

CTGR Constitution

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde wrote a **constitution** in 1984. The Constitution is the supreme law of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. It is divided into 10 articles that establish the framework of our Tribal government. Although written in 1984, it has since been updated to address the new needs of our changing nation. The CTGR Constitution was written to:

- Form a better tribal government
- Secure the rights and powers that come with a sovereign status
- Preserve culture and tribal identity
- Promote the **social and economic welfare** of tribal citizens
- Develop common resources
- Maintain peace and order
- Protect individual rights

Very similar to the United States Bill of Rights, the CTGR Constitution also protects the **rights** and **liberties** of the tribal citizens. It sets firm boundaries of the power of the government and states that the Tribal Council cannot deny any person freedom of speech, press, religion, or the right to assemble peacefully.

So what exactly is in the Constitution?

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Constitution has 10 articles that describe the way the tribal government is structured, how the government operates, and the rights of the citizens. These articles divide the Constitution into sections.

Article I: sets the authority of the tribal government. Authority extends over all people, property, and activities within the jurisdiction of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Article III: defines the powers, decisions, and procedures of the Tribal Council. Tribal Council has the power to exercise all legislative **authority** and executive authority of the Tribe. Tribal Council consists of 9 elected officials, including 3 officers.

Article II: establishes the powers and procedures of the General Council. Enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde who are 18+ have the power to:

- elect Tribal Council members
- propose an ordinance or **resolution**
- propose reconsideration of an ordinance or resolution
- recall elected officials
- amend the CTGR Constitution
- make advisory recommendations
- hold regularly scheduled and special meetings

Article IV: establishes the Tribal Court, including a Chief Judge, Associate Judges, and staff. The Tribal Court exercises all ***judicial*** authority of the Tribe, including:

- enforcement of ICWA of 1978 and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- power to review and overturn tribal legislation and executive actions for violation of the CTGR Constitution or Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Article V, including Amendment 1: defines the membership requirements of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Membership consists of individuals who are not enrolled as members of other federally recognized tribes and:

- whose names validly appear on the official tribal membership roll under the Grand Ronde Restoration Act; or
- whose names validly appear on official rolls as of September 14, 1999; or
- who possess 1/16 or more degree Grand Ronde blood quantum and who were born to a parent who was a member of the Tribe at both time of birth and enrollment

Article VI: sets the policies and procedures for voting within the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Voting is used for Tribal Council elections and for changes to the Constitution. Elections are monitored by the CTGR Election Board.

Article VIII: explains the process for adoption of the Constitution.

Article IX: states certificate of adoption of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Constitution.

Article VII: establishes the ability for Constitutional amendments.

Article X: states certificate of approval of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Constitution.