



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Chris Bacha, City Attorney, City Attorney’s Office  
 Debra E. Casparian, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney’s Office  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Fire Department levy lift for regular property taxes, and recommending appointments to the “For” and “Against” Committees.  
**DATE:** July 23, 2024

**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

The City Attorney’s Office is requesting a resolution for the City Council to approve appointments to the “For” and “Against” Committees for Proposition No. 1, which will be submitted to the voters at the November 5, 2024, General Election. The proposition requests voters to approve or reject a levy lid lift for regular property taxes that would help fund the Tacoma Fire Department, and would provide for enhanced facilities, equipment and staffing.

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 18, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 41454, transmitting a ballot measure concerning the Tacoma Fire Department property tax levy, to the Pierce County Auditor to be placed on the ballot for the General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Per the Revised Code of Washington 29A.32.280, for each measure from a unit of local government that is included in a local voters’ pamphlet, the legislative authority of that jurisdiction shall formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters’ approval of the measure, and shall formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters’ rejection of the measure. The City reached out to the community to look for those interested in serving on the committees by notifying those on the mailing lists from the Tacoma Fire Department, those on the agenda notification lists, Neighborhood Council contacts, as well as anyone else who expressed interest in the past about the topic, and posted the request on the City’s notices page. The Government Performance and Finance Committee reviewed letters of interest at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, and provided recommendations for the appointment of individuals for the “For” and “Against” Committees for Proposition No. 1.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

The City requested members of the public to volunteer for the “For” and “Against” committees.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

Requesting the public to provide input to support or oppose the proposition allows community members to voice their concerns.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Not appoint committee members. The Pierce County Auditor would then be responsible for appointing members.		Requires the County to do this work. The City would not be soliciting the assistance of the community.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

The City could follow up to see if the Committees submitted statements to the County supporting or opposing the proposition.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending the City Council appoint those members recommended by the Government Performance and Finance Committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.