



RESOLUTION NO. 41491

1 A RESOLUTION relating to the 10-year review of the City Charter; transmitting six
2 proposed amendments to the City Charter to the Pierce County Auditor to
3 be placed on the ballot, and calling for a Special Municipal Election to be
4 held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, in conjunction with the General
Election for the purpose of the voters' consideration of said proposed
charter amendments.

5 WHEREAS on October 17, 2023, in accordance with Section 2.25 of the
6 City Charter and pursuant to Resolution No. 41282, a Charter Review Committee
7 ("CRC") was created to consist of 15 residents of the City of Tacoma to be
8 appointed by the City Council for the purpose of reviewing the existing Charter of
9 the City of Tacoma ("City Charter") and making charter amendments
10 recommendations to the City Council, and
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12 WHEREAS on December 19, 2023, pursuant to Resolution No. 41324, the
13 City Council appointed 15 Tacoma residents to the CRC to complete their report
14 and recommendations on or before May 7, 2024, and
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16 WHEREAS the CRC finished its review and submitted a report and twenty-
17 four (24) recommendations to the City Council at a special meeting of the City
18 Council held on May 6, 2024, and
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20 WHEREAS during the following 13 public meetings of the City Council, the
21 City Council reviewed and discussed the CRC recommendations together with
22 proposed amendments to the CRC recommendations and amendments proposed by
23 individual council members: May 7, 2024, study session; May 17, 2024, special
24 meeting; May 21, 2024, joint study session with the Tacoma Public Utility Board;
25 May 31, 2024, special meeting; June 4, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting;
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1 June 7, 2024, special meeting; June 11, 2024, study session; June 18, 2024, study
2 session; June 21, 2024, special meeting; June 25, 2024, study session; July 2,
3 2024, study session; July 9, 2024, study session; and July 16, 2024, study session,
4 and

5 WHEREAS at the July 2, 2024, regular City Council meeting, a public
6 hearing was held to take public testimony regarding the proposed amendments to
7 the City Charter under consideration by the City Council, and

8 WHEREAS at the July 9, 2024, regular meeting of the City Council, the City
9 Council by separate motions approved eight City Charter amendments for further
10 consideration by the City Council for placement on the ballot at a Special Municipal
11 Election, and

12 WHEREAS at the July 16 regular meeting of the City Council, the City
13 Council considered eight resolutions proposing the charter amendments
14 (Resolution Nos. 41472 thru 41479) advanced at the July 9, 2024, Council
15 meeting, and by a majority vote upon each such resolution rejected Resolution
16 Nos. 41478 and 41472, and approved Resolution Nos. 41476, 41477, 41479,
17 41474, 41475 and 41473, and

18 WHEREAS the City Council determined it advisable and in the best interest
19 of the residents of the City to submit six proposed Charter amendments as set
20 forth herein to the voters of the City and to call for a Special Municipal Election for
21 this purpose to be held in conjunction with the General Election on November 5,
22 2024, and
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1 WHEREAS the City Attorney, having prepared and approved the ballot titles
2 as set forth in Section 3 herein for each such proposed Charter amendment; Now,
3 Therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

5 Section 1. That there be submitted to the voters of the City of Tacoma, at a
6 Special Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of November 2024,
7 in conjunction with the General Election, for their adoption and approval or
8 rejection, the proposed amendments to the Charter of the City of Tacoma ("City
9 Charter") contemplated and provided for in Resolution Nos. 41476 (Equity of
10 Access), 41477 (Required Meetings of the City Council), 41479 (Sale of Waterfront
11 Property), 41474 (Duties and Authority of Council Members), 41475 (Composition
12 of the Planning Commission) and 41473 (Changing Term Limits for Future Elected
13 Council Members), as follows:

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15 A RESOLUTION AND PROPOSITION to amend Articles II, VI and IX of the
16 City Charter concerning equitable access to eliminate or replace the word "citizen"
17 when used to describe the status or activity of a Tacoma resident, remove the
18 prohibition upon employment of persons who are not United States citizens,
19 replace the term handicap with disability, and require periodic Council review of
20 City employment related anti-discrimination ordinances, and
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23 A RESOLUTION AND PROPOSITION to amend Article II, Section 2.8 of the
24 City Charter to remove the prohibition upon meeting more than weekly and to
25 increase the number of required regular meetings of the City Council, and
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1 A RESOLUTION AND PROPOSITION to amend Article IX, Section 9.1 of
2 the City Charter to allow the sale or other transfer of City-owned waterfront
3 property only to other public agencies with a guarantee that the property will stay in
4 public ownership and be used only for park purposes, park structures, or open
5 space in perpetuity, and

6 A RESOLUTION AND PROPOSITION to add a new Section to Article II of
7 the City Charter to clarify the priorities and time investment necessary for Council
8 Members to carry out their duties, and authorize the City Council to employ or
9 contract for personnel who will directly report to and advise or assist the Council
10 Members, and
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12 A RESOLUTION AND PROPOSITION to amend Article III, Section 3.8 of
13 the City Charter relating to the composition of the Planning Commission, by
14 increasing the number of members from nine to eleven, adding a requirement for
15 diversity of membership, and removing background requirements for at-large
16 appointments and the prohibition upon compensation, and
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18 A RESOLUTION AND PROPOSITION to amend Article II, Section 2.35 of
19 the City Charter to expand the term limits for the Mayor and Council Members
20 elected in or after year 2025 from 10 consecutive years to three consecutive full
21 four-year terms; provided that, the new expanded term limits will not apply to the
22 Mayor and Council Members holding office during the 2025 General Election.
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24 Section 2. That a Special Municipal Election is hereby called for the 5th day
25 of November, 2024, to be held in conjunction with the General Election, to vote
26 upon the adoption and approval or rejection of the six propositions hereinabove set



1 forth, and the Auditor of Pierce County, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, is
2 hereby requested to call and hold such election and to place upon the ballot at
3 such election the propositions as to whether or not said proposed City Charter
4 amendments as set forth in the resolutions of the City Council, Nos. 41476, 41477,
5 41479, 41474, 41475, and 41473, shall be adopted and, further, to give the proper
6 notice thereof, all as provided by law.

