



TO: City Manager Hyun Kim
FROM: Debra E. Casparian, Deputy City Attorney; Nicole Emery, City Clerk
Chris Bacha, City Attorney
COPY: City Council
SUBJECT: Resolution – Appointing “For” and “Against” Committees for Proposition 1, Connect Tacoma
(August 4, 2026, Primary Election) – April 28, 2026
DATE: April 22, 2026

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution appointing individuals to committees that will prepare statements “For” and “Against” Proposition 1 (Connect Tacoma: Safe Streets and Sidewalks), relating to utility and property taxes, which will appear in the Voters’ Pamphlet for the August 4, 2026, Primary Election.

Recommendations for Council consideration:
For: Michael Catsi, Nathaniel Lawver, and Laura Svancarek.

Against: Steven Cook and Ben Lackey.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Bushnell, and Council Members Hines, Rumbaugh, and Walker

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s Recommendation is Based On: The statutory requirement that the City appoint members to committees to prepare Voters’ Pamphlet statements “For” and “Against” each measure placed on the ballot.

On April 14, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 41890, transmitting a proposition, relating to utility and property taxes for street improvements (Connect Tacoma), on the ballot for the August 4, 2026, Primary Election. On April 21, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 41894, which supersedes and replaces Resolution No. 41890, but does not affect the appointments to the “For” and “Against” committees.

The Government Performance and Finance Committee reviewed letters of interest at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, and provided recommendations for the appointment of individuals for the “For” and “Against” Committees for the proposition.

Per RCW 29A.32.280, for each measure from a unit of local government that is included in a local voters' pamphlet, the legislative authority of that jurisdiction shall, not later than the resolution deadline, formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' approval of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The City reached out to the community to look for those interested in serving on the committees; and advertised the request through the City’s website, and a news release.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:



Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

Appointing a “For” and “Against” committee is required by state law. It will allow formal support and opposition to the proposition.

Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Allowing members to participate in the “For” and “Against” committees for the proposition will increase community participation and input.

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Not appoint “for” or “against” committees.	No City staff time required to appoint committees. (Pierce County will attempt to appoint committee members if the City does not.)	City relies on Pierce County to search for members and make appointments.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Once the City Council appoints “For” and “Against” Committees, the City can submit all the required information to the County so that this proposition may be placed on the August 4, 2026, ballot.

The deadline for the City to send required information to Pierce County, including “For” and “Against” Committees, is May 1, 2026. The deadline for the Committees to submit their statements to Pierce County is May 5, 2026, with rebuttal statements due by May 7, 2026.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend the City Council appoint those members recommended by the Government Performance and Finance Committee to the Committees that will prepare statements “For” and “Against” Proposition 1 (Connect Tacoma: Safe Streets and Sidewalks), which will appear in the Voters’ Pamphlet for the on August 4, 2026, Primary Election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.