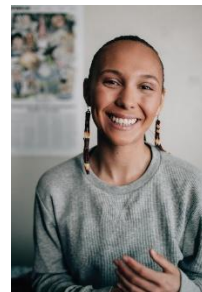


Cowlitz Elders for Cowlitz

Election Guide

2026

**EMPOWERING
THE COWLITZ PEOPLE
WITH KNOWLEDGE**



*Content created and paid for by Cowlitz Elders for Cowlitz,
an independent group of tribal elders working for good governance.*



Greetings!

Our vision as the Cowlitz Elders for Cowlitz is to uplift and empower our Cowlitz families everywhere. As a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe you will soon receive your ballot for the annual election of tribal leaders. Your vote is vitally important for our people to move forward in the best way. With this pamphlet, this group of elders wants to share our perspectives and help members in making informed decisions about candidates. The candidates highlighted in this pamphlet represent those who have shown they embrace the Cowlitz values of putting members first in the most important ways. We value each Cowlitz member and family and believe that together, we can bring forward a governing body that provides the greatest support. Please send your ballot without delay!

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Dean Reynolds – General Council Vice Chair

A visionary with proven results!

Greetings Cowlitz Family, my name is Dean Reynolds; I am the son of Vernon Reynolds, grandson of Marie L. Reynolds/Moravec, great grandson of Alvaretta Senn- Cottonoire-Plomondon-Scanewa. I am honored to be nominated for the position of General Council Vice Chair. If elected by the Cowlitz people, I am committed to serving with transparency, integrity, inclusivity, and prioritizing the Tribe’s interests. I will engage in active listening, encourage new and diverse perspectives, and provide consistent communication. Effective leadership begins with listening.

Professional Experience and Background: With more than 25 years serving in senior executive roles, I have a strong foundation in business management that I now bring to my work as Public Works Director for the Cowlitz Tribe for 6 years, a member of the Tribal Council for 3 years, and member of the Cowlitz Tribe Gaming Commission for 4 years. This experience has provided me with a deep understanding of economic growth, budget management, strategic planning, and financial oversight. These core skills are strengthened by over 35 years of combined experience in infrastructure construction on a global scale, enabling me to effectively guide projects and initiatives that support the ongoing development and well-being of our Tribe.

Leadership in Economic Growth and Organizational Stability: In my executive career, I led economic growth initiatives and managed organizational stability by emphasizing financial accountability, strategic planning, making informed decisions, and overseeing effective project execution. I will apply this experience in my duties as your General Council Vice Chair to promote government integrity, safeguarding Cowlitz resources, and delivering sustainable economic growth that benefits Tribal members today and for our future generations.

Commitment to Tribal Employment and Honoring Military Service: For six years, I have been the Public Works Director for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, overseeing facilities from Vancouver to Tukwila. Our department employs 14 Tribal members, Native Americans, and Veterans, reflecting my commitment to meaningful career opportunities for tribal members and honoring those who have served. Supporting employment and recognizing Veterans’ contributions are central to my leadership.

Tribal Accomplishments: During my service to the Cowlitz Tribe, I waded deep into the complexity of tribal federal grants and regulations to uncover the fact that in its trust responsibility to tribes, the federal government owes tribes financial support for their administrative functions. This funding source is not well publicized and must be sought out by the tribes. In less than two years, I secured more than \$54M in federal funding for Cowlitz projects that include the development and construction of our new Public Safety and Tribal Administration buildings. That “recovered” funding has helped to free tribal gaming revenues to directly benefit tribal members.



Dean 3rd from left with Public Works team members.

