

# TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS

## Tribal Council Referendum

This referendum was approved by Tribal Council by a vote of 8, For 0, Against and 0, Abstained on Sept. 22, 2007. It was referred to the Election Board on Oct. 16, 2007. It was approved by resolution 2007-358. A summary of the proposed referendum follows below.

### Explanation

The Tribal Council proposes to modify Tribal Council Compensation, which must be approved under the Siletz Constitution, Article II, Section 2(A), by the General Council, as follows:

**1. Tribal Council, which currently is paid for duties performed at the rate of \$10.86 per hour, with annual cost of living increases Jan. 1 of each year, shall be paid in the future on an hourly rate at the same pay scale as a T.L. 17.1 tribal employee, subject to changes in that pay scale in the future. The current hourly rate for T.L. 17.1 is \$16.43 per hour.**

Note: Initially Tribal Council served on a volunteer basis with no pay. General Council authorized \$5/hr., effective 1981. In 1991, the pay was increased to \$7.88/hr. with annual cost of living adjustments. With cost of living adjustments, Tribal Council currently receives \$10.86/hr. Except for cost of living adjustments, the Tribal Council has not received a pay increase since 1991.

**2. Tribal Council members shall be eligible for the following additional employee benefits on the same basis and under the same eligibility conditions as other tribal employees: Health insurance, participation in the tribe's 401(k) retirement plan, unemployment program and worker's compensation insurance.**

Note: Approval allows the Tribal Council to participate in the health insurance plan. In order to be eligible, Tribal Council members must regularly work a minimum of 30 hours/week. Tribal Council members are elected

officials and, therefore, ineligible to contribute to the Social Security Program. Allowing their participation in the 401(K) program would be a way for them to contribute to their retirement. In order to be eligible, the council member must work 1,000 hours in a year and be employed a full year to participate. If approved, the tribe would contribute up to 6% of income toward their retirement and they could elect to contribute an additional amount. Approving the unemployment program would allow Tribal Council members who do not get re-elected to file for unemployment compensation, the same as other employees. Approving participation in the worker's compensation program provides for medical and financial programs if they are injured while performing Tribal Council duties.

**3. If approved by the General Council in this referendum election, these changes to Tribal Council compensation shall take place in the month following General Council approval.**

**4. If approved by the General Council in this referendum election, Section 2.117 of the Tribal Council Rules of Procedure, which addresses Tribal Council compensation, shall be amended to incorporate the provisions approved by the General Council.**

The voting on this referendum will be a Yes or No vote. The voting will be conducted by both mail-in and walk-in voting. The walk-in voting will be conducted on Dec. 8, 2007, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. at the Tribal Community Center. The votes will be counted, certified and posted after the polls close on Dec. 8, 2007.

Certified by Dan Van Otten and the Election Board.

Dan Van Otten, Election Director  
Tracey Worman, Election Board  
Kurtis Barker, Election Board  
Cova St. Onge, Election Board  
Tina Retasket, Election Board

## Attention All Eligible Voters

The Election Board would like to announce the following deadlines for a Special Election and notify voters about upcoming elections.

### Special Election

Tribal Council has approved a referendum to increase the Tribal Council's rate of pay (see article above). The referendum will also give Council Members the opportunity to be eligible for benefits. The Election Board has mailed out signature cards to all eligible-not registered Tribal Members. An information packet will be included with the ballots.

The deadlines are as follows:

- The Election Board will prepare and mail out ballots the week of Nov. 5, 2007.
- All mail-in ballots must be received by Friday, Dec. 7, 2007.
- Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007 - In-person voting, drop off ballots 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007 - Public count of all accepted ballots 4 p.m.-completed. Certification of election.

### General Election

The 2008 General Election will be coming up soon. Election Day is Feb. 2, 2008. The deadlines are as follows:

- Oct. 15, 2007 Deadline for Election Board to get news articles to newsletter office for inclusion in November newsletter.
- Nov. 3, 2007 General Council Meeting - Announce deadlines for elections.
- Dec. 15, 2007 Deadline for Enrollment office to get 2008 Election Poll Book to the Election Board.
- Dec. 18, 2007 Deadline to file candidacy to run for Tribal Council. (Also, deadline to submit photo and candidate's statement)
- Dec. 23, 2007 Deadline to withdraw candidacy and not have your name appear on the ballot and in the election booklets.
- Dec. 28, 2007 Deadline for Election Director to notify candidates if they are ineligible to run for council office.
- Dec. 26 - Dec. 28 Election Board reviews ballot and gets election booklet to printers for printing.
- Dec. 31 - Jan. 4 Election Board prepares election booklets for mail out to voters with signature cards on file.
- Jan. 4, 2008 Deadline to post list of certified candidates.
- Jan. 12, 2008 Candidates Fair - 1 p.m. - Community Center.
- Jan. 25, 2008 Deadline to request absentee ballot be mailed to tribal members
- Feb. 2, 2008, 4 p.m. Deadline to submit all ballots
- Feb. 2, 2008, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tribal Community Center - In-person voting hours
- Feb. 2, 2008- 4 p.m. Polls close

It will be the responsibility of tribal members to make sure they have an updated signature card on file with the Tribal Enrollment office. Tribal members over the age of 18 can request another signature card by calling the Enrollment Office at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1258.

### Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Election

The BIA is also planning to conduct an election around the same time of the General Election. This election will determine a change in the Siletz Tribal Constitution. This election will be conducted by the BIA in its entirety and does not involve the policies or procedures of the Siletz Tribal Election Ordinance or Election Board.

The BIA does not require signature cards. If you wish to vote in this election, tribal members will have to register with the BIA. The BIA will send out registration packets before they plan on conducting their election.

Please do not call the BIA office and request signature cards or registration packets at this time.

For more information, you can contact the CTSI Election Office at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1256.

### Important

- To be eligible to vote in the **2007 Special Election**, you must be 18 years of age on or before Dec. 8, 2007. And you must have a signature card on file with the Enrollment Department to be a registered voter.
- To be eligible to vote in the **2008 General Election**, you must be 18 years of age on or before Feb. 2, 2008. And you must have a signature card on file with the Enrollment Department to be a registered voter.
- To be eligible to vote in the **BIA Election**, you must be 18 years of age on or before the deadline of ballot receipt. And you must be registered separately with the BIA to be eligible to vote. The BIA will send out information directly to you, separate from the operations of the tribe.

### Elders' Council Meeting

Nov. 18, 2007  
Chinook Winds Casino Resort  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, please contact Angela Ramirez  
1-800-922-1399, ext. 1225; 541-444-8225; or [angelar@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:angelar@ctsi.nsn.us)