



## OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Immediate Release:  
November 16, 2017

Navajo Nation and San Juan County provides feedback to Conceptual redistrict plans on County Commission and School Board districts.

**Salt Lake City, Utah-** During yesterday's court hearing (Navajo Nation vs San Juan County) attorneys litigating presented feedback on conceptual plans for San Juan County Commission and San Juan county School Board districts. The hearing provided an opportunity for Steven Boos, Navajo Nation's attorney, to elaborate on conceptual plans developed by the Special Master, Dr. Barnard Grofman. Grofman was present at this hearing. He was appointed by Judge Shelby in late September of 2017 to develop conceptual plans for the county.

According to Steven Boos the Navajo Nation support's Grofman's design of conceptual plan C for the County Commission districts with some minor modification. Boos also praised Grofman's presentation of School Board of Plan 2 (SB-2). The two plans, as presented by Boos provide Utah Navajo's with an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice and are constitutionally comply with the provisions of the Voters Rights Act of 1965, which follow traditional redistricting principles.

"Plan C divides the city of Blanding into 2 districts, keeps Monticello whole. This is the best plan of the three that has slight problems that is fixable" said Steven Boos. Boos when speaking to the school board conceptual plans stated "School board plan 2, suggest, it will not be subjected to section 2 challenge."

Looking more closely at the conceptual maps for the County Commission, the three districts are divided, as follows; District 1 covers the northern part of the county with total population of 4,909 with 11.78% population being Native American. District 2 covers the southwestern portion of the county with the total population of 4,922 and 64.7% being Native American. District 3 covers the eastern portion of the county with total population 4,915 and 79.9% being Native American. The Native American populations in District 2 and District 3 provide an opportunity for Utah Navajos to elect a candidate of their choice. Thus, Navajos residing in district 2 have a real possibility of electing a non-Native American to represent them for the first time in Utah history.

Conceptual plan 2 for School Board will split the county into five districts; district 1 is in the northern part of the county with total populations of 2,852, and 6.2% being Native American, district 2 is in the central north of the county with total population of 2,848 and 24.8% being Native American, district 3 is in the central south of the county and total population 2,858 and 65.2% being Native American, district 4 will be in the eastern portion of the county with total population being 2,848 with 83.8% being Native American, district 4 is in the western portion of the county with total population with 89.3% being Native American. With this plan, Native

voters will have an opportunity to elect a candidate of choice in where three School board members could be Native Americans.

“The redistricting plans drafted by the Special Master give a voice to Navajo citizens in SJC. They provide an opportunity for Navajo voters to elect a candidate of their choice in two county commission districts and three school board districts” said Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

For more information on the Navajo Nation vs. San Juan County case please contact the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at 928-871-7436.

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