



## City of Tacoma

## City Council Action Memorandum

**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Bucoda Warren  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** A Resolution expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 1 submitted by Tacoma Public Schools on the February 13, 2024, ballot, to fund Neighborhood School Improvements and Safety Upgrades; and encouraging residents to vote "Approved" on Proposition No. 1 on the February 13, 2024, ballot.  
**DATE:** December 6, 2023

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### SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A Resolution expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 1 submitted by Tacoma Public Schools on the February 13, 2024, ballot, to fund Neighborhood School Improvements and Safety Upgrades; and encouraging residents to vote "Approved" on Proposition No. 1 on the February 13, 2024, ballot. - Requested for December 12, 2023.

### COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards, Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker, and Council Member Catherine Ushka

### BACKGROUND:

At its meeting of October 26, 2023, the Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors unanimously adopted Resolution 2130 authorizing the submission to District voters, at an election to be held on February 13, 2024, of a proposition for the issuance of general obligation bonds to provide funds for capital improvements to facilities in an amount not to exceed \$650,000,000.

Proposition 1 is a \$650 million Neighborhood School Improvements and Safety Upgrades bond measure, maturing over a maximum of 25 years. It will address basics like repairing roofs and mechanical upgrades so buildings last longer, saving money in the long run.

It will provide up-to-date classrooms, quality food and nutrition service improvements for all schools, playgrounds/playfields and athletic facilities upgrades, and exterior school repairs to prevent mold and weather damage.

Proposition 1 supports quality learning and teaching environments by expanding quality learning at nearly all neighborhood schools, for students of all backgrounds. It will provide upgrades range from spaces for early learning to expanded classroom learning opportunities, and places for career and technical education, and post-secondary preparation. It will help provide students with expanded subjects, interests and experiences to keep them engaged.

Proposition 1 will improve health, safety and security by updating aging plumbing and HVAC systems for clean air and safe water. It will support ADA improvements to make schools more welcoming and accessible for students, staff and visitors with disabilities.

Proposition 1 will make seismic and structural upgrades for earthquake safety at neighborhood schools, and it will provide basic life safety and security improvements at replacement schools including controlled school entry, security cameras, fire alarms and sprinklers.



RCW 42.17A.555, according to the state Public Disclosure Commission, allows elected boards, councils and commissions to "express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body, members of the board, council, or commission of the special purpose district, or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view.

If Proposition 1 is approved by voters, the increased cost to the average Tacoma homeowner would be \$7.53 per month or \$90 a year (comparing the average home values and tax rates of the last 5 years to the next 5 years).

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

Working with Tacoma Public Schools through the Joint Municipal Action Committee and other venues we have worked to align priorities and continue to invest in policies and programs Tacoma residents need. Engaging in various programs, initiatives, and public services often brings us together to increase the impact we have on the community. We also share many goals including Safe Routes to Schools, Vision Zero, livability, health, and safety which are guided by Tacoma 2025 and our Council priorities. Proposition No. 1 will support priorities identified by our community.

### **2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

#### **Equity and Accessibility:**

The measure invests in our local economy, creating good paying family wage jobs here in Tacoma, with a District commitment to hiring local companies and women and minority owned businesses.

#### **Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the number of Tacoma households that have livable wage jobs within proximity to 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.

#### **Civic Engagement:** *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

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.

#### **Livability:** *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

### **Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?**

This funding will support safety upgrades and infrastructure improvements necessary to ensure our schools will thrive for many years to come. This legislation indicates support for the Proposition and will improve civic engagement by bringing more public support in front of the residents and giving them more reason to trust in the City. Additionally, the project itself creates more jobs close to home and ensures people view their schools and community favorably.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**



Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1.Do not pass resolution	There will be no increases in costs to taxpayers	Council would not share public support for school improvements and safety upgrades
2.Pass resolution	would endorse voter support of Proposition 1 Neighborhood School Improvements and Safety Upgrades.	There will be some increase in costs to tax payers

**EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would indicate success of this resolution. If the Proposition passes, then City staff will have multiple points of contact and coordination with Tacoma Public Schools to understand the impact of the improvements.

**SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

We recommend the adoption of this resolution to express support for Tacoma Public Schools proposition No. 1 on the February 13, 2024, ballot.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Tacoma for passing this legislation.