



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor, City Manager’s Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Expressing Support for the Passage of Tacoma School District No. 10’s Proposition No. 2 – December 14, 2021
DATE: December 7, 2021

SUMMARY & PURPOSE:

A resolution expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 2 – Replacement Levy For Technology Improvements And Upgrades – submitted by Tacoma Public School District No. 10 at the February 8, 2022 Special Election, which reads as follows:

The Board of Directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 adopted Resolution No. 2100, concerning technology improvements and upgrades. If approved, Proposition No. 2 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District to fund expanded K-12 student technology access in all neighborhood schools, up-to-date computers, technical training, improve online safety, security and District-wide IT systems:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Estimated Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2023	\$0.62	\$25,000,000
2024	\$0.75	\$31,000,000
2025	\$0.74	\$31,000,000
2026	\$0.72	\$31,000,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2100. Should this proposition be approved?

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Councilmember Lillian Hunter
Councilmember Catherine Ushka
Mayor Victoria Woodards

BACKGROUND:

Since 2018, the District has had in effect a technology levy which is set to expire in 2024. The Board of Directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 adopted Resolution No. 2100 to replace this expiring levy. If authorized by voters, it would continue funding for: 1.) Expanded technology access and laptops for every K-12 student and staff member to use at school and at home, as well as staff training and up-to-date computer software and online learning tools for teachers and students; 2.) Increased computer safety, security, and privacy protection for all students and staff; and 3.) Online systems that help keep students on track for high-school graduation by allowing students, teachers, and parents to monitor academic progress, attendance, homework, and credits.



Passage of this proposition would include the collection years and levy amounts provided in the summary above. If Prop. 2 passes, the average four-year tax rate for Tacoma Public Schools is projected to decrease due to rising property values.

Tacoma School District No. 10 provides educational services to the children of the District. While the Constitution of the State of Washington requires that the state provide funds for basic education for students at public schools, the state is able to provide only a portion of the amount required to fund these services for the District. Because of this, the success of Tacoma's schools is dependent upon the support of the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

This levy replaces funding previously approved by voters. The City has not conducted outreach/engagement on this Tacoma Public Schools initiative. The issue will ultimately be decided by voters.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

Tacoma Public Schools believes that every student, staff and community stakeholder should be treated equitably. Their focus is to eliminate disparities among all groups. To achieve this end, they have established an Office of Academic Equity and Access. The office uses a 5-part equity lens to as part of their work to achieve their goal of supporting the implementation of equitable practices throughout Tacoma Public Schools. Additionally, this forwards the Tacoma 2025 goal to increase digital access and equity across the city.

Education: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Demonstrate community support for education by increasing support for school levies and bonds; volunteering and mentoring youth.

Increase the availability and accessibility of early childhood education programs.

All students will graduate from high school and be prepared to enter the workforce or pursue post-secondary education.

Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: N/A

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) is the primary provider of K-12 education in Tacoma, serving approximately 30,000 children in preschool through grade 12. The district has 35 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, 10 high schools and 4 early learning centers. 19 schools are designated as innovative. Even before COVID-19, updated and effective technology as well as student access to technology are vital to TPS successfully providing education and services to Tacoma students and their families. Conveying the importance of voter participation in this special election has the potential to positively impact civic engagement.



ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
The City Council could choose to not support the requested resolution.	N/A	Tacoma Public Schools would face a 15% budget shortfall beginning in 2023.

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

Voters will determine whether Proposition 1 is authorized.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:

The sponsors recommend approval and support of Tacoma School District No. 10's Proposition 2.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact to the City of Tacoma.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.