

Navajo Election Administration
Qualifications for Navajo Nation President and Vice-President

11 NNC § 8 (A)

1. Must be a registered voter, a member of the Navajo Nation, and be on the agency census roll of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
2. Must be at least thirty (30) years of age at the time of general election.
3. Must fluently speak and understand Navajo and read and write English.
4. Must not have been convicted of a felony within the last five (5) years.
5. Must not have been convicted of any misdemeanor involving crimes of deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including but not limited to extortion, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, forgery, fraud, misrepresentation, false pretense, theft, conversion, or misuse of Navajo Nation funds and property, and crimes involving the welfare of children, child abuse, child neglect, aggravated assault and aggravated battery within the last five (5) years.
6. Must have unswerving loyalty to the Navajo Nation and must be competent and capable of upholding the oath of office.
7. Candidates elected, who are employed by the Navajo Nation, must resign from such employment before taking the Oath of Office and shall not be employed by the Navajo Nation during their term of office.
8. Must not have been indicted by a federal grand jury at the time of filing of the candidate application. Any candidate for the Office of the President or Vice-President who is indicted by a federal grand jury subsequent to the filing of the candidate application shall be disqualified.
9. Must not if elected, be in the permanent employment of the United States or any state or subdivision thereof; nor be an elected official of the United States or any state or subdivision thereof.
10. The Navajo Nation President or the Navajo Nation Vice-President shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.
11. If elected, shall maintain qualifications stated herein throughout their term of office.

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Note: Pursuant to Navajo Nation Supreme Court decision, an individual cannot serve more than two consecutive terms for the position of the Navajo Nation President or Navajo Nation Vice-President. *Todacheenie v. Shirley, SC-CV-37-10 (2010)*.

Note: Residency requirements for Navajo Nation elective offices have been declared inapplicable by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. *Lee v. Nelson-Charley, SC-CV-32-06 (2006)*.

Note: The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has declared inapplicable any qualifications requiring prior service as an elected official of the Navajo Nation or any prior Navajo Nation employment. *Bennett v. Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, A-CV-26-90 (1990)*.

Note: The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has invalidated the following provision of Section 8 - "Must not have been found in violation by a trial court or the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council of the Navajo Ethics in Government or Election laws." *Bennett v. Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, SC-CV-32-94 (1994)*, *Begay v. Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, SC-CV-36-94 (1994)*. However, any sanctions imposed under either the Election Code or the Ethics in Government Law can still affect qualifications for a particular office. Sanctions affecting qualifications for office will still be applied.

Navajo Election Administration
Qualifications for Delegate to the Navajo Nation Council

11 NNC § 8 (B)

1. Must be at least twenty-five (25) years of age on or before the date of the general election.
2. Must be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation on the Agency census roll of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
3. Must not have been convicted of a felony within the last five (5) years.
4. Must not have been convicted of any misdemeanor involving crimes of deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including but not limited to extortion, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, forgery, fraud, misrepresentation, false pretense, theft, conversion, or misuse of Navajo Nation funds and property, and crimes involving the welfare of children, child abuse, child neglect, aggravated assault and aggravated battery within the last five (5) years.
5. Must maintain unswerving loyalty to the Navajo Nation and must be competent and capable of upholding the oath of office.
6. Must be a registered voter in the chapter or precinct from which elected.
7. Candidates elected, who are employed by the Navajo Nation, must resign from such employment before taking the Oath of Office and shall not be employed by the Navajo Nation during their term of office.
8. Must be able to speak and understand Navajo and/or English.
9. Must not, if elected, serve in any other elected Navajo Nation Office
10. Must not be in the permanent employment of the United States or any state or subdivision thereof, or be an elected official of the United States or any state or subdivision thereof, with the exception of service on a school board or elective county office.
11. If elected, shall maintain qualifications stated herein throughout their term of office.

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Note: Residency requirements for Navajo Nation elective offices have been declared inapplicable by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. *Lee v. Nelson-Charley, SC-CV-32-06 (2006)*.

Note: The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has invalidated the following provision of Section 8 - "Must not have been found in violation by a trial court or the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council of the Navajo Ethics in Government or Election laws." *Bennett v. Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, SC-CV-32-94 (1994)*, *Begay v. Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, SC-CV-36-94 (1994)*. However, any sanctions imposed under either the Election Code or the Ethics in Government Law can still affect qualifications for a particular office. Sanctions affecting qualifications for office will still be applied.

Note: Pursuant to 11 NNC § 8 (4) Qualifications for Candidates for School Board (a) Must not be a member of the Navajo Nation Council.

Navajo Election Administration

Qualifications for Chapter Officials

11 NNC – Navajo Nation Election Code

1. **Must be a registered voter of the Chapter they seek to represent and be on the census roll of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.**
2. **Must be 21 years of age at the time of the election.**
3. **Must not have been convicted of a felony within the last five (5) years.**
4. **Must not have been convicted of any misdemeanor in any Courts involving crimes of deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including but not limited to extortion, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, forgery, fraud, misrepresentation, false pretense, theft, conversion, or misuse of Navajo Nation funds and property, and crimes involving the welfare of children, child abuse, child neglect, aggravated assault and aggravated battery within the last five (5) years. Must not have been found in violation by a trial court or the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council of the Navajo Ethics in Government or Election Laws.**
5. **Must have permanent residence and been continually physically present within the Navajo Nation as defined in 7 NNC § 254 at least three (3) years prior to the time of the election.**
6. **Must have an understanding of the Navajo Nation governmental affairs.**
7. **Must not have been removed from a chapter office within the five (5) years preceding the date of his or her filing for candidacy.**
8. **Must not, if elected, serve in any other Navajo Nation elective offices, with the exception of the office(s) of school board member(s).**
9. **Must be a high school graduate or must have a GED certificate, if the candidate seeks the office of Secretary-Treasurer.**
10. **Must not allow employment with the Navajo Nation, federal or state governments, or any private organization to interfere with the performance of Chapter officer duties.**
11. **If a candidate is an employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Indian Health Services, prior to filing, the candidate shall obtain written clearance from the BIA or IHS stating that there is no conflict of interest for the candidate in the event the candidate is elected as Chapter official. Clearance shall be provided to the Election Administration Office.**
12. **Must not be a chapter community service coordinator (Title 26)**

Navajo Election Administration

Qualifications for Board of Election Supervisors Candidates

11 NNC – Navajo Nation Election Code

1. Shall not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor involving crimes of deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including but not limited to extortion, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, forgery, fraud, misrepresentation, false pretense, theft, conversion, or misuse of Navajo Nation funds and property, and crimes involving the welfare of children, child abuse, child neglect, aggravated assault and aggravated battery.
2. Must not be biased and shall be in a position to initiate nonpartisan measures to urge and facilitate each person's right to vote for his or her choice of candidate.
3. Must be thirty (30) years of age.
4. Must be a registered voter of the chapter within the agency that he or she will represent.
5. Must be able to understand and speak Navajo and English and write the English language.
6. Must be aware of the Navajo Nation government.
7. Must not hold the position of any Navajo Nation elective office, as covered by the Election Code, including a School Board member position nor be a candidate for an elected office other than the position of a Board of Election Supervisor.
8. If elected, shall maintain qualifications stated herein throughout their term of office.

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Note: The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has invalidated the provision of the Election Code requiring that a candidate must not have been found in violation by a trial court or the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council of the Navajo Ethics in Government or Election laws. Bennett v. Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, SC-CV-32-94 (1994), Begay v. Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, SC-CV-36-94 (1994).