Positions that I support:

- Uphold and defend the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Constitution
- Continue to ensure regular, predictable GWE payments to Tribal Members
- Promote economic growth to boost Tribal independence and member benefits
- Honor and care for our elders
- Work toward universal health care and dental care for all Tribal Members
- Preserve, protect, and revitalize our Tribal culture
- Increase access to housing and childcare assistance for Tribal Members
- Make all programs and services for Tribal Members transparent and accessible
- Provide meaningful job opportunities for Tribal Members
- Limit Executive Committee practices that hide decisions from the Cowlitz people

Dean Reynolds

Email: dean.reynolds123@icloud.com



Gayle St. Germain – Singleton General Council Treasurer (incumbent)

A prudent steward and guardian of Cowlitz assets - ensuring their preservation, growth, and ethical management.

It is my honor to serve you, our Cowlitz Family.

I am a nurturer by nature and genuinely care about people. Whenever I see someone in need, I strive to find resources and solutions for them. My organizational and planning skills help ensure that everything falls into place, making processes smoother and more effective.

When I discovered that someone had improperly accessed GWE resources, I felt it deeply, as these resources belong to my tribe and Cowlitz family. I immediately acted, involving the authorities to address the issue. Our first priority was to establish a safe and accessible method for delivering GWE payments to members. It is essential to me that every member receives the maximum possible amount through these payments. For the spring GWE distribution, I carefully reviewed all financial resources and helped deliver the largest payment to members to date. I am committed to ensuring that all available funds are provided to our members.

As your Treasurer, my responsibility extends beyond simply reporting financial information; I aim to present it in an understandable way. I believe in simplifying processes wherever possible, removing unnecessary steps to save time and energy. When there is a shortage of help for an event, I volunteer to assist wherever I can. Acts of kindness and service to my local community have always held a special place in my heart. Today, my community and yours – the Cowlitz Indian Tribe – serves members in 47 states and 7 countries, reaching far and wide. My intention is to seek the best practices and policies for each and every one of our cherished members.

Upon being elected as General Council Treasurer, I set a goal to expand our economic development so that we are not reliant solely on gaming revenue. It is important to support members living outside our service area, where programs and grants may not be available. Broadening our resources allows us to care for and honor not only our elders, but also our youth and families.

I am dedicated to keeping decision-making within the General Council as the ultimate authority of our tribe. I also strive for complete transparency from Tribal Council to all tribal members.

I would appreciate your support and gratefully ask for your vote in this election.

Gayle St. Germain-Singleton

Email: gaylelynnsingleton@gmail.com



Gayle with Chairman Bill Iyall at
2026 Appropriations Testimony in
Washington DC

Dillon Dobson – Tribal Council Member

A champion for honest and effective governance and rightful authority, inspiring others to uphold integrity in every action.



I am a father of three, a martial artist, and a dedicated advocate for Indian Country. As an Indian Law attorney, I am committed to fighting for the Cowlitz people, believing in the necessity of honest and effective governance rooted in our inherent sovereignty and Cowlitz history. Having lived in San Diego for about seven years, I currently operate my own legal practice, Dobson Justice. I am licensed in California and provide legal services in Indian law, tribal governance, housing, eviction, employment discrimination, and personal injury. My academic background includes earning my Juris Doctorate with honors and Master of Professional Studies from the University of Arizona’s Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy program.

Throughout my career, I have worked with leading Indian Law firms representing tribes nationwide. My policy advocacy and development efforts have helped secure millions in funding for tribal affordable housing projects. I have conducted extensive research, drafted tribal ordinances, and published innovative articles and expert opinions in the field of Indian Law. Additionally, I have become one of the leading ʔpúlmixq (Cowlitz Salish) speakers. My service to the community includes over a year on the Cowlitz Housing Board, assisting in the development of ʔpúlmixq learning materials, and leading annual educational Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations with my sons (nnxmánʔtn) and sharing our drum, language, books, and medicine with fellow students.



If elected, my primary focus will be on tribal law, kinship, cultural sovereignty, sustainable development and diversification, and housing. I am dedicated to advancing tribal civics courses, establishing a strong and impartial court system, enhancing our tribal member portal to provide key governance materials, and constitutionally banning disenrollment.

