



## ORDINANCE NO. 29071

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to property tax levies; authorizing an increase for the  
2 Emergency Medical Services levy in terms of both dollars and percentage  
for collection in the 2026 tax year.

3 WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 84.55.120, the City of Tacoma is requesting  
4 property taxes for Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) in the amount as described  
5 below and as certified to Pierce County, and  
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7 WHEREAS jurisdictions with populations of 10,000 or greater are limited  
8 to increasing the City’s levy by the lower of 1 percent or the rate of inflation, and  
9 the implicit price deflator used to measure inflation is 2.44 percent, and  
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11 WHEREAS in 2023, voters approved a levy lid lift for the EMS property  
12 tax levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed property for collection in the 2024 tax  
13 year, and also authorized the City to increase the EMS levy by up to six percent  
14 per year for collection in tax years 2025 through 2029, or to the statutory limit of  
15 \$0.50 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value, as calculated by the Pierce County  
16 Auditor, and  
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18 WHEREAS the City must take two actions to set the regular EMS tax  
19 levy collection in the 2025 tax year: (1) approve the total EMS levy amount to  
20 be collected; and (2) approve the dollar increase and percent increase to the  
21 EMS levy to be collected in 2026, and  
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23 WHEREAS the City has the authority to increase the total EMS property  
24 tax levy amount to \$23,739,530.91, which includes the levy lid lift increase of  
25 \$1,343,747.03 or six percent (6%) as approved by voters in August 2023, and is  
26 exclusive of additional revenue derived from new construction, improvements to



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property, any increase in the value of state-assessed property, and any annexations that have occurred and refunds made; and is prior to the statutory limit factor of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, for collection in the 2026 tax year, and

WHEREAS the City anticipates that it can collect additional revenue due to the value of new construction, improvements to property, increases in the value of state-assessed property, annexations and refunds, and

WHEREAS due to the statutory cap of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, the maximum allowable levy amount to be collected for 2026 is estimated to be \$22,984,528.98 (a 2.6 percent increase over 2025), which is consistent with the 2025-2026 Adopted Budget, and

WHEREAS the City held a properly noticed public hearing on the proposed increase to the EMS property tax levy on October 28, 2025; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:



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That the 2026 EMS property tax levy is hereby authorized to increase by \$1,343,747.03, which is a 6.0 percent increase from the City's actual levy of \$22,395,783.88 from 2025, exclusive of additional revenue derived from new construction, improvements to property, any increase in the value of state-assessed property, and any annexations that have occurred and refunds made.

Passed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney