



OFFICE OF THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 129
ST. MICHAELS, AZ 86511
PHONE: (928) 871-7436
FAX: (928) 871-7437

Immediate Release:

Feb 21, 2016

Judge finds San Juan County Utah, Voting Districts Unconstitutional.

St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (AZ) – United States District Judge Robert J Shelby concluded San Juan County Utah three county commission election districts are unconstitutional and the county districts must be redrawn.

This decision of the court has a positive impact on Navajo voters in the San Juan County. Navajo voters have the potential of now choosing County Commissioner candidate of their choice.

Since 2011, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission has been active in telling San Juan County Utah that redistricting the county commission voting districts in the manner it developed the plan violates the Equal Protections Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Leonard Gorman, Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission said, "My office has been seeking the San Juan County Commission to appropriately redistrict the county commission election districts since the summer of 2011. In November, the county stated it adopted an election district when it voted to refer two redistricting plans to a judge." Gorman said he is delighted to learn that the Navajo people's voice was finally heard. "It has been costly to convince the county commission that they need to abide by the voting rights laws. Now it's important to ensure that the new plan assures that two of the three districts allow Navajos to elect candidates of their choice," Gorman said.

For more information contact the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at [928-871-7436](tel:928-871-7436) or visit www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov.

###