

LWV OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY

Position on

TACOMA CITY GOVERNMENT

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County supports the Council-Manager form of government for the City of Tacoma, and we will continue to evaluate actions and proposals that might strengthen its operation, improve its efficiency and enhance its responsiveness to the public.

We support the continuation of procedures that provide for communication between citizens and elective and administrative officials.

Specifically, we endorse the following aspects of Council-Manager government:

1. City Council and Mayor
 - a. The Council is the legislative branch of City government, elected by the Tacoma citizenry to decide policy, to pass laws and to appoint a City Manager.
 - b. The Mayor and Council should be part-time positions, and their salaries should correspond with the concept of part-time service. Council members should have adequate support staff.
 - c. Elect some Council members by district and some at large.
2. City Manager
 - a. The Manager is appointed by the Council to be responsible for the administrative branch of City government, and serves at the will of the Council without tenure.
 - b. The Manager should be hired on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications, with consideration to previous experience in public administration.
 - c. The City Attorney should be appointed by the City Manager.

Amended and adopted, May 2006