



August 28, 2022

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2584 (Berman) – Recall elections – REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR’S SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on AB 2584 (Berman), which would strengthen the regulations for the recall of local elected officials. The bill would:

- Ensure that there is some level of grassroots support for the recall by increasing the number of proponents necessary to initiate the recall process.
- Apply accuracy and review standards, modeled on the ones in place for candidate statements, to the statement of reasons submitted by recall proponents and the answers provided by the target of the recall.
- Make the petition for local recall available for public display and allow voters in the relevant district to challenge perceived inaccuracies and false statements.
- Provide those local recalls be consolidated with the next regularly scheduled state or local election that occurs at least 88 days after the recall question qualifies for the ballot.
- For school district recalls, require that petitions list the estimated cost of conducting the election.

We also support the amendments intended to bring AB 2584 into conformance with AB 2582 (Bennett) and have written in support of AB 2582 in a separate letter.

The League of Women Voters of California promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible and support electoral systems that inhibit political manipulation. The process for local recall elections is currently susceptible to gamesmanship that undermines the democratic process. AB 2584 will help protect against frivolous recall elections, provide voters with accurate information, maximize community participation in government decision making, increase transparency, and boost participation by consolidating special elections.

Ensuring that information provided to voters – whether directly from the government, or from a campaign on an official form – should all be subject to review for accuracy. Extending this requirement to recall petitions and responses is a logical next step in helping build public trust in the government.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California strongly supports AB 2584 (Berman) and requests your signature. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carol Moon Goldberg
President