



## RESOLUTION NO. 41733

1 A RESOLUTION calling for a special election on November 4, 2025, providing for  
2 transmittal to the Pierce County Auditor as *ex officio* supervisor of elections  
3 of Initiative Measure No. 2 for placement on the November 4, 2025, special  
4 election ballot, and directing the City Clerk to transmit to the Pierce County  
5 Auditor a certified copy of this resolution.

6 WHEREAS the power of initiative and referendum for local ballot  
7 measures derives from state law (RCW 35.22.200) which authorizes first class  
8 cities to provide for direct legislation by the people in the City Charter, and

9 WHEREAS Section 2.19 of the Tacoma City Charter establishes the  
10 process for submittal of initiative petitions and provides that residents of  
11 Tacoma may “by initiative petition ask the voters to approve or reject  
12 ordinances or amendments to existing ordinances”, and

13 WHEREAS petitions for Initiative Measures No. 2 and No. 3<sup>1</sup> relating to  
14 protections for certain employees, together with the proposed measures, were  
15 filed by the petitioners with the City Clerk on February 4, 2025, and

16 WHEREAS the City Attorney approved the petitions for Initiative  
17 Measures No. 2 and No. 3 as to form and style<sup>2</sup>, prepared and approved ballot  
18 titles and transmitted notice to the petitioners that the ten-day appeal period  
19 commenced, and

20 WHEREAS on June 24, 2025, the petitioners filed with the City Clerk,  
21 their petition for Initiative Measure No. 2 with signatures for verification by the  
22  
23  
24

25 <sup>1</sup> At the time of filing, a separate and unrelated petition for initiative related to urban forestry  
26 had been filed by different petitioners and was assigned Voter Initiative Measure No. 1. This  
initiative was later withdrawn and never submitted to the City Council to be placed on the ballot.

<sup>2</sup> See RCW 35.21.005 (Sufficiency of petitions).



Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, and validation by the City Clerk, and

WHEREAS on June 26, 2025, the City Clerk forwarded Initiative Measure No. 2 with signatures to the County Auditor's Office for verification of signatures, and on July 9, 2025, the County Auditor provided notice to the City Clerk that sufficient signatures had been verified to meet the requirements under the City Charter to place Initiative No. 2 on the ballot, and

WHEREAS on July 10, 2025, in accordance with Section 2.19 (i) & (j) of the City Charter, the City Clerk validated that the signatures for the initiative petition met the requirements under the City Charter and provided notice of validation to the City Council, and

WHEREAS Section 2.19 of the City Charter provides that once the City Clerk has validated an initiative petition, the City Council may enact or reject the initiative, and that if the City Council rejects the initiative or fails to take action within 30 days following validation, the City Council shall submit the proposal without any amendments to the people at the next municipal or general election that is not less than ninety days after the date of validation of the petition, and

WHEREAS Section 2.22 of the City Charter also provides that the City Council may by its own motion submit any proposed ordinance to the voters for approval or rejection, which ordinance may, when dealing with the same



subject matter as a voter initiative, be proposed as an alternative to the initiative  
petition<sup>3</sup>, and

WHEREAS the role and authority of the City Council under Sections 2.19 and 2.22 of the City Charter is not merely ministerial, but instead operates to preserve a legislative and policy role for the City Council with respect to initiative petitions, and purposely embodies within the City Charter a 30-day window in which the City Council, before taking action, may consider how it will responsibly exercise the discretion and authority granted under the City Charter and perform its duties as an elected legislative body, and

WHEREAS the importance of preserving the discretionary legislative and policy role of the elected City Council in the initiative process is clear from the language in Section 2.19 of the City Charter that directs the City Council to take action only after the 30-day window has expired, thus preserving the role and the duty of the City Council to adequately consider and study what legislative action it will take in response to validation of a voter initiative petition, and

WHEREAS the importance of these City Council roles is also clear from the language in Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the City Charter which allow the City Council to propose an alternative measure on the same subject concurrently with the initiative and provides that if both measures pass, the measure with the most votes will prevail, and

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<sup>3</sup> See, RCW 29A.36.071.



