

DIYIN NOHOOKÁÁ DINÉ'É BI BEEHAZ'ÁANII BITSÍ SILÉÍ

Navajo Government Reform Proposal Unveiled, Marking a Historic Milestone

CHINLE, AZ — July 16, 2025

The Office of Navajo Government Development (ONGD) proudly unveiled the *Diyin Nohookáá Diné'é Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsí Siléí*, the Navajo Government Reform Proposal, in Chinle, Arizona. This momentous occasion was more than a ceremonial release, it marked a critical step in advancing Navajo self-governance and reform, engaging both in-person and online audiences in the first Navajo-written government restructuring proposal, a task assigned to ONGD by the Navajo Nation Council in 1989.

The event commenced with a traditional prayer and song by District Court Judge Victor Clyde and Mr. Benny Begay. Former Chairman of the Commission on Navajo Government Development, Marcus Tully, delivered the welcome address. Pro Tem Chair Larry Rogers introduced the Commissioners, followed by ONGD Executive Director Harrison Tsosie introducing the current ONGD team.

Director Tsosie began the presentation with an overview of the 1989 governmental turmoil that led to the creation of ONGD through Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJY-68-89. Thirty-six years later, under his leadership, a complete reform document has been drafted and is now presented to the Navajo public for review and input.

During the four-hour presentation, Director Tsosie covered ten of the nineteen articles in the proposal. The final hour was dedicated to open dialogue and public recommendations. Over 100 individuals attended in person, 49 participated via Zoom, and many more listened in through KTNN radio.

Attendees expressed strong support, with many urging young, eligible Navajo voters to take part in shaping the future of Navajo governance. The elder voices present emphasized that today's youth will carry forward the responsibility of leadership.

Special guests in attendance included Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya; former Navajo Nation Speaker Johnny Naize; Chairman Peter McDonald, who offered his congratulations to the ONGD team; former Peacemaking Coordinator Elaine Henderson; comedian and consultant Pax Harvey; and professional MMA fighter Nicco Montaño. Their presence reflected widespread support for the reform effort and encouragement for increased public engagement.

The ONGD acknowledges not only the current team's efforts, but also the foundational work of past policy analysts, researchers, directors, and commissioners whose collective contributions helped bring this document to life.

The proposal remains in draft form and is available for public review at www.ongd.navajo-nsn.gov. Public recommendations will be accepted until **March 6, 2026**.

Additional presentations will be scheduled throughout the Navajo Nation and in nearby metropolitan areas to reach off-reservation voters. Community members interested in hosting a presentation should contact their local chapter officials and request coordination with the ONGD office.

We thank all who attended and those continuing to support the effort to strengthen the foundation of the Navajo Nation Government through this historic reform.