

# Constitutional Amendment Education Meeting

Grand Ronde, OR (Hybrid)

May 22, 2025

# Process

- This election is a federal election and is being conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the Tribe in accordance with Federal Regulations.
- Registration packets have been mailed out. If you have not yet received one you should request a replacement.
- You must return a registration form for this election, even if you have register for previous elections. Registrations are due June 2, 2025.
- Challenges for the posted Registered Voters List are due June 5, 2025.
- Mailout ballots with instructions will be mailed out after the challenges are addressed.
- Ballots will be sent to all registered voters listed on the final Registered Voters List.
- The Mailout ballots must be received by mail no later than July 9, 2025 at the Grand Ronde Post Office.
- The Election Challenge deadline is July 14, 2025.

# Amendment Language

## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

### CURRENT LANGUAGE

#### ARTICLE II-GENERAL COUNCIL

##### Section 1. Powers. --

- (e) Amend this Constitution by submitting to the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to his regulations a petition of at least one-third (1/3) of the members of the General Council, setting forth the section(s) of this Constitution to be amend and the proposed amendment(s). Upon verification of the petition by the Secretary of the Interior, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to authorize the calling of an election to consider amendments to the Constitution, in accordance with regulations as set forth by the Secretary of the Interior. The affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those actually voting shall be conclusive, so long as at least thirty percent (30%) of those qualified to vote shall have voted; provided, that nothing in this section shall prevent the Tribal Council from submitting proposed amendments to the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of this Constitution. Provided further, that amendments to this Constitution shall not become effective until approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

##### Sec. 2: Procedures. --

- (f) Procedures for exercising the General Council powers in Article II, Sections 1(b), 1(c), 1(d) and 1(e) shall be set forth by tribal ordinance duly enacted by the Tribal Council; provided, that said procedures shall not be in conflict with any provisions of this Constitution or regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

#### ARTICLE III-TRIBAL COUNCIL

Section 1. Powers. There shall be a Tribal Council which shall have the power to exercise all legislative authority, except that vested in the General Council, and all executive authority of the Tribe, including the right to delegate authorities as the Tribal Council deems appropriate. Said authority shall include but is not limited to the authority to employ legal counsel, the choice of counsel and fixing of fees to be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior as long as this is required by Federal Law; the power to prevent the sale, disposition, lease, or encumbrance of tribal land, interests in lands or other tribal assets without the consent of the Tribe and the power to negotiate with the Federal, state and local Governments. The Tribal Council shall have the power to submit to the Secretary of the Interior proposed amendments to this Constitution, notwithstanding the procedures set forth in Article II, Section 1(e) of this Constitution. Upon receipt of a proposed amendment from the Tribal Council, an election to vote on its adoption shall be called by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with his rules and regulations. The affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those actually voting shall be conclusive, so long as at least thirty percent (30%) of those qualified to vote shall have voted; provided, that amendments to this Constitution shall not become effective until approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

### PROPOSED LANGUAGE

#### ARTICLE II-GENERAL COUNCIL

##### Section 1. Powers. --

- (e) Amend this Constitution by submitting to the Tribal Council a petition of at least one-third (1/3) of the members of the General Council, setting forth the section(s) of this Constitution to be amended and the proposed amendment(s). Upon verification of the petition by the Tribal Council Secretary, it shall be the duty of the Tribal Council to authorize the calling of an election to consider amendments to the Constitution. The affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those actually voting shall be conclusive, so long as at least thirty percent (30%) of those qualified to vote shall have voted; provided, that nothing in this section shall prevent the Tribal Council from calling an election to consider amendments to the Constitution by Tribal Council resolution. Provided further, that amendments to this Constitution shall not become effective until certified by the Election Board.


##### Sec. 2: Procedures. --


- (f) Procedures for exercising the General Council powers in Article II, Sections 1(b), 1(c), 1(d) and 1(e) shall be set forth by tribal ordinance duly enacted by the Tribal Council; provided, that said procedures shall not be in conflict with any provisions of this Constitution.

