "by means of write-in vote". I am elderly and affiliated with Nahata Dzili Chapter. This is the best year to implement this legislation since many of us have no confidence, or trust in candidates that are being pushed down our throat by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, and others. A write-in-vote will help heal some of the pain many of us are suffering by disqualifying a candidate we voted for at the 11th hour. Thank you for your on-going efforts to do what's best for all of the Dine, you are a true leader that is greatly respected and admired. You have earned my respect.

--

Evelyn Roanhorse  
961 E. Orchid Lane  
Chandler, Arizona 85225

0013-15

Victor Cly <victor.cly1@icloud.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 11:43 AM

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

To whom it may concern;

I believe we should have the right to pick our leaders rather than the courts or a few sore losers. I vote that we 'the people' should be allowed to write in our votes.

Sent from my iPhone

0013-15

Marie Enfield <marieenfield@msn.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 12:22 PM

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

I request that you seriously consider this legislation No: \_0013-15 as it will allow the voters to choose the candidate of their choice. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sent from Windows Mail

0013-15

Lorene Legah <llegah@dinecollege.edu>

Wed 1/21/2015 12:57 PM

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

I, Lorene Legah, strongly support Legislation No: 0013-15 allowing the Dine people to choose their own leaders by means of write-in voting. It is only fair and it is a right of all voters across this nation. Ahehee', LL

THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INTERNET PUBLIC  
REVIEW PUBLICATION LEGISLATION NO: \_0013-15\_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR: Leonard Tsosie TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And  
Order, Naabik'iyati' And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending 11  
N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 An...

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 gives me the option to choose who I feel is the right person to lead the Navajo Nation into the future. Given the current circumstances I am being denied my right to vote.

Lets give back the recognition and honor to the Navajo Nation as the biggest tribe in the United States.

Thank you.

## Legislation #0013-15

Florence Riggs <riggs.florence@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 1:31 PM

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

Dear All Honorable NN Council Delegates;

I'm asking to Please vote In favor of passing Legislation #003-15, which would allow for a WRITE-IN Candidate for NN Presidential candidate of our choice.

Also, I'm asking to Please Vote in favor of passing Legislation # 0014-15, to amend the language requirements in the Navajo Nation Election Code.

Thank You,

Florence Riggs

A register voter from Tuba City chapter

Email - Riggs.florence@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

0013-15

**Wendi Page** <kanhpage@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 2:24 PM

To: comments &lt;comments@navajo-nsn.gov&gt;;

Good afternoon,

I'm asking for the Navajo nation council to vote yes/yay on this proposed "write in" legislation. As the people have a right to choose his/her own choice of the leader they believe and trust to be their leader.

We can not continue to live in a society that dictates the voice of the people.

Please vote yes/yay on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Winiferd Page

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Subject: Legislations

**maggie** <magblkhat\_az@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 3:44 PM

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

Ya'at'eeh, my name is Maggie Blackhat, my mailing address is 5875 E. Burris Lane, Lot 39, Flagstaff, AZ 86004. My phone # (928) 380-0767. My clan is...I'm Towing Housing, born for Edge Water, my chei and masani are Manygoats and nalis are Mexican people.

I am writing to you about my concerns and input as a voter, citizen, and a member of the Dine Tribe. I would like to request that the Legislation #0013-15 be approved for the Write-In Candidate for who we would like to vote for on voting ballots. I have requested for this before and I would like to have my request be counted for this legislation. It is my right to vote for who I want and that is my right as a member of the Dine Tribe and as a US citizen.

Secondly, I would like to comment on Legislation #0014-15 to amend the language requirements in Navajo code. I believe this part of the legislation needs to be updated to keep up with the current times for individuals who want to participate as a elected official in the Dine Tribe.

I appreciate your consideration in reviewing my comments and understanding that I want who is best to be a leader for The Navajo Tribe. Yes the language issue may have been very important back 15 or 20 years ago but things are changing. I still have to explain to my mother who had no education or never lived off the reservation, what is being said, so there is no more pure Dine language in mine opinion. The business matters of any government is soley in spoken, talked, written in English. Thank you. Maggie Blackhat

**Meg Bikhhat**



## Amending 11 N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 And 824

H M LEWIS <lewis\_401@msn.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 8:02 PM

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

1 attachment

THE NAVAJO NATION Leg on Write In Candidate.docx;

Honorable Navajo Nation Delegates:

I am submitting my letter regarding the Legislation: Amending 11 NNC 2,4,8,42,145 and 824, Sponsored by Leonard Tsosie. Thank for giving us, members of the Navajo Nation this opportunity to express our input.

