



Governor Katie Hobbs Hosts Roundtable for Tribal Nations in Washington, D.C.



NNWO Deputy Executive Director DeWayne Crank (left) and Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs (right)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On July 22, 2025, Navajo Nation Washington Office staff attended a roundtable hosted by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs. The gathering brought together tribal leaders, tribal representatives, and state officials to discuss priorities and challenges facing Indigenous communities across Arizona.

The Governor opened the meeting by emphasizing that government-to-government engagement is a top priority for her administration. She noted that in past administrations, tribal engagement was often relegated to symbolic gestures, such as a tribal day at the state legislature. However, Governor Hobbs has worked to shift that paradigm and move beyond performative gestures by raising tribal concerns within her policy agenda.

Key topics of the discussion included water rights, healthcare, education, and public safety. The Governor highlighted her administration's support for major policy efforts such as the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (NAIWRA) and efforts to eliminate longstanding legal and bureaucratic barriers that hinder water right settlements.

NNWO Deputy Executive Director DeWayne Crank thanked the Governor for her support of NAIWRA as well as LGBTQ+ visibility during Pride Month. Deputy Crank went on to raise concerns about public school funding and the shortcomings of Arizona's voucher system. The Governor responded by providing updates on funding recoveries, salary improvements for educators, housing for public employees, and expansion of funding opportunities through initiatives like the renewal of Proposition 123.

In light of recent Medicaid reductions, healthcare access emerged as a shared concern. The Governor acknowledged the strain these cuts have placed on tribal health systems and described current efforts to consult with healthcare providers to find short- and long-term solutions.

Public Safety also a key topic of discussion during the roundtable. Representatives from tribes emphasized the importance of federal legislation, such as the Parity for Law Enforcement Act to improve recruitment and retention and stressed that support for initiatives like these in tribal communities is of utmost importance.

As the roundtable came to a close, Governor Hobbs encouraged tribal leaders to continue providing input and feedback on state programs, legislation, and budget priorities. She stated that she would support helpful federal legislation and emphasized her commitment to maintaining open lines of communication between her office and tribal nations.