I grew up in Beaverton, Oregon. I recall when our Cowlitz identity was largely unknown, even on our own lands. Our 2016 court case, *Grand Ronde v. Jewel*, marked a pivotal shift in our legal and political history—accelerating our economic development in a very short period of time. Delays in placing our land into trust, confirming federal recognition, and opening ilani have brought us into a period of unprecedented and rapid growth. Today, we are recognized across the Pacific Northwest and Indian Country for our economic

strength, legal significance, cultural impact, and more.

Dillon performing proficiency test for Chen Taijiquan – the oldest form of Tai Chi.

We are truly blessed and must remain grateful. The question before us is whether to prioritize the pursuit of wealth or to focus on being Cowlitz, which naturally includes prosperity. I believe we should strive to embody the convictions of our ancestors and

become síqʷʔ (people of good class). Our ancestors watch over us, and the next generation depends on our commitment to being a nation united by kinship, historical ties, and a deep connection to our lands and waters. It is for them that I hope you will support my candidacy.

náxʷʔqʷulʷas (Thank you),

Dillon Dobson Esq.

619.483.2009

Email: dillondobson.cowlitz@gmail.com



Ellen Harju – Tribal Council Member

Keeping promises to use my skills and my experience in community outreach to unify our community and to work for a better future for all Cowlitz people.

Klahowya. Səncayás n Skw̓act Ellen Harju. My name is Ellen Harju. I am the daughter of Claudia Tenney and Philip Harju, granddaughter of Phyllis St. Martin-Krogh, who is the daughter of Luther St. Martin, who is the son of Luch St. Martin, who is the son of Isadore St. Martin, who is the son of Andre St. Martin. Both Isadore and Andre St. Martin served as Cowlitz Rangers. I am also a mother to my daughter, who is from the next generation of our tribe.

At a tribal meeting, I participated in a Sun Person Ceremony and committed to using my skills and knowledge to better the tribe. At the time I was still completing my education, now I have my bachelor's degrees in chemical engineering and chemistry from the University of Washington in Seattle and a master's and Ph.D. in geochemistry from UCLA. I currently teach chemistry at the community college level. Throughout my education, I have sought leadership positions to strengthen my leadership skills. I sit on several non-profit boards and was previously a trustee for a non-profit organization that holds millions of dollars in assets. I have lived half my life in Washington and half my life in California. I try to stay active in my local Native communities. I am the Co-President of the American Indian Alumni of UCLA. I was the UCLA American Indian Student Association Alumni of the Year in 2015 and a Native American 40 Under 40 award recipient in 2016. I believe I can represent the tribe in a positive way in the larger American Indian Community.

We are at an important time in our history as Cowlitz people. I am so grateful to our ancestors and elders. Their perseverance got us to where we are today and now, we need to move forward in a good way, following our traditions and constitution, and treating tribal members fairly and equally. I know we have many talented and capable people from all different backgrounds in our tribe. I would welcome feedback from tribal members and work toward making the best decisions for the tribe as a whole. We need to make sure that tribal members have trust in our government and tribal court. I would take a culturally grounded approach to leadership. I support further work with our enrollment requirements to enroll more of our currently unenrolled Cowlitz and want to make sure we are able to practice our hunting and fishing rights without interference from other governments. I want to see healthy Cowlitz families and make sure tribal members' basic needs are met. We need to focus on responsible economic development to ensure we can continue to support our members' needs through our GWE program.



Ellen and daughter Jade with former Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland

I have been actively involved in the tribe since I was a youth. I have had the honor of serving as a witness at our salmon ceremony more than once so we can ensure that this tradition is carried on to future generations. You may have seen me volunteering to check people into the general council meetings at St. Mary's or volunteering for one of our youth camps. I regularly attend the general council meetings and also have attended many tribal council meetings in person. I am the vice chair of the Cowlitz Education Committee and the treasurer of the Since Time Immemorial Curriculum (STIC) Committee. Both of these positions have helped me see how our government functions. I am ready to volunteer to serve at a higher level as a tribal council member.

