

BALLOT PEDIA

The Encyclopedia of American Politics

Geoff Pallay, Editor in Chief
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Constitutional Amendments and Assembly Elections
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Our goal is to inform people about politics by providing accurate and objective information about politics at all levels of government.

We are firmly committed to neutrality in our content.



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Today's presentation topics

- Recall laws by state
- California local recalls over the past 11 years
- U.S. local recalls over the past 11 years
- Recalls related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Recalls by office type
- City recalls by population



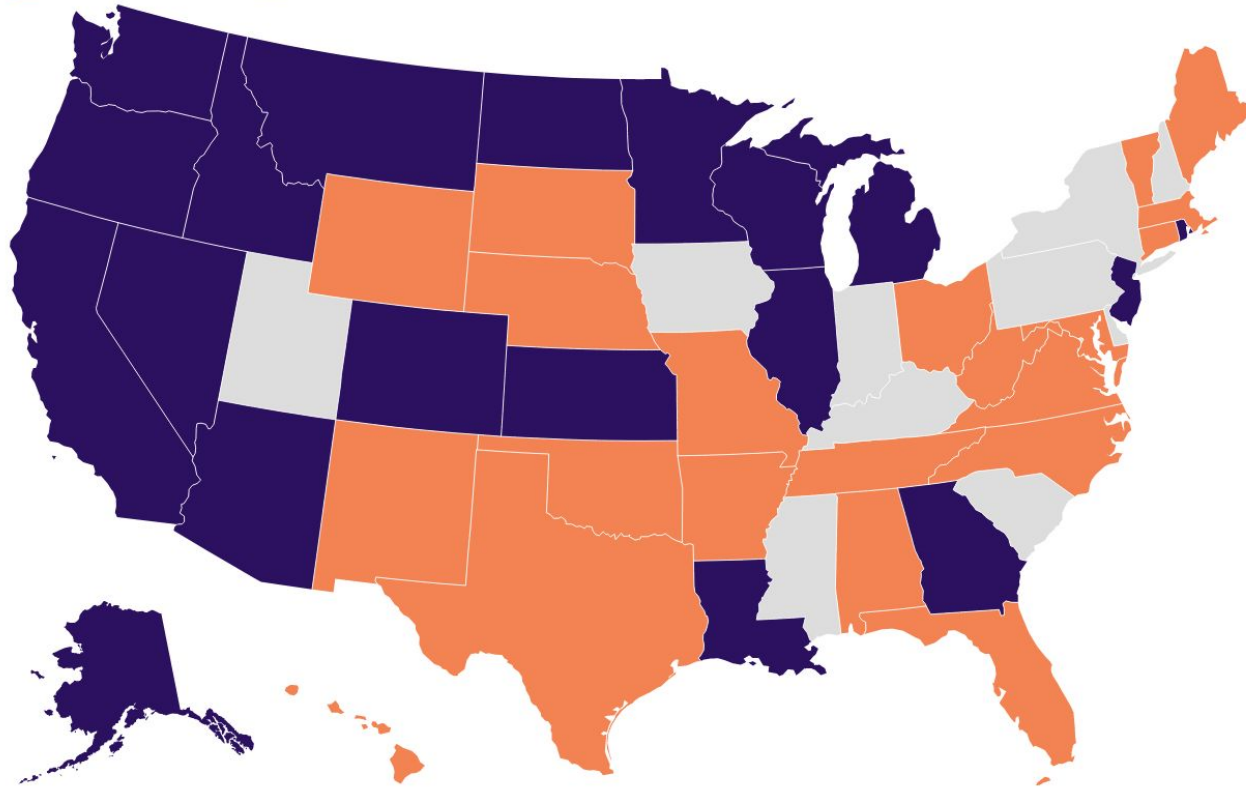
Recall laws by state

- 40 states allow recalls at some level of government
 - All 40 allow recalls at the local level
 - 19 allow recalls at the state level
- Recall laws vary by state
 - By the number of signatures required
 - By the amount of time to circulate petitions
 - By the grounds that are required to be met
 - By how they choose successors



National recall rules

Local recalls only Both state and local recalls



What are local recalls?

