



TO: City Manager Hyun Kim
FROM: Debra E. Casparian, Deputy City Attorney; Nicole Emery, City Clerk
Chris Bacha, City Attorney
COPY: City Council
SUBJECT: Resolution – Appointing “For” and “Against” Committees for Initiative Measure No. 1,
Safe Homes for All (November 3, 2026, Special Election) – July 28, 2026
DATE: July 21, 2026

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution appointing individuals to committees that will prepare statements “For” and “Against” Initiative Measure No. 1 (Safe Homes for All), which will appear in the Voters’ Pamphlet for the November 3, 2026, Special Election.

Recommendations for Council consideration:

For: Kiss’Shonna Curtis, William Hanawalt, and Tyron Moore.

Against: Ben Lackey and Mark Melsness.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Bushnell, and Council Members Hines and Sadalge

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s Recommendation is Based On: The statutory requirement that the City appoint members to committees to prepare Voters’ Pamphlet statements “For” and “Against” each measure placed on the ballot.

On July 7, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 41956, transmitting an initiative measure, relating to tenant safety and protection laws (Safe Homes for All), on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, Special Election.

The Government Performance and Finance Committee reviewed letters of interest at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, and provided recommendations for the appointment of individuals for the “For” and “Against” Committees for the initiative measure.

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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The City reached out to the community to look for those interested in serving on the committees; and advertised the request through the City’s website.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

Appointing a “For” and “Against” committee is required by state law. It will allow formal support and opposition to the proposition.



Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

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

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Allowing members to participate in the “For” and “Against” committees for the proposition will increase community participation and input.

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Not appoint “for” or “against” committees.	No City staff time required to appoint committees. (Pierce County will attempt to appoint committee members if the City does not.)	City relies on Pierce County to search for members and make appointments.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Once the City Council appoints “For” and “Against” Committees, the City can submit all the required information to the County so that this proposition may be placed on the November 3, 2026, ballot.

The deadline for the City to send required information to Pierce County, including “For” and “Against” Committees, is 4:30 p.m. on August 4, 2026. The deadline for the Committees to submit their statements to Pierce County is August 6, 2026, with rebuttal statements due by August 10, 2026.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend the City Council appoint those members recommended by the Government Performance and Finance Committee to the Committees that will prepare statements “For” and “Against” Initiative Measure No. 1 (Safe Homes for All), which will appear in the Voters’ Pamphlet for the on November 3, 2026, Special Election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.