I appreciate you reading my statement and humbly ask for your support this June. As our tribe continues to grow and develop, I hope to help usher in a prosperous future while maintaining our traditions as Cowlitz people.

Ellen Harju

Email: tarjah@gmail.com

Greg LaDue-Grove – Tribal Council Member (incumbent)

A wise and passionate leader guided by our ancestral values and working for the preservation of our lands, traditions, and history.

As your elected Council Member, I have served with an honest commitment to ensuring responsible and accountable leadership. My motivation for seeking a second term for office on the Cowlitz Indian Tribal Council is rooted in a deep desire to guide our people back toward fulfilling our responsibilities and maintaining accountability to our ancestral land, which I believe is the foundation of our culture. Our relationship with the landscape demands care, teaching, stewardship of resources, and respect for all beings within our territories. Being Cowlitz means being responsible for preserving our traditions and practices.

Accountability extends to our policies and procedures, with a focus on restoring fairness and inclusion of perspectives in our decision-making processes. It is essential that the voices of the Cowlitz people are respected and recognized as the ultimate authority guiding our collective path. This path includes developing our homeland infrastructure as a nation and ensuring that all Cowlitz members, regardless of their location, receive equal benefits and considerations as those living closer to our homeland.

My vision also involves growing and diversifying our economic ventures for the well-being of all our people, both now and for future generations to enjoy. The economic tools we invest in are vital in securing our place among decision makers within all the governments we interact with. The restoration of the Cowlitz Tribe as sovereign people and as a sovereign nation is central, reaffirming our status as distinguished leaders and earning respect among our tribal neighbors, as we have in the past.



Greg by the Cowlitz River

I am dedicated to serving our Cowlitz community and respectfully ask for your vote so I may continue to serve you and extend my efforts in protecting our lands and resources. I am asking for your vote to continue to represent your voice on the Tribal Council in a manner that serves you and the needs of our community and families. My commitment is unwavering; I will always put our people, the land and rivers, and our historical traditions before my own interests.

Thank you for your trust,

Greg LaDue-Grove

Email: Mr.G123@yahoo.com

Katherine Iyall-Vasquez – Tribal Council Member

An experienced leader with integrity who has successfully helped guide our tribe through major organization changes.



I come from generations of service to our Tribe. I am the daughter of Ben Iyall, granddaughter of Frank Iyall, great-granddaughter of Iyall Wahawa, and great-great granddaughter of Chief Scanewa.

For 30 years (1991–2021), I had the honor of serving on Tribal Council, including several years as TC Vice Chair. Together, we helped secure federal recognition and establish many services for our members—housing, education, cultural and natural resource programs, transportation, the initial reservation, ilani, GWE, and other economic opportunities.

My leadership is also shaped by personal experience. I know what it means to struggle and sacrifice for your family. That perspective stays with me and drives my commitment to ensure every tribal member has access to assistance, education, and resources that empower financial growth and informed decision-making.

We’ve come a long way—but there is more work to do. I believe in leadership that is steady, honest, and always puts Cowlitz people first. I am committed to protecting what we’ve built while strengthening our future, ensuring that it will not only thrive today but also help secure a prosperous future for our children’s grandchildren and future generations.

I believe in open, transparent government. Trust is built through honesty, communication, and working together.

MY PRIORITIES:

- Transparency in gaming and tax revenues
- Expanded and secure voting options, including vote-by-mail, on-line, and electronic options
- Unity, healing, and moving forward together

MY COMMITMENT:

- Lead with integrity and accountability
- Listen to and advocate for all members
- Protect our Constitution, culture, and traditions
- Expand healthcare and benefits for all members
- Strengthening GWE while supporting essential programs
- Conduct Tribal business openly to rebuild trust



Katherine and family, Tribal event at ilani

I would be honored to serve you again. I welcome your questions and your voice.

