

## Enrollment Ordinance Amendment(s) – First Reading

### FAQ Sheet for Members

March 19, 2025

1. Why are these amendment(s) to the Tribe's Enrollment Ordinance being introduced?

On January 21, 2025 the Bureau of Indian Affairs certified an amendment to Article V of the Tribe's Constitution; which changed the Tribe's membership criteria after a vote of the Tribal Membership on December 9, 2024.

These changes are needed to bring the ordinance in line with the Tribe's Constitution and to allow staff to process applications under the new criteria.

2. How does this impact the current comment period for the Enrollment Ordinance?

The comment period for the emergency amendments is open until March 31, 2025. These emergency amendments were to bring the ordinance into compliance with the constitutional amendment and to allow infant and emergency enrollments to move forward.

The comment period for these new proposed amendments will be open until April 30, 2025. Tribal Council will consider all comments received and will be adopting all of the amendments at the same time.

3. What is being changed?

- a) *Duties and Powers of Enrollment Staff.* This section is being amended to provide clarity around the process for those applicants that are six months or older.
- b) *Duties and Powers of the Enrollment Committee.* This section is being amended to add committee involvement when "an increase in the annual enrollment limit is being requested".
- c) *Access to Records; Confidentiality.* This section is being amended to clarify what is listed on the official Tribal Membership Roll. "Which consists of first name, middle initial, last name, and roll number".
- d) *Procedures for Membership Application.* This section is being amended to add a 2025 Open Enrollment Period. The open enrollment period for accepting non-infant/ non-emergency application will begin at 8 a.m. on June 3rd, 2025 and will close at 5 p.m. July 18, 2025.
  - (A) After the open enrollment period closes, Staff will publish a list by 5pm on July 21, 2025 of completed application that are eligible for the drawing.
  - (B) Applicants will have until 5 p.m. on July 25, 2025 to notify staff that they were omitted from the list.

- (C) A public drawing will be held on July 29, 2025 to assign numbers to all applicants that were eligible for the drawing. A final list of these applicants with their assigned number will be published.
  - (i) Minor siblings, with pending applications, will be assigned one number in the drawing and will all be placed on the waitlist together.
  - (ii) A final list of these applicants with their assigned number will be published.
  - (iii) This final list will become the initial enrollment waitlist.
- (D) There shall be no other prioritization of applications for this open enrollment period.
- (5) Waitlist. After the finalization of the open enrollment period, Enrollment will accept applications on a rolling basis. Enrollment staff shall date stamp all applications received and add those applicants to the waitlist after their application is complete. Applications will be processed in order from the waitlist, in accordance with Section (6), until the annual limit is reached.
- (e) *Proof of Descendancy.* This section is being changed to allow staff to issue Certificates of Descendancy to descendants who have completed the Membership Application process including DNA.
- (f) *Procedures for Correction of Membership Roll / Blood Quantum Corrections.* This section is being removed as are references to blood quantum since blood quantum will no longer be calculated since the Tribe has moved to lineal descendancy.
- (g) *Procedures for Correction of the Official Tribal Membership Roll Prepared under the Grand Ronde Restoration Act ("Restoration Roll").* This section has being amended to remove references to blood quantum. It is important to note that the Restoration Roll also does not list blood quantum on the roll itself.
- (h) *Enrolled in Error.* This section was added to reflect the Tribal Constitution and the definition of enrolled in error.

4. Why establish an open enrollment period?

After discussing the feedback we received from members through community input meetings, surveys, phone calls, and emails; it became clear that there wasn't a one size fits all process that would be able to meet the needs of our members and all applicants. What we did hear was the desire for an open and transparent process that was as fair as possible and treated applicants equitably. As a result, we decided to create an open

enrollment period that would allow for applicants to apply within a set timeframe and be considered equitably.

5. Why do a drawing?

The Tribe's Constitution sets a limit of 150 – 200 enrollments per year. However, we anticipate receiving hundreds of applications as soon as we open enrollment. While we know a drawing might not be everyone's first choice for processing; it is a process that will allow us to eliminate subjectivity, reduce concerns around due process and treat every application as fairly as possible. This process will also allow staff to assign numbers to all applicants and enable them to provide an estimated timeframe for an applicant's enrollment.

6. What about siblings?

In an effort to continue to address split families; households with minor children connecting to the same ancestor with pending applications will be considered together. While this does not address all split family issues, this amendment with time will resolve split families as applicants are enrolled.

7. What if I have a comment?

For a copy of the Ordinance, please contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503/879-4664. Please send your comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org). **Comments must be received by April 30, 2025.**