#### ARTICLE III-TRIBAL COUNCIL

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# The Ballot


  
**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
CONFEDERATED TRIBE OF THE  
GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON  
SECRETARIAL ELECTION  
July 9, 2025

**TO VOTE:** Complete the arrow  
pointing to your choice like this: 

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

As to amending  
**Article II, Section 1(e),  
Article II, Section 2(f), and  
Article III, Section 1**  
of the Grand Ronde Constitution,  
I vote as follows:

**FOR THE AMENDMENT** 

**AGAINST THE AMENDMENT** 

**SAMPLE SAMPLE SAMPLE SAMPLE SAMPLE SAMPLE SAMPLE SAMPLE**

# Rules for the Election



## RULES OF SECRETARIAL ELECTION

### Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

#### SECRETARIAL ELECTION

ELECTION DATE: July 9, 2025

The following rules govern the Secretarial Election to vote on whether to adopt or reject the proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. These rules are in accordance with Title 25, Part 81, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

**ELECTION METHOD:** This Election will be conducted by mail-in ballot. NO POLLING SITE VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE. All ballots must be received in the designated post office box by 4:30 p.m. on July 9, 2025, at the Grand Ronde Post Office. Ballots delivered after that will be considered invalid.

**ELIGIBLE VOTERS:** All enrolled members who are 18 years old or older on the day of the Election and **who have duly-registered with the BIA designated representative will be permitted to vote.**

**REGISTRATION:** The enclosed Voter Registration Form MUST be completed. A pre-addressed postage-paid envelope is enclosed for you to use in returning your completed registration form. **Registration forms must be received by mail no later than June 2, 2025. REMEMBER, THIS IS A FEDERAL ELECTION, NOT A TRIBAL ELECTION - YOU MUST REGISTER TO VOTE.** Be sure to sign your form exactly as your name appears on the mailing label on the Voter Registration Form. Mail the Voter Registration Form using the pre-addressed postage-paid envelope to:

SECRETARIAL ELECTION BOARD  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
PO Box 44607  
Rio Rancho NM 87174-9931

**REGISTERED VOTERS LIST:** The proposed registered voter list will be posted in alphabetical order for review at the following places on June 2, 2025.

- BIA, Northwest Regional Office  
911 NE 11th Ave,  
Portland, Oregon 97232
- Confederated Tribes of the  
Grand Ronde at the Community  
Center and Governance Building  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347

**ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES:** If you wish to challenge the inclusion or omission of a name on the Registered Voters List, you must submit the challenge in writing no later than 3:30 p.m. on June 5, 2025, via email to [Gene.Hughes@bia.gov](mailto:Gene.Hughes@bia.gov) or in person on June 3, 4 or 5, 2025, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:30p.m. at the Election Office in the Grand Ronde Community Center. The Election Board will meet on June 5, 2025 to act on any challenges.

**THE DECISION OF THE ELECTION BOARD SHALL BE FINAL ON JUNE 5, 2025. THE FINAL VOTERS LIST WILL BE POSTED IN THE ABOVE-LISTED LOCATIONS ON JUNE 5, 2025.**

**POSTING ELECTION RESULTS:** The Election results will be posted at these locations on July 9, 2025:

- BIA, Northwest Regional Office  
911 NE 11th Ave, Portland, Oregon 97232
- Confederated Tribes of the  
Grand Ronde at the Community  
Center and Governance Building  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347

**CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS:** Any eligible voter may challenge the election **WITHIN FIVE (5) CALENDAR DAYS** following posting of the results of the Election. The challenge MUST be in writing, filed with the BIA designated representative and must give the grounds for the challenge with substantiating evidence. If, in the opinion of the Secretary, the objections are valid and warrant a recount or new Election, the Secretary shall so order. The results of the recount or new Election shall be final.

#### CHALLENGES MUST BE FILED BY

1:00 P.M. ON JULY 14, 2025 AT:

[Gene.Hughes@bia.gov](mailto:Gene.Hughes@bia.gov)  
or in person at:  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
993 McClellan Road,  
Vancouver, WA 98661.

**ADOPTION:** A proposed amendment to the constitution shall be considered adopted if 2/3rds of the voters vote in favor of adoption; provided, at least thirty percent (30%) of the registered voters have cast ballots in the Election. The Secretary will then have 45 days to take action to approve.

# Contact

- **Gene Hughes, Water Rights Specialist**  
**Department of Interior**  
**Bureau of Indian Affairs**  
**Northwest Region**  
**Columbia River Branch (Ft Vancouver)**  
**993 McClellan Road**  
**Vancouver, WA 98661**  
**Phone: 971-277-4087**  
**Email: [gene.hughes@BIA.gov](mailto:gene.hughes@BIA.gov)**