



2024 Charter Review Process

City of Tacoma | City Attorney's Office

City Council Study Session

October 10, 2023

ITEM 2



1

OVERVIEW



- Background and History
- Timeline
- Discretionary Actions
- Next Steps

2

2

BACKGROUND



- City Charter Section 2.25:
“The City Council shall commence a review of the charter no less frequently than once every ten years, by appointing citizens to a charter review committee, or by the election of a board of freeholders in a manner provided in state law.”

3

3


BACKGROUND



- Items may be submitted to the Charter Review Committee by:
 - City Council
 - Staff
 - Residents

4


4



● ● ● BACKGROUND - History

2014 Charter Review	2004 Charter Review	1992 Charter Review
15 members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 by each Council Member and Mayor • 6 by GPF Committee • Mayor selected the Chair 	15 members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 by each Council Member and Mayor • 6 by Appts Committee • Mayor selected the Chair 	13 members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 by each Council Member and Mayor • 4 by Appts Committee
62 Meetings (22 committee mtgs, 2 hearings, 1 town hall, 37 subcommittee mtgs)	55 meetings (18 committee mtgs, 2 hearings, 37 subcommittee mtgs)	12 meetings
16 amendments recommended by the Charter Review Committee	16 amendments recommended by the Charter Review Committee	26 amendments recommended by Charter Review Committee

5



● ● ● TIMELINE

Date	Activity
October 2023	Create the Charter Review Committee (CRC)
October and November 2023	Receive CRC applications and hold interviews
December 2023	Appoint CRC Members
January - April 2024	CRC meets and creates final report
May 2024	CRC submits final report & recommendations; City Council public hearing; City Council accepts, rejects, or modifies proposed amendments

6

TIMELINE



Date	Activity
June-July 2024	Prepare for elections; Resolutions transmitting ballot titles; Appointment of "For" and "Against" Committees
Early August 2024	Pierce County deadline for ballot titles, explanatory statements, and "For" and "Against" committee appointments
October 2024	Advertise proposed Charter Amendments
November 5, 2024	General Election

7

7

DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS



Constitution of Committee

- Number of members
- Method of nomination, e.g. by council members, by committee, other
- Qualifications for nomination, e.g., age, length of residency, registered voter, etc.

Specialized knowledge or background


- Should some or all positions be tied to demonstrated knowledge or experience in specific subject or representative of a specified interest group?

Topics within scope of review

- Does the City Council wish to include a request for specific topics in the scope of review?

8

8




NEXT STEPS

- Create the Charter Review Committee
- Advertise for Charter Review Committee Members
- Appoint Committee Members
- Hire and/or designate staff support

9

9



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●

10

BACKGROUND – 2014



2014 Proposed Amendments placed on the ballot	Submitted by	Election Result
Proposition No. 1 – Conform City Elections to State Law (Various Sections)	Charter Review Committee	Passed
Proposition No. 2 – Remove and Replace Obsolete Language (Various Sections)	Charter Review Committee	Passed
Proposition No. 3 – Update Discrimination Provision (Section 6.7)	Charter Review Committee	Passed
Proposition No. 4 – Emergency Ordinance Effective Date (Section 2.13)	Charter Review Committee	Passed
Proposition No. 5 – Council Confirmation of Department Directors (Section 3.4)	Charter Review Committee	Passed

11

BACKGROUND – 2014



2014 Proposed Amendments placed on the ballot	Submitted by	Election Result
Proposition No. 6 – Council Confirmation of Utility Director (Section 4.18)	Charter Review Committee	Passed
Proposition No. 7 – Landmarks Preservation Commission (Section 10.15)	Charter Review Committee	Passed
Proposition No. 8 – Mayor and Council Term Limits (Section 2.35)	Charter Review Committee	<i>Failed</i>
Proposition No. 9 – Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries (Section 2.3)	Charter Review Committee	Passed
Proposition No. 10 – Cemeteries, Mausoleums, or Crematories (Section 9.4)	Charter Review Committee	Passed

12

BACKGROUND – 2014



2014 Proposed Amendments placed on the ballot	Submitted by	Election Result
Proposition No. 11 – City Employee Contracts (Section 6.6)	Charter Review Committee	Passed
Proposition No. 12 – Eligibility for City Employment (Section 6.3)	Charter Review Committee	<i>Failed</i>

13

13

BACKGROUND – 2014



Proposed amendments that the City Council did not move forward to the ballot:

- **Charter Review Committee**

- Concerning City Council powers and duties relative to the Public Utility Board (Sections 4.8, 4.12, 4.14, 4.15, and 4.24)
* *Section 4.18 moved forward, see Proposition No. 6*
- Adopting a new article, “Powers and Responsibilities of the People” (various sections)
- Requiring financial interest disclosures from certain officers and employees (Section 6.19)

14

14

BACKGROUND – 2014



Proposed amendments that the City Council did not move forward to the ballot:

- **Charter Review Committee (continued)**
 - Expanding City Council authority to hire, appoint, and confirm staff (Sections 3.2 and 3.5)
 - * *Section 3.4 moved forward, see Proposition No. 5*
 - Creating a Citizen Commission on Redistricting (Section 10.14)

15

15

BACKGROUND – 2014



Proposed amendments that the City Council did not move forward to the ballot:

- **Charter Review Committee (continued)**
 - Changing the form of government from Council-Manager to Mayor-Council-Chief Administrative Officer (various sections)
 - Adding requirements for Neighborhood Councils and Business Districts (Sections 10.17 and 10.18)
 - * *Section 10.15 moved forward, see Proposition No. 7*

16

16

BACKGROUND – 2014



Proposed amendments that the City Council did not move forward to the ballot:

- **City Department**

- Allowing the City to charge for certain employment tests (Section 6.14)

- **Mayor and City Council**

- Adopting a program for publicly financed campaigns (Section 10.19)
- Mayor & City Council term limits (Section 2.35)

17