



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Patinkin Research Strategies, LLC
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RE: Tacoma Voters Support Reinvestment in Police

Date: May 27, 2016

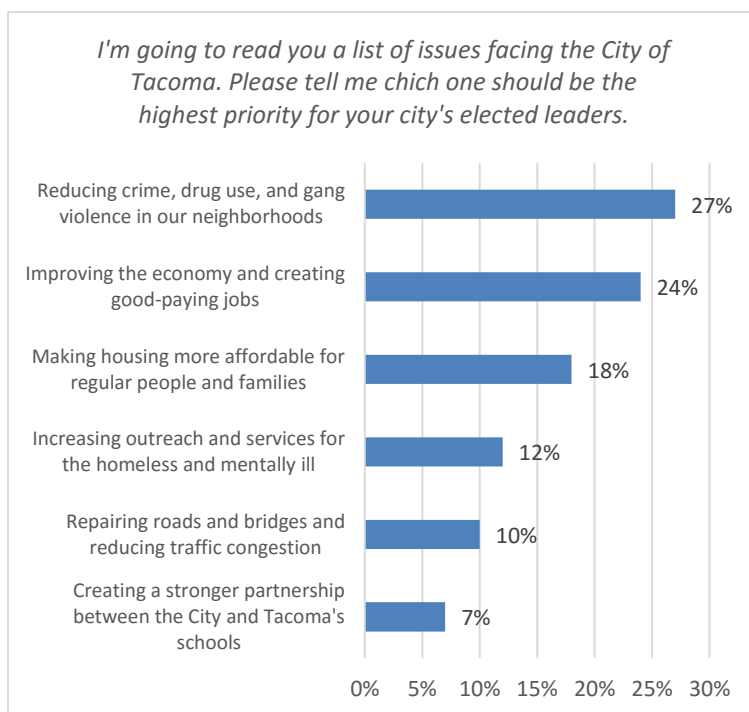
This analysis is based on a telephone poll of 400 registered, likely November, 2016 voters in the City of Tacoma. Interviews were conducted May 10-12, 2016. The margin of error is +/- 4.9 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

Reducing crime and improving the local economy are top of mind priorities for voters. A majority believe crime in Tacoma has increased over the past five years

Nearly three-in-10 (27%) indicate that crime is their primary concern, while the economy and jobs come in a close second (24%).

Furthermore, nearly six-in-10 (57%) believe that crime in Tacoma has increased over the past five years. One-in-five (22%) believe that crime has “increased a great deal” while fewer than one-in-10 (9%) believe that crime has decreased, though none believe crime has decreased “a great deal.”

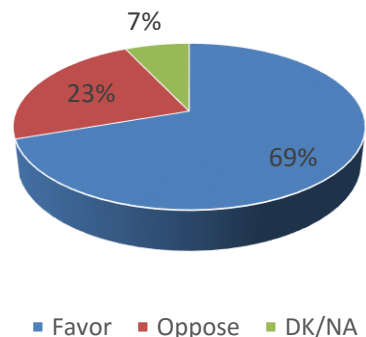
Half (52%) believe that the Tacoma Police department “doesn’t have enough police officers and detectives to keep crime in check.”



Over two-thirds believe the budget for Tacoma's police force needs to be restored to pre-recession levels

After hearing information about the historical funding of the police department, over two-thirds (69%) support increasing the police budget. Three-in-10 (31%) indicated that they felt strongly that the budget should be increased. This dovetails with general perceptions of a police department that "is doing a good job with limited resources" (76% "net well").

Let me tell you a little more about Tacoma's police force. At its strongest, the force had around 374 officers, detectives, and sergeants. But then, during the recession, the City of Tacoma faced a \$31 million dollar budget deficit. To balance the budget, the City opted to eliminate 20 percent of Tacoma's police force or about 75 officers. Having heard this, do you favor or oppose increasing the budget for Tacoma's police force to pre-recession levels?



Voters have positive impressions of the Tacoma Police

Tacoma police officers are very popular (68% favorable; 12% unfavorable). Nearly three-in-10 (27%) offer "very favorable" impressions of Tacoma's police. In addition, over three-quarters (77%) are satisfied with the quality of service provided by the Tacoma Police Department.

Over eight-in-10 (83%) believe that the Tacoma Police "put their lives on the line to keep us safe" and over three-quarters believe that the Tacoma Police Department "is making a real difference keeping our neighborhoods safe" (78%) and "has a well-trained police force" (77%). It's worthwhile to note that these views are held so strongly despite the perceived increase in crime.

Three-quarters (75%) believe that, "generally speaking, Tacoma's police do a good job protecting the community and respecting the civil rights and freedom of speech of every resident of Tacoma."

I'm going to read you a list of words and phrases that people use to describe the Tacoma Police Department. After each, please tell me how well you think it describes the Tacoma Police Department