- Local recalls occur in jurisdictions that are not part of the state or federal governments
- Examples:
 - County offices
 - City offices
 - School district offices
 - Special district offices
 - Tribal offices



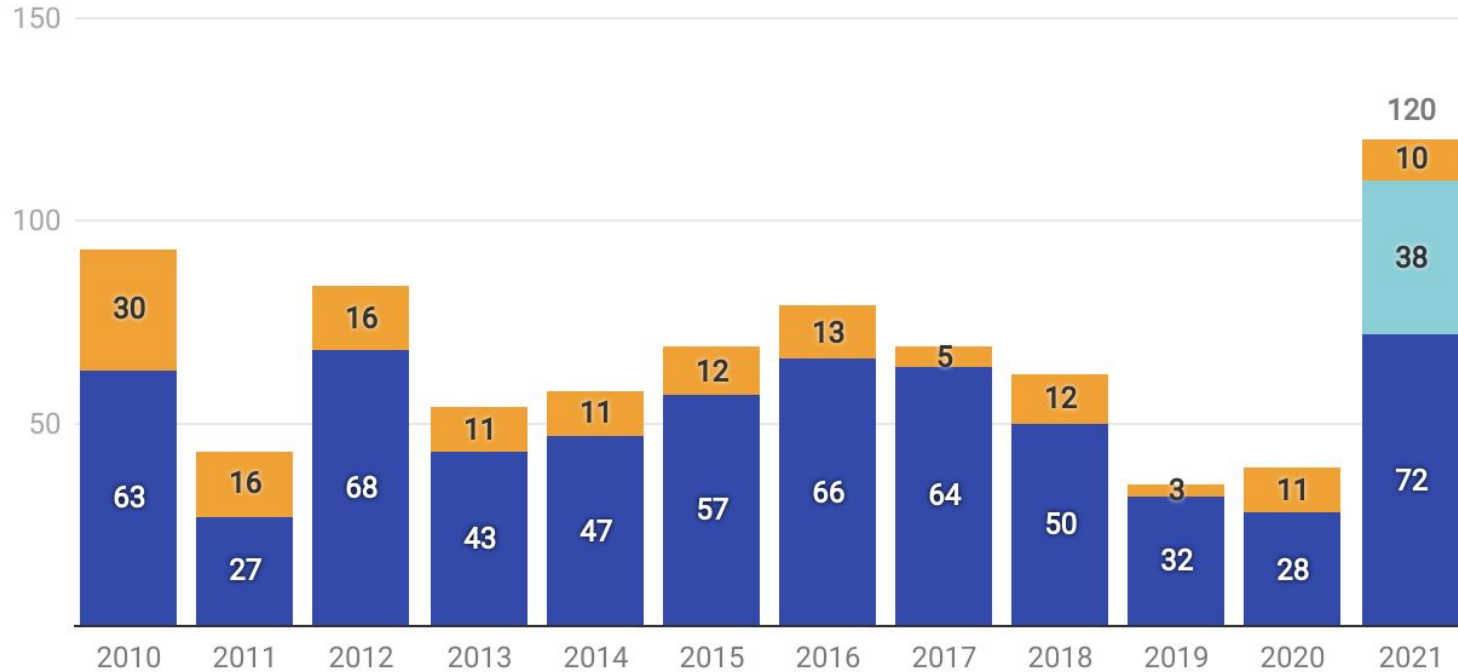
California local recalls from 2010 to 2021

- California saw an average of 67 local officials named in recall efforts
 - The high was 120 in 2021
 - The low was 35 in 2019
- Recalls against an average of 13 local officials qualified for the ballot (18.63%)
 - The high was 37.21% in 2011
 - The low was 7.25% in 2017



