**How to contact your City Council members**

Housing is a basic human need, and the people who are currently homeless in Tacoma and Pierce County need somewhere to live.

The City of Tacoma continues to displace people from the places they currently live across the city. These sweeps do nothing to end homelessness. They just push people from one location to another in an inhumane and expensive cycle.

1) Contact your City Council Member and demand that they create safe sites where people can live as an alternative to living on the streets. You can send your Council Member an email, give them a call, or ask for a meeting over coffee to talk about this issue and move our city and county toward solutions.

 - Find who is your City Council member here: <https://bit.ly/3vSQcOb>

2) Contact the Mayor of Tacoma and demand that the city creates solutions to homelessness: <https://bit.ly/3JOa0rI>

3) Use every opportunity to make public comments at City Council and Pierce County Council meetings encouraging them to create solutions to homelessness.

 - The Tacoma City Council offers a Community Forum on the second Tuesday of each month, at the end of its 5 p.m. meeting, and a Virtual Forum on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.

4) Write a Letter to the Editor of The News Tribune demanding that the city and county work together to create solutions to homelessness. Letters are no more than 200 words, and even shorter letters are prioritized. Learn more about how to write a letter at <https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/>

**Context you could use in your comments:**

- Current estimates from Pierce County say that there are 4,300 people who are homeless across Pierce County, and there are 1,300 shelter beds to help them.

- More than 200 new households become homeless in Pierce County each month, and more than 70 percent of people who are homeless in Pierce County had their last known stable housing in the county.

- The City of Tacoma and Pierce County currently spend approximately $50 million per year to address homelessness

- New shelter options are opening - 85 new spaces in Tacoma are scheduled to open later this fall, and new safe parking spaces are opening across the county.

- Pierce County is about to receive an additional $35 million to address homelessness in state rights of way, and the county will announce how it plans to use this money soon.