



February 24, 2021

The Honorable Victoria Woodards, Mayor
and Members, Tacoma City Council
City of Tacoma
747 Market St.
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council:

As the gap between affordable housing and wages continues to widen and homelessness continues to rise, the League of Women Voters urges Pierce County and the City of Tacoma to utilize the 1/10 of one percent local option sales tax to increase availability of housing for people at 60% and below of area median income. In particular, there is a significant need for permanent supported housing, for which there is virtually no other funding source.

While there are concerns about the regressivity of our current tax structure and the effect this proposed tax would have to exacerbate that, it is important to acknowledge how small the impact will be on purchasers. The one penny per \$10 purchase will hardly be noticed by consumers. Additionally, there are currently no other funding options dedicated to this particular population and need.

We are aware of a number of near-ready projects that the tax could fund, so that there is a good basis for establishing this funding and explaining how it would be used. We also ask you to adopt a plan that explains how the entire range of housing needs could be addressed and funded. This 1/10 of one percent tax is only a piece of the puzzle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style. The signature is placed over a light blue rectangular background that contains the text "LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY" in a very small font.

Cynthia Stewart, President