

A LETTER FROM NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT

JOE SHIRLEY, JR.

“NOW IS THE TIME FOR GOVERNMENT REFORM”



Yá'át'ééh! In order to make the Navajo Nation government more responsive, more accountable and more effective, the Navajo People have asked to reduce the size of the Navajo Nation Council from 88 to 24 members since 2000.

In 2002, 26 recommendations from the Government Reform Convention at Red Rock State Park were ignored by the Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

This year, when I began an initiative drive to put the Council reduction question on the election ballot, Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan asked to “talk things out” with me, signed an agreement with me to place legislation on the Council agenda, and then did nothing. Now he wants to increase the Council to 100 members, eliminate the Executive Branch, and abolish the Office of the President.

Because there is currently no way to rein in the Council's spending of the People's money, we are also seeking budgetary line-item authority for the Navajo Nation President. This will allow me and future Presidents to line out unnecessary and wasteful spending like gold rings for Council delegates, and cause the Legislative Branch to work with the President on budget rather than attach unlimited riders to legislation to

continually drain the Undesignated, Unreserved Fund.

But for the People's voices to be heard, this government reform effort is being done through the initiative process and a special election. An “initiative” is when the People speak to their government.

Please join the thousands of concerned Diné citizens who have already signed the petitions to get these two initiative questions on a special election ballot in a historic grassroots effort to collect the required signatures by Oct. 27. With enough signatures, we can hold a special election ballot, and then the People can decide.

To help reform Navajo Navajo government, you need to be a registered Navajo voter to sign the initiative petitions.

As you may expect, most of the Navajo Nation Council is opposed to government reform, opposed the Speaker's talks with me, voted not to place reform legislation on its agenda, and don't want Navajo voices heard. Let's show the Navajo Nation Council that Navajo voices signatures have power, and that the government belongs to the People. Ahe'hee!

**DR. JOE SHIRLEY, JR., PRESIDENT
THE NAVAJO NATION**

Meeting to Discuss the Government Reform Initiatives with President Joe Shirley, Jr. and members of his staff.

For information or directions, call Loren Tapahe at 602-448-0260.

TIME: Thursday, October 23, 2008; at 6 PM

**PLACE: Mesa Public Schools
Student Service Center, Grand Canyon
Rooms, 1st Floor, East Wing
1025 N. Country Club Road, Mesa, Arizona**