

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FIRST YEAR, 2023

AN ACTION

RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; SELECTING  
AND CONFIRMING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and shall consist of 24 delegates. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. The Navajo Nation Council shall select and confirm a Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council as the first order of business at the Council session scheduled for the fourth Monday in January of any odd numbered year. 2 N.N.C. § 282(C).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council has the authority to promulgate rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of its meetings and that of its committees. 2 N.N.C. § 102(E).
- D. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(16) "Matters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct services required as an entitlement under the Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency matter must arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter requiring final action by the Council."

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. There is established the Office of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 281(A).
- B. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall be a member of the Navajo Nation Council in good standing. 2 N.N.C. § 281(B).
- C. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council and shall serve for a term of two (2) years. 2 N.N.C. § 282(A)(B).
- D. This legislation is put forth as an emergency legislation pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(16) as the 25th Navajo Nation Council has a statutory mandate to select and confirm its Speaker as the first order of business at the 25th Navajo

Nation Council's Winter Session statutorily scheduled to start on January 23, 2023.

- E. Dangerous and potentially life-threatening winter travel conditions, unreliable internet access, and staff illnesses interfered with the ability to satisfy the five-day posting requirement of 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(7), prior to the start of the Council's Winter Session.
- F. If the 25th Navajo Nation Council does not select and confirm their Speaker on the fourth Monday in January (January 23, 2023), the Council will not be able to take any action to ensure that adequate funding and emergency services are available to support Navajo communities through the projected upcoming winter storms and dangerous conditions.
- G. In light of the above, there is indeed a "pressing public need" for this emergency legislation.

#### SECTION THREE. ADOPTION OF RULES FOR SELECTION OF SPEAKER

- A. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJA-03-11 attached herein as Exhibit A, each Council shall be authorized to select a Speaker pursuant to its own process and procedures or to utilize the process and procedures set forth in Section 3 of CJA-03-11.
- B. For the purposes of selecting its Speaker, the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council hereby adopts the Rules in the Selection of the Speaker set forth in attached Exhibit B.

#### SECTION FOUR. SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby selects the Honorable Crystalyne Curley as Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to its authority under Navajo Nation law, hereby confirms the Honorable Crystalyne Curley to serve as Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council for a two year term with all powers and duties delegated by Navajo Nation law.

#### SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Action and the selection of the Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(C).

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 23 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2023.



Honorable Otto Tso, Speaker Pro Tem  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

01/23/2023  
DATE

Motion: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish  
Second: Honorable Casey Allen Johnson

Speaker Pro Tem Otto Tso not voting



CJA-03-11

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

22nd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - First Year 2011

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RESCINDING CJA-1-93 AND CJA-02-99, RESOLUTIONS ADDRESSING THE PROCESS AND PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL TO SELECT ITS SPEAKER AND ADOPT A PROCESS AND PROCEDURE ACCORDINGLY

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose

1. The number of delegates to the Navajo Nation Council was reduced from 88 to 24 members by vote of Diné voters.
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation law, the Navajo Nation Council is authorized to select a speaker from among its membership. The selection of the speaker is an internal process of the Navajo Nation Council.
3. In January 1993, the Navajo Nation Council adopted rules in the selection of Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council. CJA-01-93. These rules were amended in special Session of the Navajo Nation Council in 1999. CJA-02-99 (Document No. 2026).
4. In accordance with Diné tradition, the rules in the selection of the Speaker must be inclusive and allow broader participation by all delegates to the Navajo Nation Council. The process involved in the selection of a Diné leader is done in a democratic manner, with utmost participation by every delegate of the Navajo Nation Council.
5. In order that the requirements of 2 N.N.C. § 282 (C) be met and that the selection and confirmation of the speaker of the Navajo Nation Council be the first order of business at the council session scheduled for the fourth Monday in January of 2011 and this selection be done in a manner consistent with Navajo tradition and the intent of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council.

**Section 2. Rescinding CJA-1-93 and CJA-02-99**

The Navajo Nation Council rescinds CJA-1-93 and CJA-02-99.

