

Graphics by M.S. Moore

2021 RECALL RESULTS

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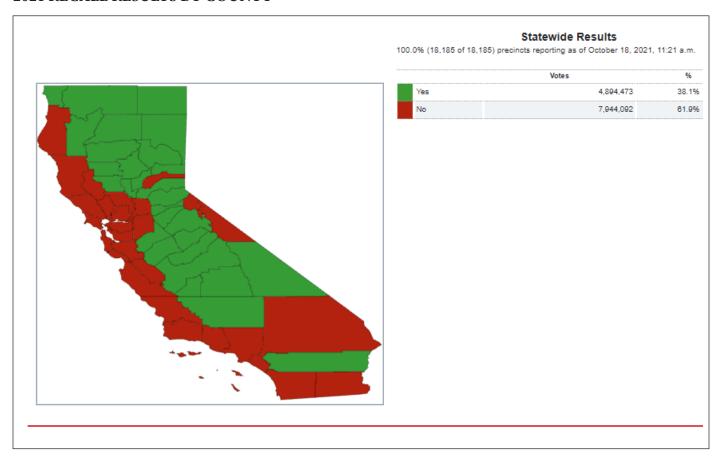
On Tuesday, September 14, 2021, California held a recall election on whether or not to remove Governor Gavin Newsom. The 2021 recall election was the second time in California's history that the recall process embedded in California's constitution has made it to the ballot to attempt to oust a governor from office. The first was in 2003 when Grey Davis was ousted and replaced by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The recall effort in 2021 was led by Californians who were frustrated with the governor's performance on a host of issues. The most prominent one was his use of expansive executive orders following his declaration of a state of emergency in response to the Covid-19 pandemic on March 4, 2020. Newsom exercised his emergency powers to issue more than 50 executive orders in 18 months. They constituted

an aggressive COVID-19 pandemic response in which he unilaterally issued orders to close schools, businesses and churches and issued mask mandates and stay-at-home orders. The harsh Covid-19 lockdown policies decimated many businesses. California's attack on independent contractors (AB 5) and rising crime in cities across the state were among a long list of other contributing factors.

In a recall election, there are two questions on the ballot. First, should the elected official be removed from office? Second, who should be the replacement if the recall is successful? The first of two questions on the 2021 recall ballot was "Shall Gavin Newsom be recalled from the office of Governor?" For the recall to succeed to remove Governor Newsom, over 50 percent of voters needed to respond YES to this question.

2021 RECALL RESULTS BY COUNTY



Source: https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/returns/maps/governor-recall

Governor Newsom easily survived the recall attempt, with only 38.1 percent voting YES on the recall question, out of the 12,838,565 votes tallied. The California Secretary of State data show that the only coastal county to vote in favor of the recall (59.9 percent YES, 40.1 percent NO) was Del Norte County, bordering Oregon, where the vote was a mirror image of the statewide results. All other coastal counties voted NO.

Inland counties offered more varied results. The Bay Area counties that are not on the coast, but adjacent to the coastal counties voted NO. They are Lake, Napa, Yolo, Sacramento, Solano, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and San Benito counties. Three Northern California inland counties on the Nevada border - Mono, Alpine, and Nevada - also voted NO.

In Southern California, all of the coastal counties voted NO. This includes Orange County which has long been considered a Republican stronghold in the region. Orange County voted 48.3 percent YES and 51.7 percent NO. San Diego County voted NO by an even larger margin, 38.1 percent YES and 61.9 percent NO. The San Diego County result was very close to results for Los Angeles County, 29.2 percent YES, 70.8 percent NO.

The Inland Empire counties of Riverside and San Bernardino had remarkably close election results, but with opposing outcomes. Riverside county voted YES to remove Governor Newsom —(50.5 percent YES, 49.5 percent NO). The vote in San Bernardino County was almost identical, but with the opposite outcome, (49.8 percent YES, 50.2 percent NO).

SHOULD GAVIN NEWSOM BE RECALLED?

No 61.9%

12,838,565 votes cast on question so far **101.0%** of turnout in 2018



Kevin Paffrath

9.6%

706,778 votes for candidate



Brandon M. Ross

5.3%

392,029 votes for candidate

IF A MAJORITY SAY "YES", WHO SHOULD REPLACE HIM?



48.5%

3,563,867 votes for candidate

7,352,177 votes cast on question so far **42.7%** left this question blank



Kevin L. Faulconer ® 8% 590,346 votes for candidate



John Cox

4.1%

305,095 votes for candidate

Source: https://calmatters.org/politics/2021/09/california-recall-election-results/

Throughout California, the trends from the recall election can be observed regionally, with a clear divide between coastal and inland counties for northern and central California. Fourteen of the fifteen counties that comprise the northeastern region of the state voted in favor of recalling Governor Newsom. These counties are considered rural and voted majority Republican in the 2020 presidential election. These counties, however, are less populous than those on the coast and in other parts of the state. Inland counties in the middle of the state also largely voted YES, but, again, they are much less populous than their neighbors to the west. Southern California offered a more mixed result. While the coastal counties all voted NO, they were joined by inland San Bernardino and Imperial.

California resoundingly voted NO on the recall of Governor Gavin Newsom. Thus, the second question on the ballot, who should succeed Newsom if he is recall, was mute. Larry A. Elder was the leader among the 46 candidates on the replacement ballot, getting 48.5 percent of the votes cast. A full 42.7 percent of voters did not vote on the second question.

For more information, please see electionresults.sos. ca.gov/results/governor-recall. ◆

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