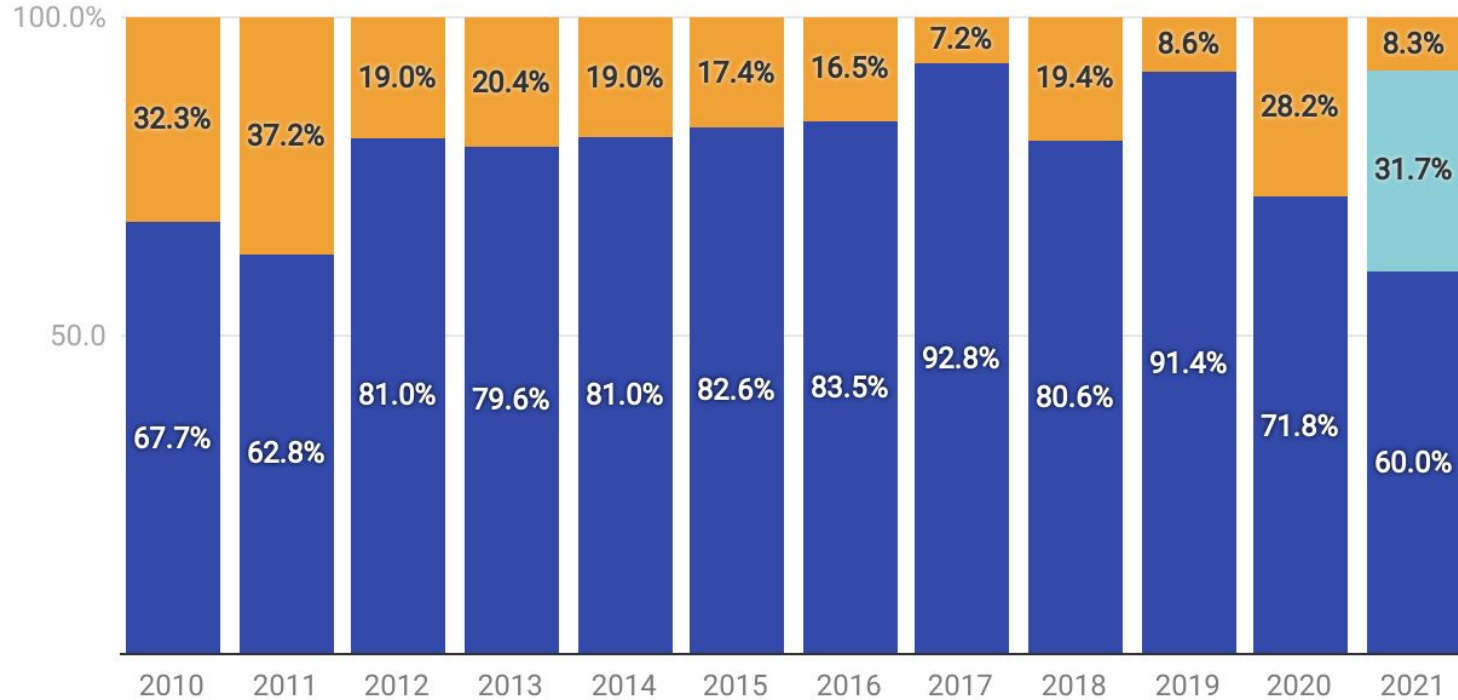
Local California recalls, 2010-2021

Failed to make ballot Pending Qualified for ballot



Local California recalls, 2010-2021 (percentages)

Failed to make ballot Pending Qualified for ballot

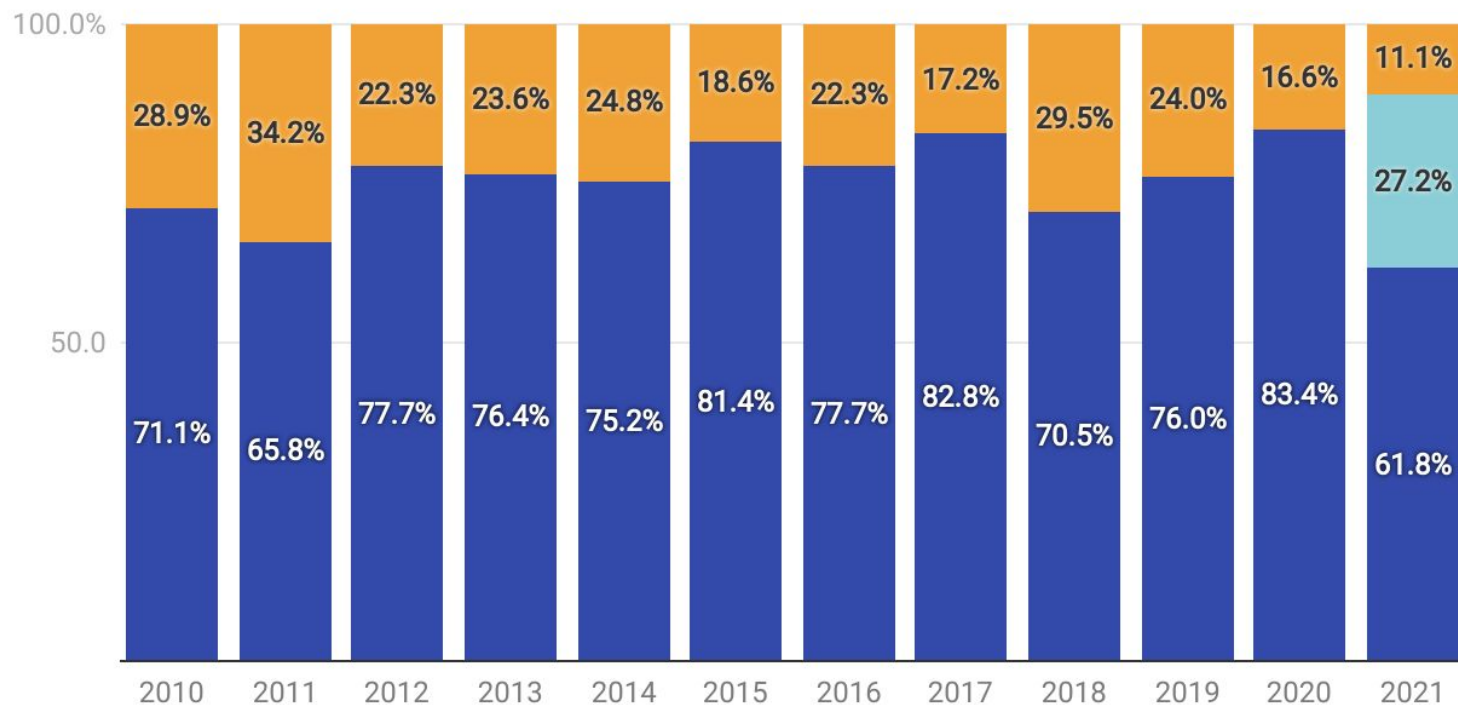


California compared to all local U.S. recalls

- Across the U.S., an average of 324 local officials were named in recall efforts from 2010 to 2021.
 - The high was 491 in 2021
 - The low was 211 in 2013
- Recalls against an average of 95 local officials qualified for the ballot (29.37%)
 - The high was 52.04% in 2011
 - The low was 19.86% in 2021
- California accounted for 14.04% to 25.76% of all local U.S. recalls between 2010 and 2021

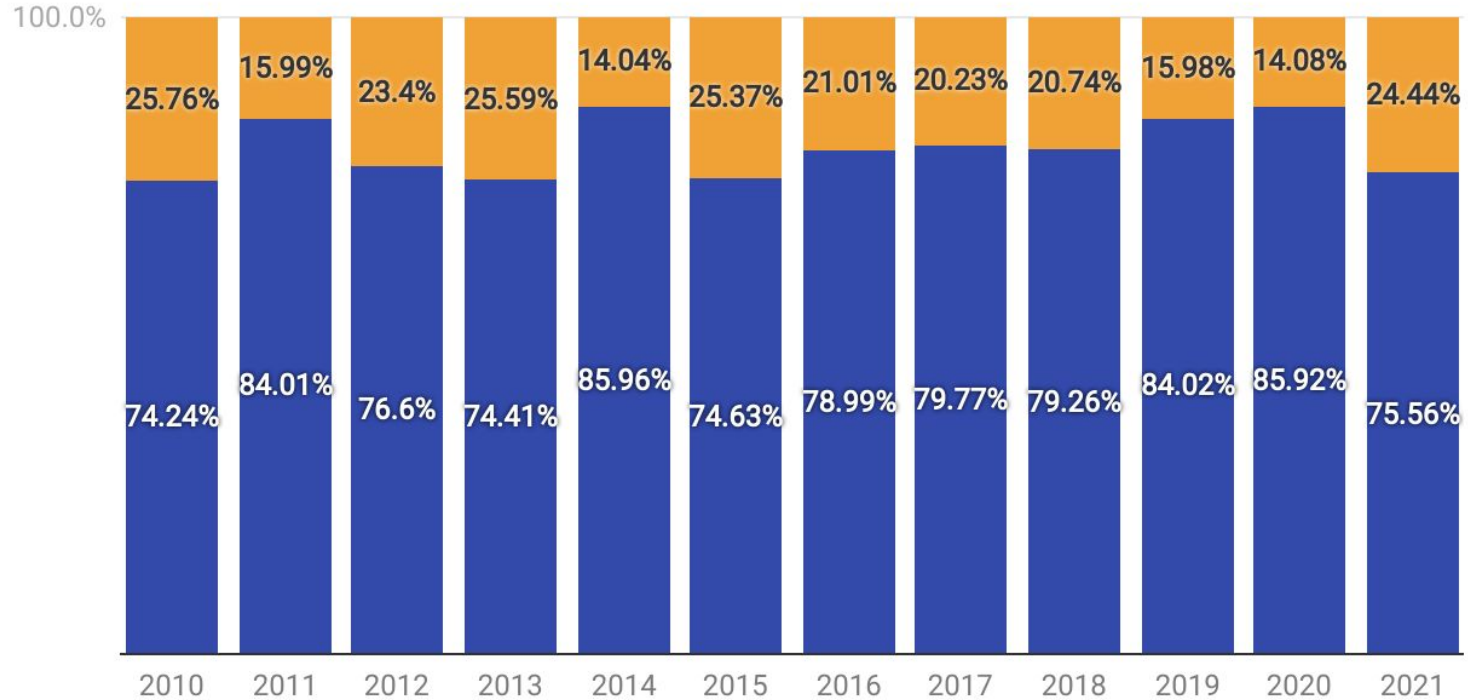
Local U.S. recalls, 2010-2021 (percentages)

