



# 2026 Tacoma City Council Retreat

City of Tacoma | Center for Strategic Priorities

**Study Session**  
**March 10, 2026**  
**Item #1**



## Our Agenda Today



- Recap of February 20<sup>th</sup> Retreat Purpose
- Tacoma City Council Theory of Action
- Priority Setting Exercise Results and Themes
- Next Steps

# Purpose of Retreat Results

## Future Council Action

### Purpose:

Create clear(er) pathways for issue and/or action ownership.



## City Manager Workplan

### Purpose:

Identify highest-priority items to report back to Council on progress through City Manager workplan.



## 2027-28 Budget

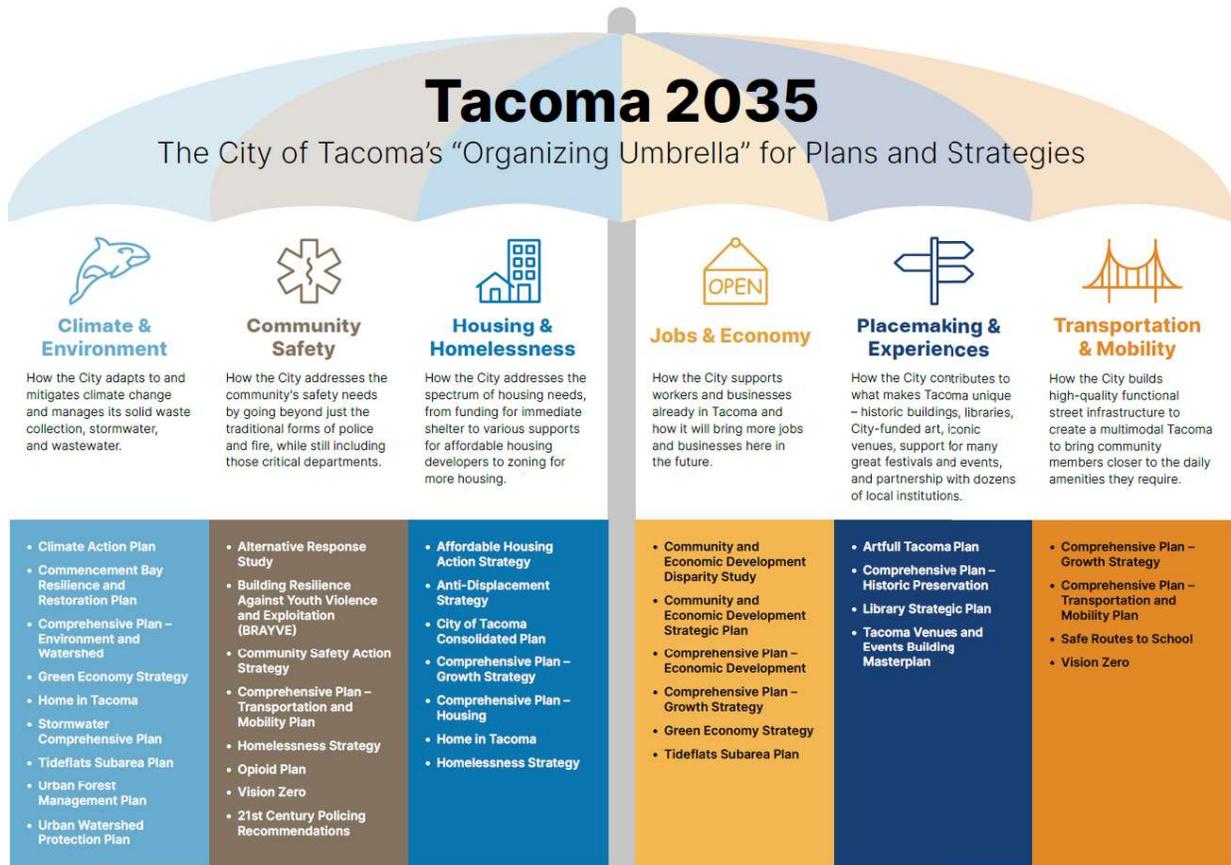
### Purpose:

Identify a small number of clear budget themes, reflecting the Council's shared priorities.



# Council's Theory of Action

- The City needs, and *has*, **a clear vision (our WHY), mission, and values** (Tacoma 2035)
  - **Vision:** Tacoma is safe, housed, connected, working, sustainable, and thriving.
  - **Mission:** The City provides high-quality municipal services to improve quality of life in Tacoma.
  - **Values:** Access, Opportunity, & Belonging (AOB), Fiscal Responsibility, Resilience, Belief & Trust.
- Desire for better **use of platform** to support positive narrative
  - Keep doing well in other "P's", focus platform on 2-3 things.
  - Tell the story of Tacoma as regional leader, such as videos to amplify our success stories.
- To be effective in advancing Council's priorities, **focus is needed**
  - Four years as a Councilmember is not the right timescale to face long-term problems.
  - Are we spreading money too thin across our problems or spreading it in the right ways?
  - It's less about reducing the City's plans but rather choosing 2-3 signature issues.
  - Council policy vs. administrative policy, being clear about the two, which will help with Belief & Trust.