7 Section 3. That said contemplated and proposed City Charter amendments
8 shall be voted upon separately and individually in the following manner:

9 That there shall be placed upon the ballot a statement of the substance of
10 said proposed amendments to the Charter of the City of Tacoma in substantially
11 the following form and order; provided that, the order and number assigned to each
12 of the proposed Charter amendments below may be altered by the Mayor of the
13 City of Tacoma upon request by the Auditor of Pierce County, as *ex officio*
14 supervisor of elections, to ensure that the proposed amendments appear on a
15 single ballot, and provided further that, the City Attorney under authority of RCW
16 29A.36.071, and a court of competent jurisdiction in the event of an appeal
17 pursuant to RCW 29A.36.090, may approve alterations and revisions to the
18 proposed ballot titles:
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PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 1

SUBMITTED BY THE TACOMA CITY COUNCIL

PROVIDING FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS

The City of Tacoma adopted Resolution No. 41476 to amend Articles II, VI and IX of the City Charter concerning equitable access. This proposed amendment would eliminate or replace the word “citizen” when used to describe the status or activity of a Tacoma resident, remove the prohibition upon employment of persons who are not United States citizens, replace the term handicap with disability, and require periodic Council review of City employment related anti-discrimination ordinances.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes No

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 2

SUBMITTED BY THE TACOMA CITY COUNCIL

REQUIRED MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The City of Tacoma adopted Resolution No. 41477 to amend Section 2.8 of the City Charter concerning requirements for City Council meetings. This proposed amendment removes the prohibition upon the Council having more than one regular meeting each week and increases the minimum number of annual regular meetings from 46 to 70.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes No



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PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 3

SUBMITTED BY THE TACOMA CITY COUNCIL

LIMITATIONS UPON SALE OR TRANSFER OF
WATERFRONT PROPERTY

The Tacoma City Council adopted Resolution No. 41479 to amend Section 9.1 of the City Charter concerning the sale or transfer of City-owned waterfront property. This proposed amendment would allow sale or other transfer of City-owned waterfront property only to other public agencies with a guarantee that the property will stay in public ownership and be used only for park purposes, park structures, or open space in perpetuity.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes No

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 4

SUBMITTED BY THE TACOMA CITY COUNCIL

DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The City of Tacoma adopted Resolution No. 41474 concerning Council time commitment and authority to retain staff. This measure would add a new section to the Charter to clarify the work commitments of Council Members and authorize Council Members to employ or contract with personnel to report to and advise or assist the Council.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes No



PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 5

SUBMITTED BY THE TACOMA CITY COUNCIL

COMPOSITION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Tacoma City Council adopted Resolution No. 41475 to amend Section 3.8 of the City Charter concerning the composition of the Planning Commission. This proposed amendment would increase the number of members from nine to eleven, add a requirement for diversity of membership, and remove background requirements for at-large appointments and the prohibition upon compensation.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes No

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 6

SUBMITTED BY THE TACOMA CITY COUNCIL

CHANGING TERM LIMITS FOR FUTURE ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Tacoma City Council adopted Resolution No. 41473 to amend Section 2.35 of the City Charter concerning term limits. This proposed amendment would change how long City officials elected in or after year 2025 may remain in office by increasing term limits from 10 consecutive years to three full consecutive four-year terms. This change would not apply to City elected officials holding office during the 2025 General Election.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes No

Every qualified voter at said Special Municipal Election desiring to vote for the adoption and approval of any of said propositions shall vote a ballot containing the word "Yes" with respect thereto.

Every qualified voter desiring to vote for the rejection of any of said propositions shall vote a ballot containing the word "No" with respect thereto.



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Section 4. That not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of such election, the City Clerk shall certify to the County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, a certified copy of this resolution, together with the six propositions aforesaid, in the form of ballot titles conforming to the foregoing statements thereof.

The City Clerk shall cause the proposed City Charter amendments to be published in the daily newspaper having the largest general circulation, published in the City of Tacoma, at least once each week for four consecutive weeks next preceding the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval or rejection, all in the manner provided in the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington.

Section 5. That if a majority of the qualified voters voting upon said proposed Charter amendments, or any of them shall vote for the approval and adoption thereof, it shall be deemed and taken that said proposed City Charter amendments have been assented to by the qualified voters, and the same shall thereupon stand approved. If a majority of the qualified voters voting upon said proposed charter amendments, or any of them, shall vote against the approval or adoption thereof, it shall be deemed and taken that said proposed City Charter amendment or amendments have not been approved by the qualified voters, and the same shall thereupon stand rejected.

Section 6. That the effective date of Tacoma City Charter amendments, approved in the November 5, 2024, Special Municipal Election, shall be the date



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that the election results are certified by the Pierce County Auditor, except as may be otherwise provided in such City Charter amendments.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney