

## 5. Sec. 2.25 - Charter Review

# Charter Review Committee

## Amendment Summary

### Section 2.25

#### Brief Summary of Amendment

- Clarifies that a charter review process must occur at least every ten years and last for a duration of at least six months.
- Adds that the Charter Review Committee shall be provided sufficient time to perform comprehensive review and clarifies that the comprehensive review is to include, but not be limited to: public outreach, anti-racist analysis, stakeholder and expert interviews, budgetary and fiscal impacts, and drafting of recommended changes.
- States that the Charter Review Committee may publish its findings.
- Changes word "citizen" to "resident" and designates the title of "elector" to the state mandated role of "freeholder."

#### Committee Vote

**Yes:** Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Patrick Fischer, Bryan Flint, Jason Gauthier, Andre Jimenez, Melissa Malott, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, Steve Wamback, Lok Yin Wu

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Diamatris Winston

#### Amendment

**Section 2.25** – The City Council shall commence a review of this charter ~~no less frequently than once at least~~ every ten years, by appointing, for a duration of at least six months, citizens Tacoma residents to a charter review committee, or by the election of a board of electors to serve as freeholders in the manner provided in state law. Any such electors freeholders shall be nominated and elected by position and by district. This charter rejects any historical requirement of ownership of real property as prerequisite to service on such board of electors. The Any charter review committee, which shall be provided with sufficient staff, and budget, and time to perform a comprehensive review, which includes, but is not limited to, public outreach and education, an anti-racist analysis, stakeholder and expert interviews, an estimation of fiscal and budgetary impact, and drafting of proposed amendment and ballot language. The charter review committee shall report any recommended amendments to the City Council and may publish its findings. The City Council may accept, reject or modify the recommended amendments and may submit any recommended charter amendments to the voters in the manner provided in state law. The recommendations of a board of ~~freeholders~~ electors shall be placed before the voters in the manner provided in state law. Nothing in this section shall limit the right ~~of citizens~~ to initiate amendments to this charter in any other manner allowed by state law.

## **Amendment Positions**

### **Rationale for Amendment:**

Based on our collective experience reviewing the Charter in four short months, we believe this amendment is necessary so that the residents of Tacoma get the best review possible. The amendment simplifies the language to make it clear the review can take place more frequently than every ten years. It also clarifies that an appointed charter review committee needs to have a minimum of six months to ensure a comprehensive review with thorough deliberation and analysis.

Providing the committee with adequate resources - staff, budget, and time - is paramount for conducting a comprehensive review. This includes engaging in public outreach, anti-racist analysis, and stakeholder and expert interviews. The committee's ability to understand the fiscal and budgetary impacts will only improve the end product. Granting the charter committee the clear authority to publish its findings will promote transparency and accountability. Additionally, this amendment updates language to be more inclusive.

### **Dissenting Position(s):**

None