



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Nicole Emery, City Clerk
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution placing proposed Charter amendment 2C 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 2C 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.

The amendment reads: Commencing with any Mayor or Council Member first elected in 2025, no person shall be allowed to serve on the Council for more than three (3) consecutive full terms, either as a Council Member, Mayor, or combination thereof; ; provided that, no person holding elected office for the City at the time of the general election in 2025 shall be allowed to serve on the Council for more than ten (10) consecutive years, either as a Council Member, Mayor, or combination thereof.

This amendment would expand the term for Mayor and Council from 10 years to 12 years to allow additional time for Mayor and Council to work on longer-term issues and clarifies that partial-term appointments do not count toward the term limit. Further, this amendment seeks to clarify that it is not intended to and will not benefit the current City Council.

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. 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:

This recommendation is an adjustment from what the Charter Review Committee originally sent forward. It takes into consideration their reasoning of maximizing experience in office and reflects the considerable further conversation that Council has had about this subject in its Charter Review process.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

Elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.

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).

Amending term limits will allow for extended retention of talented officials who can then have the seniority to lead in regional capacities beyond the City Council. It will also allow for better representation by allowing candidates to choose how they lead and avoid the necessity to step down from Council to run for Mayor as was the practice under the previous Charter language. It also maintains a limit to allow for new perspectives over time on the City Council, allowing for diverse representation that changes with the City.

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 to reflect the new term limits. Current Council Members will not benefit from the new terms. Newly elected members of the City Council will serve under the new structure for terms and that information will be available for prospective candidates.

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.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

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.