

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF TACOMA

City Council Recommendations for Charter Review Commission Consideration

By Article Section

Article Section

I. Incorporation and General Powers

Incorporation and Boundaries1.1

General Powers of the City1.2

II. The Legislative Branch

Creation and Composition of the City Council2.1

- Sec. 2.1 / Sec. 5.3 - Number of Council districts (adding districts)

Qualifications and Compensation of Council Members 2.2 – 2.35

- Sec. 2.35 - Length a person may serve consecutively on Council; consider current term limits - (2 requests)
- Sec. 2.35 – Consider disconnecting the allowable timed served as a Council Member from the amount of time served as the Mayor
- Sec. 2.25 - replace “freeholder” with appropriate language such as ‘steward’ or as otherwise defined in state law
- Sec. 2.3 - Review salary commission to ensure there is not a conflict with state law
- Expectations for a full time council

The Mayor2.4

- Sec. 2.4 - Review term limits for council, particularly the Mayor’s role – we want experienced CM’s to be able to run for Mayor

Removal from or Forfeiture of Office2.5 – 2.6

Council Vacancies2.7

Procedure of the Council2.8 – 2.10

- Sec. 2.8 – The number of mandated council meetings – (4 requests)

Legislation2.11 – 2.15

Compilation and Codification of Ordinances2.16

Penalties for Non-compliance with Ordinances2.17

Powers of the People2.18 – 2.25

- Sec. 2.18, 2.19, 2.20 - The citizens’ initiative process
- Sec. 2.18 – Sec 2.25 – Review how the Charter allows the use of initiatives to change City ordinances.

III. The Administrative Branch

The City Manager3.1

Council-Manager Relationships3.2 – 3.4

- Form of Government – (2 requests)

City Attorney 3.5 – 3.6

- Section 3.5 – Appointment of the City Attorney

City Clerk3.7

City Planning Commission3.8

- Section 3.8 - Planning Commission representation from certain communities/ industries/vocation of interest
- Section 3.8 – Planning Commission. Consider adding a note indicating “one or more” planning commissions to allow consideration of tiers of Planning Commissions or ways to triage and prioritize work between two commissions in the TMC in order to allow for more timely review of planning issue

Tacoma Public Library3.9

Tacoma Humane Society3.10

Administrative Organization3.11 – 3.12

- Sec. 3.12 - Review boards defined in the charter, to include parameters to remove board members for dereliction of duties

Landmarks Preservation Commission3.13

IV. Public Utilities

General Powers Respecting Utilities4.1

- Sec. 4.1 - Clarifying internet as a Utility

Power to Acquire and Finance4.2

Rates4.3

Diversion of Utility Funds 4.4 – 4.5

Disposal of Utility Properties 4.6

Franchises for Water or Electric Utilities4.7

The Public Utility Board	4.8 – 4.9
• Sec. 4.8 – The Public Utility Board and all other sections related to their powers and duties	
• Sec. 4.8 - TPU Board membership and barriers to serving on the TPU board (2 requests)	
• Sec. 4.9 - Compensation for TPU board members – (2 requests)	
• Duplication of services, including the structure of the public utility as a separate entity	
Powers and Duties of the Public Utility Board	4.10 – 4.17
• Sec. 4.17 – Shared services/ Duplication of services, including the structure of the public utility as a separate entity- – (2 requests)	
Administrative Organization	4.18 – 4.22
Location and Relocation of Utility Works	4.23
V. Nominations and Elections	
Application of State Election Laws	5.1
Filing and Certification of Candidates	5.2
Election of Council Members – Numbered Positions	5.3
• Section 2.1 / Section 5.3 - Number of Council districts (adding districts)	
Election Contests	5.4
Other Provisions	5.5
VI. City Officers and Personnel	
Unclassified Service	6.1
Classified Service	6.2
Eligibility for Employment	6.3
• Sec. 6.3 - Employee residency requirements– the city cannot enforce this; it limits some hiring pools and it cannot be enforced	
• Sec. 6.3 - requires that COT employees be citizens – this should be removed	
• Sec. 6.3 – Eligibility for employment	
Oath of Office	6.4
Surety Bonds	6.5
Pecuniary Interest	6.6
Discriminatory Actions	6.7

- Section 6.7 - Discriminatory Actions/update classes
- Broaden discrimination statement or change charter to require a predicted regular update to this statement

