

This bill:

- 1) Excludes the signatures, street numbers, and street names from the notice of intention when it is published in a newspaper or posted in three locations.
- 2) Requires that the SOS or local election officials redact the signatures, street numbers, and street names from the notice of intention before making the notice of intention public pursuant to public records request.
- 3) Requires that if no newspaper of general circulation exists that in addition to three physical postings, the notice of intention be posted on three internet websites, including that of the jurisdiction.
- 4) Specifies that a notice of intention shall include a declaration in which the recall proponents confirm they understand the following:
 - a) They are signing to initiate a recall petition process;
 - b) The notice of intention is not the recall petition;
 - c) The information on the notice of intention is a public record that will be published and made available to the public upon request; and
 - d) A signer cannot withdraw their information from the notice of intention.

COMMENTS

- 1) Author's Statement. The recall is a popular tool of electoral accountability that has been used by California's voters for more than a century. In this era of digital technology, it is critical we take steps to safeguard the personal information of voters who choose to engage in the electoral process. It is also important to add information to the Notice of Intention to Recall to ensure that proponents understand the notice of intention is only used to trigger the petition process but is not a recall petition and no provision exists to withdraw one's signature from the notice of intention.
- 2) Number of Recalls. Since the addition of recall provisions in the California Constitution in 1911, only 11 recall elections against state officials have occurred, most recently in 2021 with the effort to recall Governor Gavin Newsom. Of the 11, six were successful.

The recall is more commonly used at the local level. According to data from the California Election Data Archive, a joint project of the Center for California Studies at the California State University, Sacramento, and the SOS' office, 381 local recall elections occurred in California between 1995 and 2024, or an average of 13 per year. Most local recall efforts that qualify for the ballot are generally successful.

- 3) Double referral. Should this bill pass this committee, it will next be heard in the Committee on Judiciary.

RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION

SB 270 (Ochoa Bogh) of 2025 would have excluded the signatures and street addresses of the recall proponents from a published notice of intention to recall a state or local elected official. The bill was held under submission in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

SB 1293 (Ochoa Bogh) of 2024 would have required that a published notice of intention to recall a state or local elected officer to omit the proponents' signatures, street numbers, and street names of their residence addresses. The bill was held under submission in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

POSITIONS

Sponsor: Author

Support: California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

Oppose: None received

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