*Best Regards,  
Henrietta Lewis//s  
e-mail: lewis\_401@msn.com*

HONORABLE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL:

RE: NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION

LEGISLATION NO: \_0013-15\_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR: Leonard Tsosie

TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order, Naabik'iyati' And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending 11 N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 And 824 Regarding Qualifications For Candidates For Elective Office While Allowing Navajo Voters To Alternatively Elect A Candidate Of Their Choice By Means Of Write-In Voting

Date posted: January 16, 2015 at 7:24pm

**COMMENT:**

Thank you for extending a Public Review of the Legislation No: 0013-15, Sponsor: Leonard Tsosie. As I have learned in an equitable process, a choice or alternative is honored; therefore, to Elect a Candidate by means of the Write-In Voting would not diminish individual rights, but would affirm one's decision. As a member of the Navajo Nation, I view diplomacy to be of equitableness, to be given a choice to state in writing who one's choice is, by means of Writing-In Vote. Therefore, I request your action to:

Amending 11 N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 And 824 Regarding Qualifications For Candidates For Elective Office While Allowing Navajo Voters To Alternatively Elect A Candidate Of Their Choice By Means Of Write-In Voting.

Thank you for this opportunity for input.

Respectfully,

Henrietta Lewis//s

e-mail: lewis\_401@msn.com

## LEGISLATION NO: 0013-15

**Natani Pete** <fourpete@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 8:26 PM

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

I have no problem with a write in candidate as long as this person is able to speak Dine Bizaad fluently. This ensures our leaders set a good example for the youth. This tells our youth they are capable of learning the language. This keeps the tribe and language strong.

- Voters can vote for the candidates that meet our minimum requirements.
- Lowering the standard tells our youth they are incapable of learning
- We do not have a voter disenfranchisement problem as some would have you believe.
- Every vote counted in all elections
- The election office ensured all votes counted and everyone was allowed to vote.
- Only issue we have is a disqualified candidate because he did not take it upon himself to learn the language and meet the minimum requirements.
- Leave no Dine behind if you are not fluent in Dine Bizaad require the individual to attend classes until he is fluent. Especially if he is on the tribes payroll.

1LT Pete, Natani

1-66th Armor Battalion, 3rd Armor Brigade, 4th Infantry Division

Fort Carson, CO 80913

[fourpete@gmail.com](mailto:fourpete@gmail.com)

## Legislation No. 0013-15

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 11N.N.C. §§ 2, 4, 8, 42, And 824 Regarding Qualifications For Candidates For Elective Office While Allowing Navajo Voter To Alternatively Elect A Candidate Of Their Choice By Means Of Write-In Voting". Legislation No. 0013-15.

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 past 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

## Fwd: Legislation 013-15

Elsie Benally <elsiebenally@gmail.com>

Thu 1/22/2015 6:54 AM

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

Dear Honorable Council Delegates:

Thank you for introducing legislation 013-15 which provides hope and an opportunity to Navajo Nation voters to vote as write in a candidate of their choosing. I am glad you are providing this opportunity for many young Navajo voters. I have children, nephews and nieces who had voted for a candidate who won in the Primary Election and then was disqualified. I along with my children, nephews and nieces do not appreciate the Navajo Nation leaders forcing Presidential candidates on the Navajo voters. Putting the third place finisher on the election ballot is forcing a candidate on the people which is not right. I have to say the Legislation 013-15 gives me a glimmer of hope in our Navajo Nation government and the Navajo Council members (who listen and truly represent their communities).

I request that our council delegates support this legislation. I support the legislation 013-15 which provides that opportunity for the Navajo elders to make a step towards embracing our children and giving US an opportunity to write in name of candidate we want. At Forest Lake Chapter, we voted on positive changes for elections which would embrace our children (the younger affluent, educated, not too fluent Navajo speakers) but our council delegate chose not to honor our recommendations. As I read in the media, I believe a handful of his colleagues also chose to ignore the communities that they represent. I hope the Delegates really represent the communities they represent and not go by their own opinion.

Thank you for considering a write-in for the Navajo Nation Elections. I have heard many Navajo Voters indicating that they will not vote or if they vote they will put in a write in. The write in option would provide a voting voice for all qualified Navajo Voters. This is the right direction for our leaders to begin healing and uniting the divide of the Navajo people. All the more to gain by healing some broken hopes of Navajo Voters. Yes to legislation 013-15.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elsie Benally

Forest Lake Chapter Member

Resident of Black Mesa

0013-15

Billie, Aaron <Aaron.Billie@BIE.EDU>

Tue 1/20/2015 12:29 PM

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

Dear Council Delegates,

Enacting this legislation is the will of your constituents. We, the Navajo people, chose you to lead us with integrity, honesty, and in full support that everything you do would be in the best interest of the Navajo people. Providing the Navajo people this opportunity to directly choose our elected officials with a write-in option is fair, practical, and supportive of the choice of the people. If this legislation is not passed then distrust and a lack of confidence in our government will only heighten to levels unimaginable. Let the People choose. Thank you.

