



100% VOTING CONGREGATIONS

"A ruler is not to be appointed unless the community is first consulted"

(Babylonian Talmud Berachot 55a)

Statewide Special Election: Tuesday, September 14

The Special Election being held on September 14, 2021 will determine if Governor Newsom stays in office. We exercise our collective power by working to become 100 Percent Voter Congregations. That is the lifeblood of our Civic Engagement work.

In a recall election, under state and federal law, most of our congregations must restrict themselves to educating voters. See below for guidelines on how congregations, clergy and lay leaders can talk about the Recall.

LA Voice's position on the recall: Everyone should vote!

What is the Recall?

A special election called to ask voters whether an elected official should be removed from office.

When is the Recall?

The voting period has already begun, and voters have until Tuesday, September 14 to turn in or mail their ballots.

What's at stake?

Our Governor will be called upon to sign bills on housing, transformative justice and immigration. Our governor has veto power over state budget programs. Our governor can make appointments to United States Senate should a vacancy occur.

Additionally, rent moratoriums and rent relief programs, ALL governmental programs for infants and children (e.g. First 5 programs), environmental justice, public schools, immigration / ICE, transformative justice, wages for working families, COVID mandates are all affected by the Governor.

What can we do?

If your congregation would like to host a Get Out The Vote Phonebank, please contact your LA Voice organizer. If you don't have an assigned organizer, please email Jocce Hudson at jocce@lavoice.org. We can provide you a script and support your 100% Voting Congregation Plan.





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LEGALITIES OF ENGAGING IN RECALL ELECTIONS Source: Bolder Advocacy

Can my congregation or LA Voice (a 501(c)(3) public charity) support or oppose a recall vote?

“Probably not. A recall vote is a special election on the question of whether a state or local elected official should be removed from office. Recalls usually ask whether a public official should be removed from office and if so, who should be elected to serve the remainder of the term. While the IRS has issued no guidance on recall elections, it is likely that charities cannot campaign on either question, especially where the recall vote also functions to elect a replacement. In light of the lack of guidance, organizations should consult legal counsel before engaging in recall activities.”

LA Voice’s position on the recall is only that everyone should vote. We are permitted to educate voters about when it is, what it is, what it costs, who is behind the recall effort, and what are the powers the governor has as well as who the candidates are. Any explicit or implicit endorsement of a yes or no vote or a preference for a candidate or party is not advised.

What about 501(c)(4) organizations?

“As long as it is not their primary activity, 501(c)(4)s and unions may support or oppose candidates (in accordance with federal or state campaign finance laws). Therefore, they could urge elected officials to resign or push for impeachment. In addition, 501(c)(4)s and labor unions can work on recall elections. Recall elections would count as a political activity, and a 501(c)(4) or union may be subject to tax on expenditures made for political activities. The tax is imposed on the lesser of the organization’s annual net investment income or the aggregate amount expended on political activities during that year.”

LA Voice Action, which has no congregational membership but does have individual members, may take a position on the recall, and has done so. LA Voice Action may serve as a vehicle for individuals--explicitly NOT representing their congregation or other 501(c)(3)--to make more direct statements about the recall.