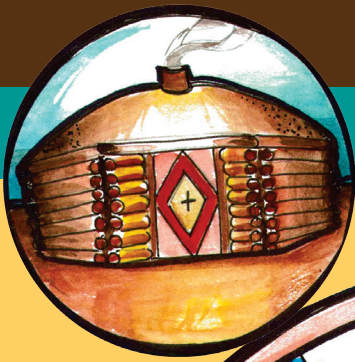


# NAVAJO NATION

## KNOW YOUR VOTE GUIDE



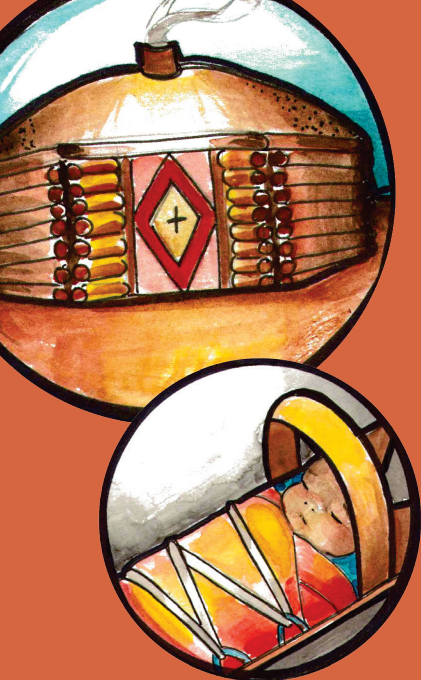
Voting is a public way of saying, “Our families count, and all of our families matter!”



Civic participation means getting everyday folks involved in the decisions that affect our families and communities. During election season we can speak up and get involved in the process. We can vote, share our stories, attend chapter and other community meetings, and take many other actions both small and large that impact decision making.

Elections matter because elected leaders make decisions that can either help or hurt our families. Those elected often pay more attention to community members who vote.

Members of the Navajo Nation have the right to participate in both the sovereign Navajo Nation’s government and the federal, state, and local governments of the United States. **By navigating both governments, Navajo voters can impact our daily lives and the lives of generations to come.**



# WHY VOTE?

**VOTING IN NAVAJO NATION ELECTIONS** means having a voice in tribal government and decisions. This guide features information about the Chapter President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Tribal members also elect members of the Land Board, Farm Board, and School Board.

**VOTING IN NEW MEXICO AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS** means voting for offices that include US President, New Mexico Secretary of State, County Commissioners, and many others. Elected leaders make important decisions that can impact our daily lives. For example, County Commissioners make decisions on funding for road projects, public transportation, community centers, and other programs and services that we often need and rely on. For a longer list of positions up for election in 2016, their responsibilities, and what it means for you, take a look at our “Know Your Vote” Guide on the New Mexico Resources tab of our website.

“You have one vote, but you also have the possibility of bringing your family with you to vote and allowing your family to have a say in your election. Together, from I to we, our vote counts.”



EMERSON TOLEDO, Navajo Nation voter and Strong Families New Mexico leader from Thoreau, New Mexico

“Voting matters because it affects younger generations . . . Voting in both elections is important to get the help and access to services and resources we want and need.”



TYLER NEZ, Navajo Nation voter and Strong Families New Mexico leader from St. Michaels, Arizona

## NAVAJO NATION ELECTIONS

### WHO CAN VOTE

To vote in Navajo Nation elections, you must be at least 18, an enrolled member of the tribe, and registered to vote with the Navajo Nation elections office. You must be at least one-quarter Navajo to be enrolled as a tribal member. Registration to vote may require a copy of your Certificate of Indian Blood and photo ID. If you are new to the chapter and your name is not found at the polls on the registration list, you may be asked to provide a receipt of your voter registration.

### AM I ALREADY REGISTERED?

You must register in order to vote. To remain registered you must vote in every major Navajo Nation election. If you did not vote in the last Navajo Nation election, you must re-register. To check your registration status, contact the Navajo elections office directly at 1-800-775-8683.

## NEW MEXICO ELECTIONS

### WHO CAN VOTE

To vote in New Mexico and US elections, you must be 18 or older and a US citizen.

17-year-olds can register to vote AND vote in primary elections, as long as they turn 18 on or before the general election.

Individuals convicted of a felony cannot vote while incarcerated, on parole, or on probation. Those who have completed these terms need to re-register to vote.

### AM I ALREADY REGISTERED?

You need to register in order to vote in any local, state, or federal elections. Check your voter registration status—prior to an election—by visiting New Mexico’s Secretary of State website. Unlike Navajo Nation elections, you do not have to vote in every election in order to stay registered. But, you must update your voter registration if you want to change your party affiliation, if your name changed, or if you moved (even within the same city).

## NAVAJO NATION

**Chapter Leadership** • Navajo Nation members in 110 chapters elect leadership positions, including Chapter President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

### POSITION

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

#### CHAPTER PRESIDENT

The members of each chapter elect the Chapter President who serves a 4-year term, with no term limits.

- Carries out decisions of the chapter.
- Ensures the chapter is using funds according to Navajo Nation Council and/or the chapter's budget.

Responsible for ensuring all members have the opportunity to speak at chapter meetings.

Helps mediate family disputes, when appropriate, and refers family members to social services for support.

#### CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

The members of each chapter elect the Chapter Vice President who serves a 4-year term, with no term limits.

