

**NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings**

DATE TIME

Wednesday, Feb. 22.....4 p.m.

*Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.***Letters****Dear Tribal members:**

I am writing regarding the Constitutional Amendment Primary Election resolution that was approved by six members of Tribal Council at the Jan. 25, 2012, Tribal Council meeting.

The actions of the six members of Tribal Council in approving a resolution that calls for a Constitutional Amendment to add Primary Election wording to our Constitution was disheartening to say the least as those members of the Tribal Council only seem to be willing to address one of the two main questions asked in the 2010 Tribal Council Election Survey.

Those two main survey questions received more affirmative votes than the highest vote getter (541) in the Tribal Council Election that year where 1,095 Tribal members cast votes for the various Tribal Council candidates.

A total of 948 Tribal voters responded either "yes" (582) or "no" (366) to Question 1, which was: "I support a primary election to reduce the number of candidates that go on to the general election held in September of every year."

A total of 928 Tribal voters responded either "yes" (701) or "no" (227) to Question 2, which was: "I support limiting the number of three-year terms a council member may consecutively hold office."

Based on the results of the 2010 Tribal Council Election Survey, there is no doubt that some type of "open discussion" needed to take place regarding our Tribal Council Election Process.

However, I believe it was wrong for the Tribal Council to decide to move forward with a BIA-conducted Constitutional Amendment Election to propose changes to our Tribal Council Election Process that only addressed one aspect of the process. It is especially wrong since more Tribal members who marked the 2010 survey supported "limiting the number of three-year terms a council member may consecutively hold office" than those who wanted some type of a primary election "to reduce the number of candidates that go on to the general election held in September of every year."

For those who follow the Tribal Council election results each year, it should be easy to see that a primary election would favor incumbents even more than a regular election already does, and that term limits would stop incumbents from making a career out of being elected to Tribal Council.

It just so happens that the six members of the Tribal Council who approved moving forward with a Constitutional Amendment Primary Election, without addressing the term limits issue, are all members of the Tribal Council who have already served more than one term on the Tribal Council. I encourage each of you to write to all nine members of the Tribal Council and give your opinion about this issue.

Thank you for your time.

**Leroy Good**

Roll #892

**Dear Smoke Signals:**

I am not in favor of a primary election without having term limits in place with it.

1. It would be adding the cost of another election to our Tribal budget.
2. Speaking for myself, when I pick which six candidates I want, I already know which three I am going to vote for so it is unnecessary to lower the field of candidates to six.
3. Because there is not very much time between the candidates declaring that they want to run for Tribal Council and the time of the primary vote, the new candidates would not have very much time to build up a following and get their message out to the voters.
4. I think the primary would favor the incumbents.
5. I would hate to have us spend Tribal dollars on this election and then turn around and do it all again next year to consider the term limits. Why not just wait and do both elections for the price of one?
6. I am not in favor, as Tribal Council member Toby McClary said, of spending Tribal money on this one issue when the membership said on the survey that they really wanted term limits to be added to our Tribal Constitution. So thank you, Toby, for your stance. I think you speak for many of the members.

**Rosemary Jameson**

Roll #883

**Elder's bingo held on Saturday afternoons**

Bingo at the Elders' Activity Center will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25. A potluck meal starts at 12:30 p.m. and bingo begins at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Elder Activity Assistant Daniel Ham at 503-879-2233.■

**Tribal Office Closures**

Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.

**General Council meeting**

Sunday, March 4 — 11 a.m.

Tribal Community Center

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, Feb. 17 .....	March 1
Monday, March 5.....	March 15
Tuesday, March 20.....	April 1

**Editorial Policy**

**SMOKE SIGNALS**, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. No portion of this publication may be reprinted without permission.

Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or e-mail address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested.

**SMOKE SIGNALS** reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on individuals, staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of **SMOKE SIGNALS**, Tribal staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council.

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