WHEREAS in the exercise of its power and authority and in adherence  
1 to its duties as a legislative body, the City Council heard presentations  
2 regarding the initiative process and the scope, content and impacts of Initiative  
3 Measure No. 2, during its July 15, July 29, and August 5 City Council study  
4 sessions and also heard unsolicited comments from members of the public  
5 regarding the benefits and impacts of Initiative Measure No. 2 during  
6 community forum at the July 22, 2025 City Council meeting and in written  
7 comments filed with the City Clerk, and  
8

9  
10 WHEREAS the 30-day period granted to the City Council under the City  
11 Charter to consider whether to enact or reject the proposed measure, or place  
12 an alternative on the ballot, commenced on July 10, 2025 and will end on  
13 August 9, 2025, and

14  
15 WHEREAS the City Council finds that if adopted, Initiative Measure  
16 No. 2 would have broad and far-reaching impacts on employers and employees  
17 in the City of Tacoma and that it does not have sufficient information to make a  
18 reasoned decision regarding whether it should enact Initiative Measure No. 2,  
19 or consider placing an alternative measure on the ballot, and

20  
21 WHEREAS for the above-stated reasons, the City Council has  
22 determined that it will not enact, and therefore rejects, Initiative No. 2, and  
23 pursuant to Section 2.19(j) of the City Charter, the City council must call for a  
24 special election on November 4, 2025, concurrent with the general election,  
25 and submit the proposed measure to the voters for their approval or rejection;

26 Now, Therefore,



BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

1       Section 1. That the Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of  
2 elections in Pierce County, Washington is hereby requested to call for a special  
3 election to be held concurrent with the general election on November 4, 2025, for  
4 the electorate of the City of Tacoma to consider whether to approve or reject  
5 Initiative Measure No. 2.  
6

7       Section 2. That the City hereby transmits to the Pierce County Auditor, as  
8 *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Pierce County, Washington, Initiative Measure  
9 No. 2 relating to labor standards for certain employees and adding a new chapter  
10 to the Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC"), Chapter 18.20, "Labor Standards for  
11 Certain Employees," for placement on the special election ballot to be held  
12 concurrent with the general election on November 4, 2025.  
13

14       Section 3. The City shall submit to the electorate of the City of Tacoma  
15 Initiative Measure No. 2 in the form substantially as follows:  
16

17                                   **BALLOT TITLE**

18                                   **CITY OF TACOMA**

19                                   **INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 2**

20       Initiative Measure No. 2 concerns protections for certain employees.  
21

22       If enacted, this measure would add new provisions to the Tacoma  
23 Municipal Code adopting labor standards, workplace safety requirements,  
24 employer compliance certification requirements and enforcement  
25 mechanisms that, implement a \$20.00 hourly minimum wage and other  
26 compensation obligations, prohibit retaliatory actions by employers,  
require employers to provide notice of work schedules and changes in  
work schedules, protect employee's right to reject work schedule changes,  
and authorize revocation, suspension and denial of business licenses,  
penalties for violations, and private enforcement actions.



Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes . . . . . ☐

No . . . . . ☐

Section 4. That, the City Clerk shall send to the Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, a certified copy of this resolution, together with an initiative substantially in the form set forth above, for the November 4, 2025, Special Election. The proper City officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to submit the question of whether the City's Municipal Code should be amended to add proposed chapter 18.20 (Labor Standards for Certain Employees), as provided in this resolution, to the electors at the November 4, 2025, Special Election.

Section 5. That the City has chosen to participate jointly with Pierce County in its voters' pamphlet. Pursuant to RCW 29A.32.220, the text for the ballot measure, accompanied by an explanatory statement, shall be submitted to the Auditor's Office for inclusion in the Official Voters' Pamphlet. The explanatory statement shall not exceed 200 words and shall be submitted to the Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections.



Section 6. That if a section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction; such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

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

Approved as to form:

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