



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Doris Sorum, City Clerk, City Attorney’s Office
 Elizabeth Pauli, City Attorney’s Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Transmitting Minimum Wage Initiative Petition – July 21, 2015
DATE: July 6, 2015

SUMMARY:

A resolution transmitting a ballot measure to the Pierce County Auditor to be placed on the ballot for the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, which reads:

**CITY OF TACOMA
INITIATIVE NO. 1**

Initiative No. 1 concerns establishing a minimum wage for the City of Tacoma. This measure would require employers of a certain size to pay employees who work in the City of Tacoma, or maintain, report to, or are supervised from, an office in the City, an hourly wage of not less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00), adjusted annually by the rate of inflation. This measure would also create a citizen commission to monitor the City’s administration and enforcement of the minimum wage requirements, and make violation a crime.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes..... []
No..... []

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

This item best aligns with the strategic priority policy to encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents, by transmitting a citizen-driven initiative petition to the Pierce County Auditor for the vote of the people.

BACKGROUND:

An initiative petition to establish a minimum wage of \$15 an hour in the City of Tacoma was submitted to the City Clerk’s Office on November 25, 2014. Pursuant to Section 2.19(i) of the City Charter, petitions for the enactment of an ordinance must be signed by registered voters equal in number to at least 10 percent of the total votes cast in the last preceding mayoral election. For the minimum wage petition, the number of valid signatures required was determined by the Pierce County Auditor to be 3,160. The petitioners submitted a total of 309 pages of signatures to the City Clerk between May 18, 2015, and June 3, 2015. On June 5, 2015, the Pierce County Auditor’s Office completed checking the 309 pages submitted and determined that the petition contained 3,231 valid signatures.

ISSUE:

Section 2.19(j) of the City Charter states in part that once a petition is validated, the City Council may enact or reject the Initiative, but shall not modify it. If the Council rejects the Initiative or within thirty (30) calendar days fails to take final action on it, the City Council shall submit the proposal to the people at the next Municipal or General Election that is not less than ninety (90) days after the date on which the signatures on the petition are validated. The thirty (30) day period for action expired July 6, 2015. The deadline for the City Council to place the issue on the November 3, 2015 ballot is August 4, 2015.



ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council did not take final action on the initiative within 30 calendar days of the validation of the petition and therefore is required to submit the proposal to the people at the next municipal or general election to be in compliance with Charter Section 2.19(j).

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council transmit the ballot title to the Pierce County Auditor requesting placement on the November 3, 2015 general election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.