

2024 Charter Review Recommendations

#	Topic	Category	Charter Section	Recommendation	Fiscal Impact	Legal or Labor Review	Recommend Other Expertise	Complexity
1	Salary Commission	Boards and Commissions	2.3	Changes the Salary Commission to align with state law, and removes "citizen" from title.				Low
2	Term Limits*	Government Structure	2.35	Changes the time a person may serve on the City Council and as Mayor to three full consecutive terms on the Council and two full consecutive terms as Mayor.				Medium
3	Referendum*	Elections	2.2	Increases the number of days to collect signatures for a Referendum Petition from 30 to 90 calendar days, and Changes the references from "citizens" to "residents who are qualified electors under state law."		✓		High
4	Initiative*	Elections	2.22	Prohibits the Council from submitting any proposed ordinance to the voters that contains provisions that would substantially conflict with an ordinance that has been proposed by an Initiative		✓		High
5	Charter Review	Misc	2.25	Increases the timeline for a review of the charter to at least six months and that there be sufficient support outreach, analysis, and drafting recommendations	✓			Medium
6	New Section - Neighborhood Council	Boards and Commissions	2.26	Establishes the Neighborhood and Community Councils in Charter.	✓			Medium
7	New Section - Council; full time; staff; investigative authority*	Government Structure	2.xx	Requires Council Members to serve on a full-time basis, allows them to hire staff, and allows for audits and investigations of the City and Executive branch.	✓	✓		High
8	New Section - Policing Accountability	Government Structure	2.xx	Establishes an Office of Policing Accountability and a civilian Community Oversight Committee	✓	✓	✓	High
9	New Section - Climate Commission	Boards and Commissions	3.xx	Requires the City to establish a carbon budget designed to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and creates a Climate Accountability and Sustainability Commission	✓			Medium
10	Humane Society	Misc	3.1	Removed the Tacoma Humane Society from the Charter				Low
11	Landmark Preservation Commission	Boards and Commissions	3.13	Adjusts the membership of the LPC		✓		Low
12	Council "Purposes of Inquiry"*	Government Structure	3.2	Clarifies role of Council with respect to City Manager staff.				Low

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13	City Attorney*	Government Structure	3.5	Requires council approval for hiring and firing of the City Attorney, and allows for retention of special counsel by the City Council.		✓		Medium
14	Planning Commission	Boards and Commissions	3.8	Adjusts the membership of the planning commission, and removes prohibition on members receiving pay		✓		Medium
15	TPU - Internet as a Utility	TPU	4.1	Adds "internet" withing the City's authority under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board	✓	✓	✓	Medium
16	TPU - Board Membership	TPU	4.9	Requires one member be a resident of Pierce County who is not also a resident of Tacoma and a residential customer of TPU				Medium
17	TPU - Shared Services	TPU	4.15	Requires a performance and financial audit of the general government department services utilized by Tacoma Public Utilities.	✓			Low
18	TPU - "Purposes of inquiry"	TPU	4.19	Clarifies the role of TPU Board members with respect to TPU staff.				Low
19	Ranked Choice Voting	Elections	5.5	Specifies that ranked-choice voting is among the election-related matters that the City Council may set forth in ordinance, but does not require that ranked-choice voting be used or adopted.	✓	✓	✓	High
20	New Section - Campaign Finance	Elections	5.xx	Allows but does not require enactment of ordinances related to limitations on campaign contributions and expenditures and to create a public financing program.		✓		Medium
21	Eligibility for Employment - Citizenship	Misc	6.3	Eliminates language requiring that City employees be United States citizens and retains the requirement that City employees be Tacoma residents.				Low
22	Employment Anti-Discrimination	Misc	6.7	Replaces "handicap" with "disability".				Low
23	New Section - Official Newspaper	Misc	9.6	Defines official newspaper as meeting the requirements of state law but to include posting on the City's website		✓		Low
24	Form of Government*	Government Structure		Changes the form of government to Mayor-Council-Chief Administrative Officer	✓	✓	✓	High
C1	Regular Council Meetings*	Government Structure	2.8	Adjust the definition of regular meetings to allow more flexibility in scheduling and cancellation		✓		Medium

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24	Form of Government*	Government Structure		Changes the form of government to Mayor-Council-Chief Administrative Officer	✓	✓	✓	High