- Runs chapter meetings if Chapter President is not able to attend.
- Monitors community projects.

Oversees the improvement of powerlines, water lines, and home repair projects.

#### CHAPTER SECRETARY/ TREASURER

The members of each chapter elect the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer who serves a 4-year term, with no term limits.

- Ensures an accurate accounting system to maintain accountability of all chapter funds and expenses.
- Maintains accurate records of all chapter activities.

Shares budget information with chapter members so that community is informed on funded projects.

## STEP ONE: REGISTER

You can register at most chapter houses. Navajo members living off the reservation can register in person with a certified Navajo Nation registrar. If you are not able to register in person, call the elections office at 1-800-775-8683 and a registrar will fill out the form for you. The elections office will mail the filled-in form to you to sign and return with required documentation. For your first time registering by mail, a copy of your Certificate of Indian Blood and a copy of a photo ID must be submitted.

## STEP TWO: VOTE!

You can vote in person at most chapter houses or by absentee ballot. Be sure to request an absentee mail ballot during the allowed timeframe. During the absentee time, there is walk-in voting at elections offices as well.

## STEP ONE: REGISTER

You can register to vote by filling out a paper registration form or with the assistance of a Third-Party Registration Agent.

Forms are available at your local post office, motor vehicle departments, public assistance offices, any county clerk's office, and at the Office of the Secretary of State. Forms can also be requested by mail, telephone, or in person.

You can also register online by going to this link: [bit.ly/NMVoterReg](https://bit.ly/NMVoterReg)

You must submit your registration at least 28 days prior to an election.

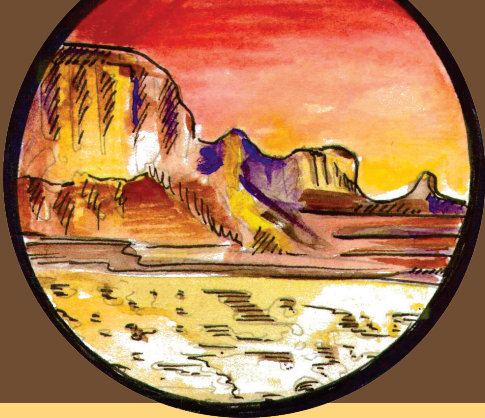
## STEP TWO: VOTE!

You can vote in person during the early voting period or on Election Day. You may also vote by mail with an absentee ballot during the allowed timeframe. For more information on the absentee ballot process contact the New Mexico Secretary of State's Office or visit their website. No matter what method you use, your vote is a secret.

## WHAT TO BRING

Valid photo ID is required to vote in local elections. For all other elections, only first-time voters are required to present a photo ID.





“You have an opportunity to elect who you think can handle and be a strong representative in the chapter. We need to pick the right people who will use their voice to speak out for the people and to help get their needs met.”



CECELIA FRED, Navajo Nation voter and Strong Families New Mexico leader from Gallup, New Mexico

## NAVAJO NATION

### KEY 2016 DATES

**October 9** – Last day to register to vote in the Navajo general election and absentee ballot becomes available upon request

**October 24** – Deadline to request an absentee ballot; mailed applications must be received by Navajo elections offices on this date

**November 4** – Last day to walk in and vote early at Navajo elections offices

**November 8** – General election and absentee ballot return deadline

### WHERE TO VOTE

You can vote in both Navajo Nation and New Mexico state elections at some chapter houses, but not all offer both. Check with your chapter house to find out what is available. Election office contact information is listed in the Resources section of this guide.

## NEW MEXICO

### KEY 2016 DATES

**October 11** – Last day to register to vote in the general election

**October 22 – November 5** – General election early voting

**November 8** – General election and absentee ballot return deadline

### WHERE TO VOTE

You must vote in the county where you are registered. For a list of polling locations in your county, visit the website of the New Mexico Secretary of State or your County Clerk or contact either office by phone.

### VOTING ASSISTANCE

Voting assistance is available and may be requested at the polls if you are unable to read or write, physically disabled, blind, or speak a language other than English. You can choose who assists you in the voting booth, as long as they aren't a candidate on the ballot, your employer, or a representative of your union.

### RESOURCES

#### NAVAJO NATION ELECTIONS OFFICE

Phone: 1-800-775-8683

Email: [navajoelections@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:navajoelections@navajo-nsn.gov)

Website: [www.navajoelections.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.navajoelections.navajo-nsn.gov)

#### NEW MEXICO SECRETARY OF STATE

Phone: 1-800-477-3632

Website: [www.sos.state.nm.us](http://www.sos.state.nm.us)

#### 1ST NAVAJO VOTERS' RIGHTS COALITION, INC. OF NEW MEXICO

Website: [www.1stnvr.com](http://www.1stnvr.com)

Facebook: 1st Navajo Voters' Rights Coalition Inc. of New Mexico

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### STRONG FAMILIES NEW MEXICO

**STRONG FAMILIES NEW MEXICO**, a state-based action site of **FORWARD TOGETHER**, works to shift culture and create new policies so that all families have the rights, recognition, and resources they need to thrive.

For more information contact us!

Phone: (505) 842-8070

Email: [newmexico@forwardtogether.org](mailto:newmexico@forwardtogether.org)

Website: [www.strongfamiliesmovement.org/new-mexico](http://www.strongfamiliesmovement.org/new-mexico)



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