


City of Tacoma
Proposed Charter Amendments

City Council Meeting
July 2, 2024

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● ● ● Proposed Charter Amendments

- **Charter Review Committee (CRC)**
 - 24 Recommended Amendments
 - Final Report:
https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/cms/cityclerk/Files/2024CharterReview/CRCReport_FINAL.pdf
- **City Council**
 - 8 Amended CRC Recommendations
 - 6 Council Recommendations

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Term Limits



- Current Charter Language: 10 consecutive years as a Council Member, Mayor, or a combination thereof
- CRC Amendment 2: 3 full consecutive terms on the Council and 2 full consecutive terms as Mayor
- Council Amendment 2C: 3 consecutive full terms as a Council Member, Mayor, or a combination thereof; Current Council Members are governed by the existing Charter

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Council – Full-Time/Staff/Investigative Authority



- Current Charter Language:
 - Silent on full-time or part-time Council
 - City Manager is responsible for City administration
 - Silent on Council investigative authority
- CRC Amendment 7:
 - Requires Council to serve on a full-time basis
 - Council Member authority to hire staff
 - Council investigative authority
- Council Amendment 7B:
 - Clarifies that Council Members are to prioritize the City Council work and devote sufficient time to fully carry out their obligations and duties

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Climate Commission



Current Charter Language: Silent on a Climate Commission

CRC Amendment 9: Requires the City to establish a Carbon Budget and to create a Climate Accountability and Sustainability Commission; Establishes requirements and specific recommended experience and expertise for commission members

Council Amendment 9B: Removes the requirements for specific expertise or experience for commission members

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Council – Purposes of Inquiry



Current Charter Language: Allows Council Members to deal directly with administrative officers and employees under jurisdiction of the City Manager for purpose of inquiry

CRC Amendment 12: Replaces existing Charter language to allow Council Members to make direct inquiries of staff for the purposes of the formation of budget and policy

Council Amendment 12B: Allows Council Members to make direct inquiries of staff and removes the limitation that the inquiries be related to the formation of budget and policy

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City Attorney



Current Charter Language: The City Manager has the authority to appoint and remove the City Attorney; Confirmation of all department directors is required; Silent on retaining special council

CRC Amendment 13: Council approves the hiring and removal of the City Attorney and Council may retain special council

Council Amendment 13B: Requires Council approval for the removal of the City Attorney

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Planning Commission



Current Charter Language: Requires a 9-member commission with one member appointed from each of the five council districts

CRC Amendment 14: Changes the number and composition of the commission and removes the prohibition on commission members receiving pay

Council Amendment 14B: Retains the increase in membership and requirement to provide for diversity; removes the specific expertise and experience requirements; deletes the prohibition on the planning commission members receiving pay

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TPU – Purposes of Inquiry



Current Charter Language: Allows Board Members to deal directly with administrative officers and employees of the Department of Public Utilities under jurisdiction of the Director for purpose of inquiry

CRC Amendment 18: Replaces existing Charter language to allow Board Members to make direct inquiries of staff for the purposes of the formation of budget and policy

Council Amendment 18B: Allows Board Members to make direct inquiries of staff and removes the CRC amendment limitation that the inquiries be related to the formation of budget and policy. CRC Amendment language that mirrors Council guidelines for inquiries of staff is retained

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Form of Government



Current Charter Language: Establishes a Council-Manager FOG

CRC Amendment 24: Changes from Council-Manager to Mayor-Council-Chief Administrative Officer FOG

Council Amendment 24C: Changes from a Council-Manager to Mayor-Council FOG

- Repeals and replaces Article II (the Legislative Branch) and Article III (the Administrative Branch) and makes changes to other sections
- The changes are based on RCW 35A.12 that establishes the Mayor-Council plan of government for Code cities
- Does not create a Chief Administrative Officer position

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Council Meetings



Current Charter Language: Requires council meetings not oftener than once a week, at least 46 times each calendar year

CRC Amendment: Not addressed by CRC

Council Amendment C1B: Modifies the council meeting requirement to increase the number of required meetings from at least 46 to 70 and removes the prohibition on meeting more than one time per week

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TPU Board Member Qualifications



Current Charter Language: Requires TPU Board members to have the same qualifications as for Council Members

CRC Amendment: Not addressed by CRC

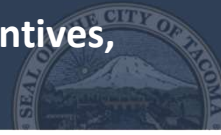
Council Amendment C2B:

- Requires that Board Members be qualified electors and residents of the City for two years immediately preceding the appointment
- TPU Board Members may not also serve on the Tacoma City Council

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TPU Board Member Compensation, Incentives, or Stipends



Current Charter Language: Reimbursement of expenses by TPU Board members incurred in carrying out their duties is permitted

CRC Amendment: Not addressed by CRC

Council Amendment C3B: Provides the City Council with the authority to set a stipend for Board Member attendance at board meetings.

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Sale or Disposition of Any Waterfront Property



Current Charter Language: Prohibits the sale or disposition of waterfront property belonging to the City

CRC Amendment: Amendment not advanced

Council Amendment C4B: Permits the City to sell or dispose of waterfront property to public agencies for the guaranteed purpose of perpetual public ownership and public access, to be used for park purposes, park structures, or open space in perpetuity

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Initiative Fiscal Notes



Current Charter Language: Silent on the requirement to create a fiscal impact statement for initiatives

CRC Amendment: Not addressed by the CRC

Council Amendment C5: For any initiative petition that asks voters to approve or reject an ordinance or amendment to existing ordinances, a requirement is added for the City to create a neutral Fiscal Impact Statement that describes the projected increase or decrease in revenues, costs, expenditure or indebtedness that the City will experience if the ballot measure were approved by voters. The Fiscal Impact Statement must be posted on the City's web page.

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Use of Term Citizen



Current Charter Language: The Charter uses the term "citizen" and "citizenship" throughout the Charter

CRC Amendment: CRC ancillary recommendation

Council Amendment C6: Eliminates or replaces the word "citizen" when the word is used to describe the status or activity of a Tacoma resident

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