



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Nicole Emery, City Clerk
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution placing proposed Charter amendment C2B on the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot – July 16, 2024
DATE: July 10, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution placing proposed Charter amendment C2B on the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot.

BACKGROUND:

The Recommendation is Based On:

On October 17, 2023, Resolution No. 41282 was adopted creating a Charter Review Committee (CRC), consisting of 15 citizens (residents), to review the existing Charter of the City of Tacoma and make such recommendations to the City Council for charter amendments as the committee may deem necessary and proper to improve the manner of operation and efficiency in conducting the affairs of the City. On December 19, 2023, Resolution No. 41324 was adopted appointing members to the CRC. Starting January 11, 2024, CRC members begin to meet to review the City Charter and develop recommendations.

On May 6, 2024, the City Council received the final report from the Charter Review Committee and a presentation on their recommendations. Starting May 7, 2024, the City Council reviewed the recommendations, brought forward new recommendations, and refined recommendations for consideration for the November 5, 2024, general election ballot. At the July 9, 2024, meeting City Council Members made motions to refer recommendations to the July 16, 2024, meeting for title drafting and final consideration to place on the ballot and redirected some amendments to other policy processes.

This recommendation would allow Public Utility Board Members to hold public office other than Tacoma City Council positions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The City Charter requires the City Council to commence a comprehensive review of the City Charter no less frequently than once every ten years by appointing citizens to a Charter Review Committee (CRC). The CRC met between January and May of 2024. They took comment at public meetings, and held two extended public comment meetings with opportunities to comment in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Khmer. On May 6, 2024, the CRC presented final report to the City Council. The City Council reviewed every proposal from the CRC, in addition to creating new proposals for consideration. All materials were published in advance of the City Council's public hearing on July 2, 2024.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The five-member Board oversees the operations of Tacoma's electric and water utilities and industrial freight-switching railroad. TPU is dedicated and committed to comprehensive and sustained transformation of systems, policies, practices, and contracts impacted by systemic racism. TPU, using Racial Equity Action Plans, will put the theory of change into action to achieve a collective vision of racial equity.



Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

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

The City is committed to fostering an equitable and anti-racist organization and wants its committees, boards, and commissions to reflect Tacoma’s diverse community. For these vacancies, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, seniors, immigrants, and refugees are especially encouraged to apply.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Maintain current charter language		Limits the field and experience of who can serve as TPU board members

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

If approved, this Charter amendment will be placed on the ballot for voters in the November 2024 election.

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff in the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) provided Fiscal Notes during City Council review of proposed amendments. OMB reviewed all proposed amendments and provided fiscal impacts on amendments may require investments above \$50,000 to implement. OMB did not provide a Fiscal Note for this amendment. The cost to place amendments on the ballot will be captured in the combined resolution brought forward on July 23, 2024.

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

N/A

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

N/A

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