Political Activity 6.8

Compensation of Officers and Employees6.9

Employee Welfare Benefits 6.10

Civil Service Board 6.11

- Review Civil Service Board term limits

Powers and Duties of the Civil Service Board 6.12

Human Resources Director 6.13

Personnel Rules 6.14

- Review rules related to how long employment lists should be kept (under civil service) as this charter requirement is in conflict with best and successful hiring practices and may be in conflict with equity goals

Special Provision Relating to Examinations 6.15

Status of Existing Employees6.16

Arbitration 6.17

Status of New Employee Groups 6.18

VII. General Finance

Fiscal Year7.1

The Budget 7.2

Budget Control7.3

- Investment of Funds7.4**
- Department of Finance7.5**
- Receipt, Custody, and Disbursement of Funds 7.6 – 7.9**
- Purchasing and Contracts 7.10 – 7.13**
- Independent Audit 7.14**
- Taxation and Indebtedness 7.15**
- Public Sale of Bonds 7.16**

VIII. Franchises	8.1 – 8.7
IX. Miscellaneous Provisions	
Disposition of City Property	9.1
Public Records	9.2
Claims Against City	9.3
Parks	9.4
Separability Clause	9.5
X. Succession in Government	
Continuance of Ordinances and Vested Rights	10.1
Continuance of Departments and Officers	10.2
Transfer of Functions and Personnel	10.3
Preliminary Meetings of the Council	10.4
Transfer of Records, Property, and Funds	10.5
Effective Date of Charter	10.6
All Sections	
• All – ensure gender neutral language throughout	
• All – incorporate disability-related equity principals	
• All- Examine subsets of the City Government and make sure the City Council has oversight over public funds allocated by the City	

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF TACOMA

City Council Recommendations for Charter Review Commission Consideration

By Category

1. Council and Mayor

- a. Sec. 2.1 / Sec. 5.3 - Number of Council districts (adding districts)
- b. Sec. 2.35 – Council terms (2 requests)
- c. Sec. 2.35 – Consider disconnecting the allowable time served as a Council Member from the amount of time served as the Mayor
- d. Sec. 2.25 - replace “freeholder” with appropriate language such as ‘steward’ or as otherwise defined in state law
- e. Sec. 2.3 - Review salary commission to ensure there is not a conflict with state law
- f. Expectations for a full time council
- g. Sec. 2.4 - Review term limits for council, particularly the Mayor’s role – we want experienced CM’s to be able to run for Mayor
- h. Sec. 2.8 – The number of mandated council meetings – (4 requests)

2. Initiatives

- a. Sec. 2.18, 2.19, 2.20 - The citizens’ initiative process
- b. Sec. 2.18 – Sec 2.25 – Review how the Charter allows the use of initiatives to change City ordinances

3. Administrative Branch

- a. Form of Government– (2 requests)
- b. Section 3.5 – Appointment of the City Attorney
- c. Section 3.8 - Planning Commission representation from certain communities/ industries/vocation of interest
- d. Section 3.8 – Planning Commission. Consider adding a note indicating ‘one or more’ planning commissions to allow consideration of tiers of Planning Commissions or ways to triage and prioritize work between two commissions in the TMC in order to allow for more timely review of planning issue
- e. Sec. 3.12 - Review boards defined in the charter, to include parameters to remove board members for dereliction of duties

4. Public Utilities

- a. Sec. 4.1 - Clarifying internet as a Utility
- b. Sec. 4.8 – The Public Utility Board and all other sections related to their powers and duties
- c. Sec. 4.8 – TPU membership and barriers to serving on the TPU Board - (2 requests)
- d. Sec. 4.9 - Compensation for TPU board members – (2 requests)
- e. Sec. 4.17 – Shared services/ Duplication of services, including the structure of the public utility as a separate entity- (2 requests)

5. City Personnel and Boards

- a. Sec. 6.3 - Employee residency requirements– the city cannot enforce this; it limits some hiring pools and it cannot be enforced
- b. Sec. 6.3 - requires that COT employees be citizens – this should be removed
- c. Sec. 6.3 – Eligibility for employment
- d. Section 6.7 - Discriminatory actions/update classes
- e. Broaden discrimination statement or change charter to require a predicted regular update to this statement
- f. Review Civil Service Board term limits
- g. Review rules related to how long employment list should be kept (under civil service) as this charter requirement is in conflict with best and successful hiring practices and may be in conflict with equity goals

6. All Sections

- a. All – ensure gender neutral language throughout
- b. All – incorporate disability-related equity principals
- c. All – examine subsets of the City Government and make sure the City Council has oversight over public funds allocated by the City