



Date: August 17th, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor Robert Garcia and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, 9th District
Councilmember Cindy Allen, 2nd District
Councilmember Suely Saro, 6th District
Councilmember Mary Zendejas, 1st District

Subject: **A Resolution in Opposition to the Recall Election of the Governor of California**

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to request City Attorney to draft a resolution in opposition to the Recall Election of the Governor of California.

Discussion

The State of California has scheduled the Gubernatorial Recall Election for Tuesday, September 14th. The California Department of Finance estimates the recall election will cost state and county election officials \$276 million to administer. The costs are much higher than previous recall elections because every voter in the state will receive a vote-by-mail ballot, in addition to options to vote in-person.

Over the past year and a half California has faced unprecedented challenges. The state continues to grapple with the economic and social ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic. As new variants arise, the future of the pandemic remains uncertain. In the face of this global crisis, it is irresponsible for the state and counties to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a politically motivated recall election.

During this pandemic, California adopted the biggest economic recovery package in the state's history. The money being used on the recall election could have been better utilized to strengthen that recovery package, by assisting people with rent relief, unemployment, and covering healthcare costs, or by addressing some of the state's ongoing issues such as homelessness, wildfires, or infrastructure.

Since 1911, when California began approving recalls, 179 recall attempts have been made against state officeholders, and every governor since 1960 has faced at least one. Recall elections have become highly politicized, used as a tool to undermine the will of the people and remove someone from office who was fairly elected by a majority of voters, rather than as a tool to remove someone who is unfit for office.



The recall ballot will have two questions:

1. Should the elected official be removed from office?
2. If the official is removed, who should take their place?

If more than 50% of voters answer “yes” to the first question on the recall ballot, the candidate who wins the most votes in the second question will become governor. This means if a majority of California voters want to recall the governor, he will be removed from office and replaced with someone who will likely receive less than 50% of the vote. This process undermines our democracy and perpetuates a dangerous precedent of electing a governor with a potentially very small percentage of the vote.

The next regularly scheduled gubernatorial election in California will take place on June 7 (primary) and November 8 (general) in 2022. The fiscally responsible and democratically appropriate course of action would have been for the governor’s opponents to wait for the 2022 election cycle to vote for an alternative candidate.

Similar resolutions are under consideration in many other cities across Los Angeles County, including in the cities of West Hollywood and Culver City.¹

Although cities cannot take positions in candidate elections, the recall is a ballot measure, not a candidate election. It is within the City’s legal rights to take a position on a ballot measure that will impact our residents.

Fiscal Impact

No Financial Management review was able to be conducted due to the urgency and time sensitivity of this item.

Statement of Urgency

Due to mail-in ballots for the recall election being issued the weekend of August 14th, urgency is requested for this item

Suggested Action

Approve recommendation.

¹ “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IN OPPOSITION TO THE RECALL ELECTION OF THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA.” August, 2021.
https://weho.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&event_id=1288&meta_id=211718

RESOLUTION NO. 21-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WEST HOLLYWOOD IN OPPOSITION TO THE RECALL
ELECTION OF THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the State of California has scheduled the Gubernatorial Recall Election for Tuesday, September 14, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the California Department of Finance estimates the recall election will cost state and county election officials \$276 million to administer, which is much higher than previous recall elections because every voter in the state will receive a vote-by-mail ballot, as well as options to vote in-person; and,

WHEREAS, over the past year and a half California has faced unprecedented challenges and the state continues to grapple with the economic ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic with a future that remains uncertain; and,

WHEREAS, amidst the global pandemic, California has adopted the biggest economic recovery package in the state's history and focused on providing expanding services and government support programs for those most in need; and,

WHEREAS, as we face this global crisis, it is irresponsible for the state and counties to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a recall election that is politically motivated when we have other priorities to focus on, including the state's COVID-19 recovery, or some of the state's ongoing issues such as homelessness, wildfires, or infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, since 1911 when California approved recalls, 179 recall attempts have been made against state officeholders, and every governor since 1960 has faced at least one. Rather than serving to remove someone who is unfit for office, recalls have become a tool to undermine the will of the people and remove someone from office who was fairly elected by a majority of the voters; and,

WHEREAS, the fiscally responsible and democratically appropriate course of action would have been for the governor's opponents to wait for the 2022 election cycle to vote for an alternative candidate; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby opposes the recall election of the Governor of California.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th day of August, 2021.

Lindsey P. Horvath, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk



City of Long Beach Memorandum
Working Together to Serve

REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: August 17, 2021
To: Monique De La Garza, City Clerk
From: Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, Ninth District
Subject: **Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of August 17th**

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
9	Rex Richardson	
2	Cindy Allen	
6	Suely Saro	
1	Mary Zendejas	

cc: Office of the Mayor