**Section 3. Rules in the Selection of the Speaker**

For the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, the Navajo Nation Council hereby adopts the following rules:

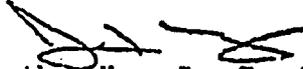
1. Each Council of the Navajo Nation shall be authorized to select a Speaker pursuant to its own process.
2. The Speaker shall be selected as the first order of business at the Winter Session of the Navajo Nation Council, January 2011. The Speaker shall be selected and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council as the first item of business at the council session scheduled for the fourth Monday in January of any odd numbers year, 2 N.N.C. § 282 (C).
3. Read the powers and duties of the speaker, as written in 2 N.N.C. Section 285 into the record.
4. Any delegate may nominate another delegate to serve as Speaker with no second required. If the current Speaker is nominated and accepts the nomination, he/she shall point a Speaker pro tem pursuant to 2 N N.C. 285(b)(3).
5. The number of nominations shall be unlimited, except upon motion, second and majority vote on closing the nomination process.
6. Each nominee shall accept or reject a nomination upon being nominated.
7. Each nominee, in order of his or her draw, shall be allowed to make a 15-minute statement on his or her platform for Speaker.
8. Each nominee, in the order of his or her draw, shall be allowed to make a 15-minute statement on his or her platform for Speaker.
9. Questions shall not be allowed.

CJA-03-11

10. Upon presentations by nominees, each member of the Navajo Nation Council present shall cast one vote for a candidate by secret ballot. The Navajo Nation Election Administration shall assist in the balloting.
11. In the event there are more than two nominees, there shall be a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the most votes. At which time, the final two candidates will be allowed 5 minute statement before final vote, with no questions or comments. This run-off election procedure shall not apply in the event candidates and is hereby declared the winner.
12. In the event of a tie vote, selection shall be by random lot.
13. The Council shall by resolution confirm its new Speaker

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 21 in favor and 2 opposed, this 24th day of January 2011.

  
Jonathan Nez, Pro Tem Speaker  
Navajo Nation Council

01-24-11

Date

Motion: Charles Damon, II  
Second: Jonathan Hale



For the 25th Navajo Nation Council, the Navajo Nation Council hereby adopts the following rules:

1. Each Council of the Navajo Nation shall be authorized to select a Speaker pursuant to its own process.
2. The Speaker shall be selected as the first order of business at the Winter Session of the Navajo Nation Council, January 2023. The Speaker shall be selected and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council as the first item of business at the council session scheduled for the fourth Monday in January of any odd numbers year, 2 N.N.C. § 282(C).
3. Read the powers and duties of the speaker, as written in 2 N.N.C. Section 285 into the' record.
4. Any delegate may nominate another delegate to serve as Speaker with no second required. If the current Speaker is nominated and accepts the nomination, he/she shall appoint a Speaker Pro-Tem pursuant to 2 N.N.C 285(b)(3).
5. The number of nominations shall be unlimited, except upon motion, second and majority vote on closing the nomination process.
6. Each nominee shall accept or reject a nomination upon being nominated.
7. Each nominee, in order of his or her draw, shall be allowed to make a 15-minute statement on his or her platform for Speaker. Questions shall not be allowed.
8. Upon presentations by nominees, each member of the Navajo Nation Council present shall cast one vote for a candidate by secret ballot. The Navajo Nation Election Administration shall assist in the balloting.
9. In the event there are more than two nominees, there shall be a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the most votes. At which time, the final two candidates will be allowed 5-minute statement before final vote, with no questions or comments.
10. This run-off election procedure shall not apply in the event one of the top two candidates withdraws. The non-withdrawing candidate shall be declared Speaker.
11. In the event of a tie vote, this process shall be continued until one candidate receives the majority vote.
12. The Council shall by resolution confirms its new Speaker.

**NAVAJO NATION**

16

1/23/2023

Navajo Nation Council Winter Session

05:00:25 PM

<b>Amd# to Amd#</b>	<b>Legislation 0002-23: Selecting and Confirming the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
MOT Parrish, S SEC Johnson, C		

**Yeas : 23**

**Nays : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 0**

**Yea : 23**

Arviso, S	Crotty, A	Johnson, C	Simpson, D
Aseret, L	Curley, C	Nez, A	Slater, C
Begay, H	Damon, S	Nez, R	Tolth, G
Begay, N	Daniels, H	Notah, N	Yanito, C
Charles-Newton, E	James, V	Parrish, S	Yazzie, C
Claw, S	Jesus, B	Simonson, G	

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 0**

**Presiding Speaker: Tso, O**