



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: City Manager Elizabeth Pauli
FROM: Chris Bacha, City Attorney
Nicole Emery, City Clerk
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Appointing “For” and “Against” Committees for Proposed Charter Amendment
Nos. 1 through 6 – July 30, 2024
DATE: July 23, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution appointing individuals to committees that will prepare statements “For” and “Against” proposed amendment to the Tacoma City Charter which will appear in the Voters’ Pamphlet for the Special Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Hines and Council Members Bushnell, Daniels, and Rumbaugh

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s Recommendation is Based On:

On October 17, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 41282, 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 CRC 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 13 public meetings of the City Council. A public hearing was held during the July 2, 2024, City Council meeting to take public testimony regarding the proposed Charter amendments under consideration by the City Council. At the July 16, 2024, meeting, the City Council adopted resolutions related to Charter amendments.

On July 23, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 41491, transmitting six proposed amendments to the City Charter to the Pierce County Auditor to be placed on the ballot, and calling for a Special Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, in conjunction with the General Election for the purpose of the voters’ consideration of said proposed Charter amendments.

Per RCW 29A.32.280, for each measure from a unit of local government that is included in a local Voters’ Pamphlet, the legislative authority of that jurisdiction shall, not later than the resolution deadline, formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters’ approval of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters’ rejection of the measure.

At the July 29, 2024, Government Performance and Finance Committee special meeting, the Committee will consider letters of interest and recommend individuals to the “For” and “Against” Committees for each proposed Charter amendment.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The City requested members of the public to volunteer for the “For” and “Against” Committees.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

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

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).

Requesting the public to provide input to support or oppose the proposed amendments to the City Charter allows community members to voice their concerns.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Not appoint Committee members.		<p>The Pierce County Auditor would be responsible for appointing Committee members.</p> <p>The City would not be soliciting the assistance of the community.</p>

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests the City Council appoint individuals to committees that will prepare statements “For” and “Against” proposed amendment to the Tacoma City Charter which will appear in the Voters’ Pamphlet for the Special Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.