



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor, City Manager’s Office  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution Expressing Support for the Passage of Tacoma School District No. 10’s Proposition No. 1 – December 14, 2021  
**DATE:** December 7, 2021

**SUMMARY & PURPOSE:**

A resolution expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 1 – Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy – submitted by Tacoma Public School District No. 10 for the February 8, 2022 Special Election, which reads as follows:

The Board of Directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 adopted Resolution No. 2099 concerning educational funding. If approved, Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to pay educational program and operations expenses in addition to the State’s statutory program of basic education:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Estimated Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2023	\$1.92	\$77,500,000
2024	\$1.92	\$79,000,000
2025	\$1.92	\$80,500,000
2026	\$1.91	\$82,000,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2099. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Councilmember Lillian Hunter  
Councilmember Catherine Ushka  
Mayor Victoria Woodards

**BACKGROUND:**

For the past four years, the District has had in effect a maintenance and operations levy which is set to expire in 2022. The Board of Directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 adopted Resolution No. 2099 to replace this expiring levy. If authorized by voters, it would continue funding for approximately 500 staff, including teachers, nurses, counselors, librarians, and paraeducators; textbooks and instructional materials; special needs programs; pre-school and after-school funding; programs for high-achieving students and college credit-level courses for all students; upgrades to deteriorating plumbing, heating, and ventilation systems that maintain clean air and safe water; and improvements to school safety, security, and fire alarm systems and 911 communications.

Passage of this proposition would include the collection years and levy amounts provided in the summary above. If Prop. 1 passes, the average four-year tax rate for Tacoma Public Schools is projected to decrease due to rising property values.

Tacoma School District No. 10 provides educational services to the children of the District. While the Constitution



of the State of Washington requires that the state provide funds for basic education for students at public schools, the state is able to provide only a portion of the amount required to fund these services for the District. Because of this, the success of Tacoma’s schools is dependent upon support from the community.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):**

This levy replaces funding previously approved by voters. The City has not conducted outreach/engagement on this Tacoma Public Schools initiative. The issue will ultimately be decided by voters.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)**

Tacoma Public Schools believes that every student, staff and community stakeholder should be treated equitably. Their focus is to eliminate disparities among all groups. To achieve this end, they have established an Office of Academic Equity and Access. The office uses a 5-part equity lens to as part of their work to achieve their goal of supporting the implementation of equitable practices throughout Tacoma Public Schools.

**Education: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity**

Demonstrate community support for education by increasing support for school levies and bonds; volunteering and mentoring youth.

Increase the availability and accessibility of early childhood education programs.

All students will graduate from high school and be prepared to enter the workforce or pursue post-secondary education.

Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

**Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: N/A**

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.

Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) is the primary provider of K-12 education in Tacoma, serving approximately 30,000 children in preschool through grade 12. The district has 35 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, 10 high schools and 4 early learning centers. 19 schools are designated as innovative. Adequate funding and staffing is crucial to TPS successfully providing education and services to Tacoma students and their families. Conveying the importance of voter participation in this special election has the potential to positively impact civic engagement.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
The City Council could choose to not support the requested resolution.	N/A	Tacoma Public Schools would face a 15% budget shortfall beginning in 2023.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

**EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:**

Voters will determine whether Proposition 1 is authorized.

**COUNCIL MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:**

The sponsors recommend approval and support of Tacoma School District No. 10's Proposition 1.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial impact to the City of Tacoma.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None.