



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Bill Fosbre, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office *William Fosbre*  
**COPY:** Government Performance and Finance Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution –Appointing “For” and “Against” committees for Proposition No. 1 concerning the EMS levy lid lift  
**DATE:** May 9, 2023

---

**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution authorizing the appointment of the “for” and “against” committee members for Proposition No. 1, concerning the Emergency Medical Services levy lid lift.

Below is a list of the recommended individuals:

Applicants	Committee
Michael Fitzgerald	“For”
James Duggan	“For”
Robert Thoms	“For”

Applicant	Committee
Donna Walters	“Against”

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker and Council Members Joe Bushnell, John Hines, and Sarah Rumbaugh

**BACKGROUND:**

**This Department's Recommendation is Based On** the statutory requirement that the City appoint members to a “for” and “against” committee when it seeks to place a proposition on the ballot.

On April 18, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 41180, transmitting a ballot measure concerning restoration of the City's emergency medical services property tax levy, to the Pierce County Auditor to be placed on the ballot for the Primary Election on Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

The Government Performance and Finance Committee reviewed letters of interest at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, and provided recommendations. This resolution would formalize those appointments.

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 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 “for” and “against” committees. The City notified those on the mailing lists from the Tacoma Fire Department, anyone who expressed interest in the past about the topic, and notified those on the agenda notification lists, the Neighborhood Council contacts, and posted the request on the City’s notices page. Four people expressed interest in being on the committees, 3 on the “For” committee and 1 on the “Against” committee.

### 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 City’s request for an increase in property taxes.

#### Livability: *Equity Index Score: Very High Opportunity*

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents.

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

Increasing property taxes to pay for EMS services benefits every resident of this City. It would result in less out-of-pocket expenses for our residents for EMS services.

### 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. No appointment the “for” and “against” committees.	No city staff time to appoint the committees (The County will attempt to appoint committee members if the City does not).	City relies on County to make the appointments.
2.		
3.		

### 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 1, 2023, ballot.

### STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends the Council approve a resolution to appoint persons to the “for” and “against” committees for the proposition going to the voters on August 1, 2023. The deadline for the Council to adopt this resolution is May 9, 2023.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Please provide a short summary of the fiscal impacts associated with the grant, agreement, policy action, or other action.

NONE

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1.			
2.			
TOTAL			

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

THERE IS NO FISCAL IMPACT

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No

Please enter Explanation.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

List attachments using bullet points.