

Navajo Nation Government

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Background

The Navajo Nation extends into the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah covering over 27,000 square miles. Today, the Navajo Nation is striving to sustain a viable economy for an increasing population which now surpasses 250,000 people (History). The Navajo Nation government is broken into three-branch systems (executive, legislative, and judicial) and Navajo's conduct what is considered to be the most sophisticated form of Indian Government. The Navajo Nation Council Chambers hosts 88 council delegated representing 110 Navajo Nation chapters (History). Within the 110 Chapter houses, there are 5 agencies and they are Chinle Agency, Crownpoint/ Eastern Agency, Fort Defiance Agency, Shiprock Agency, and Tuba City/ Western Agency (Chapters).



(Council of Chambers)

President



The President of the Navajo Nation is Ben Shelley and the Vice President is Rex Lee Jim.



(Ben Shelly Elected 2011)

Mission Statement



To accomplish the Peoples' project of instituting reforms necessary to ensure an accountable, trustworthy, responsible and transparent government.

Branches of Government

- Judicial
- Legislative
- Executive

The sovereign Navajo Nation has the powers to make laws, execute its laws, and interprets its laws. The Navajo Nation Council enacts the laws; the Executive Branch executes those laws; and the Navajo Nation Courts interprets those laws

Council of Chambers

The Council of Chambers is the center of government for the Navajo Nation. The landmark building is located in Window Rock, AZ and it is where meetings take place among the delegates.



Navajo Nation Seal and Flag

The Great Seal had forty eight projectile points or arrowheads symbolizing the Navajo Nations protection within the forty eight states (as of 1952). Since then, two points have been added to represent the entire fifty states of the United States. The opening at the top of the three concentric lines is considered the East. The lines represent the rainbow and sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. The rainbow never closes on the Nation's sovereignty. The outside line is red, the middle line is yellow and the inside line, blue. The yellow sun shines from the east on the four sacred mountains, Sisnaajinii, Tsoodzi[, Dook'o'osl77d, and Dib4 Ntsaa. Yoo[gaii, Doot['izhii, Diichi[i, and Baashzhinii are the sacred mountain ceremonial stones. Two cornstalks with pollen symbolizes the sustainer of Navajo life. A horse, cow, and sheep, located in the center, symbolizes the Navajo livestock.

The copper color outlines the present reservation, with the

original Treaty of 1868 in dark



brown. In the cardinal points on the tan field are the Sacred Mountains. A rainbow, symbolizing sovereignty arches over the Navajo Nation. In the center of the reservation, a circular symbol depicts the sun above two green stalks of corn between which are three animals representing the Navajo livestock economy, a traditional Hogan and a more modern type of house. Between the hogan and house is an oil derrick symbolizing the resource potential of the Nation, and above this are represented the wild fauna of the reservation. At the top, nearest to the sun, the modern sawmill symbolizes the progress and industry currently characteristic of the Nation's development.