## 2026 Tacoma City Council Retreat Results

- Review of Council Retreat Priority Process



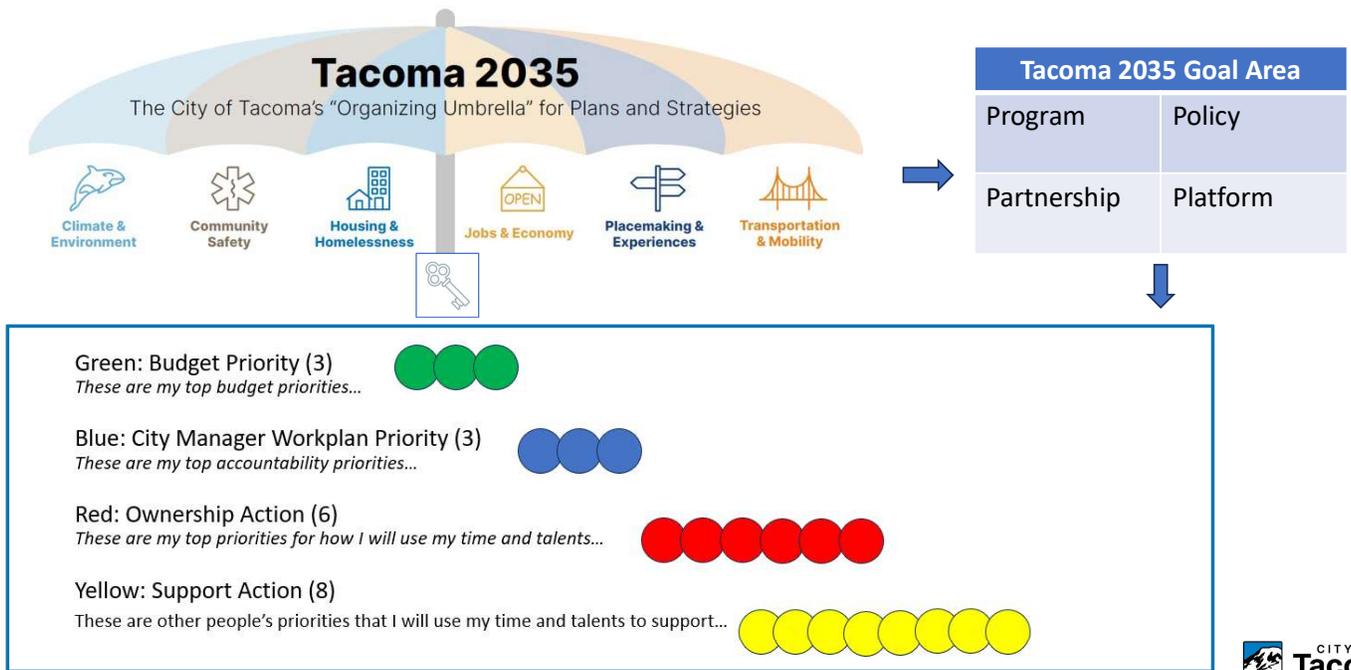
- Budget Priorities



- City Manager Workplan Priorities



# Our Priority-Setting Process



# Budget Themes



- 
  - Foster Organizational Excellence**
    - Media and Communications (3)
- 
  - Address the regional and local causes and impacts of homelessness**
    - Unified Regional Approach (URA) (2)
    - Shared housing/ Cooperative housing (1)
- 
  - Address community safety issues**
    - Building Resilience Against Youth Violence and Exploitation (BRAYVE) (2)
    - Improved code enforcement (2)
    - Rebuilding HOPE/ Therapeutic Courts/ Domestic Violence (2)
    - Opioid settlement funds (1)
    - Community Development Centers/ Hilltop BIA (1)
    - Strengthen coordinated response models (police, fire, alternative response) (1)
- 
  - Tacoma is the best place to do business in the Puget Sound** (2)
    - Support safety, cleanliness, and economic confidence (1)
    - Childcare for staff (1)
- 
  - Improve access to transportation and mobility in Tacoma**
    - Portland Ave Redesign (2)
    - Potential Street Levy (1)
    - 30% Design Update for Schuster Parkway Trail (1)
    - Safe Routes to Schools/ Parks (1)
    - Increase investment in sidewalks and pedestrian safety (1)



**Other:**

- Trees (1)
- Community spaces that are free (1)



# City Manager Workplan Themes



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Foster Organizational Excellence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve effectiveness of media (and communications)/ measurable progress with a baseline (4)</li> <li>• Fiscal sustainability and structural deficit strategy (2)</li> <li>• Cross-Departmental Coordination &amp; Nimbleness (1)</li> <li>• Hierarchy of planning strategy docs (1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Address the regional and local causes and impacts of homelessness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unified Regional Approach (URA) (3)</li> <li>• Increase safe parking (1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tacoma is the best place to do business in the Puget Sound (2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support safety, cleanliness, and economic confidence (3)</li> <li>• Litter, Trash, Graffiti &amp; Civic Cleanliness (1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Address community safety issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved code enforcement (1)</li> <li>• Public Safety Sales Tax (1)</li> <li>• Advance “right person, right response” models (1)</li> <li>• South Tacoma Way Vision Zero Study (1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prepare for our future climate and environment (both opportunities and challenges)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Jobs (1)</li> <li>• Deconstruction/ Decarbonization (1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



**Other:**

- Potential Streets Levy (1)



## Next Steps

Future Council Action	City Manager Workplan	2027-28 Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee chairs to confer with staff to assess 2026 agendas.</li> <li>• Individual Council members to collaborate with colleagues on ownership and support issues/ (red and yellow dot category) actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Manager to use the results of Workplan prioritization (blue dot category) to build next iteration of workplan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Manager and Council to use the results of Budget prioritization (green dot category) to build budget themes.</li> <li>• City Manager to work with Council to determine best timing for next workshop.</li> </ul>



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