

Resolution No. 2015-28

[CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 5, 2015](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-28

A RESOLUTION of the City of Lakewood, Washington, opposing the City of Tacoma, Proposition No. 3, Official Ballot Title: The Tacoma City Council adopted Amended Resolution No. 39236 concerning levy rate and gross earnings tax increases for street improvements. If passed, Proposition No. 3 would authorize the City to increase the City's regular property tax levy by \$0.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection for ten years beginning in 2016, and levy and additional 1.5% earnings tax on natural gas, electric, and phone companies for ten years, beginning 2016, to fund street repair, maintenance and safety improvements for residential streets, arterials, and freight access, including resurfacing, pothole repair, pedestrian safety improvements, school crossing beacons, and sidewalk improvements.

WHEREAS, the Tacoma City Council has placed Proposition No. 3 on the ballot for Tacoma voters in the November 3, 2015, general election; and

WHEREAS, Tacoma's Proposition No. 3 would, if approved, increase Tacoma's utility tax on the earnings of natural gas, electric and phone companies, including the City of Tacoma-owned Tacoma Power, which provides utility service to customers in Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, only Tacoma residents will vote on Tacoma's Proposition No. 3; and

WHEREAS, if Tacoma's Proposition No. 3 is approved, the Tacoma City Council proposes to use the increased tax revenue to repair only Tacoma streets; and

WHEREAS, if Tacoma's Proposition No. 3 is approved, the Tacoma City Council could, by separate action, pass the 1.5% increase on to Tacoma Power customers both inside and outside Tacoma through a rate increase, including Tacoma Power customers in Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, though a rate increase cannot be classified as a tax, the practical effect would be to pass the cost of the 1.5% Tacoma tax increase on to Lakewood and other non-residents; and

WHEREAS, in the event that a 1.5% Tacoma Power rate increase is adopted by the Tacoma City Council to pass through a new Tacoma utility tax to customers, Tacoma Power customers Lakewood would in effect be paying to repair Tacoma's streets, with no benefit to Lakewood streets or any other benefit within Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, the Lakewood City Council desires to express its opposition to any action by the Tacoma City Council that results in Lakewood residents in effect paying an increased Tacoma utility tax to repair Tacoma streets, without the affirmative vote of a majority of Lakewood residents;

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 42.17A.555(1) the City Council, as a legislative body, is authorized to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a resolution to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body and members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view; and

WHEREAS, the City has properly noticed the meeting of September 21, 2015 and afforded equal opportunity for expression of viewpoints concerning Tacoma's Proposition No. 3 as required by state law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON, as Follows:

Section 1. Expression of Opposition. The City Council of the City of Lakewood expresses its opposition to the City of Tacoma, Proposition No. 3 Official Ballot Title: The Tacoma City Council adopted Amended Resolution No. 39236 concerning levy rate and gross earnings tax increases for street improvements. If passed, Proposition No. 3 would authorize the City to increase the City's regular property tax levy by \$0.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection for ten years beginning in 2016, and levy and additional 1.5% earnings tax on natural gas, electric, and phone companies for ten years, beginning 2016, to fund street repair, maintenance and safety improvements for residential streets, arterials, and freight access, including resurfacing, pothole repair, pedestrian safety improvements, school crossing beacons, and sidewalk improvements.

Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED by the City Council this 5th day of October, 2015.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

Don Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Alice M. Bush, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Heidi Wachter, City Attorney