



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Nicole Emery, City Clerk
Chris Bacha, City Attorney
COPY: Mayor and City Council
SUBJECT: Resolution – Transmitting Charter-related amendment ballot titles to the Pierce County Auditor – July 23, 2024
DATE: July 17, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution transmitting six ballot propositions to amend the City Charter to the Pierce County Auditor to be placed on the ballot for the Special Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024; concurrent with the general election.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's 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 during a special meeting. The City Council reviewed and discussed the CRC recommendations together with proposed amendments to the CRC recommendations and amendments proposed by individual council members during the following 13 public meetings of the City Council: May 7, 2024, study session; May 17, 2024, special meeting; May 21, 2024, joint study session with the Tacoma Public Utility Board; May 31, 2024, special meeting; June 4, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting; June 7, 2024, special meeting; June 11, 2024, study session; June 18, 2024, study session; June 21, 2024, special meeting; June 25, 2024, study session; July 2, 2024, study session; July 9, 2024, study session; and July 16, 2024, study session. The City Council held a public hearing during the July 2, 2024, City Council meeting to take public testimony regarding the proposed amendments to the City Charter under consideration by the City Council. At the July 16, 2024, City Council meeting, the Council adopted resolutions related to Charter amendments.

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. The City Council, by Resolution No. 41324, created a Charter Review Committee, consisting of 15 residents to review the City Charter and make recommendations to the City Council. The City Council also reviewed the proposed Charter amendments during regular and special meetings, as well as held a public hearing.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

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



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ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose to not transmit items to the Pierce County Auditor for inclusion on the ballot.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Pierce County Auditor's Office presented at the July 2, 2024, study session and shared they anticipate the City of Tacoma will pay roughly 15-20 percent of shared election costs plus a per page cost for each item in the Voters' Pamphlet. The Pierce County Auditor's Office will assess the City of Tacoma for their portion of the election after the election has commenced.