



# NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### APACHE COUNTY JUDGE DISMISSES NAVAJO NATION'S LAWSUIT AGAINST APACHE COUNTY

**WINDOW ROCK, NAVAJO NATION** – Friday, November 22, 2024 – An Apache County Judge has dismissed the Navajo Nation's second lawsuit against Apache County, which the Navajo Nation Department of Justice filed after learning that approximately 175 Navajo voters had less than 24 hours to cure inconsistent signatures on their early ballots. The Navajo Nation's lawsuit sought to give Navajo voters additional time to cure their inconsistent signatures.

Relying on testimony presented by Apache County at a November 19 hearing, the Apache County Judge found that Apache County made reasonable and meaningful attempts to contact voters who needed to cure inconsistent signatures on their early ballots. Based on this finding, the Judge dismissed the Nation's lawsuit.

"While we are disappointed in the outcome of this case, we will continue to work towards improving the conduct of elections in Apache County," stated Buu Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation. Attorney General Ethel Branch added, "Apache County disenfranchised Navajos voters in the 2024 general election. Despite this ruling, we will not be deterred from holding Apache County accountable for honoring all Navajo votes in future elections." Crystalyne Curley, Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, added "We hope Apache County will take responsibility for the many failures of the 2024 general election and work with the Navajo Nation to protect the rights of Navajo voters in Apache County."

The Navajo Nation Department of Justice will be hosting a second public hearing on December 2, 2024 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fort Defiance Chapter House. This public hearing is an opportunity for Apache County voters on the Navajo Nation to share their experiences voting in the 2024 general election. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you can e-mail your experience to [general@nndoj.org](mailto:general@nndoj.org).

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