



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Northwest Regional Office

911 Northeast 11th Ave

Portland, Oregon 97232

In Reply Refer To:
Division of Tribal Government
2024 Grand Ronde Secretarial Election

January 21, 2025

Sent via email

The Honorable Cheryle A. Kennedy, Chairwoman
Confederated Tribes of the
Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347-9712

Dear Chairwoman Kennedy:

Pursuant to 25 C.F.R. § 81.45, this letter is to advise you of our decision to approve the results of the Secretarial Election held for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (Tribe).

On August 21, 2024, the Tribes enacted Resolution Number 124-24, requesting a Secretarial Election (Election) be held to decide a proposed amendment to Article V, Membership, of the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. We received the request on September 10, 2024, and upon our determination that the request was perfected per the requirements at 25 CFR § 81.6, we authorized Sharon Jackson, Tribal Government Specialist, Northwest Regional Office, to work with Cherisse Tiger, Secretarial Election Chair, to call and conduct the Election.

The Election was held on December 9, 2024. The proposed amendment to Article V, Membership was duly adopted with at least thirty (30) percent of the 1383 registered voters casting their ballot. A total of 1148 ballots were cast with 765 votes in favor, 380 against, and 1 ballot was determined to be spoiled. The Election Board Chair advises that 33 challenges to the results were submitted. The proposed amendment to Article V, Membership, was reviewed and found to not be in violation of federal law. Therefore, the proposed amendment to Article V, Membership, is now approved as "Amendment IV". This decision constitutes a final agency action. 25 C.F.R. § 81.45 (b)(1) through (4).

The Certificate of Approval, including the original text as adopted, as well as the Certification of Results of Election are enclosed herein. 25 C.F.R. § 81.45 (d)(1).

We appreciate the time and effort the Secretarial Election Board put into this election.

If you have further questions, please contact Sharon Jackson, Tribal Government Specialist, at Sharon.jackson@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

Rudy Peone
Acting Northwest Regional Director

Enclosures

CC: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

APPROVAL

I, Rudy Peone, Acting Northwest Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon, by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior of the United States, by the Act of June 18, 1934, (48 Stat. 984), as amended, and delegated to me pursuant to 209 DM 8, 230 DM 1, 3 IAM 4, 4A do hereby approve the foregoing Amendment IV to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. This amendment was adopted by a majority of the qualified voters at a Secretarial Election held on December 9, 2024 in which at least thirty (30) percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots.

Acting Northwest Regional Director

Date

AMENDMENT
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of the
CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

AMENDMENT IV

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirements. The membership of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon shall consist of all person who are not enrolled as members of another recognized tribe, band or community and, who for five years have fully and unconditionally relinquished membership in another Indian Tribe and;

- (a) whose names validly appear on the official tribal membership roll prepared under the Grand Ronde Restoration Act; provided, that such roll may be corrected by the Tribal Council with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (b) whose names validly appear on the official tribal membership roll as of [Date of Amendment]; provided that such roll may be corrected by the Tribal Council in accordance with the tribal enrollment ordinance; or
- (c) who possess Grand Ronde Indian blood, descend from a biological parent or grandparent who at any time was an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde provided such ancestor was not enrolled in error, have filed an application for enrollment according to procedures established pursuant to Section 3 of this Article, and have been accepted as members in accordance with the tribal ordinance adopted under Section 3 of this Article.

For purposes of this section, Grand Ronde Indian blood is defined as all Indian blood derived from a direct ancestor who at any time was an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde provided such ancestor was not proven to be enrolled in error. Enrolled in error is defined as having been disenrolled due to: (1) being enrolled in another federally recognized tribe at the time of enrollment, (2) having been enrolled through fraud, or (3) having not met the enrollment criteria at the time of enrollment. An ancestor that was enrolled in error but has since been reenrolled, and met the enrollment criteria at the time of reenrollment, is no longer considered to be enrolled in error.

Sec. 2. Dual Membership Prohibited. No person who is an enrolled member of any other organized tribe, band, or Indian community officially recognized by the Secretary of the Interior shall be qualified for membership in the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, unless he or she has relinquished in writing his or her membership in such tribe, band or community.

Sec. 3. Ordinance. The Tribal Council shall enact and maintain an ordinance establishing procedures for processing membership matters, including but not limited to application procedures, procedures for correction of the tribal roll, the right to appeal from a rejected application for membership, loss of membership, procedures for voluntary relinquishment of membership, and procedures governing reinstatement of former members who have relinquished membership.

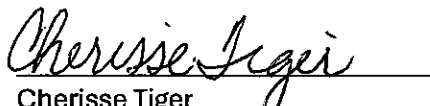
Sec. 4. Annual Limitation. There shall be an annual limit on the number of individuals who may be accepted as members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde each year. The annual limit shall be 150 and Tribal Council may, by Tribal Council Resolution, increase the Annual limit to no more than 200; and further provided the annual limit shall not apply to minors under 6 months of age or who are the subject of pending juvenile dependency proceedings.


Sec. 5. Adoption. The Tribal Council shall have the power, with the prior approval of the General Council, to enact an ordinance governing the adoption of persons as members who have a significant community relationship with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. Such ordinance shall define what constitutes a significant community relationship.

Sec. 6. Loss of Membership. The Tribal Council shall by ordinance prescribe rules and regulations governing involuntary loss of membership. The reasons for such loss shall be limited exclusively to failure to meet the requirements set forth for membership in this Constitution; provided, that nothing in this section shall prohibit a member from voluntarily relinquishing membership in the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, with the consent of the Tribal Council.

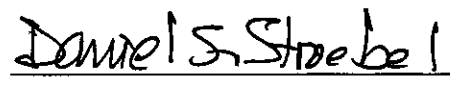
CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

Under a Secretarial Election authorized by Rudy J. Peone, Acting Northwest Regional Director on September 16, 2024, the attached Proposed Amendments to ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP, Section 1, 3 and an added new section 4. Annual Limitation, to the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon was submitted to the registered voters of the Grand Ronde Community on December 9, 2024. The proposed amendments were duly adopted rejected by a vote of 765 for and 380 against and 1 cast ballots found spoiled in an election in which 2/3 of the voting membership must be in favor of the amendment per Article III, Section 1 of the Tribal Constitution and at least thirty percent (30%) percent of the 1,383 registered voters cast their ballot in compliance with Article II, Section 1(e) of the Tribal Constitution and in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) (25 U.S.C. § 5123), as amended.


Cherisse Tiger
Chair, Election Board


Kalene Contreras
Election Board Member


Jammy Shaw
Election Board Member


Dan Stroebe
Election Board Member


Terri Warren
Election Board Member


Dated