

# Petition Checking and Signature Verification

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Pierce County Auditor | Fact Sheet

June 27, 2011

**Petition:** City of Tacoma – Initiative No. 1

**Signatures required:** 3,858 (10% of the votes cast in the last Mayoral election)

**Date submitted to Auditor:** June 27, 2011

## **Petition Submittal:**

Election staff will verify the number of pages submitted. Each page will need to be stamped with a sequential number.

## **Petition Checking:**

The petition will be checked by full and part time staff trained in signature verification.

Signature training is provided by the Washington State Patrol.

Each signature will be verified. Statistical sampling is only allowed for statewide initiatives and referenda.

The petition signatures will be checked using Pierce County's voter registration system. The system's petition module will be used to track all voters signing the petition.

We will verify that:

- Each petition signer is a registered voter in the City of Tacoma.
- The signature on the petition matches the voter registration signature on file.
- Give the voter credit for signing the petition.

The petition module tracks each signer and identifies any voter attempting to sign the petition more than once. Neither signature will be counted.

A signature will be challenged or not counted if:

- Signature does not match.
- Voter is not registered in Tacoma.
- Unable to read voter's name.
- Duplicate - voter has signed more than once.

Unofficial reports will be printed at the end of each day showing the number of valid and challenged signatures.

**Observing:**

The petition check may be observed by proponents and opponents of the petition. Two individuals from each side may observe the petition verification process on the floor. Any interested parties can also observe from the public viewing area of the Election Center. Media may have access to the verification area by appointment.

**Timeline:**

If the petition is received on Monday, as expected, the petition check will begin Tuesday, June 28, 2011.  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.  
The verification process is expected to be completed by Friday, July 8, 2011.

**Validation or sufficiency of petition:**

When the required number of signatures is reached, the Pierce County Auditor will certify the sufficiency of the petition to the City of Tacoma.

**If the petition is validated:**

The Tacoma City Council may enact or reject the Initiative, but shall not modify it. If it rejects or fails to take action within 30 calendar days fails to take action, the City Council shall submit the proposal to the people at the next Municipal or General Election that is not less than 90 days after the date on which the signatures on the petition are validated.

**Deadline to place an issue on the November 8, 2011 General Election ballot:**

August 16, 2011

**Pertinent Statutes:**

City of Tacoma Charter – Section 2.19  
Revised Code of Washington – RCW 35.21.005, 35A.01.040  
Washington Administrative Code - 434-379-020

**Contacts:**

Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor	253-798-3188
Mike Rooney, Elections Manager	253-798-2148
Mary Johnson-Hall, Elections Supervisor	253-798-2146

## **Results of Petition Check**

**City of Tacoma**

**Initiative No. 1 Petition Check - Completed: July 6, 2011**

3,858 signatures required to validate. The petition was determined to be sufficient with 3,934 valid signatures verified.

Valid	3,934
Challenged	5,094

Completed: July 6, 2011