

2024 Charter Review Committee (CRC) Recommendations as of April 12, 2024¹

	TOPIC	SECTION	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
TPU				
1.	TPU – Internet as a public utility	4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifies “internet” as among the public utilities within the City’s powers to construct, condemn and purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, or operate Adds “internet” to the specific utilities under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved
2.	TPU - Board	4.8 4.9	Requires that by no later than January 1, 2030, one of the five TPU Board positions shall be for a member who is a resident of Pierce County, lives outside the City of Tacoma, and is an account holder and recipient of retail service from one or more of the public utilities operated by the City of Tacoma’s Department of Public Utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved as amended
3.	TPU - Shared Services	4.15	Adds an audit to the already performed 10-year management review that provides a cost-benefit assessment of the services shared by the city and utility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved as amended
4.	TPU - “Purposes of Inquiry”	4.19	Clarifies what “purpose of inquiry” means by clearly defining prohibitions and allowances of Board inquiries to staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved as amended
Form of Government and Related Provisions				
5.	Form of Government (FOG)	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to Mayor– Council-CAO FOG Mayor manages City jointly with CAO; Mayor jointly appoints CAO & City Attorney with Council; Mayor appoints department directors subject to Council approval, remove department directors & CAO without Council approval; veto authority Increases authority of Mayor and Council, including providing Council authority to investigate affairs of the City and conduct of the City executive branch; CAO supervised by Mayor; Council membership: 9 until ’27, then 7; elects chair; may override veto; may impeach Mayor with 5 votes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required
6.	Term Limits	2.5 2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits terms to a total of 3 terms for council and 2 terms for mayor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved as amended

¹ Recommendations highlighted in green have been approved by the CRC to be included in the amendments provided to the City Council in the May 7, 2024 Charter Review Committee report to the City Council.

7.	Full-time Council/ Council Staff/Investigative Authority	2.35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires Council to serve on a full-time basis Authorizes Council to employ or contract for personnel to advise and assist the council and these personnel report directly to the council Provides authority for Council to investigate affairs of the city and conduct of the City executive branch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved as amended
8.	General Government - “Purposes of Inquiry”	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifies what “purpose of inquiry” means by clearly defining prohibitions and allowances of Council inquiries to staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved as amended
9.	City Attorney	3.5 3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council review of applicants proposed by the City Manager and hired subject to Council approval Approval of Council required to remove the City Attorney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved as amended
Police Accountability				
10.	“Policing Accountability”	Sec. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes an Office of Policing Accountability for the purpose of providing oversight to the Tacoma Police Department Establishes the Director of the Office of Policing Accountability is appointed by, reports to, and is supervised by the Council Mandates appointment and removal of the Director of the Office of Policing Accountability is by a majority of the Council Assigns powers and duties to Office of Policing Accountability to be provided for by ordinance Establishes a civilian Community Oversight Committee for Policing Accountability consisting of the existing Community’s Police Advisory Committee or successor committee to review, advise, and report on the activities and effectiveness of Office of Policing Accountability Assigns membership, powers, and duties to Community Oversight Committee to be further implemented by ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment Approved as amended
Initiative, Referendum, Elections				
11.	Initiative and Referendum	2.20 2.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the number of days to collect signatures for a referendum from 30 to 90 Prohibit the Council from submitting a proposed ordinance to electors that would substantially conflict with any proposed initiative (ordinance) provided to the clerk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required
12.	Campaign Finance	5.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States the City has authority to enact ordinances designed to limit campaign contributions and expenditures by or on behalf of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required

			candidates for office; provides examples of potential ordinances including public financing and democracy vouchers	
13.	Ranked Choice Voting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council may adopt ranked choice voting for city elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required
Councils, Boards, and Commissions				
14.	Salary Commission RCW Conflict	2.3	Changes the Salary Commission procedure to align with the requirements of RCW 35.21.015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required
15.	Planning Commission	3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases membership from 9 to 11 Changes composition of membership (adds flexibility) Eliminates Charter prohibition on Planning Commission members receiving pay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required
16.	Landmark Preservation Committee	3.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds composition of the commission to Charter: a member from each of the 5 council districts and the remaining members are professionals in historic preservation or cultural resources, with priority for architectural or design experience Total number of commissioners remains set by TMC (currently 11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required
17.	Neighborhood Councils	Add Sec. 2.26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Neighborhood Council (NC) and Community Council (CC) in Charter NC and CC shall act as advisory entities to Council, Mayor, departments, commissions, and committees CC will include an Equity Committee City to make good faith effort to notify NC of significant policy matters, projects, proposals, events, or services that directly impact the neighborhood. Notice should be given as early in the planning or review process as possible Council and departments shall request and incorporate NC input prior to making a decision. Council to determine NC boundaries and monitor services to the areas and arrange periodic meetings with officials and departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required
18.	Climate Commission		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates Climate Commission with 11 members (transforms the current Sustainable Tacoma Commission) Council to assign Commission responsibilities including advising, oversight, and reporting on City progress on CAP, including monitoring carbon budget; climate goals and impediments to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept approved Final vote required

			goals; resolution and ordinance alignment with CAP; departmental budget alignment with CAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP to include carbon budget reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 • Two staff members to support the Commission 	
Miscellaneous				
19.	Land Acknowledgement	Preamble	Add land acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept considered • Awaiting feedback from Puyallup Tribe
20.	References to “citizen” and “freeholder”	Various	Modify references to “citizen” and “freeholder” throughout the Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Final vote required
21.	Citizenship and eligibility for employment	6.3	Remove Sec. 6.3 “Eligibility for Employment”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Final vote required
22.	Employment Anti-Discrimination	6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernize reference: change “handicap” to “disability” • Require Council periodic review of code and code updates as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Final vote required
23.	Official Newspaper	2.13	Modify section to add the City’s preferred digital media to print media for purposes of publication of ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Final vote required
24.	Disposition of City Owned Property	9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permits the City to sell or dispose of city-owned waterfront property to public agencies • Requires that any city-owned waterfront property that is transferred to a public agency must be used for the guaranteed purposes of perpetual public access, use, and benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Final vote required
25.	Humane Society	3.10	Delete all of Section 3.10 pertaining to the Humane Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Final vote required
26.	Charter Review	2.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides no less than 6 months for the charter review process • The CRC shall be provided with sufficient time to perform a comprehensive review that includes public outreach and education, an antiracist analysis, specialist interviews, an estimation of fiscal budgetary impact, and proposed amendment and ballot language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Final vote required