

JOHN Amy * SOS

From: Chris Barhyte <chris@barhyte.com>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 10:25 AM
To: BERGMANN Steve * SOS
Cc: JOHN Amy * SOS; mayor@cityofrivergrove.com; manager@cityofrivergrove.com
Subject: RE: City of Rivergrove

Good Morning,

Thanks for the reply. Have a great Friday and Weekend,
Chris

From: BERGMANN Steve * SOS <Steve.BERGMANN@sos.oregon.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 8:07 AM
To: Chris Barhyte <chris@barhyte.com>
Cc: JOHN Amy * SOS <amy.john@sos.oregon.gov>; mayor@cityofrivergrove.com; manager@cityofrivergrove.com
Subject: RE: City of Rivergrove

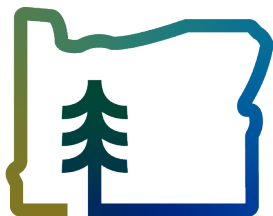
Mayor Barhyte,

We received your request to invalidate the petitions received and provide written confirmation whether the petition meets statutory requirements under ORS 297.445.

Statute does not prescribe the form or content of the petition for audit in ORS 297.445 or rule. A petition submitted under this statute should not be assumed to fall under the same requirements as initiative petitions or others as used in elections laws.

The provision for petition to audit an otherwise exempt municipality applies only to the most recent fiscal year. Inconsistent references to the timeframe do not invalidate the petitions. It's clear the intent is an audit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as no other fiscal periods would apply. Further, the petition sheets 1, 2, and 9 through 12 indicate June 2025 or 2025 and contain 33 signatures. That would be sufficient to prompt the audit requirement even assuming the other sheets were, in fact, invalid.

Regards,
Steve



Steve Bergmann, CPA, CIA

Audits Director

Audits Division, Oregon Secretary of State

(503) 689-4066 | Steve.Bergmann@sos.oregon.gov

Pronouns: he/him

<https://sos.oregon.gov>

ORSOS

If you know of or suspect misuse of state funds or resources, please call 1.800.336.8218
or report online at <http://accountability.oregon.gov>

From: Chris Barhyte <chris@barhyte.com>
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 11:44 AM
To: JOHN Amy * SOS <amy.john@sos.oregon.gov>
Cc: Mayor Rivergrove <mayor@cityofrivergrove.com>; City of Rivergrove Manager <manager@cityofrivergrove.com>
Subject: City of Rivergrove
Importance: High

Hi – After reviewing the petition sheets we realized that several of the sheets have errors, which we believe should make those sheets invalid. With this issue the petitioners did not meet the 30 resident threshold.

Thanks – Chris