


2024 Charter Amendments
City of Tacoma | Charter Review Committee
Presentation to the Tacoma City Council
May 6, 2024

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OVERVIEW

- Charter Review Committee
- Our Assignment
- Process and Themes
- Recommendations
- Supplementary Material

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CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

- **Katie Baird** – selected through interview process
- **Nicholas Carr** – selected by then Council Member Hines
- **Maricres Castro** – selected by Council Member Bushnell
- **Patrick Fischer** – selected by Council Member Ushka
- **Bryan Flint** – selected by then Deputy Mayor Walker
- **Jason Gauthier** – selected by Council Member Daniels
- **Andre Jimenez** – selected by former Council Member Blocker

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CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

- **Melissa Malott** – selected by Council Member Diaz
- **Latasha Palmer** – selected through interview process
- **Andrea Reay** – selected through interview process
- **Rebecca Stith** – selected by Council Member Rumbaugh
- **Steve Wamback (Chair)** – selected by Mayor Woodards
- **Diamatris Winston** – selected through interview process
- **Lok Yin Wu** – selected through interview process

- **Silong Chhun** – selected through interview process, resigned April 3 due to work commitments

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ASSIGNMENT

- Comprehensive Review
 - “make such recommendations to the City Council for change as the Committee may deem necessary and proper in order to amend the provisions of the existing City Charter with reference to improving the mode and manner of operation and efficiency in conducting the affairs of the City.” (Res 41282)

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PROCESS

- City Council and CRC topic areas of interest
- Amplified Voices to Reach Consensus
- Excellent Internal Support and External Advisors
- Sustained Community Engagement

- Full CRC made all decisions collectively
- Seven teams were formed to advise the CRC by performing detailed research and analysis

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INFLUENTIAL THEMES

- Accountability
- Equity
- Clarity
- Transparency

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RECOMMENDATION TOPICS

- 24 Recommendations Approved
- Minimum Threshold for approval: 60% support
- 20 out of 24 reached 80% support
- 11 achieved unanimous votes

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FORM OF GOVERNMENT

- **Mayor – Council – Chief Administrative Officer**
 - “Executive Mayor” takes office January 2026
 - Mayor and Council hire Chief Administrative Officer
 - Mayor supervises CAO
 - Full-time Council with independent staff
 - Seven Member Council (starting in 2028)
 - Grants Mayoral Veto Authority
 - Grants Council Impeachment Authority

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POLICING ACCOUNTABILITY

- Office of Policing Accountability to provide oversight
 - Director appointed by, and reports to, Council
 - Powers to be detailed by Ordinance
- Community Oversight Committee for Policing Accountability
 - Report on the activities and effectiveness of Office of Policing Accountability
 - Engages the community and all branches of government

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POWERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Ranked Choice Voting authorized
- Campaign Finance restrictions authorized
- Referendum Process: 90 days to gather signatures
- Initiatives: restrictions on placing competing proposals
- Neighborhood and Community Councils added to Charter

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Climate Commission created in Charter
- Landmarks Preservation Commission – membership
- Planning Commission – membership
- Aligns Salary Commission procedures with RCW
- Humane Society contracting reference deleted from Charter

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GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Council and Mayoral Term Limits extended
- "Purposes of Inquiry" language removed: clarifies how Council and Public Utility Board members can engage with staff
- Council to have more say in the hiring and firing of the City Attorney

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FULL TIME COUNCIL

- Full-time City Council
 - Authority to hire independent staff
 - Grants explicit authority to investigate the executive branch

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The slide header features a dark blue background with the text "TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES" in white, bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the text are three small circles in yellow, grey, and blue. To the right is the Seal of the City of Tacoma, which depicts a mountain and water within a circular border.

- Internet as a Utility
- One Board Member can live outside Tacoma
- Audit of Shared Services (TPU and general government)

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- Eligibility for employment: strike citizenship requirement
- Employment anti-discrimination update
 - Council required to periodically review and update Code
- Official Newspaper – updated for “the internet age”

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CHARTER REVIEW

- Charter Review – more time for future reviews!
 - 6 months vs. 4 months
 - Public outreach
 - Anti-racist analysis
 - Fiscal and budgetary impacts

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

- One Failed Proposal
- Additional Considerations
- Appendices
- Website Materials

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