



City of Tacoma
Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries

Richard Wilkinson, Chair: HR
Appointed
Dalvin Yarbrough: Legal Appointed
Brandon Kindschy: District 1
Klaus Nalley: District 2
David Koenig: District 3
Amanda Robison: District 4
Thomas Brewster: District 5

TO: Mayor Victoria Woodards and members of the Tacoma City Council
FROM: Richard Wilkinson, Chair, Citizens Commission on Elected Salaries
DATE: August 15, 2022
SUBJECT: 2023 Elected Official Salaries

The 2023 salaries of Tacoma elected officials shall be as follows:

1. Effective January 1, 2023, City Councilmembers shall receive a 6% increase in pay over their 2022 annual salaries. Effective July 1, 2023, City Councilmembers will receive an additional 6% increase to the Council salaries then in effect.

[Commission vote: 4 ayes, 2 nays, 1 absent]

Rationale—The Commission’s decision was driven by the desire to promote accessibility and stability on the Council. That is, the salaries of City Councilmembers should be sufficient to neither discourage potential candidates from running for office nor prompt currently serving Councilmembers from leaving office on account of pay.

2. Effective January 1, 2023, the Mayor shall receive a 5% increase in pay over the Mayor’s 2022 annual salary.

[Commission vote: 4 ayes, 2 nays, 1 absent]

Rationale—Determining fair compensation for the Mayor of Tacoma is particularly complicated. Tacoma’s charter creates a unique municipal structure that sets the City apart from other Washington municipalities.

On the one hand, the Commission considered the fact that Tacoma’s Mayor is paid substantially more than mayors of other council-manager cities in Washington state. On the other hand, the Commission recognizes the prominence of the Mayor’s role. Tacoma’s Mayor is expected to contribute authoritatively to deliberations of regional and national entities on a par with mayors of strong mayor cities, many substantially larger than Tacoma.

3. Effective January 1, 2023, the Deputy Mayor's salary shall be increased to maintain the current percent differential between the Deputy Mayor's Salary and that of City Councilmembers. Effective July 1, 2023, the Deputy Mayor's salary shall be increased coincident with the increase in Councilmember salaries as provided for in section 1, above, so that the same percent differential between the Deputy Mayor's Salary and that of City Councilmembers is maintained.

[Commission vote: 5 ayes, 1 nay, 1 absent]

Rationale—The Commission saw no compelling reason to change the current differential between the Deputy Mayor's salary and that of City Councilmembers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Wilkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Wilkinson
Commission Chair