



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Nicole Emery, City Clerk
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution placing proposed Charter amendment 14B on the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot – Requested for July 16, 2024
DATE: July 10, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE

A resolution placing proposed Charter amendment 14B on the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot.

BACKGROUND

On October 17, 2023, Resolution No. 41282 was adopted creating a Charter Review Committee (CRC), consisting of 15 citizens (residents), to review the existing Charter of the City of Tacoma and make such recommendations to the City Council for charter amendments as the committee may deem necessary and proper to improve the manner of operation and efficiency in conducting the affairs of the City. On December 19, 2023, Resolution No. 41324 was adopted appointing members to the CRC. Starting January 11, 2024, CRC members begin to meet to review the City Charter and develop recommendations.

On May 6, 2024, the City Council received the final report from the Charter Review Committee and a presentation on their recommendations. Starting May 7, 2024, the City Council reviewed the recommendations, brought forward new recommendations, and refined recommendations for consideration for the November 5, 2024, general election ballot. At the July 9, 2024, meeting City Council Members made motions to refer recommendations to the July 16, 2024, meeting for title drafting and final consideration to place on the ballot and redirected some amendments to other policy processes.

If approved, the amended Charter, Section 3.8, would read:

“There shall be a Planning Commission, composed of eleven (11) members, with such powers and duties as are provided by ordinance. The eleven (11) members shall be residents of the City of Tacoma and be appointed and confirmed by the City Council for terms of three (3) years each. The Council must ensure the appointments provide for diversity of Planning Commission members. The diversity should include race, ethnicity, gender, backgrounds, experiences, and expertise and must not be over-represented in any areas of expertise or experience. The membership of the Commission shall include one member appointed by the City Council for each of the five council districts. A majority of the voting members of such Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Commission shall be authorized to adopt rules for the transaction of business not inconsistent with this charter or ordinances of the City of Tacoma.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The City Charter requires the City Council to commence a comprehensive review of the City Charter no less frequently than once every ten years by appointing citizens to a Charter Review Committee (CRC). The CRC met between January and May of 2024. They took comment at public meetings and held two extended public comment meetings with opportunities to comment in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Khmer. On May 6, 2024, the CRC presented final report to the City Council. The City Council reviewed every proposal from the CRC, in addition to creating new proposals for consideration. All materials were published in advance of the City Council’s public hearing on July 2, 2024.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Equity and Accessibility: Tacoma’s Planning Commission plays an important role in shaping the future development and growth of our community. Expanding the commission to eleven members and proactively recruiting members with diverse racial, ethnic, gender, and professional backgrounds, may ensure that a wider range of perspectives and lived experiences inform crucial decisions about zoning, infrastructure, housing, and public spaces. An expanded and more diverse Commission may better understand the unique needs and priorities of different neighborhoods, creating opportunities for more equitable and inclusive planning.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
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.
Elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Do not advance this resolution.	The Planning Commission would continue to operate.	The Planning Commission may lack capacity and flexibility in representation.

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

If approved, this Charter amendment will be placed on the ballot for voters in the November 2024 election.

RECOMMENDATION

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff in the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) provided Fiscal Notes during City Council review of proposed amendments. OMB reviewed all proposed amendments and provided fiscal impacts on amendments may require investments above \$50,000 to implement. OMB did not provide a Fiscal Note for this amendment. The cost to place amendments on the ballot will be captured in the combined resolution brought forward on July 23, 2024.

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

There is no funding being used for passing the resolution to place this amendment on the ballot. If approved by voters, further analysis and budget appropriations may be required for implementation.

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

N/A

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

N/A

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

There is no ongoing fiscal impact for passing the resolution to place this amendment on the ballot. If approved by voters, further analysis and budget appropriations may be required for implementation.

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

There is no change to the City’s FTE/personnel counts for passing the resolution to place this amendment on the ballot. If approved by voters, further analysis and budget appropriations may be required for implementation.