



RESOLUTION NO. 41476

1 A RESOLUTION AND PROPOSITION to amend Article II, Sections 2.3, 2.19, 2.20,
2 and 2.25, Article VI, Sections 6.3 and 6.7, and Article IX, Section 9.2, of the
Tacoma City Charter related to equity of access.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

4 Section 1. That Article II, Sections 2.3, 2.19, 2.20, and 2.25 of the Tacoma

5 City Charter be amended to read as follows:

6 * * *

7
8 **Section 2.3** – A ~~Citizen~~ Commission on Elected Salaries will determine the
9 compensation and salary of the Mayor and each Council Member. The
10 Commission shall set the salary and any salary changes for the Mayor and Council
11 Members. The salary and any salary changes set by the Commission shall be
12 adopted by the City Council.
13

14 * * *

15 **Section 2.19** – ~~Citizens~~ Residents of Tacoma may by initiative petition ask the
16 voters to approve or reject ordinances or amendments to existing ordinances,
17 subject to any limitation on topics in state law, by the following process:
18

19 (a) The petitioners shall file an Initiative Petition with the City Clerk.

20 (b) The City Clerk shall forward the petition to the City Attorney within one (1)
21 working day of receipt.

22 (c) Within ten (10) working days of receipt, the City Attorney shall review the
23 petition and make contact with the petitioner as necessary, and if the petition is
24 proper in terms of form and style, the City Attorney will write a concise, true, and
25 impartial statement of the purpose of the measure, not to exceed the number of
26



words as allowed under state law for local initiatives. The statement will be
1 phrased in the form of a positive question.

2 (d) The City Attorney shall file this concise statement with the City Clerk as the
3 official ballot title.
4

5 (e) The City Clerk shall assign an initiative number to the ballot title and notify the
6 petitioner that the ballot title becomes final and signature gathering may begin in
7 ten (10) working days if there is no judicial review. Notification of the ballot title
8 shall be posted at City Hall and on the City's web page.
9

10 (f) Persons dissatisfied with the ballot title prepared by the City Attorney may seek
11 judicial review by petitioning the Pierce County Superior Court within ten (10)
12 working days of the notification of the ballot title having been posted as required
13 under (e). The Court shall endeavor to promptly review the statements and render
14 a decision as expeditiously as possible. The decision of the Court is final.
15

16 (g) Petitions must include the final, approved ballot title, initiative number, the full
17 text of the ordinance, or amendment to existing ordinance, that the petitioners seek
18 to refer to the voters, and all other text and warnings required by state law.

19 (h) Petitioners have one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days to collect
20 signatures from registered voters.
21

22 (i) The number of valid signatures shall be equal to ten percent (10%) of the votes
23 cast in the last election for the office of Mayor.

24 (j) The City Clerk shall forward the signatures to the County Auditor to be verified.

25 Based on the Auditor's review, the City Clerk shall determine the validity of the
26 petition. If the petition is validated, the City Council may enact or reject the



1 Initiative, but shall not modify it. If it rejects the Initiative or within thirty (30)
2 calendar days fails to take final action on it, the City Council shall submit the
3 proposal to the people at the next Municipal or General Election that is not less
4 than ninety (90) days after the date on which the signatures on the petition are
5 validated.

6 **Section 2.20** – ~~Citizens~~ Residents of Tacoma may ask that ordinances passed by
7 the City Council, except for ordinances which take effect immediately as allowed in
8 Section 2.13 of the Charter, or as otherwise prohibited by state law, be referred to
9 the voters for approval or rejection by the following process:
10

11 (a) The petitioners shall file a Referendum Petition with the City Clerk not later than
12 ten (10) calendar days after the City Council approved the ordinance.

13 (b) The filing of a Referendum Petition, and progression by the petitioners through
14 the steps outlined as follows, causes the suspension of the effective date of the
15 ordinance.
16

17 (c) The City Clerk shall forward the petition to the City Attorney within one (1)
18 working day of receipt.

19 (d) Within ten (10) working days of receipt, the City Attorney shall review the
20 petition and make contact with the petitioner as necessary, and if the petition is
21 proper in terms of form and style, the City Attorney will write a concise, true, and
22 impartial statement of the purpose of the measure, not to exceed the number of
23 words as allowed under state law for local referendums. The statement will be
24 phrased in the form of a positive question.
25
26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

(e) The City Attorney shall file this concise statement with the City Clerk as the official ballot title.