2024 Charter Review - Remaining Council Requests

	TOPIC	SECTION	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
Council and Staff Requests Remaining				
1.	Council Districts (Council)	2.1/5.3	Number of Council districts (adding districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRC recommended a change in FOG that would reduce the council positions to 7; in 2025 the Mayor position becomes at-large position 9; In 2027 at-large positions 8 & 9 are eliminated leaving District positions 1-5 and At-large positions 6 & 7
2.	Number of Council Meetings (Council)	2.8	Number of mandated Council meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRC did not address this issue
3.	Initiative Process (Council)	2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 2.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The citizens' initiative process, including best practices such as the number of required signatures Sec. 2.18 – Sec 2.25 – Review how the Charter allows the use of initiatives to change City ordinances, including the possibility of a third party review similar to the Attorney General review of State initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRC proposed different changes to this section
4.	Planning Commission (Council)	3.8	Section 3.8 – Planning Commission. Consider adding a note indicating “one or more” planning commissions to allow consideration of tiers of Planning Commissions or ways to triage and prioritize work between two commissions in the TMC in order to allow for more timely review of planning issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRC addressed different changes to this section, but did address the other Council requested changes related to membership
5.	Boards (Council)	3.12	Review boards defined in the charter, to include parameters to remove board members for dereliction of duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRC did not address this issue
6.	TPU Board (Council)	4.8	The Public Utility Board and all other sections related to their powers and duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRC addressed TPU Board membership, but not all sections related to powers and duties
7.	TPU Shared Services (Council)	4.17	Shared services/ Duplication of services, including the structure of the public utility as a separate entity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRC proposed different changes to this section

8.	Tacoma Venues and Events (Staff)		Change to Tacoma Venues and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRC did not address this issue
9.	Civil Service Board (Council)	6.11	Review Civil Service Board term limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRC did not address this issue
10.	Employment Lists (Council)	6.14	Review rules related to how long employment lists should be kept (under civil service) as this charter requirement is in conflict with best and successful hiring practices and may be in conflict with equity goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRC did not address this issue
11.	All Sections (Council)		Ensure gender neutral language throughout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRC did not address this issue
12.	All Sections (Council)		Examine subsets of the City Government and make sure the City Council has oversight over public funds allocated by the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRC addressed this issue differently through the change in FOG

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Charter Review Timeline for Council Process

Potential Schedule

Date	Meeting	Notes and Considerations
Monday, May 6, 2024	Council Special Meeting– CRC presents the final report	
Tuesday, May 7, 2024	Study Session/COW – Council discusses CRC report and Council amendments	CM Walker Out
Monday, May 13, 2024	Special Meeting – Topics TPD (6pm Start)	
Monday, May 20, 2024	Special Meeting – Topics TPD (5pm Start)	
Tuesday, May 21, 2024	Study Session/COW – Topics TBD	CM Rumbaugh Out (Intl), Possible Joint meeting with TPU w/legislative review
Monday, June 3, 2024	Special Meeting – Topics TBD (5pm Start)	
Tuesday, June 4, 2024	Study Session/COW – Topics TBD	
Tuesday, June 11, 2024	Study Session/COW – Topics TBD	Mayor Out
Monday, June 17, 2024	Special Meeting – Topics TBD(5pm Start)	
Tuesday, June 18, 2024	Study Session/COW – Topics TBD	DM Hines and CM Diaz Out
Tuesday, June 25, 2024	Study Session/COW – Topics TBD Council meeting -Resolution setting the public hearing date of 7/9	Mayor (Intl) and CM Scott Out (Intl)
Tuesday, July 2, 2024	Study Session/COW – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Decisions on Amendments 	Amendments transmitted to City Attorney to draft ballot titles DM Hines and CM Scott Out (Intl)
Wednesday, July 3, 2024	Materials due: public hearing summary	
Tuesday, July 9, 2024	Council meeting - Public Hearing	
Tuesday, July 16, 2024	Final Study Session/Committee of the Whole on proposals and public hearing debrief	
Wednesday, July 17, 2024	Materials due: All amendments must be submitted to be included in the agenda packet	

Charter Review Timeline for Administrative Process

Date	Meeting	Notes and Considerations
Tuesday, July 23, 2024	Resolution(s) transmitting items to the Pierce County Auditor	Last regularly scheduled Council meeting to approve the legislation to transmit to Auditor
Wednesday, July 24, 2024	Materials due: Submit "For" and "Against" CAM with blank Ex A for appt resolution Materials due: GPFC memorandum	
Wednesday, July 24, 2024, through Monday, July 29, 2024	Period to accept "For" and "Against" Committee letters	
Tuesday, July 30, 2024	Materials due: letters to GPFC	
Tuesday, July 30, 2024	Special GPFC meeting to review letters	
Tuesday, July 30, 2024	Resolution with Substitute Ex A appointing "For" and "Against" Committee members	Last regular meeting to approve legislation to transmit to Auditor
Monday, October 7, 2024	Publish all proposed Charter changes	
Monday, October 14, 2024	Publish all proposed Charter changes	
Monday, October 21, 2024	Publish all proposed Charter changes	
Monday, October 28, 2024	Publish all proposed Charter changes	
Tuesday, November 5, 2024	Election Day	
Tuesday, November 26, 2024	Election results certified	
Tuesday, December 10, 2024	Study Session and/or GPFC - next steps for voter approved amendments	

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Questions for May 7 Charter Review Discussion

- Are there any recommendations you are ready to decide on without further discussion or information?

- On which amendments do you require further detail? What type of information do you need (outside of what has already been identified)?

- Which items are you interested in exploring via council ordinance vs charter amendment?

- Will any Councilmembers be proposing amendments?