



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Ryan Mello
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Expressing City Council Support for the Passage of Proposition No. 1, a 2% Earnings Tax on Utility Companies for Tacoma Street Improvements – October 1, 2013
DATE: September 25, 2013

SUMMARY: City Council Sponsors have requested a Resolution expressing the City Council’s support for the passage of Proposition No. 1, a 2% Earnings Tax on Utility Companies for Tacoma Street Improvement.

**CITY OF TACOMA
SPECIAL ELECTION - PROPOSITION NO. 1
2% UTILITY COMPANY EARNINGS TAX
FOR TACOMA STREET
IMPROVEMENTS**

Official Ballot Title: The City Council of the City of Tacoma adopted Substitute Resolution No. 38700 concerning an additional 2% earnings tax on utility companies for streets. If passed, Proposition No. 1 would authorize the City to levy an additional 2% earnings tax on natural gas, electric, and phone companies for the sole purpose of funding basic maintenance and safety upgrades City-wide, for roads, arterials, and bridges; permanent pothole repairs; pedestrian safety improvement to crosswalks near schools, sidewalks and intersections; repaving neighborhood streets; and improved signal timing, all as provided in Substitute Resolution No. 38700. Should Proposition No. 1 be enacted into law?

Yes.....[]

No.....[]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Strickland, Council Member Mello, Deputy Mayor Campbell and Council Member Boe

BACKGROUND:

On July 23, 2013 the City Council passed Substitute Resolution No. 38700, which provided for the submission of a proposition to the electors of the City of Tacoma at the General Election to be held on November 5, 2013. If approved, City of Tacoma Proposition No. 1 would authorize an additional 2 percent earnings tax on natural gas, electric, and phone companies for the sole purpose of financing street maintenance improvements and safety upgrades in the City of Tacoma. Whereas RCW 42.17A.555 authorizes members of a legislative body to take action at an open public meeting to express a collective decision, or vote upon a resolution, to support or oppose a ballot proposition provided that the required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition and that members of the council and public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view.



ISSUE:

City of Tacoma Proposition No. 1 will be placed on the November 5, 2013 General Election Ballot and residents of the City of Tacoma will vote to either "Approve" or "Reject" the ballot measure. The Council sponsors are requesting that the Council consider adopting a resolution in support for Proposition No. 1.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council may express a collective decision in support or opposition to Proposition No. 1 by motion or by vote on the proposed Resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council express a collective decision on Proposition No. 1, by voting on a resolution in support of Proposition No. 1.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.