(f) The City Clerk shall assign a referendum number to the ballot title and notify the petitioner that the ballot title becomes final and signature gathering may begin in ten (10) working days if there is no judicial review. Notification of the ballot title shall be posted at City Hall and on the City's web page.

(g) Persons dissatisfied with the ballot title prepared by the City Attorney may seek judicial review by petitioning Pierce County Superior Court within ten (10) working days of the notification of the ballot title having been posted as required under (f). The Court shall endeavor to promptly review the statements and render a decision as expeditiously as possible. The decision of the Court is final.

(h) Petitions must include the final, approved ballot title, referendum number, the full text of the ordinance that the petitioners seek to refer to the voters, and all other text and warnings required by state law.

(i) Petitioners have thirty (30) calendar days to collect signatures from registered voters.

(j) The number of valid signatures shall be equal to ten percent (10%) of the votes cast in the last election for the office of Mayor.

(k) The City Clerk shall forward the signatures to the County auditor to be verified. Based on the Auditor's review, the City Clerk shall determine the validity of the petition. If the petition is validated, the City Council shall immediately reconsider the ordinance, and if it does not repeal the ordinance, submit the proposal to the



1 people at the next Municipal or General Election that is not less than ninety (90)
2 days after the date on which the signatures on the petition are validated.

3 * * *

4 **Section 2.25** – The City Council shall commence a review of this charter no less
5 frequently than once every ten years, by appointing ~~citizens~~ Tacoma residents to a
6 charter review committee, or by the election of a board of freeholders in the
7 manner provided in state law. Any freeholders shall be nominated and elected by
8 position and by district. The charter review committee, which shall be provided with
9 sufficient staff and budget to perform a comprehensive review, shall report any
10 recommended amendments to the City Council. The City Council may accept,
11 reject or modify the recommended amendments and may submit any
12 recommended charter amendments to the voters in the manner provided in state
13 law. The recommendations of a board of freeholders shall be placed before the
14 voters in the manner provided in state law. Nothing in this section shall limit the
15 right of ~~citizens~~ Tacoma residents to initiate amendments to this charter in any
16 other manner allowed by state law.

17
18
19 Section 2. That Article VI, Section 6.3 of the Tacoma City Charter be
20 amended to read as follows:

21 * * *

22
23 **Section 6.3** – ~~No person shall be eligible for employment in the City service who~~
24 ~~is not a citizen of the United States; provided that, as to laborers, this~~
25 ~~requirement may be waived by the Human Resources Director when laborers~~
26 ~~who are citizens are not available.~~ No person shall be eligible to employment in



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

the classified service who is not a resident of the City at the time of appointment, and all officers and employees of the City appointed after this charter takes effect shall reside within its corporate limits during their period of employment in the City service; provided, that the Civil Service Board may waive such residence requirements for employees in the classified service and the City Council may waive such residence requirements for appointive employees in the unclassified service when such waiver is deemed to be for the best interests of the City for such reasons and under such conditions as may be prescribed in the personnel rules.

* * *

Section 3. That Article VI, Section 6.7 of the Tacoma City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Section 6.7 – No applicant for employment and no appointed officer or employee shall be discriminated against in any personnel decision on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin or ancestry, political affiliation, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, familial status, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical ~~handicap~~disability; provided, however, that affirmative action may be used to remedy prior discrimination in the employment and promotion of City appointed officers and employees. The City Council shall periodically review, and amend as appropriate, the anti-discrimination ordinances applicable to City applicants and employees.

* * *



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

Section 4. That Article IX, Section 9.2 of the Tacoma City Charter be

amended to read as follows:

Section 9.2 – All records and accounts of every office, department, or agency of the City shall be open to inspection by any ~~citizen~~ requester, to include but not be limited to any representative of ~~any citizen's~~ organization, or any representative of the press, at all reasonable times and under reasonable regulations established by the City Council, except records and documents the disclosure of which would tend to defeat the lawful purpose which they are intended to accomplish. All such records and accounts shall be City property and be kept as such by the proper officers and employees during their continuance in office, and then delivered to their successors.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney