



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Nicole Emery, City Clerk
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution placing proposed Charter amendment C1B on the November 5, 2024, General Election Ballot – Requested for July 16, 2024
DATE: July 10, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution placing Proposed Charter amendment C1B on the November 5, 2024, General Election Ballot.

BACKGROUND:

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.

When Section 2.8 of the City Charter was adopted in 1979, the Council held only one regular weekly business meeting. It now holds weekly study sessions as well as weekly evening business meetings; thus, meeting much more frequently than it did in 1979. The proposed amendment would recognize that the Council now meets far more frequently than contemplated by the voters in 1979 by providing more flexibility in scheduling regular meetings of the Council. Greater flexibility is created by removing the prohibition upon meeting not oftener than once a week and increasing the meeting requirements by 50% to 70 meetings to capture the additional meetings.

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. 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. 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:

This recommendation recognizes and reflects the higher number of meetings the City Council is already having each week with both Study Sessions and Council Meetings and does not impact the current schedule. It also allows for additional flexibility to add or change meetings to respond to changing schedules over time, and for the City



Council to hold a regular meeting more than once per week. This creates greater access for engagement and discussion which benefits the community’s access to Council and information.

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).

Allowing for flexibility in meeting frequency while requiring more meetings will ensure greater access for the public, opportunities to engage, and opportunities to learn. This increased access and opportunities helps to build relationships and trust in government and the officials having the discussions during these meetings.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1.Do not adopt resolution		This item will not be on the November 5, 2024, ballot for voter consideration

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Following the November 5, 2024, general election outcomes and certification the charter will be amended and the higher requirement for meetings will be in place. This will be captured in the annual motion Council makes the set the agenda and proactively cancel meetings for the following year.

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?

There is no funding being used for passing the resolution to place this amendment on the ballot. If approved by voters, further analysis and budget appropriations may be required for implementation.

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?

N/A

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

There is no ongoing fiscal impact for passing the resolution to place this amendment on the ballot. If approved by voters, further analysis and budget appropriations may be required for implementation.

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

There is no change to the City’s FTE/personnel counts for passing the resolution to place this amendment on the ballot. If approved by voters, further analysis and budget appropriations may be required for implementation.