

Navajo Nation Presidential Forum

Dine College – Tsaile, AZ

August 20, 2018

Panelist (6)

1000 chairs in arena

Introduction and stand up

Answer question being posed to candidate

Junior major in biology

Bryan shorty sophomore engineering

Jr student at Dine college

Welcome by Dr. Charles Monty Roessel – President of Dine College

Questions:

BB – How will you work with Washington as President of the NN?

RB – governing body of NN – should be the Navajo people – hold elected official accountable

TC – how will you help us in higher education at Dine College? Learn and understand Navajo by graduating from Dine College

JN – Navajo Housing Authority – trade such as electrician, plumbing (do it our own)

CL – Illegal trash dumping on the reservation – people just ignore – violate then hold accountable (tax 17) some more punitive measures – contaminate environment

JS – why is there more funding for jail? More treatment facilities

VY – how will you address the police

RLJ – Navajo Nation have meetings outside of the reservation and not within the NN?

NPB – how will you deter tribal funds? Get new leaders (Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation [per President Russell Begay)

DB – over populated feral livestock

AS – as a leader to be able to speak Navajo –

EE – No rain on the Navajo Nation or snow – climate change of its impact – evaluation and area of region – how long for plants to grow?

TT – Sex trafficking and how will you address it? Help and assist Navajo policemen with trainings to report such acts – we are starting to hear of such acts – be equipped to move on such reports

KC – social movements on the Navajo Nation and why? Economic movements and missing and murdered Indigenous women – “it seems like the human life has no value”

HML – what will you do about chapter corruption? Partnership between community and chapter officials – no more power in window rock and have more power in the community – we are beyond crisis throughout Navajo – do it together and empower communities

NT – how do you think of the LGBTQ community and how will you help them? Support to Marriage – there are hard difficult times ahead of us – we all work together and respect each other – move forward – (implement policies that reflect inclusion and diversity)

DB – Little Colorado River – it is gonna be our water – 1868 Treaty with sovereignty status – past leaders have compromised our land and water with outside leaders

Question #2

RLJ – how would you deal with feral horses throughout the Navajo Nation? (asked this same question earlier in round #1)

CL – three branch system be reformed? Title 2 amendments – 2002 convention held in Red/Rough Rock – too much money being spent

BB – economic development – small taxation with these topics – funds are available for everyone to start up businesses on the Navajo Nation

DB – veteran question – how will you help veterans to get them back into work – no jobs here or opportunities here on the Navajo Nation –

NPB – Dine’ College – NTU – money provided for higher education – how will you help tribal college? Develop a university on NN

NT – Dine’ College – NTU (Dine’ Studies) – how will you help support and confer degrees with employment opportunities?

JN – Permanent Trust Fund – how will you get in? voters have say so to tap (3 billion dollars) into it –

AJS – Governance effectiveness address at local governance? Delegate amend the laws – executive execute the laws – all chapters certified

JS – how will you assist Navajo youth that reside off the reservation? 500,000 in the Phoenix area and money to ABQ area to create chapters (create chapters to assist urban Navajos with appropriate services) *each tribal member with a CIB should be entitled to assistance whether if they reside in urban or rural areas – we use their CIB to acquire funds from the feds and need to give back

RB – Laws and labors – to sue – back long cases - no funding or money spent on student services (over 70% said to leave the Permanent Trust Fund ALONE)

VY – Funds at home – NN own banking system –

EE – two year programming at Dine College and NTU – how will you secure funding? 150 million borrowed from Permanent Trust Fund

TT – specific measure for trash dumping to reduce – create enforcement, issue citation,

TC – Open government meetings to the news media and Navajo people? Why should we hide what we discuss from the community

TJ – extraction of natural resources

DC – Dine College – low shortage of funds for veterans/law enforcement – more funding? Elders, youth, veterans, and public safety – Navajo Nation contracts (\$8 to \$10) for security personnel –

HML – how are you going keep Navajo businesses on the Navajo Nation and keep the money on the Navajo reservation? We don't support our Navajo businesses and/or contract (take money off the rez) – favoritism – 2,000 go onto higher education (3 million to NAU and why not at Dine' College?)

End of Round #2

JS – homeless Navajos and veterans asking for money? Who is responsible on the streets?

RB – Antelope Point (company cheating money out of Navajo Nation) – promised us hotels and buy them out

VY – Alternative energy and local economy –

EE – illegal trash dumping on the Navajo Nation – recycling alternatives

TT – policy development of Head Start –

TC – 110 chapters and 110 budgets, plans and administrative units

TJ – develop trade programming

CC -- strengthen law enforcement on the NN – economic development should be a priority

HML – Navajo Nation Code Talkers Association – honor veterans and WWII (code talkers) – utilize for veterans

AJS – solid waste to border communities (solid waste landfill) – a lot of trash come in from outside of the NN -- costs money to export trash out of NN

JN – lobbyist of special interest group to get attention of the White House

NT – every dollar made on the NN steps off the NN – keep Navajo dollars on the rez

NPB – support people stole and misuse money or ban them from NN?

DB – parks and tourism are understaffed – more tourism needs to be done?

BB – Lively (AA and BA in Indigenous Studies)

CL – Resolution for fracking by Navajo Nation Council? Not in the best interest of the Navajo Nation

RLJ – should Navajo spend more money of lands in surrounding areas – Colorado ranch turned into buffalo ranch, instead

End of Round #3

HML – strengthen law enforcement on the reservation –vulnerable to violent crime, meth drugs on rez, and increase man power of public safety

KC – drive local roads, or homes without electricity –plan to turn around – community involvement

TJ – Blood quantum or CIB – implemented by the feds

TC – wife of 35 years with a degree (self employed young lady –5 boys and 2 girls) – she should choose

TT – do you believe in reform three branch system –title 1, 2, and 7 (amend) –address our needs

EE – economic developments –get land titles from the feds --

VHY – see Navajo Nation in 100 years from now ---

RB – Navajo Nation is leasing for 1.4 million dollars (2 jets) –is this necessary?

JS – approved for fracking? Veto or approve it? Hear from the people –allotted have own land

RLJ – losing our language to help our young people learn their Navajo language? Turn Head Start in language program with assistance from the elders –

CL – If elected, what will you do for Western Navajo? Water settlement that needs to be dealt with – not waive our water rights –

BB – nepotism (respect employment laws and policies) –

DB – Navajo Generating Station is closing –keep it going

MPB – federal employees and Navajo Nation presidential candidates should they go drug and similar back ground checks?

NT – sovereignty taking money from the government and save – renegotiate the Treaty of 1868

JN – protect our environment and what policies that you will support? Go back to farming and traditional foods

AJS – all receive a quality education –priority and back financial and invest in young people

End of Round

August 28th is PRIMARY ELECTION on Tuesday

5th forum (the last one)