Frequently Asked Questions about the California Gubernatorial Recall Election

You have safe and early voting options in this election

This September, California will hold an election asking voters if they want to recall (remove) the Governor from office. The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is making sure you have all the information you need to safely cast your ballot early!

Here’s what you need to know about this upcoming election.

What is the California Gubernatorial Recall Election?
On July 1, 2021 California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis ordered that a statewide election be held to determine whether to recall Governor Gavin Newsom and, if appropriate, elect a successor. This election will be held on September 14, 2021.

This election will run like any statewide election in Los Angeles County, in that all registered voters will be mailed a Vote by Mail ballot, there will be hundreds of Ballot Drop Boxes for contactless ballot drop off, and there will be hundreds of in-person Vote Centers available as early as 10 days before Election Day.

How does this election work?
Your ballot will ask two questions that will each be counted separately:

➔ Do you want to recall the governor?
➔ If so, who do you want to replace him?

If more than 50% of voters vote YES to recall the governor, the governor will be removed from office and the candidate with the most votes would replace him.

If I vote “NO” on recalling the Governor, can I still answer the second question on who should replace him?
Yes, if a voter selects "NO" to recall the Governor, they can still vote for a replacement candidate.

When is the election?
The California Gubernatorial Recall Election will be held on September 14, 2021. However, you don’t need to wait for Election Day to make your voice heard. Every registered voter will be issued a Vote by Mail ballot no later than August 16. Keep yourself and our community safe by voting with your Vote by Mail ballot and returning it early!

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What are my voting options?
Los Angeles County makes it easy for you to plan your vote this election.

1 Voting by mail:
This is the easiest and most convenient way to vote. All registered voters in the County will be sent a Vote by Mail ballot no later than August 16. Simply fill out your ballot, seal it, sign it, and place it in the mail. Make sure it is postmarked no later than Election Day, September 14 – and remember, no postage is necessary!

2 Drop off at a secure Ballot Drop Box:
You can return your ballot at one of 400 safe and secure Ballot Drop Box locations. All Ballot Drop Boxes will be available no later than August 16 and will remain open every day through 8 PM on Election Day, September 14. Voters will receive a list of the nearest drop box locations in their Vote by Mail packet. A full list of drop box locations can be found on LAVote.net.

Can I track my Vote by Mail Ballot?
Yes, you can track your ballot every step of the way by subscribing to Where’s My Ballot (california.ballottrax.net) for free. You will receive real-time notifications by text message, email, or voicemail on the status of your mailed ballot. After you return your ballot you will also receive notifications of when your ballot is received and counted at the Registrar’s office.

Do I have to register to vote?
If you are already registered to vote, you do not need to register again for the Recall Election. If you are 18 years of age and a U.S. Citizen and you are not registered to vote you should register today at LAVote.net. If you’re not sure if you’re registered to vote you can check your registration status online at LAVote.net.

When is the registration deadline?
The last day to register and receive a Vote by Mail ballot for the Recall Election is August 30.

Can I still vote if I miss the registration deadline?
Yes, any eligible voter who misses the deadline can still vote in-person at any Vote Center in Los Angeles County beginning September 4.
**FAQs**

**What else will be different about this election?**

This election is unique because there are 46 candidates who will appear on your ballot. That is much more than what you’re used to seeing in a single contest. Rather than spending more time at a Vote Center, it will be much easier to mark your ballot at home with the Vote by Mail ballot and return it by mail or at a Ballot Drop Box. If you plan to vote in-person, we encourage you to save yourself a lot of time by filling out your selections before leaving the house with the Interactive Sample Ballot (ISB). The ISB allows you to mark your selections and transfer those selections at the Vote Center by scanning the Poll Pass (QR code) on the Ballot Marking Device. Fill out your selections at isb.lavote.net.

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**What is a Ballot Drop Box?**

A Ballot Drop Box is a safe and secure alternative to return your Vote by Mail ballot. In this election there are 400 secure Ballot Drop Boxes available to return your ballot -- all boxes will be available no later than August 16. Simply fill out the ballot mailed to your house, seal it, sign it, and return it to a drop box. To find a Ballot Drop Box in your neighborhood, go to LAVote.net.

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**What is a Vote Center?**

A Vote Center is an accessible location in Los Angeles County where voters can safely cast their ballot in-person. In this election there are 253 locations available throughout the County. Vote Centers provide modern features to make voting safe, easy, and convenient. These locations also serve as a Vote by Mail Ballot Drop Box – no need to wait, simply drop off your voted ballot at the front.

Select Vote Centers will open Saturday, September 4 and will remain open everyday from 10 AM to 7 PM. All Vote Center locations will be available beginning Saturday, September 11 and will remain open every day through Election Day, September 14. Vote Center hours on Election Day are extended to 7 AM to 8 PM.

**What are the COVID-19 Guidelines at a Vote Center?**

Vote Centers will follow public health and safety guidelines to ensure a safe voting environment for all voters and Election Workers. Voters should be prepared to wear a face mask and to socially distance themselves while at the Vote Center. Masks will be available to voters who do not have one with them.

**Where can I find a Vote Center?**

A postcard mailing will be sent to all registered voters in late-August to early-September that shows the nearest Vote Center locations to their residence. Voters can also find a full list of Vote Center locations online at LAVote.net.

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