



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Hyun Kim, City Manager
FROM: Nicole Emery, City Clerk
Chris Bacha, City Attorney
COPY: City Council
SUBJECT: Resolution – Transmitting initiative Measure 1 to the Pierce County Auditor
DATE: July 7, 2026

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution calling for a special election on November 3, 2026 concurrent with the general election, providing for transmittal to the Pierce County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, of Safe Homes for All Initiative Measure No. 1 for placement on the November 3, 2026, special election ballot, and directing the City Clerk to transmit to the Pierce County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution with a copy of the initiative.

BACKGROUND:

On February 10, 2026, pursuant to section 2.19 of the Tacoma City Charter, a petition (“Safe Homes for All Initiative Measure No. 1”) relating to tenant safety and protection laws was filed with the City Clerk by petitioner Tyron Moore. On February 25, 2026, the City Attorney approved the petition as to form and style, prepared and approved the ballot title and transmitted the same to the City Clerk who transmitted notice to the petitioners that signature gathering could commence upon conclusion of the statutory ten-day appeal period.

On June 16, 2026, the petitioner filed with the City Clerk the signed petitions for the initiative for verification of signatures by the Pierce County Auditor and validation by the City Clerk. On June 18, 2026, the City Clerk forwarded the signed petitions to the Pierce County Auditor’s Office for verification of signatures, and on June 24, 2026, the Pierce County Auditor provided notice to the City Clerk that the threshold number of signatures to place the initiative on the ballot was 4,989 and that the petitions submitted contained 5998 valid signatures meeting the requirements under the City Charter to place the initiative on the ballot. On June 25, 2026, in accordance with Sections 2.19 (i) & (j) of the City Charter, the City Clerk validated that the signatures for the initiative petition met the requirements under the City Charter and provided notice of validation to the City Council.

Section 2.19 of the City Charter provides that once the City Clerk has validated an initiative petition, the City Council may enact or reject the initiative, and that if the City Council rejects the initiative or fails to take action within 30 days following validation, the Council shall submit the proposal without any amendments to the people at the next municipal or general election that is not less than ninety days after the date of validation of the petition. The 30-day review period granted to the City Council under Section 2.19(j) of the City Charter commenced on June 25, 2026 and will end on Saturday July 25, 2026.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

This proposal is to take action that is mandated under the City Charter. No community engagement or research regarding the impact of this action has been undertaken.



ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. The alternative is for the City Council to adopt the initiative by ordinance as presented.	This would avoid the expense of a special election.	This would preclude a public vote on the initiative.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Because this is a citizen’s initiative staff has not evaluated performance measures or benchmarks.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff has no recommendations. Assuming the initiative receives the required number of votes for passage, the effective date of the initiative will be 10 days following certification of the election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Total costs depend on population of each jurisdiction which is fixed based on a proportion of the whole county, and a variable cost that would increase directly due to the presence of additional issues and races on the ballot that would need to be printed and mailed for the voter pamphlet. The voter pamphlet costs are allocated based on number of pages used by each jurisdiction. Past elections costs have varied from approximately \$75,000 to \$300,000.

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

The City Attorney’s Office has not budget for the costs of a special election.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

The proposed resolution will have one-time election costs. The initiative, if passed, will have an ongoing fiscal impact.

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

NO

If passed, the initiative will have an ongoing fiscal impact and require additional FTE’s for enforcement.