Aaron Billie  
Teacher  
P.O. Box 113  
Gallup, NM 87305  
aarbillie@hotmail.com

## IN OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION NO: 0013-15

Chuck Charleston <crusader910@yahoo.com>

Tue 1/20/2015 9:47 PM

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

Cc: Chuck Charleston <crusader910@yahoo.com>;

Position Letter: IN OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION NO: 0013-15    SPONSOR: Leonard Tsosie

TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order, Naabik'iyati' And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending 11 N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 And 824 Regarding Qualifications For Candidates For Elective Office While Allowing Navajo Voters To Alternatively Elect A Candidate Of Their Choice By Means Of Write-In Voting

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.



0013-15

**Geraldine** <geraldine.pete@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 10:17 PM

To: comments &lt;comments@navajo-nsn.gov&gt;;

Geraldine Pete

6817 Sasser Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80902

[geraldine.pete@gmail.com](mailto: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, Naabik'iyati' And The Navajo **Nation Council; Amending 11 N.N.C. §§ 2,4,8,42,145 And 824 Regarding Qualifications For Candidates For Elective Office While Allowing Navajo Voters To Alternatively Elect A Candidate Of Their Candidate Of Their Choice By Means Of Write-In Voting.**'

I oppose (NAY) this amendment request because it is redundant. "A Candidate Of Their Candidate Of Their Choice," really? When have the Navajo people not had their choice? This legislation is absurd! In fact it's subliminally saying that Dine' voters don't have a voice or a say in choosing a leader, which is simply not the case. Please do not underestimate the Dine' Nation.

The Navajo people have strongly participated in choosing leaders of their choice, for many centuries, and they've always selected a leader fluent in Dine' Bizaad. Our ancestors professed, and our elders continue to instruct the importance of our language because Dine' Bizaad is alive. It's in each and every

one of us Dine' people, its in our blood waiting for us to tap into, our innate intelligence. With a little nurturing, any Dine' non-speaker can become fluent. Dine' Bizaad keeps us strong as a Nation. It is because of Dine' Bizaad, we are impenetrable. This is the very reason why fluency in Dine' Bizaad was chiseled and anchored in as a requirement for Dine' Bi'Naataanii in Navajo Nation Presidency. This requirement is stamped with the blood of our ancestors who have perished in Hweeldi in our hearts. We must not toy with our language, our identity.

This is clear to many Dine' people and they understand and agree that Dine' people have been practicing their voting rights for centuries. They have always and continue to be aware that fluency in Dine' Bizaad is a pivotal honorary standard of Dine' Nation. They have always selected, and elected their Navajo **Nation President who speaks Dine' and leads with Dine' Bizaad fluently.** Therefore, this legislation is a **NAY (no)!**

With 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.

0013-15-2.pdf

Hattie Young <zunigirl63@gmail.com>

Wed 1/21/2015 10:38 PM

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

1 attachment

0013-15-2.pdf;

I vote for Chris Deschene and Fannie Atcity for Navajo Nation President and Vice President .. my Hattie Young, 4021 N. 48th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85031

480-262-3873

I am a Security Officer for Securitas Security Services

I am with Shonto Chapter House

0013-15

Lucinda Kirby <lkirby@nacog.org>

Wed 1/21/2015 10:05 AM

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

I am requesting that in the coming elections both Primary and General have a Write-In option. Thank you in advance 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,

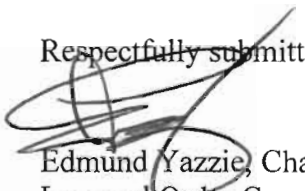
The **LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

**Legislation # 0013-15:** An Action Relating to Law and Order, NAABIKIYATI AND The Navajo Nation Council; Amending 11 N.N.C. §§ 2, 4, 8, 42, 145 and 824 regarding qualifications for candidates for elective offices while allowing Navajo voters to alternatively elect a candidate of their choice by means or write-in voting.

Has had it under consideration and report the matter **No Motion** with no amendment:

and thereafter the matter will be referred to **NAABIKIYATI Committee**.

Respectfully submitted,



Edmund Yazzie, Chairperson  
Law and Order Committee of the  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Date: February 18, 2015

Motion: None

Second: None

VOTE: None

**NOTE: A quorum of 5 members were present**