

V. Amendment Recommendations

1. Sec. 2.3 - Salary Commission

Charter Review Committee

Recommendation Summary

Section 2.3

Brief Summary of Amendment

- Changes the Salary Commission procedure to align with the requirements of RCW 35.21.015 by removing the requirement that the Council adopt the Commission's salary changes.
- Changes the commission title from "Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries" to "Commission on Elected Salaries."

Committee Vote

Yes: Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Patrick Fischer, Bryan Flint, Jason Gauthier, Melissa Malott, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, Steve Wamback, Diamatris Winston, Lok Yin Wu

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andre Jimenez

Amendment

Section 2.3 – A ~~Citizen~~ Commission on Elected Salaries will determine the compensation and salary of the Mayor and each Council Member. The Commission shall set the salary and any salary changes for the Mayor and Council Members. The salary and any salary changes set by the Commission shall be adopted by the City Council. Any change in salary shall be filed by the Commission with the City Clerk and shall become effective and incorporated into the City budget without further action of the City Council or Salary Commission.

(a) The Salary Commission shall consist of seven members appointed as follows:

(1) Five of the seven Commission members shall be selected by lot by the County Auditor from among those registered City of Tacoma voters eligible to vote at the time the persons are selected for appointment to the Commission. There shall be one member selected from each of the City's Council districts. The Auditor shall establish policies and procedures for conducting the selection by lot to be forwarded to the City Council for appointment.

(2) The remaining two of the seven Commission members must be residents of the City of Tacoma and shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. One person shall have experience in human resource management. The second person shall have experience in the legal profession.

(b) Members of the Commission may not include any public office holder, filed candidate for public office, officer, official or employee of the City of Tacoma or any of their immediate family members. For the purpose of this section, the phrase "immediate family member" means the parents, spouse, siblings, children or dependent relative of any officer, official or employee whether or not living in the household of the officer, official or employee.

(c) The terms of the Commission shall be as follows:

(1) The terms of office for the members shall be three years, except initial appointment to the Commission shall be for the following terms:

(2) For the members selected by lot by the Auditor, two shall be appointed to serve a one-year term, two shall be appointed to a two-year term, and the remaining member shall be appointed to serve a three-year term.

(3) For the members selected by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council, one shall serve a one-year term and one shall serve a three-year term.

(d) Upon a vacancy in any position on the Commission, a successor shall be selected and appointed to fill the unexpired term in the same manner as outlined in this section.

The Commission shall meet each year beginning in 2015 in one or more regular or special meetings to carry out its duties set forth in this section. ~~Determinations for any change in the salaries of these elected officials shall be filed with the City Clerk and transmitted to the Council for adoption no later than September 1 of the calendar year.~~

Amendment Positions

Rationale for Amendment:

Washington law, RCW 35.21.015, allows salaries for elected officials in towns and cities to be set by salary commissions. In 2014, Tacoma voters approved a charter amendment creating a salary commission to determine the salary of the Mayor and Council Members. RCW 35.21.015(3) provides, "*Any change in salary shall be filed by the commission with the city clerk and shall become effective and incorporated into the city or town budget without further action of the city council or salary commission.*" (Italics added.) Section 2.3 of the current charter requires the Council to adopt the Commission's salary changes, which is inconsistent with the state law making such changes automatic. The 2024 Charter Review Committee recommends amending the charter to remove the requirement of formal Council adoption of such changes and to add language stating that such changes shall occur without further action by the Council.

Dissenting Position:

None