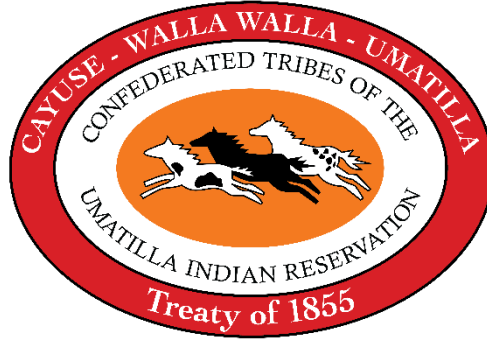




REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)

Oregon Lobbyist Services

Department of Communications

46411 Timíne Way

Pendleton, Oregon 97801

541-276-3165

ctuir.org

Issued: October 9, 2026

Due: November 13, 2026, by 4 p.m. (PST)

Via email to: KaeleenMcGuire@ctuir.org

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is soliciting proposals for a professional lobbying service in the Oregon State Capitol to advise and assist the CTUIR in advancing its Constitution and Bylaws and established priorities. It is anticipated that the delivery of services under the contract will begin on January 1, 2027.

INTRODUCTION

The CTUIR is a federally recognized Indian tribe, with a reservation in Northeast Oregon and ceded, aboriginal, and usual and accustomed areas in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and other Northwest states. In 1855, representatives of the Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla Tribes negotiated and signed the Treaty of 1855 with the United States. The Treaty is a contract between sovereigns and is “the supreme Law of the Land” under the United States Constitution. In the Treaty, the CTUIR ceded 6.4 million acres of its aboriginal land to the federal government. This was in exchange for a Reservation homeland for the “exclusive use” of the 3 Tribes, the right to fish at usual and accustomed fishing sites, to hunt and gather traditional foods and medicines, and graze cattle on “unclaimed” land outside of the Reservation. A paramount objective in the Treaty is protecting and maintaining our tribal First Foods—water, fish, big game, roots, berries, and other plants and the habitats and environmental conditions that support and sustain them, then, now, and forever. This remains a paramount objective of the CTUIR as we have a reciprocal responsibility to respectfully care for, harvest, share, and consume traditional foods, or the foods may be lost.

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CTUIR: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees (BOT) was established by the CTUIR Constitution, adopted in 1949 as the governing body of the CTUIR. The BOT is both authorized and charged with exerting the Tribes' sovereign authority to protect the rights reserved by the Treaty of 1855, to promote the interests of the members and residents of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and to exercise its authority to promote, enhance and achieve the maximum degree of self-government, self-sufficiency, and self-determination in all Tribal affairs. The BOT is elected every two years by the voting membership, our General Council. Our BOT chair presides over the Board, which consists of eight additional members (nine members total). The BOT enacts Tribal law, approves Tribal budgets, and establishes Tribal policy. The BOT conducts weekly meetings, in addition to numerous work sessions with staff and special meetings with Tribal commissions and committees as well as outside governments, individuals and organizations.

SCOPE OF WORK

The successful proposal will, in accordance with the highest legal, ethical, and professional standards, provide Oregon state lobbying services including, but not limited to:

1. Proactively identify, monitor, and analyze legislative and administrative developments that may affect CTUIR's priorities including, but not limited to treaty rights, First Foods, water rights, health care, other legal rights, cultural resources, cultural sites, ancestral remains, economic development, community security, and Tribal programs and services, and its government-to-government relationship with the state of Oregon's role in upholding and supporting the United States' treaty and trust responsibilities to CTUIR.
2. Lobby the Oregon state government, including its agencies and other entities, as needed to advance CTUIR's priorities, interests, and objectives.
3. Develop and maintain a current understanding of CTUIR's core issues, including treaty rights, and priorities to provide informed support to leadership and staff.
4. Advise CTUIR on trends and history of initiatives and identifying and prioritizing challenges and opportunities under consideration by the Oregon state government.
5. Assist CTUIR staff and policy representatives in developing and implementing the CTUIR's Oregon legislative priorities and strategies.
6. Assist in drafting appropriate and necessary responses to pending legislation, regulatory notices, or administrative actions in a timely, proactive manner.
7. Assist CTUIR representatives in preparing to lobby members of Oregon's Executive Branch and State Legislature, testify before legislative committees, and address agency officials on CTUIR priorities.
8. Assist CTUIR in maintaining and establishing necessary and appropriate relationships with elected leaders, as well as appointed and career officials that will advance CTUIR's priorities in Oregon and protect its interests.
9. Work and collaborate with CTUIR Legislative Affairs Manager, Communications Director, Office of the Executive Director, key staff, and Federal and Washington state lobbying teams on all matters which may involve CTUIR and its interests.
10. Provide weekly informative and relevant legislative reports to the BOT on significant issues that may affect CTUIR.
11. Provide timely telephone or email updates with designated staff, create written reports regarding lobbying activities performed, and provide applicable reports during the legislative session to ensure the CTUIR's objectives are being effectively met.

ELEMENTS OF PROPOSAL

A proposal shall include the following essential elements:

1. Introduction of the firm, including overall qualifications and capabilities of providing lobbying services.
2. Name of individual(s) who will serve as the primary contact to the CTUIR and who will be responsible for the performance of any work assigned including all contact information.
3. Detailed biographies and summary of the relevant experience of each person that may interact with the CTUIR in performing requested services, including billing rates and expected level of participation.
4. Description of the services provided to tribal or other clients over the last five years, including examples of successful results as well as unsuccessful results and an analysis of

- why you believe you were unsuccessful.
5. Narrative discussing strategy on how best to work within the Oregon state government. Description of deliverables to the client and frequency of such deliverables.
 6. List of clients. Disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including legal or perceived conflicts, that could compromise the ability or commitment to advocate for and protect CTUIR's treaty rights.
 7. Terms and cost of services, including a description of your firm's billing procedures, expenses, etc.
 8. **Three** references from current or former clients, including tribal clients.
 9. Verification of licenses or good standing if your organization is a law firm and states where your personnel are licensed to practice.
 10. Verification of registration to lobby and list of all entities for which registrations have been filed in the last two years.

SELECTION CRITERIA (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

- Experience and demonstrated record of successful advocacy and representation of Native American tribal governments.
- Familiarity with federal Indian law, treaty rights, and trust obligations; their relationship to state and federal law; and legislative processes, requirements, committees, and leadership.
- Organizational expertise and experience, particularly as it relates to Native American tribes.
- Organization, presentation, and content of proposal.
- Cost proposal.
- Bipartisan representation.
- Strong References.
- Lack of conflicts with the CTUIR's treaty rights, priorities, and positions.
- Preference will be given to Native American-owned, woman-owned, or minority-owned businesses.

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION

Submit proposals electronically or by mail. **Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. PST on Friday, November 13, 2026.**

CTUIR

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