Respectfully,

Katherine I Vasquez

Email: kivasquez@yahoo.com

Nathan Hooton – Tribal Council Member (incumbent)

Dedicated advocate for honesty, integrity, and service of the people.

My name is Nathan Hooton, the son of Norma Hooton, grandson of Bonnie Drummond, great-grandson of Maggie Wannassay, 2x great-grandson of Fran Wannassay. I am a retired Air Force Veteran of 24 years, traditional dancer, bead-worker, husband and father. I have committed my entire life to the service of others including my local community, my family, my service to the military and veterans, and our Cowlitz Tribe. Given the opportunity to serve you for another term as your elected representative on the Tribal Council, the following are **my pledges to all** Cowlitz people:



- ✓ I will serve you with integrity, compassion, and accountability and ensure my personal and professional conduct reflect the same.
- ✓ I will seek the council and wisdom of our elders and subject matter experts to help steer our Tribe in the best direction possible.
- ✓ I will not engage in tribal divisions but rather will foster collaboration and reconciliation within our community with the knowledge that our differences should not divide us.

I am seeking re-election to further serve the Cowlitz people. We face many challenges that need to be addressed within the Tribe and government. I will champion these and other **goals** that include:

- ✓ Prioritize the construction of a Longhouse on Cowlitz land that can be used for culturally appropriate events and tribal gatherings
- ✓ Acquire/develop manufacturing/retail business that creates diversified revenue streams for the Tribe and provides an opportunity for skilled jobs and entrepreneurship investments for our tribal members who desire to live and work in Cowlitz country and beyond
- ✓ Expand investment in our Language Program as our language provides a direction to connect with our ancestors and history. Revitalizing our language and teaching the next generations is proof that our people are not simply still here, but we are thriving.
- ✓ Continue to streamline and reimagine sustainable and dependable GWE distributions that include nation-wide medical coverage



During my time on Tribal Council since you elected me 3 years ago, I have been a part of many strong working groups conducting business on behalf of the Tribe. Some highlights include serving on the Cultural Resources Board, Executive Council, GWE Committee, Language Committee, and a charter member of the Cowlitz Economic Authority (CEA). Additionally, I represented the Tribe as a delegate to the National Congress of American Indians, and served as a Congressional Delegate to Washington D.C. I am particularly proud of sponsoring legislative initiatives to create a 5% cap on the use of gaming funds in annual budgets, creating a Whistleblower complaint and protection program, and chairing the effort in developing our current GWE distribution plan.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve you as a member of the Tribal Council and build on the foundation so many who have come before us have laid. With your continued support, trust, and your vote, together we will continue to move the Cowlitz people to a more prosperous and sustainable future.

náx^wq^wul'as,

Nathan Hooton

Email: cowlitz1@gmail.com



Rosalie Fish – Tribal Council Member (incumbent)

An effective leader who demonstrates compassion through mentorship and advocates tirelessly for the needs of Cowlitz youth and a better future.

Hello! My name is Rosalie Fish, and I come from the George Waters ancestral line. I am an alumnus of the University of Washington and grew up in this state. My passion is in preventing violence in Native communities, uplifting youth, preserving culture, and supporting our Cowlitz members. I earned a master's degree in Social Work and have started a second master's degree in Public Administration for Tribal Governance.

Throughout my time serving on the Tribal Council for the past year and a half, I have dedicated myself to being a positive role model for our youth and to continuously learning from the wisdom of our elders. Every day, I am guided by the goal of uplifting and supporting our young people while honoring those who came before us. This commitment has made my service on Tribal Council a true honor. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity I have had, and I would be humbled to earn your continued trust and support. If given the chance, I will keep advocating for policies that address the urgent needs of our members now, while also ensuring that we are building a strong foundation for the generations to come.

