



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Northwest Regional Office
911 Northeast 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

NOTICE OF SECRETARIAL ELECTION
May 10, 2025

Dear Tribal Voter:

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (Tribe) submitted Resolution No. 053-25 to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Northwest Region. The resolution proposes amendments to remove Secretarial oversight from the constitutional amendment elections of the Tribe and requests that the Secretary of the Interior conduct a Secretarial Election, which is a Federal Election, to allow Grand Ronde Tribal members to vote on adopting or rejecting the proposed amendments.

On April 24, 2025, the Acting Regional Director, Northwest Region, approved and authorized the Federal Secretarial Election. Subsequently, the Local Bureau Official appointed me, Gene Hughes, as Chairman of the Secretarial Election Board. The Secretarial Election Board and I will work to ensure that the regulations and guidelines are adhered to pursuant to 25 CFR Part 81 to conduct the election. The election date is set for July 9, 2025, and all ballots must be returned by July 9, 2025.

You now have the opportunity to vote on adopting or rejecting the proposed amendments to remove Secretarial oversight from the constitutional amendment elections of the Tribe.

To vote in this Federal Secretarial Election, you must register. If you wish to vote, please complete, sign, and return the enclosed Voter Registration Form in the provided pre-addressed envelope. Ensure you print your name and address, sign your name, and date the form. All registration forms must be received by the Secretarial Election Board by mail at P.O. Box 44607, Rio Rancho, New Mexico, 87174-9931 no later than 3:00 p.m. on June 2, 2025, to be considered valid. Only adult Tribal members who are 18 years or older on the election date and have registered to vote in this Federal Secretarial Election are eligible to vote on the proposed amendments.

This notice is being mailed to all Tribal members 18 years or older at the addresses listed on the current Tribal membership roll. Some 17-year-old Tribal members will receive this notice if they will be 18 years old on the election date.

On July 9, 2025, the election results will be posted at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Federal Building, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232, and at the Grand Ronde Community Center and the Grand Ronde Governance Building, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347.

For questions, please contact Gene Hughes at (971) 277-4087 or Gene.Hughes@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

Gene Hughes
Chairman, Secretarial Election Board



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Northwest Regional Office
911 Northeast 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

May 10, 2025

SECRETARIAL ELECTION NOTICE

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


Members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (Tribe) are hereby advised that the Tribal Council submitted Resolution No. 053-25 to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Northwest Regional Office requesting a Secretarial Election. The purpose of the election will be to decide to amend Article II, Section 1(e); Article II, Section (2)(f); and Article III, Section 1, of the Tribe's constitution, as shown in the sample on this page and the side by side comparison included with this packet.

On April 24, 2025, the Acting Northwest Regional Director, Northwest Region, approved and authorized the Secretarial Election. Subsequently, the BIA Northwest Region Water Rights Specialist, was appointed as the Chairman of the Election Board. This Secretarial Election is a Federal Election and will be conducted by the BIA for the Tribe in accordance with Part 81 of Title 25 Code of Federal Regulations.


This Secretarial Election will be conducted by mailout ballot only. The Election date is set for July 9, 2025.

Pursuant to the requirements of 25 CFR Part 81.10, only adult Tribal members, 18 years of age or older on the date of the Secretarial Election, who register to vote in this Election will be entitled to vote on the ratification or rejection of the proposed amendment to the Tribal constitution.


This notice is being mailed to all members 18 years of age and older at their address listed on the current Eligible Members List submitted by the Tribal governing body along with a Voter Registration Form. Some 17 year old Tribal members, if they will be 18 by the date of the Election, will receive this notice and have an opportunity to register. However, only those who are at least 18 years of age or older on the date of the election will be allowed to vote, provided they have registered by the due date. Any member who does not receive a Voter Registration Form by mail should request one from the Secretarial Election Board Chair at (971) 277-4087 or via email at Gene.Hughes@bia.gov.





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 


Chair, Secretarial Election Board

ATTENTION:

This is a demonstration ballot for
your reference.

Continued on back

The completed registration forms must be received by the Secretarial Election Board at P.O. Box 44607, Rio Rancho, NM 87174-9931, no later than 3 p.m. on June 2, 2025, by U.S. Mail. Please mail your registration as soon as possible to allow the Post Office sufficient delivery time.

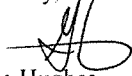
The Registered Voters List will be posted at the BIA Northwest Regional Office, the Grand Ronde Community Center, and the Grand Ronde Governance Building. If you wish to challenge the inclusion or omission of a name on the Registered Voters List, you must submit the challenge in writing no later than June 5, 2025, to the Secretarial Election Board Chair via email at Gene.Hughes@bia.gov or in person on June 3, 4, or 5, 2025, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Election Office in the Grand Ronde Community Center. You must include the name of the affected individual(s), the reason why the individual(s) name should be added or removed and supporting documentation. If you fail to submit your registration form on time, that is not a reason to challenge your omission. Any claims or challenges to the Voter's Registration List will be resolved by the Secretarial Election Board no later than June 5, 2025, and will be final for the purpose of determining who can vote in the Secretarial Election.

Mailout ballots with instructions will be mailed promptly after the Registered Voter List is final. No request is required to receive a mailout ballot. Ballots will be sent to all registered voters listed on the final Registered Voters List. **Mailout ballots must be received in the designated post office box, by July 9, 2025, no later than 4:30 p.m. at the Grand Ronde Post Office.**

Immediately after the ballots are counted, the results of the Secretarial Election will be posted at the BIA Northwest Regional Office, the Grand Ronde Community Center and the Grand Ronde Governance Building.

Any person on the Eligible Voters List and who submitted a voter registration may challenge the results of the Grand Ronde Secretarial Election. Any challenge must be submitted in writing along with substantiating evidence to the Chair of the Secretarial Election Board. The challenge is due no later than July 14, 2025. The challenge is considered submitted by emailing the Chair at Gene.Hughes@bia.gov or by personal delivery to the Secretarial Election Board Chair at 993 McClellan Road, Vancouver, WA, 98661 by July 14, 2025. Any challenges filed after the deadline will not be considered. All challenges will be forwarded by the Secretarial Election Board to the Regional Director for review and decision and shall be a final agency action. Once all decisions on any challenges have been made, the Regional Director will inform the Tribe on the outcome of the Secretarial Election and decide whether the amendment will be approved or disapproved. That decision shall also be a final agency action.

Sincerely,



Gene Hughes
Chair, Secretarial Election Board



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Northwest Regional Office
911 Northeast 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

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

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 call an election to consider proposed amendments to this Constitution, notwithstanding the procedures set forth in Article II, Section 1(e) of this 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 amendments to this Constitution shall not become effective until certified by the Election Board.



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 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
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.