

General Council



Access to Tribal Government



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Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Legal Department

The legal department represents and provides services to the Tribal government, those services include but are not limited to:

- Contract negotiation and review,
- Assistance in land acquisition and the land-into-trust process,
- Developing tribal law and policy,
- Improving internal controls and administrative efficiency.
- **Legal department attorneys cannot provide direct legal services to Tribal members**

Civil Legal Aid Attorney

- Can provide direct services to Tribal members
- Contact: Court Clerk at (360) 297-9682 or (360) 297-9681 or by visiting the Court Services building



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- General Council Authority
- Tribal Council Authority and Process
- How to Change the Constitution
- How to Access Committees and Boards
- Tribal Records Access and Request Policy



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General Council Membership & Meetings

The General Council is composed of all eligible voters:

All members of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe who are eighteen (18) years of age or older and have registered to vote are eligible to vote.

The General Council holds semi-annual meetings:

Meetings are held on the last Saturday of March and the first Saturday of October.

Special meetings of the General Council:

The Tribal Council, or twenty-five (25%) of eligible voters, by verified signatures, may, by written notice, call special meetings of the General Council.



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General Council Membership & Meetings

Notice and Agenda:

- At least 30 days notice of the semi-annual meetings shall be provided.
- At least 7 days notice of special meetings shall be provided.
- The **agenda** for the General Council meetings is **set by the Tribal Council** – and,
- **Any member** may submit to the Tribal Council items for the semi-annual meeting agenda, in writing, within the time limits set by the Tribal Council (usually, **2 weeks**).

Quorum: 30% of the average number of persons who voted in the last 3 Tribal Council elections.

example: yr 1: 100 votes, yr 2: 200 votes, yr 3:100 votes = 400 votes
 $400/3 = 133.33$ average votes → Quorum 30% of 133.33= 40 votes (39.99)



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Powers of the General Council

Include but are not limited to:

- Elect Tribal Council members.
- Adopt persons as members of the Tribe under Art. I § 1 C and in conformity with procedures set out under Tribal Law.
 - A descendent of a member whose name appears on the Basic Roll and who is adopted into the Tribe by a majority vote of the eligible voters of the General Council under such additional criteria as provided under Tribal Law.
- Take final action concerning the termination or alienation of the Tribe's real property, whether owned by the Tribe in fee or held in trust by the US for the Tribe.
- Make advisory recommendations to the Tribal Council through a majority vote.



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General Council Powers Continued

- Exercise the power of legislative initiative under procedures set out under Tribal Law.
- Exercise the power of recall of **Tribal Council members** under procedures set out under Tribal Law Title 11.
- **Delegate** any of its powers to the Tribal Council or subordinate tribal organizations.
- Decide by majority vote whether to **banish** a member, as provided under Tribal Law Title 28.
- **Amend** the Constitution, in accordance with **Article VII**.

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How to Amend the Constitution

ARTICLE VII

- A proposal to amend the constitution must be submitted in writing, to the Tribal Council, before a General Council Meeting.
- The amendment will be presented at the General Council meeting.
- To move forward, we need a **quorum** and a **majority** vote in favor of the amendment.
- At the **next** semi-annual GC meeting, a majority of registered voters must vote in favor of calling for an election for the amendment.
- At the election for an amendment, at least **30%** of registered voters must **cast votes**, and a majority must vote **in favor of amendment** for the amendment to pass.

Constitutional amendment requires 2 GC meetings in a row, with a quorum



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Tribal Council Membership & Qualifications

- The Tribal Council is composed of 6 members
- Each member serves a 2 year term
- There are no term limits
- Candidates must be a Tribal member and an eligible voter (over 18 years of age)
- Must declare their desire to run for Tribal office via written statement provided to the Election Committee at least 30 days prior to each regular elections



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Tribal Council Authority

- Enact **laws** and **regulations** governing safety and welfare, administration of justice and enforcement, tribal membership
- Prescribe and enforce conditions upon which a tribal member would be banished
 - **Any permanent banishment shall be imposed only upon approval of a majority vote of the General Council**
- Authorize **expenditures** and appropriate **funds**; borrow money and use such funds for the benefit of the Tribe
- Acquire and purchase lands and regulate **land use**
- Regulate the **inheritance** of **property**
- Develop, manage, protect, and regulate the use of the Tribe's **natural resources** wherever situated
- Protect the Tribe's spiritual, ceremonial, cultural and burial sites and property



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Accessing Tribal Council

- Tribal Council meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month
- Items may be added to the Tribal Council agenda by submitting an Agenda Request
- Agenda Requests are due the Tuesday preceding each TC meeting
- Tribal Council agenda items are reviewed by executive team of Tribal employees, with the final agenda setting authority granted to the Tribal Council Chair.

When to Access:

- General Council members can bring items directly to Tribal Council, however it may be more effective and efficient to bring items to a Tribal Board or Committee first.



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Tribal Boards and Committees – Authority & Process

Tribal Council relies on the expertise and advice of boards and committees

Tribal Boards:

- Formal bodies with authority delegated to them by Tribal Council, created by a legal document such as a charter or code.
- Examples: Utility Board, Housing Authority, Tribal Gaming Commission

Tribal Committees:

- Created either in code, policy, or by other formal action by Tribal Council and are advisory only.
- Examples: Law & Order Committee, Enrollment Committee, Lot Advisory Committee



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Membership on a Tribal Boards and Committees

- General Council Members may be eligible to be appointed to a Board or Committee
- Open positions are advertised two weeks
 - Term end vacancies are advertised two weeks before General Council meetings
 - Unexpected vacancies may be filled any time
 - Positions are currently being advertised, with letters of interest due October 1st!
- Candidates must submit a letter of interest to Tribal Governance Office
- The Board or Committee reviews letters of interest and provides their recommendations to Tribal Council
- Tribal Council appoints Board and Committee members
- Most Board and Committee appointments are for **4 years**



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Accessing Tribal Boards and Committees

- Access to a Board or Committee is detailed in the Board or Committee bylaws or by charter or code.
- **Examples:**
 - Law & Order Committee – submit written request to the legal department.
 - Enrollment Committee – submit written request to the enrollment office.
 - Lot Committee – submit written request to the Front desk.
- Accessing boards or committees may extremely efficient and effective:
 - **Can devote more time to hearing specific issues**
 - **Have greater expertise**
 - **Tribal Council relies and seeks their input**
- Access to bylaws, minutes, and other documents may be acquired by submitting a records request



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Accessing Tribal Information

Tribal Website

- Law & Order Code
- Tribal Member login gains access to additional records, such as certain Tribal policies, Tribal Council information, etc.

Records Request

- New *Accessing Tribal Records Policy* creates a process for requesting Tribal Records
- Submit a completed *Tribal Records Request Form* to the Tribal Governance Office
- Unless the requested record is deemed confidential, as described in the policy, the record will be provided to the Tribal member requesting it



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Thank You!

Remaining Questions?

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