

Key Points of Information

SCHOOL BOARD RECALLS-SUPPORT



Public School Defenders Hub 2023

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- Advocating FOR proposed recall of a district school board member or members.

- School board recalls are on the rise. Between 2009 and 2022, Ballotpedia tracked recall efforts against an average of 66 school board members each year.
- Of those recall targets, approximately 20% went on to face recall elections, and approximately 10% of them were removed from office.
- Recalls are happening for the following reasons:
 - School boards are making policy and/or other decisions that are unpopular with certain segments of parents
 - Individual board mistakes, such as budget shortfalls
 - Bad behavior by the board
 - Mismanagement of funds
 - Conflicts with district administrators or teachers
 - Refusing to listen to constituents
 - Violating open meeting laws
 - Lack of focus on charter/core mission - education

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- Even the possibility of a recall can
 - Hold the board to accountability to the community that elected them
 - Correct an overtly politicized board
 - Re-establish and bolster poor relations with the local unions and/or teachers
 - Force a board to re-prioritize parent concerns and focus in on education

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- Board members must keep student learning and achievement for all as their primary focus

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- A recall is very difficult to achieve.
- Ballotpedia tracked 340 recall efforts against 773 school board members between 2006 and December 18, 2020.
- Only slightly more than 30% of those recall efforts reached the ballot, and only 18.6% of targeted school board members were removed from office.
- Ballotpedia tracked 92 recall efforts against 237 board members in 2021. Only 17 board members faced recall elections for a success rate of 0.42%.

- A recall process is justified if a school board member has failed to act as a community leader and strayed from the mission and vision of the district.

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