

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0223-20

DATE: September 8, 2020

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ESTABLISHING POLICY THAT THE NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL PARTIES IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will establish Navajo Nation policy against the Navajo Nation government endorsing candidates or political parties in federal, state and local elections.

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: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: 6:50pm 09-11-20
Posting End Date: 09-16-20
Eligible for Action: 09-17-20

Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2020

INTRODUCED BY


(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0223-20

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION
COUNCIL; ESTABLISHING POLICY THAT THE NAVAJO NATION
GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL
PARTIES IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation Council or the appropriate Standing Committee(s) must review and approve statements of policy of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §164 (A) (2012) *see also* CO-45-12.
- B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the enumerated power to recommend resolutions to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 701 (A) (3).
- C. Navajo Nation President Nez recently spoke at the Democratic National Convention in support of Presidential Candidate Joe Biden; Navajo Nation Vice-President Lizer recently spoke at the Republican National Convention in support of re-electing President Trump.
- D. Although neither President Nez nor Vice-President Lizer specifically stated that they were appearing at the respective Conventions on behalf of the Navajo Nation, much of the Navajo Nation public thought that President Nez was endorsing Mr. Biden and the Democratic Party on behalf of the Navajo Nation

1 and that Vice-President Lizer was endorsing President Trump and the
2 Republican Party on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

3 E. 1 N.N.C. § 203(A), Diyin Bits'ááddéé' Beehaz'áanii declares and teaches it is
4 the right and freedom of the Diné to choose leaders of their choice; leaders
5 who will communicate with the people for guidance; leaders who will use
6 their experience and wisdom to always act in the best interest of the people;
7 and leaders who will also ensure the rights and freedoms of the generations
8 yet to come.

9 F. 1 N.N.C. § 203(B), Diyin Bits'ááddéé' Beehaz'áanii declares and teaches that
10 all leaders chosen by the Diné are to carry out their duties and responsibilities
11 in a moral and legal manner in representing the people and the government;
12 people's trust and confidence in the leaders and the continued status as a
13 leader are dependent upon adherence to the values and principles of Diné bi
14 beenahazáanii.

15 G. It is a fundamental right of the Diné to elect the leader(s) of their choice be it
16 Navajo leaders or leaders at the federal, state or local level; this right should
17 not be usurped by Navajo Nation leadership endorsing candidates and political
18 parties on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

19
20 **SECTION THREE. ESTABLISHING POLICY AGAINST THE NAVAJO**
21 **NATION GOVERNMENT ENDORSING POLITICAL CANDIDATES AND**
22 **PARTIES**

23 As an official statement of policy, the Navajo Nation government shall not endorse
24 any candidate or political party at the tribal, federal, state or local level.
25

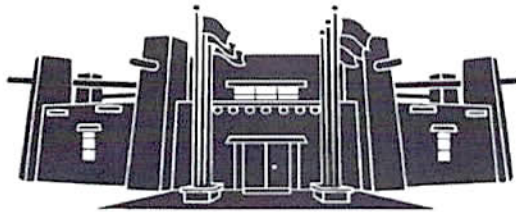
26 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

27 This Action is effective upon its approval pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §221 (A) and (B).
28

29 **SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE**

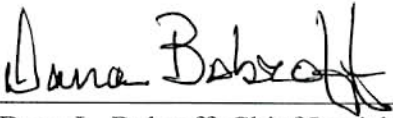
30 Should any provisions of this statement of policy be determined invalid by the Navajo

1 Nation Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the
2 Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions of this statement of policy which are not
3 determined invalid shall remain the official policy of the Navajo Nation.
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Eugene Tso

FROM: 
Dana L. Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: September 8, 2020

SUBJECT: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ESTABLISHING POLICY THAT THE NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL PARTIES IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

Please ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0223-20__

SPONSOR: Eugene Tso

TITLE: An Action Relating To Naabik'iyati Committee And Navajo Nation Council; Establishing Policy That The Navajo Nation Government Shall Not Endorse Candidates Or Political Parties In Federal, State And Local Elections

Date posted: September 11, 2020 at 6:50 PM

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) 871-7586**

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.: 0223-20

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugene Tso

TITLE: An Action Relating To Naabik'iyati Committee And Navajo Nation Council;
Establishing Policy That The Navajo Nation Government Shall Not Endorse Candidates Or
Political Parties In Federal, State And Local Elections

Posted: September 11, 2020 at 6:50 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: September 16, 2020

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<i>None</i>
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Inconclusive Comments	1) BJ Morgan



**Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services**

09/17/20 8:17 AM
Date/Time

0223-20

bj goodluck <bjmgoodluck@gmail.com>

Sat 9/12/2020 1:01 PM

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

The Navajo Nation should remain neutral in the matter of national politics. We should not be beholding to anyone, anytime, anywhere. We should encourage people to vote. If leaders and elected officials decide to publicly endorse any candidate they should do so as private individuals. However, if a policy or law seeks to destroy or limit Navajo people, lands, trust responsibility, treaties, sovereignty or interests, we should fight back!

B J MORGAN

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0223-20

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugene Tso

TITLE: An Action Relating To Naabik'iyati Committee And Navajo Nation Council;
Establishing Policy That The Navajo Nation Government Shall Not Endorse Candidates Or
Political Parties In Federal, State And Local Elections

Posted: September 11, 2020 at 6:50 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: September 16, 2020

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Geraldine Benally
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Inconclusive Comments	<i>None</i>



Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

09/17/20 11:32 AM

Date/Time

0223-20

G Benally <gbenally2013@gmail.com>

Mon 9/14/2020 7:40 PM

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

I wholeheartedly agree with this Bill. Navajo Nation officials represent the Dine' people. Taking a position on political issues as a Tribal official may create the impression that this is the position of the Dine' people. As an official you have to respect the people you represent regardless of your own personal philosophies and beliefs. Perhaps an official statement by the officials that gave the appearance of support for the candidates will alleviate the concerns their appearance and statements created. Thank you!!!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE REPORT
Second Year 2020

The **NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL #0223-20

An Action Relating to Naabik'iyati Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Establishing Policy that the Navajo Nation Government Shall Not Endorse Candidates or Political Parties in Federal, State and Local Elections

Sponsored by: Honorable Eugene Tso

Has had it under consideration and reports the same that the legislation **FAILED AND IS REFERRED TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL.**

Respectfully Submitted,


Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE

17 September 2020

MAIN MOTION

Motioned by: Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.

Seconded by: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

Vote: 08 in Favor, 11 Opposed (Chairman Damon Not Voting)

NAVAJO NATION

661

9/17/2020

Navajo Nation Naabikiyati Special Meeting

06:10:20 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0223-20:	FAILED
MOT Stewart, W	Establishing Policy that the	
SEC Charles-Newton	Navajo Nation Government Shall	
	Not Endorse Candidates or....	

Yeas : 8	Nays : 11	Excused : 0	Not Voting : 4
----------	-----------	-------------	----------------

Yea : 8

Begay, K	Charles-Newton	James, V	Tso, E
Brown	Freeland, M	Slater, C	Tso, O

Nay : 11

Begay, P	Nez, R	Tso, D	Yazzie
Daniels	Stewart, W	Walker, T	Yellowhair
Halona, P	Tso, C	Wauneka, E	

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 4

Crotty	Begay, E	Henio, J	Smith
--------	----------	----------	-------

Presiding Speaker: Damon