



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	October 10, 2024
Originating Department	Vice Chair, Tracy Furutani
Contact Person	Vice Chair, Tracy Furutani
Title	Resolution 24-1972/Concerning State Ballot Initiative 2066 concerning regulating energy services, including natural gas and electrification

Legislative History

- First Presentation October 10, 2024 Regular Meeting
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Attachments:

1. Resolution 24-1972
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Executive Summary

Initiative 2066 would prohibit state and local governments from restricting access to natural gas and would prohibit the state building code council from prohibiting, discouraging, or penalizing the use of natural gas in any building. Additionally, the Initiative would require gas companies and utility companies, or any cities or towns that provide natural gas, to provide natural gas to any person or corporation even if other energy services or energy sources may be available. Council is being asked to consider a resolution to support or oppose Initiative 2066.

Background

Initiative 2066 provides for the following:

- Requires every gas company or large combination utility, or city or town that furnishes natural gas, to provide natural gas to anyone that demands, applies for, or is reasonably entitled to natural gas.
- Prohibits the Utilities and Transportation Commission from approving an integrated system plan (ISP) or a multiyear rate plan that requires or incentivizes a company to terminate natural gas service to customers, or a customer to switch fuel use by restricting access to natural gas or making natural gas cost-prohibitive.
- Repeals provisions from ESHB 1589 (2024) as well as specific provisions related to cost-effective electrification and geographically targeted electrification planning under an ISP. Repeal

ESHB 1589 provision requiring the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to assess alternatives to current and planned gas infrastructure projects and achieve all cost-effective electrification of end uses currently served by natural gas

- Forbids the State Building Code Council, cities, towns, counties, and air pollution control agencies from prohibiting, penalizing, or discouraging the use of gas for heating or uses related to any appliance or equipment in any building.

RCW 42.17A.555(1) authorizes the City Council to take action in an open meeting to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot measure so long as (a) the notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the public and councilmembers are afforded an approximately equal opportunity to express an opposing view.

Fiscal & Policy Implications

If the Initiative were passed, the city would lose the ability to regulate certain projects that might have detrimental environmental effects.

Staff Recommendation

Consider adopting Resolution 24-1972 in support or opposition to Initiative 2066.