

Council Mayor Issues

Background for February 12, 2024 CRC Discussion of
Council Districts

Term Limits

Number of Council Meetings

City of Tacoma is a Municipal Corporation

- Charter Section 1.1, 1.2
 - City is a Municipal Corporation - a “body corporate” and a “body politic” that can exercise the political power of the state as a subordinate with local legislative powers
- State Constitution Article XI Section 10
 - Directs Legislature to provide for the incorporation of Cities
- RCW 35.01 classifies Municipal Corporations
 - Tacoma is a first class City, due to population at time of organization and has a Charter
- Powers and authority of Municipal Corporations includes
 - enter into contracts, issue indebtedness, operate police and fire departments, sue and be sued, hold and dispose of property, acquire rights and liabilities, operates continuously in “perpetual succession”

Council Governs Municipal Corporation

- Council is the legislative and governing body of the municipal corporation
- Charter Section 2.1 Council composed of Mayor + 8 Council Members
 - Pre-1973 amendments there were no districts, all 8 were at large
 - Council Members must be residents of City 2 years prior to running and 1 year resident in district if running in district election
- Following 1973 amendment to establish Council Districts were set by Charter
 - Charter Section 5.3, Council to divide into 5 districts, 3 are at large
 - TMC .144.020-060 set out the boundaries of the 5 districts
 - Redistricting is governed by state law RCW 29A.76 – uses census data
 - As equal in population as possible, as compact as possible, geographically contiguous, not to favor or disfavor racial group or political party, as feasible coincide with existing natural boundaries and to preserve communities of related and mutual interest

Term Limits

- Charter Section 2.35 – No person allowed to serve on Council for more than 10 consecutive years either as Councilmember or Mayor or both
 - Change in 1973, Charter previously was silent, other than 4 year terms
 - 10 years was probably to account for partial terms/appointments
 - Council members who cease to be qualified, or fail to attend more than 3 meetings unexcused, are “deemed” to forfeit office, **if** Council enforces
 - Council and Mayor can be removed according to recall provisions in state law
 - Council vacancies in office are filled by appointment by the Council, if Council doesn’t appoint in 60 days Mayor appoints with Council confirmation

Council Procedure

- Charter Section 2.8 and 2.9
 - Council meets at such times and places as it determines, with public meetings no oftener than once a week and at least 46 times per year.
 - Subject to limitations in Charter and law Council establishes its own rules and order of business
 - Quorum is 5
 - 5 votes required to pass ordinance or resolution
- Every legislative act is by ordinance, codified as TMC

**Charter Review Committee Member
Subcommittee Priorities and Assignment Requests**

CRC Member	Priorities	Subcommittee Request
Baird, Katie	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Police Accountability 2. Ranked Choice 3. Initiatives and Referendum 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Utilities 2. Power of the People 3. Miscellaneous (Willing to serve on more than 1 Subcommittee)
Carr, Nicholas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilities (Internet as Utility) 2. Initiatives and Referenda 3. Administrative Branch 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administration 2. Miscellaneous 3. Power of the People
Castro, Maricres		
Chhun, Silong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Police Department Accountability 2. Police Department Accountability 3. Eligibility for Employment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power of the People 2. Administration 3. Miscellaneous
Fischer, Patrick	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Police department 2. Planning commission 3. Disposition of property 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administration/ form of government 2. Public utilities board 3. Employment eligibility
Flint, Bryan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Utilities 2. Miscellaneous 3. Administration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Utilities 2. Miscellaneous 3. Administration
Gauthier, Jason	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disposition of Property 2. Disposition of Property 3. Disposition of Property 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Miscellaneous 2. Administrative 3. Public Utilities
Jimenez, Andre		
Malott, Melissa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Police accountability 2. Climate responsiveness 3. Ranked choice voting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administration 2. Power of the People 3. Public Utilities

**Charter Review Committee Member
Subcommittee Priorities and Assignment Requests**

Palmer, Latasha	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ranked choice 2. Initiatives and referenda 3. Police department accountability 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power of the People 2. Administration 3. Miscellaneous
Reay, Andrea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiatives and referenda 2. Administration 3. Planning Commission 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power of the People 2. Administration 3. Public Utilities
Stith, Rebecca	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empowering the Council 2. Police Oversight 3. City Attorney Role 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administrative Branch 2. Administrative Branch 3. Power of the People
Wamback, Stephen		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steve
Winston, Diamatris	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administative Branch 2. Public Utilities*/Board 3. Climate Responsiveness <p>*External Rate and Performance Audits (could be included in Public Utilities)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administration 2. Miscellaneous 3. Public Utilities
Wu, Lok Yin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administrative Branch 2. Discriminatory Actions/ Language 3. Eligibility For Employment 	

Subcommittee Assignments:

Public Utilities

1. Katie
2. Bryan
- 3.

**Charter Review Committee Member
Subcommittee Priorities and Assignment Requests**

Power of the People

1. Andrea
2. Silong
3. Latasha

Administration

1. Nicholas
2. Patrick
3. Rebecca
4. Diamatris
5. Melissa

Miscellaneous

1. Jason
2. Steve

Charter Review sub-committees and topics

Not included: FOG and full-time council (with staffing) bc will be managed as committee of the whole

1. Public Utilities

- a. Broadening public utility board membership
- b. Adding internet as a public utility
- c. External performance and rate audits
- d. Purposes of inquiry

2. Power of the People

- a. Redistricting
- b. Initiatives and referenda
- c. Campaign finance
- d. Ranked choice or instant runoff voting

3. Administration

- a. Climate action
- b. Planning commission membership
- c. Purposes of inquiry
- d. Ordinance notices/newspaper of record

4. Miscellaneous

- a. Must v. shall
- b. Citizenship reqs for employment
- c. Caste discrimination
- d. Discriminatory action language
- e. Eligibility for employment
- f. Disposition of city property

5. Police Accountability/Citizens Police Commission

Charter Review sub-committees and topics

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1. Public Utilities
 - a. Public utility
 - b. Broadening public utility board membership
 - c. Adding internet as a public utility
 - d. External performance and rate audits
2. Power of the People
 - a. Number of council districts
 - b. redistricting
 - c. Initiatives and referenda
 - d. Term limits
 - e. Campaign finance
 - f. Ranked choice or instant runoff voting
3. Administration
 - a. Police accountability/Citizens Police Commission
 - b. Climate action
 - c. Planning commission membership
 - d. Purposes of inquiry
 - e. Ordinance notices/newspaper of record
4. Officers and personnel/Miscellaneous
 - a. Must v. shall
 - b. Citizenship reqs for employment
 - c. Caste discrimination
 - d. Discriminatory action language
 - e. Eligibility for employment
 - f. Disposition of city property