

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT**

RESCINDING AND NULLIFYING RESOLUTION NO. CNGD 0902-19, "AN ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE A REFERENDUM MEASURE ON WHETHER THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM 24 TO 48 MEMBERS AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO INCREASE THE COUNCIL'S EFFICIENCY, ENHANCE DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION, IMPROVE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AND QUORUM, AND REDUCE THE OVER COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS."

**WHEREAS:**

1. Pursuant to CD-68-89 (2020 as amended), the Commission on Navajo Government Development is created by the Navajo Nation Council with quasi-independent authority to accomplish the Navajo People's project of instituting reforms necessary to ensure an accountable, responsible, ethical, and equally representative government; and
2. To review, evaluate, and recommend laws, policies, rules and regulations including those amongst agencies, boards, and commissions in order to develop a more consistent and comprehensive integrated government structure for the Navajo People; and
3. On September 14, 2019, the Commission passed Resolution CNGD 0902-19: An Action To Recommend To The Navajo Nation Council And The Navajo Board Of Elections Supervisors To Approve And Authorize A Referendum Measure On Whether The Navajo Nation Council Should Be Increased From 24 To 48 Members; and
4. On January 27, 2022, the Navajo Nation Council, during its winter session, passed Legislation CJA-12-22: Establishing A Referendum For Dine Voters To Decide Whether To Increase The Number Of Navajo Nation Council Delegate From 24 To 48; and
5. On February 13, 2022, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez vetoed CJA-12-22 stating, "*Our Navajo law directs any changes to an initiative must be done by the same process, an initiative must be change by an initiative.*"
6. The Commission takes notice of 11 N.N.C. §409 which provides:
  - C. Legislation adopted by a referendum/initiative election shall be amended or repealed only:
    1. By the outcome of a vote on a subsequent referendum or initiative election concerning the same subject matter as that of the referendum/initiative which originally adopted the legislation; or
    2. For a Navajo Nation-wide referendum or initiative election, by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the full membership of the Navajo Nation Council at a regular session of the Navajo Nation Council.

7. The previous recommendation, work and research by the Office of Navajo Government Development to increase the composition of the Navajo Nation Council Delegates from 24 to 48 does not take into consideration the Commission's desire to make a comprehensive proposal for Navajo Government Reform and that any changes to the composition of the Council should be accomplished by an initiative consistent with the manner in which the prior Council reduction was accomplished.

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Commission on Navajo Government Development hereby rescinds and nullifies Resolution CNGD-0902-19.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Commission on Navajo Government Development at a duly called meeting (via teleconference) at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of -8- in favor, -0- opposed and -1- abstained, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.



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Shawnevan Dale, Chairman  
Commission on Navajo Government Development

Motion: Anselm Morgan

Second: Marcus Tulley