My priorities are:

1. Cultural preservation – Cowlitz cultural identity is the foundation of our sovereignty and well-being.
2. Community engagement – Programs should meet the urgent needs of the people and be accessible regardless of where you call home.
3. Transparency & trust – Tribal council must champion autonomy and communicate non-defensively.
4. Professionalism & ethics – Cowlitz people deserve representatives who behave authentically and honorably.

My experience with boards, committees, and groups include:

- Cowlitz Tribal Council, Executive Council At-Large
- Canoe Family
- Personnel Committee
- Cultural Resources Board
- Boarding School Research
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Task Force
- GWE Committee
- Drum Group
- Tribal Governance Professional Certified
- Cowlitz Language Classes



Leadership is a sacred responsibility that requires compassion, humility, and competency, and I am determined to demonstrate those values in all my work and decisions. I ask for your vote to continue this work.

Rosalie Fish (she/her)

Cowlitz, Yakama, Muckleshoot

253-569-2071 | Email: rosylfish@gmail.com

<https://linktr.ee/rosaliefish>

POSITION STATEMENT ON BALLOT MEASURES

Proposed By-law Amendment I Revision #1 - Changing the General Council Quorum

VOTE NO

Overview: Cowlitz voters are being asked to increase the quorum required at General Council meetings from a flat **(30)** voters to 5% of all eligible voters. A quorum set on 5% of all eligible voters would require a substantial increase in the number of voting age Cowlitz members to attend General Council meetings to ensure a quorum of **(165)** eligible voters be present at all general council meetings in order to conduct business. Cowlitz Elders for Cowlitz disagrees with increasing the quorum for General Council meetings to 5% of all eligible voters. We favor a reasonable increase to the quorum set at a number that reflects the reality of low member attendance and slow growth in increase in attendance. Many members are not able to attend any given meeting due to distance, financial inability, or interest. We suggest a more reasonable increase in the quorum to a flat number such as 70-100 voters that aligns more with the Cowlitz constitution.

Historical Context and Current Meeting Attendance: The quorum is currently set at a flat **(30)** voting members, a number established in the 1970s when typical meeting attendance ranged from 100 to 150 participants. At present, the average attendance at each semi-annual General Council meetings is between 300-500, including member guests and on-line attendance. The attendance at General Council meetings has not significantly increased in the past fifty years. At the November 2025 meeting, approximately 380 attendees were present before lunch and about 160 after lunch. If the proposed quorum of **(165)** had been in effect, the business part of the meeting would have been canceled and tribal business halted. The voting participation for in-person and mail-in voting in General Council elections averages about 1,100-1,200.

Concerns Regarding Proposed Quorum Changes: A quorum measures representation – not the actual number of voters eligible to vote on a ballot measure. A quorum is established to ensure there is a minimum representative cross-section of the greater membership in order to open a discussion on new business. Typically this is achieved with the 300-500 tribal members who regularly attend General Council meetings. The role of the members attending and the quorum are established primarily to deliberate and decide whether a matter of policy or an amendment should advance further for consideration and a vote by all the eligible voters of the Tribe. No policy or amendment may be enacted without a two-thirds (2/3rd) vote of the eligible voters of the Tribe.

Risks of Increasing Quorum Requirements Too Great Are:

Setting the quorum at 5% of eligible voters does not create a “fairness guardrail”. Too high a quorum will:

- **Create governance gridlock:** If a quorum cannot be reached, essential business cannot be conducted.
- **Reduce member voices:** Increasing the quorum could *decrease* member participation in governance.
- **Increase bureaucracy:** Any percentage-based method used to set the quorum means adding complexity and cost to a straightforward system.
- **Not balance inclusivity and practicality:** The proposed change does not balance inclusivity of tribal participation with the practicality that would impose a high burden on mandatory attendance.
- **Impose an arbitrary number:** There are no hard-fast rules of setting the quorum in an organization. A quorum number may be established by any number agreed upon within the organization through its by-laws and it can be flexible to the needs and workability of the organization.

