

Recall Timelines and Vacancy Appointments*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Approved Digest
On: Monday, February 28, 2022
Members: Packard, Anderson, Merrill, Patterson

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 1

The Way It Is Now: A recall allows voters to remove a local elected official before the end of the official's term in office. To start a recall, people must collect signatures through a petition process from registered voters in the official's jurisdiction. If the recall petition has enough valid signatures, the City holds a recall election.

Under the City Charter, no person may start a recall petition if the elected official has held office for less than six months. Under state law, no person may start a recall petition if that official's term of office will end within six months.

If the Mayor's position becomes vacant, the Board of Supervisors is responsible for appointing a person to fill the seat. If there is a vacancy in any other City elective office, the Mayor is responsible for appointing a qualified individual. In either situation, the person appointed to fill the vacancy may be a candidate in the following election.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ is a Charter amendment that would change the local recall process. Under Proposition ___, a recall petition can be started only if an elected official has held office for at least 12 months. Proposition ___ would require recall petitions to be submitted at least 18 months before the next scheduled election for that office. For members of the Board of Supervisors, San Francisco Unified school board or San Francisco City College board of trustees, the new deadline would be based on when their seat is scheduled for an election.

Proposition ___ would also change the appointment process for a vacancy created by a recall. A person appointed to fill a vacancy cannot be a candidate for that vacant seat in the following election. This rule would apply to all recalls, including the recall of the current District Attorney.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to change the recall process and appointment process for vacancies created by a recall.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*