

RESOLUTION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
(Increasing and Planning for Future Increases of Utility Assistance for Elderly
and Low-Income Members of the Tohono O'odham Nation)

RESOLUTION NO. 26-278

1 **WHEREAS, the Tohono O'odham Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian tribe,**
2 **organized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18,**
3 **1934 (48 Stat. 984; 25 U.S.C. § 476), which exercises sovereignty over its members,**
4 **its enterprises, and its lands; and**

5 **WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation vests the Legislative Council**
6 **with the power to "promote, protect and provide for public health, peace,**
7 **morals, education and general welfare of the Tohono O'odham Nation and its**
8 **members" and to "manage any funds within the exclusive control of the Tohono**
9 **O'odham Nation, including proceeds derived from lands and resources of the**
10 **Tohono O'odham Nation, and to appropriate these funds for the benefit of the**
11 **nation and its members" (Constitution, Article VI, Section 1(c)(2) and 1(d)(2)); and**

12 **WHEREAS, on June 28, 1997, the voters of the Tohono O'odham Nation approved Initiative**
13 **No. IN-01-97, "O'odham Voice on Use of Gaming Revenues" (the "Initiative")**
14 **which, among other things, provided a \$1 million annual subsidy to the Tohono**
15 **O'odham Utility Authority ("TOUA") to assist elderly and low-income Nation's**
16 **members with their utility bills ("Initiative utility assistance") (16 Tohono**
17 **O'odham Code Chapter 3 – O'odham Voice in the Use of Gaming Revenues); and**

18 **WHEREAS, the Initiative provides that "[a]fter each year an analysis shall be performed by**
19 **TOUA and the funds increased or decreased as required"; and**

20 **WHEREAS, in its most recent analysis, the mid-year update for Fiscal Year 2026, TOUA**
21 **offered recommendations to the Legislative Council for increasing the utility**
22 **assistance in Fiscal Year 2027 to account for increasing participation in the**
23 **subsidy program and inflation; and**

24 **WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 23-023, the Legislative Council directed the**
25 **Commerce Committee to "consult with the Tohono O'odham Utility Authority to**
26 **develop a methodology for annually adjusting the total amount of funds**
27 **appropriated annually for utility assistance"; and**

28 **WHEREAS, TOUA's recommendation for Fiscal Year 2027 also includes a proposal for**
29 **annually adjusting the total amount of funds appropriated annually for utility**
30 **assistance in future fiscal years using generally accepted measures of consumer**
31 **inflation; and**

32

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WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Nation's members to increase the Initiative utility assistance provided to members in Fiscal Year 2027, and to create a plan for annually and automatically adjusting the utility assistance appropriation in future fiscal years to account for inflation; and

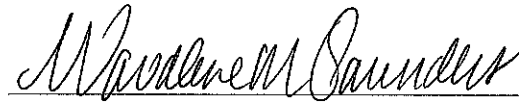
WHEREAS, the Commerce and Budget and Finance Committees have reviewed TOUA's proposal and recommend its approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council:

- (1) Appropriates an additional \$1,569,060.60 from the Gaming Savings Account for a total of \$4,126,860.60 in Initiative utility assistance in Fiscal Year 2027, commencing on October 1, 2026; and**
- (2) Approves an annual adjustment to the Initiative utility assistance available in Fiscal Years 2028, commencing October 1, 2027 and beyond, that uses the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics year in review inflation calculation (e.g., December 2024 to December 2025) for the most recent calendar year ending prior to the start of the Nation's next fiscal year (e.g., October 1, 2026); and**
- (3) Directs the Commerce Committee to consult with the Budget and Finance Committee annually regarding the ongoing availability of funds to implement the provisions of this Resolution.**

The foregoing Resolution was passed by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council on the 09TH day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 3,048.15 FOR; 272.95 AGAINST; [01] NOT VOTING; and [01] ABSENT, pursuant to the powers vested in the Council Article VI, Section 1(c)(2) and (d)(2) of the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, adopted by the Tohono O'odham Nation on January 18, 1986; and approved by the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (Operations) on March 6, 1986, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984).

TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman

18 day of September, 2026

ATTEST:



Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary

18 day of September, 2026

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Said Resolution was submitted for approval to the office of the Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation on the 18 day of September, 2026 at 1:58 o'clock, P.m., pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of Article VII of the Constitution and will become effective upon his approval or upon his failure to either approve or disapprove it within 48 hours of submittal.

TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

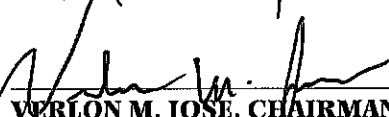

Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman

☒ APPROVED

on the 21 day of September, 2026

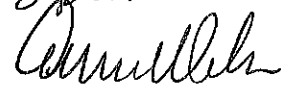
☐ DISAPPROVED

at 9:14 o'clock, P.m.


VERLON M. JOSE, CHAIRMAN
TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 22 day of

September, 2026, at 11:13 o'clock, A.m.


Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary

ACTION: INCREASING AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE INCREASES OF UTILITY ASSISTANCE FOR ELDERLY AND LOW-INCOME MEMBERS OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION**MOVED: COUNCILWOMAN THEORIA CAMPILLO****SECOND: COUNCILWOMAN EVELYN JUAN MANUEL****DATE: SEPTEMBER 09, 2026**

DISTRICT	LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES	# OF VOTES	FOR	AGAINST	NOT VOTING	ABSENT
SIT OIDAK 251.2	1. WAVALENE M. SAUNDERS (<i>Absent</i>) (Mary Lopez) (<i>Present</i>) 2. FRANCIS HOMEWYTEWA (Dionne Kuth-Le)	125.6 125.6	X X			X
SELLS 565.7	1. JANET B. ELEANDO () 2. EVELYN JUAN MANUEL (Juan Buendia)	282.85 282.85	X X			
SCHUK TOAK 195.3	1. THEORIA CAMPILLO (Rebecca Ann Valentine) 2. DELISA M. RAMON (Quintin C. Lopez)	97.65 97.65	X X			
SAN XAVIER 249.8	1. DANIEL L.A. PRESTON III () 2. JANICE FELIX ()	124.9 124.9	X X			
SAN LUCY 266.3	1. GLORIA M. RAMIREZ (Lorraine M. Eiler) 2. ROGER MANUEL (Christina Andrews)	133.15 133.15		X X		
PISINEMO 240.3	1. PAMELA J. BENAVIDEZ (Nora J. Ruelas) 2. NAOMI MONTE (Edward D. Manuel)	120.15 120.15	X X			
HICKIWAN 222.9	1. LOUIS R. LOPEZ (Loretta A. Ortega) 2. DELMA M. GARCIA ()	111.45 111.45	X X		X	
GU VO 279.6	1. LESLIE LUNA () 2. BENNETT CHEWING ()	139.8 139.8	X		X	
GUACHI 289.2	1. GLORIA JOHNSON (Rodney T. Aguilla) 2. LUCIUS E. LOPEZ (Victoria A. Hobbs)	144.6 144.6	X X			
CHUKUT KUK 361.9	1. MARLAKAY HENRY () 2. VIVIAN JUAN-SAUNDERS (<i>Absent</i>) (Cornelius Antone) (<i>Present</i>)	180.95 180.95	X X			
BABOQUIVARI 398.9	1. JESSE NAVARRO () 2. NED NORRIS, JR. (Leander Mase)	199.45 199.45	X X			
TOTAL		3,321.1	3,048.15	272.95	[01]	[01]