POSITION STATEMENT ON BALLOT MEASURES

Proposed By-law Amendment I Revision #2 - Changing the Order of New Business on the Agenda

VOTE YES

Overview: The Cowlitz voters are being asked to change the order of business in General Council meetings to move unfinished and new business forward in the agenda. Cowlitz Elders for Cowlitz agrees with moving the people's part of the General Council meeting forward in the order of business on the meeting agenda. The bi-annual General Council meetings are the general membership's only opportunity to assemble together for the purpose of conducting business and to exercise their right to propose motions, resolutions, referendums, and amendments to the General Council for consideration, discussion, and a vote to advance it forward. The people's business is an important part of the General Council meeting and every tribal member's expression of democratic participation.

Historical Context and Current Order: The order of business for General Council meetings and Tribal Council meetings is established in the constitution. Title VI Section 2 defines the order. New business, which is the "people's business" is under the New Business agenda item which is near the end of the agenda. Moving New Business and Unfinished Business ahead of reports in the order of business ensures the "people's business" brought to the General Council by the membership and that any votes or decisions to be made happen while the greatest number of members are in the meeting and can participate.

INFORMATION REGARDING UPCOMING PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

At the June 6, 2026 General Council meeting tribal members will hear the first reading of (3) proposed constitutional amendments for Article V Elections, Article X Amendments, and Article XII By-laws. These ballot measures will be put before the eligible voters of the general membership for an election in November 2026 in conjunction with the November 7, 2026 General Council meeting.

This information is being provided to you as a “heads up” before the June 2026 meeting to inform membership about the proposals being presented to Cowlitz voters for consideration in a Fall 2026 election.

Article V Elections, if approved, will:

- Define the three types of elections that may be brought to the General Council; and
- Add electronic voting to the voting options established in the constitution

Articles X Amendments and Article XII-By-Laws, if approved, will:

- Provide for distinct first and second readings of constitutional amendments and by-law enactments or revisions prior to their being voted on;
- Provide the opportunity for members to offer input during the second reading before the proposal is finalized for an election; and
- Remove the requirement of participation by at least fifty (50) eligible voting members when an election is conducted in relation to constitutional amendment or by-law enactments or revision.

GENERAL INFORMATION

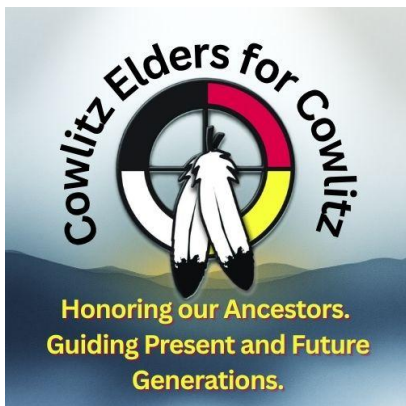
The Traditional Role of Tribal Community Elders

Community elders are vital in their traditional role as guardians in preserving and protecting Cowlitz culture, traditions, and values. The elders ensure tribal life is maintained and celebrated across generations. Tribal Elders also actively partner with the government for the empowerment of their people to prioritize policies that address such areas as health, education, housing, and the safeguarding of tribal rights. **Cowlitz Elders for Cowlitz** is a large, dedicated group of Cowlitz elders who share a commitment to serve the Cowlitz community. The group fulfills its responsibility to all Cowlitz generations by sharing historical information, passing down cultural knowledge, participating in community service, and working to protect tribal rights.

Preserving our Stories

Cowlitz Elders for Cowlitz created and maintains a website, OurCowlitzVoices.com, to preserve stories and cultural events for future generations. OurCowlitzVoices.com is an expanding collection of videos and written materials that document the history of our Tribe, including stories and pictures from our many families. Check out: OurCowlitzVoices.com

*“Let us Put Our Minds Together and See What Life We Can
Make for Our Children” ~ Chief Sitting Bull*



*Cowlitz Elders for Cowlitz
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*An independent group of tribal elders working for good governance
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