



RESOLUTION NO. 41651

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS HINES
2 AND WALKER

3 A RESOLUTION expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 1
4 submitted by the City of Tacoma at the April 22, 2025, Special Election
5 ballot, to fund street repair, maintenance, and safety improvements for
6 streets, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements; and encouraging
7 residents to vote "Approved" on Proposition No. 1 on the April 22, 2025,
8 Special Election ballot.

9 WHEREAS at its December 17, 2024, meeting, the City Council unanimously
10 adopted Resolution No. 41588 authorizing the submission to voters of a proposition
11 to continue an increased funding level for street repair, maintenance, and safety
12 improvements for streets, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements, at a
13 Special Election to be held on April 22, 2025, and

14 WHEREAS this proposition would levy an additional 2 percent utility tax on
15 natural gas, electric, and phone utilities effective 2026; increase the regular
16 property tax levy by \$0.25/\$1,000 of assessed value for a maximum levy rate of
17 \$1.95/\$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2026; and authorize the 2026
18 levy amount as the basis to calculate future levies per Revised Code of
19 Washington ("RCW") 84.55, and pursuant to RCW 84.36.381, exempt qualifying
20 seniors and others, and

21 WHEREAS in 2015, City voters passed Propositions No. 3 and A, which
22 set the foundation for the Tacoma Streets Initiative, and

23 WHEREAS Proposition No. 3 increased taxes by 1.5 percent on natural
24 gas, electric, phone companies, and property taxes by \$0.20/\$1,000 of assessed
25 value, and Proposition A raised the sales tax by one-tenth of one percent, and
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1 WHEREAS over the past decade, this initiative has allowed the Public
2 Works Department to complete over \$397 million in critical infrastructure
3 improvements in the City's rights-of-way, and as current funding nears expiration
4 in December 2025 and February 2026 for the property tax and utility tax
5 increases, respectively, the City Council submitted the Tacoma Streets Initiative II
6 to the Pierce County Auditor's Office for inclusion on the April 2025 Special
7 Election ballot as Proposition No. 1, and

9 WHEREAS if approved by the voters, Proposition No. 1 is expected to
10 raise \$375 million for street repair, maintenance, and safety improvements for City
11 streets, including pedestrian and bicycle improvements through an increase in
12 property and utility taxes, and with grant match and additional partnerships, staff
13 anticipates bringing in over \$900 million over the first 15 years, and

15 WHEREAS with these funds the City will be able to improve 1,100-1,400
16 arterial lane miles, 250-300 sidewalk miles, 130-170 miles of bike infrastructure,
17 maintain 5,200-6,200 residential blocks, reduce wear and tear on residents'
18 vehicles, and keep freight, cars, and transit moving efficiently over a 15-year
19 performance period, prioritizing accessibility, pedestrian safety, and multi-modal
20 connectivity, and

22 WHEREAS RCW 42.17A.555(1) allows elected boards, councils and
23 commissions to "express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion,
24 proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot
25 proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and
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1 number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body,
2 members of the board, council, or commission of the special purpose district, or
3 members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the
4 expression of an opposing view, and
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6 WHEREAS Public Works Department staff have been providing information
7 on the Initiative and plans for Proposition No. 1 through the City's webpage and
8 printed and digital materials, and staff have been meeting regularly with
9 community organizations, Neighborhood Councils, Business Districts, and
10 partners as requested; Now, Therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

13 Section 1. That the City Council endorses and hereby expresses its
14 support for the passage of Proposition No. 1 ("Proposition"), submitted by the
15 City of Tacoma, at the April 22, 2025, Special Election, for the purposes
16 hereinabove enumerated.
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Section 2. That the City Council urges Tacoma voters to vote "Approved" on the Proposition on the April 22, 2025, Special Election ballot, substantially in the form of the ballot title as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

CITY OF TACOMA

The Tacoma City Council adopted Resolution No. 41588 concerning utility taxes and property tax levy rate for street improvements.

This measure funds street repair, maintenance, and safety improvements for streets, including pedestrian and bicycle improvements, by levying an additional 2% utility tax on natural gas, electric, and phone utilities effective 2026; increasing the regular property tax levy by \$0.25/\$1,000 to a maximum rate of \$1.95/\$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2026; authorizing the 2026 levy amount as the basis to calculate future levies (RCW 84.55). Qualifying seniors and others are exempt (RCW 84.36.381).

Should this proposition be approved?

Approved..... []
Rejected..... []

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney