

City of Tacoma Charter Review

We need more responsive city government

Current Situation

The City of Tacoma is required to complete a City Charter review every 10 years, and the 2024 Charter Review process is currently underway.

Under the existing City Charter, Tacoma currently has ONE branch of government with a corporate-modeled form of governance called City-Manager.

This City Manager is an unelected executive who:

- earns more money (\$300,000+) than anyone elected in the city
- makes every important decision in the city
- controls what information flows to the elected City Council
- does not live in Tacoma
- is not accountable to the voters of Tacoma

By design, the current model ensures that the city's responsiveness to its residents becomes less about what they need and more about risk mitigation, job security, and the control of information.

What Change Means

Communities for a Healthy Bay believes increased transparency and accountability is imperative for a healthy and sustainable Tacoma.

A Mayor-Council form of government would:

- Promote and reward responsive, visionary leadership
- Ensure checks and balances and oversight between TWO branches of government
- Offer voters an opportunity to decide who is executing their vision for the future of Tacoma

CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT: JULY 2 AT 5PM

Tacoma Public Utilities Auditorium, 3628 South 35th St., Ground Floor

City Council needs to give Tacoma voters a chance to decide how they are governed and be held accountable to the people. Bring your concerns forward and voice the need for equal justice in our city.

Did You Know?

- 1 The City fast-tracked the giant Bridge Industrial Warehouse project.

Despite the air quality, noise, temperature, and stormwater hazards of the Bridge Industrial South Tacoma warehouse project, the City of Tacoma fast-tracked the project by deciding the project didn't need a full accounting of its environmental impacts and approved a land use permit for the warehouse. This decision was made by the city in direct opposition of community concerns expressed. Worse, the City told the public state law prohibited them from doing a full environmental impact statement, which is not true. The City fast-tracked the project, and then misled the public about why.

- 2 The City is suing the State to stop clean water protections.

The City of Tacoma is leading an effort to stop state clean water protections. The Department of Ecology drafted regulations to curb nitrogen pollution into the Puget Sound, and Tacoma sued to stop the new protections. Nitrogen pollution contributes to low oxygen levels, stresses aquatic life, and threatens to expand dead zones. Also, excess nutrients can increase seawater acidification, cause changes to the food web, and increase harmful algal blooms. The case is in front of the State Supreme Court, and if the City wins, it will delay nitrogen regulations for years.

- 3 The City is becoming less sustainable by reducing recycling programs and falling short of climate goals.

Despite broad public engagement, the City has limited its recycling program, resulting in 13% more waste per capita. The City has a Climate Action Plan with tangible goals set for 2030 for planting trees, low carbon transit, and reducing GHGs from buildings, and is making little to negative progress on key goals. For example, instead of reducing GHG emissions from municipal buildings and infrastructure, the City has increased these emissions by 22%.