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Navajo Nation Council receives 2021 budget preparation calendar for annual comprehensive budget season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 21, 2020

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) of the 24th Navajo Nation Council voted Tuesday to approve an amended timeline for the 2021 budget calendar prepared by the Navajo Nation Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Preparation Calendar discloses all key comprehensive budget activities over a 19-step sequence that began Jul. 17 and concludes Sept. 30.

Starting Aug. 24 and continuing through Aug. 27, step 12 of the budget process will commence with the budget hearings conducted by the oversight committees of the Navajo Nation Council. Since Jul. 27, all Navajo Nation programs have been undergoing budget preparation orientation and then submitting completed program budget to branch chiefs for review and approval.

The 2021 budget allocation is set at $167 million, which includes amounts for fixed costs, the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, Judicial Branch, non-administrative Chapter funding and external funds cash match amounts. The revenue projections, budget calendar and related 2021 budget process documents are included in Resolution No. BFJY-19-20.

The due dates, activities and responsible entities for the remaining steps 12 through 19 under the amended calendar are as follows:

12. ~~Aug. 20 - 25, 2020~~ Aug. 24 - 27, 2020; Conduct budget hearings; approve legislation recommending the Branch/Division budgets to the BFC; NNC Oversight Committees.
13. ~~Aug. 26 – Sept. 1, 2020~~ Aug. 28, 2020; Prepare budget packages and related information for the BFC budget hearings; OMB, Branches/Divisions.
14. Sept. 2-8, 2020; Conduct budget hearings; review and approve Branch Chiefs' budgets and the Oversight Committees budget recommendations and act on and issue the NNC proposed legislation for the NN comprehensive budget; BFC.
15. Sept. 8, 2020; Issue proposed NN comprehensive budget legislation for five-day public comment; Legislative Counsel.
16. Sept. 9-12, 2020; Prepare the budget for the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and NNC, including printing and distribution of the NN comprehensive budget; OMB.
17. Sept. 15-16, 2020; Naabik'íyáti' Committee budget session; review the NN comprehensive budget and forward the budget and proposed legislation to the NNC with changes, if any; Naabik'íyáti' Committee.
18. Sept. 17-19, 2020; NNC budget session; deliberate and approve the NN comprehensive budget; adopt budget legislation; NNC.
19. Sept. 30, 2020; Deadline to act on the NNC approved NN comprehensive budget and legislation.

Previously completed activities of the 2021 budget process include development of the now-approved budget process legislation, which includes revenue projections, branch planning allocations, the budget calendar and the Budget Instructions Manual (BIM). Following that, program budget planning allocations were issued by branch chiefs and all Navajo Nation programs began budget preparations.

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OMB Executive Director Dominic Beyal stated that the amended timeline for the budget process can continue with the objective of approving a fiscal year 2021 budget by Sept. 30 with implementation beginning with the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

All Navajo Nation program budgets, which include division-wide funding requests for the next fiscal year, must be approved by the respective legislative oversight committee and the Navajo Nation Council. Approved legislation will then be considered by the president for line-item veto, regular veto or ratification within ten calendar days of receiving the certified resolution.

All legislation and exhibits, which include proposed program budget documents, is publicly accessible online through the Navajo Nation Council's legislative tracking system, Diné Bibeehaz'áanii Binaaltsoos (DiBB), at: http://dibb.nnols.org.

Digital comments on legislation may be emailed 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, etcetera. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments. A valid email address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the legislation packet.

All oversight committee meeting agendas are available on the Navajo Nation Council website at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting: http://www.navajonationcouncil.org/meetings.html.

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