

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diné College to Host NN Presidential Forum *August Date In Line With 50th Anniversary Celebration*

TSAILE, Ariz. — At least one candidate running for president of the Navajo Nation in 2018 won't be in uncharted waters when this year's free election forums take place.

Shiprock's Russell Begaye, elected as president of the Navajo Nation in April 2015, filed to run again this past Tuesday. The filing deadline is May 30.

"Today, I filed my paperwork for candidacy for president of the Navajo Nation," Begaye wrote in an email to the Navajo Times. "This is a formality and not a final decision."

Diné College — where Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez once studied — was selected to be one of the hosts for the five presidential forums. The forums are sponsored by the Navajo Times and radio stations KTNN (660 AM/KWRK 96.1 FM).

Diné College will host the Aug. 20 forum — which is the same date that classes start at the College. The forums go from 6 to 9 p.m.

The presidential forum schedule:

- **June 18:** Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint at the Student Wellness Center. It will be streamed via NTU radio station KCZY (107.3 FM).
- **July 9:** Ganado, Ariz. Plans are in the works for the forum to be held at the Ganado Pavillion, but that locale isn't yet confirmed.
- **July 23:** Tuba City, Ariz. The venue is the Tuba City High School Pavillon.
- **Aug. 6:** The Phil Thomas Performing Arts Center in Shiprock, N.M.

- **Aug. 20:** Diné College in Tsaile, Ariz. The College, the first ever of the tribally-controlled institutions, is in the midst of celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The deadline for candidates to file to run for president of the Navajo Nation is May 30. A primary election is set for Aug. 28 and the general election is Nov. 6.

Besides Begaye, Tom Chee (Shiprock), Tom Tso (Teec Nos Pos), Emily Ellison (Chichiltah), Nicholas Taylor (Klagetoh) and Dineh Benally (Shiprock). Benally unsuccessfully ran for vice president in 2014 alongside (former president) Joe Shirley. Tso is the first Navajo Nation chief justice.