Navajo Election Administration

Qualifications for Land Board Candidates

11 NNC – Navajo Nation Election Code

1. **Must be a registered voter of the Chapter which the candidate seeks to represent and be on the census roll of the Navajo Nation.**
2. **Must be at least 21 years of age at the time of filing.**
3. **Must not have been convicted of a felony within the last five (5) years.**
4. **Must not have been convicted of any misdemeanor in any court involving crimes of deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including but not limited to extortion, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, forgery, fraud, misrepresentation, false pretense, theft, conversion, or misuse of Navajo Nation funds and property, and crimes involving the welfare of children, child abuse, child neglect, aggravated assault and aggravated battery within five (5) years preceding the date of the elections. Must not have been found in violation by a trial court or the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council of the Navajo Ethics in Government or Election Laws.**
5. **Must be knowledgeable in the maintenance and management of livestock operations.**
6. **Must be able to speak the Navajo language fluently, and to read and write the English language.**
7. **Must own transportation for use in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a Land Board member.**
8. **Must have a valid driver's license.**
9. **Must have experience with and knowledge of the complex land status in the Eastern Navajo Area as well as being familiar with the land use policies and procedures of the Navajo Nation and federal and state governments.**
10. **Must not, if elected, serve in any other Navajo Nation elective offices, with the exception of the office(s) of school board(s). An elected official may run for Land Board if his or her elected office expires prior to his or her taking office as a Land Board member.**

Navajo Election Administration

Qualifications for Farm Board Candidates

11 NNC – Navajo Nation Election Code

1. Must be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.
2. Must be a registered voter of the Chapter to be represented.
3. Must be fluent in the Navajo and English language.
4. Must be at least 21 years old at the time of filing.
5. Must have knowledge and experience of agricultural land use policies and rules and regulations.
6. Must not hold either the Office of Delegate or any Chapter office, unless the term of the office held expires prior to taking office as a Farm Board member.
7. Must not, if elected, serve in any other Navajo Nation elective offices with the exception of the office(s) of the School Board(s).
8. Must not have been convicted of a felony within the last five (5) years.
9. Must not have been convicted of any misdemeanor in any court involving crimes of deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including but not limited to extortion, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, forgery, fraud, misrepresentation, false pretense, theft, conversion, or misuse of Navajo Nation funds and property, and crimes involving the welfare of children, child abuse, child neglect, aggravated assault and aggravated battery within the last five (5) years. Must not have been found in violation by a trial court or the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council of the Navajo Ethics in Government or Election Laws.

Navajo Election Administration

Qualifications for District Grazing Committee Candidates

11 NNC – Navajo Nation Election Code

1. Must be a member of the Navajo Nation.
2. Must be a registered voter of the Chapter which candidate seeks to represent.
3. Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of filing.
4. Should be able to read, write and speak the English language.
5. Must be able to converse fluently in the Navajo language.
6. Must have demonstrated interest or experience in livestock and range management.
7. Must have knowledge of grazing rules and regulations.
8. Must not, if elected, serve in any other Navajo Nation elective office, including a Navajo Nation Council seat or appointment to any commission, board, committee or office that is an entity of the Navajo Nation or the United States government, with the exception of the office(s) of the School Board(s).
9. Must not have been convicted of a felony within the last five (5) years.
10. Must not have been convicted of any misdemeanor in any court involving crimes of deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including but not limited to extortion, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, forgery, fraud, misrepresentation, false pretense, theft, conversion, or misuse of Navajo Nation funds and property, and crimes involving the welfare of children, child abuse, child neglect, aggravated assault and aggravated battery within the last five (5) years. Must not have been found in violation by a trial court or the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council of the Navajo Ethics in Government or Election Laws.
11. Shall maintain the qualifications of respective office throughout the term of such office.
12. Shall not be certified as qualified for any public office of the Navajo Nation if he or she has not completely satisfied or otherwise has failed to fully comply with any order of any entity, including administrative hearing bodies and courts of the Navajo Nation, authorized to impose sanctions or penalties for violations of the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law.

