

# Key Points of Information

## SCHOOL BOARD RECALLS-OPPOSE



### Public School Defenders Hub 2023

**1**

- OPPOSING proposed recall against a district school board member or members.

- School board recalls are on the rise. Between 2009 and 2022, Ballotpedia tracked an average of 28 recall efforts against an average of 66 school board members each year.
- Of those recall efforts, approximately 20% went on to face recall elections, and approximately 10% of school board members were removed from office.

**2**

- School board recalls have the impact of temporarily (or permanently, depending on the outcome) destabilizing local school boards while the recall campaign and/or election proceed
- The recall process can disrupt the ongoing work of the board on behalf of students
- Recalls can be overtly (or perceived as) politicized or as political retaliation against a board member or a group of board members
- Recalls can jeopardize relationships with local unions and district teachers, leading to talent loss.
- Recalls and associated elections cost districts money, leaving less for the educational needs of students

**3**

- The existence of a recall election does not necessarily indicate broad discontent with the elected officials in question.
- Without access to information communicated during closed meetings, recall supporters cannot fully understand the details of certain situations or decisions.
- School board members must make decisions based on what is best for the entire district, not edge cases/individual students.

**4**

- Ballotpedia covered 340 recall efforts against 773 school board members between 2006 and December 18, 2020. Just over 30 percent of those recall efforts
- reached the ballot, and 18.6 percent of targeted school board members
- were removed from office through the recall process.
- Ballotpedia tracked 92 school board recall efforts against 237 board members in 2021. Recall elections against 17 board
- members were held in 2021. The school board recall success rate was 0.42%.

**5**

- Engaged and motivated parents and community members should continue to attend and speak at their school board meetings and contact school board representatives directly with their concerns rather than pursuing the drastic step of a recall election.

**6**