Navajo Election Administration

11 N.N.C - ELECTION CODE

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR
SCHOOL BOARD

§ (8)(D)(4) – Qualifications for Candidates for School Board:

- a. **Must not be a member of the Navajo Nation Council.**
- b. **Must be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and be on the Agency Census roll of the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records.**
- c. **Must be a registered voter of the Chapter or Agency he or she will represent, and certify that he or she will remain so registered for the duration of his or her term of office.**
- d. **Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of the election.**
- e. **Must not be an employee or the spouse of an employee of the School on whose board he or she would serve.**
- f. **Must not have a conflict of interest arising from any tribal, state, or federal laws regarding his or her employment.**
- g. **Must not have been convicted of a felony.**
- h. **Must not have been convicted of the following misdemeanor crimes:**
 - (1) **Any crimes involving elements of deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including but not limited to extortion, bribery, forgery, fraud, theft, embezzlement, perjury, misrepresentation, false pretense, conversion, or misuse of public funds or property;**
 - (2) **Any crimes involving the welfare of children, child abuse, or child neglect;**
 - (3) **Aggravated Assault or Aggravated Battery;**
 - (4) **Any crimes involving the use of intoxicating alcohol or illegal substance abuse including unlawful transport, sales or distribution of controlled substances.**
- i. **Must have fully complied with all orders or sanctions imposed by the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council or Courts of the Navajo Nation for any violations of the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law.**
- j. **School Board members shall maintain the qualifications stated herein through out their terms of office.**
- k. **If elected or appointed, the candidate shall serve on no more than one Local Community School Board.**

§. 6 - Terms of Office; oath

- D. **Local Community School Board members shall serve only four consecutive terms, inclusive of present terms. The School Board member must not have a conflict of interest arising from any tribal, state or federal laws regarding his or her employment, including being an employee of the Navajo Nation Elections Administration or a member of the Navajo Nation Board of Election Supervisors.**
- E. **Must not have been an employee of the school within the last five years to prevent conflict of retaliation from being a recent employee to becoming a new school board member.**

Navajo Election Administration

Qualifications for Navajo Nation Board of Education

11 NNC § 8 (D) (5)

1. Shall be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.
2. Shall be at least twenty-five (25) years old at the time of filing.
3. Shall not be a Delegate to the Navajo Nation Council.
4. Shall not be a member of a school operating on the Navajo Nation.
5. Shall not be an employee of the Department of Diné Education.
6. Shall have at least a 4-year academic degree from an accredited college or university.
7. Shall not have been convicted of a felony.
8. Shall not have been convicted of any crime involving child abuse.
9. Shall not have been convicted of any crime involving child neglect.
10. If elected, shall maintain qualifications stated herein throughout their term of office.

Navajo Election Administration

Qualifications for Kayenta Township Commissioner

Kayenta Township Resolution KTCAU-33-06

1. Must be a member of the Navajo Nation enrolled with the Office of Vital Records
2. Must be a registered voter of the Kayenta Chapter
3. Must be a registered voter of the Kayenta Township election precinct
4. Must reside within the Kayenta Township boundaries
5. Must be at least 25 years of age at the time of the declaration of candidacy
6. Must be a high school graduate or received a GED certificate
7. Must not have been convicted of any offense (criminal or civil) within the last ten (10) years, from the date of the declaration of candidacy, that involved any of the following:
 - a. deceit, untruthfulness and dishonesty, including extortion, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, forgery, fraud, misrepresentation, theft, conversion, or misuse of public or private funds and property
 - b. Aggravated assault, aggravated battery or sexual misconduct
 - c. Use or possession of illegal drugs
8. Must not have been convicted of a felony within the last ten (10) years from the date of the declaration of candidacy
9. Must not hold any other elective office with the Navajo Nation government or any of its political subdivision, state government or any of its political subdivision, or the United States government with the exception of school board positions.
10. Must not be a judge in any court