Failed to make ballot Pending Qualified for ballot



Local recalls in California vs. United States, 2010-2021

■ Local recalls in the rest of the U.S. ■ Local California recalls



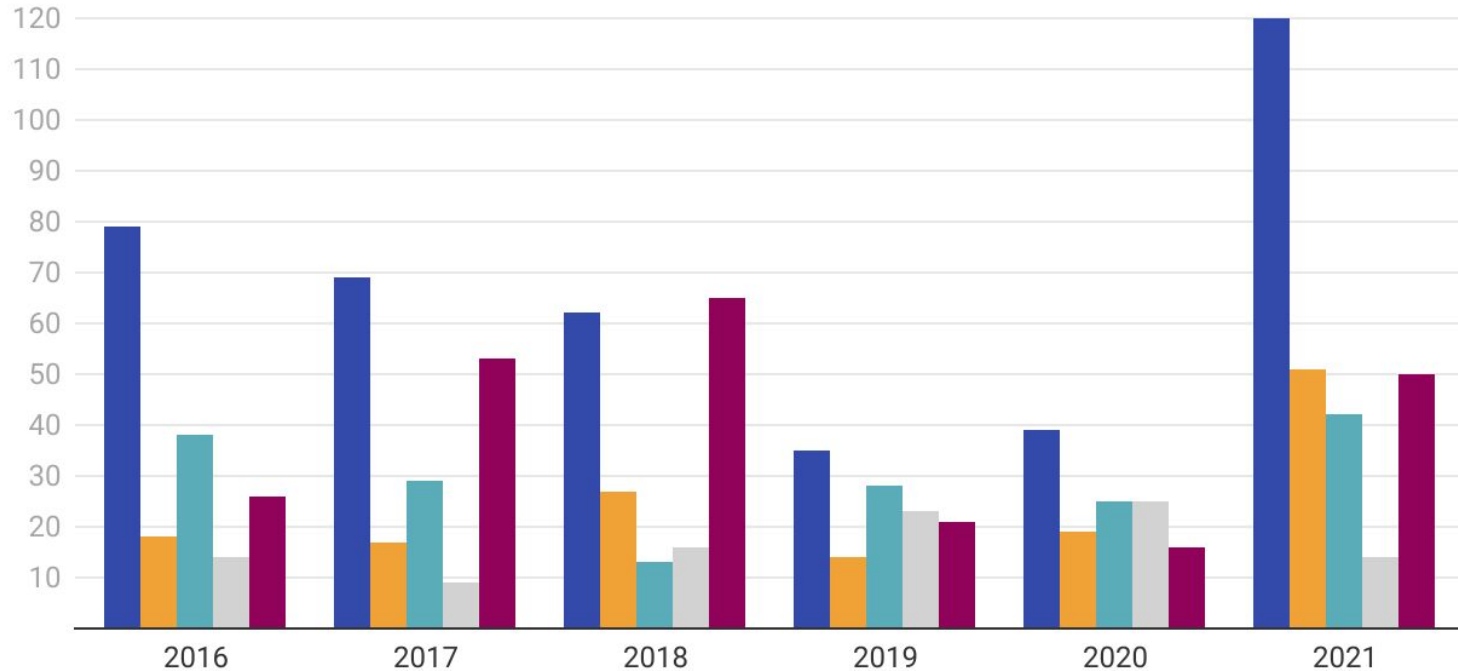
California compared to other high local recall states

- California was in the top 3 states for number of recalls from 2016 to 2021
- Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, and Michigan were in the top 3 at least twice in that time frame

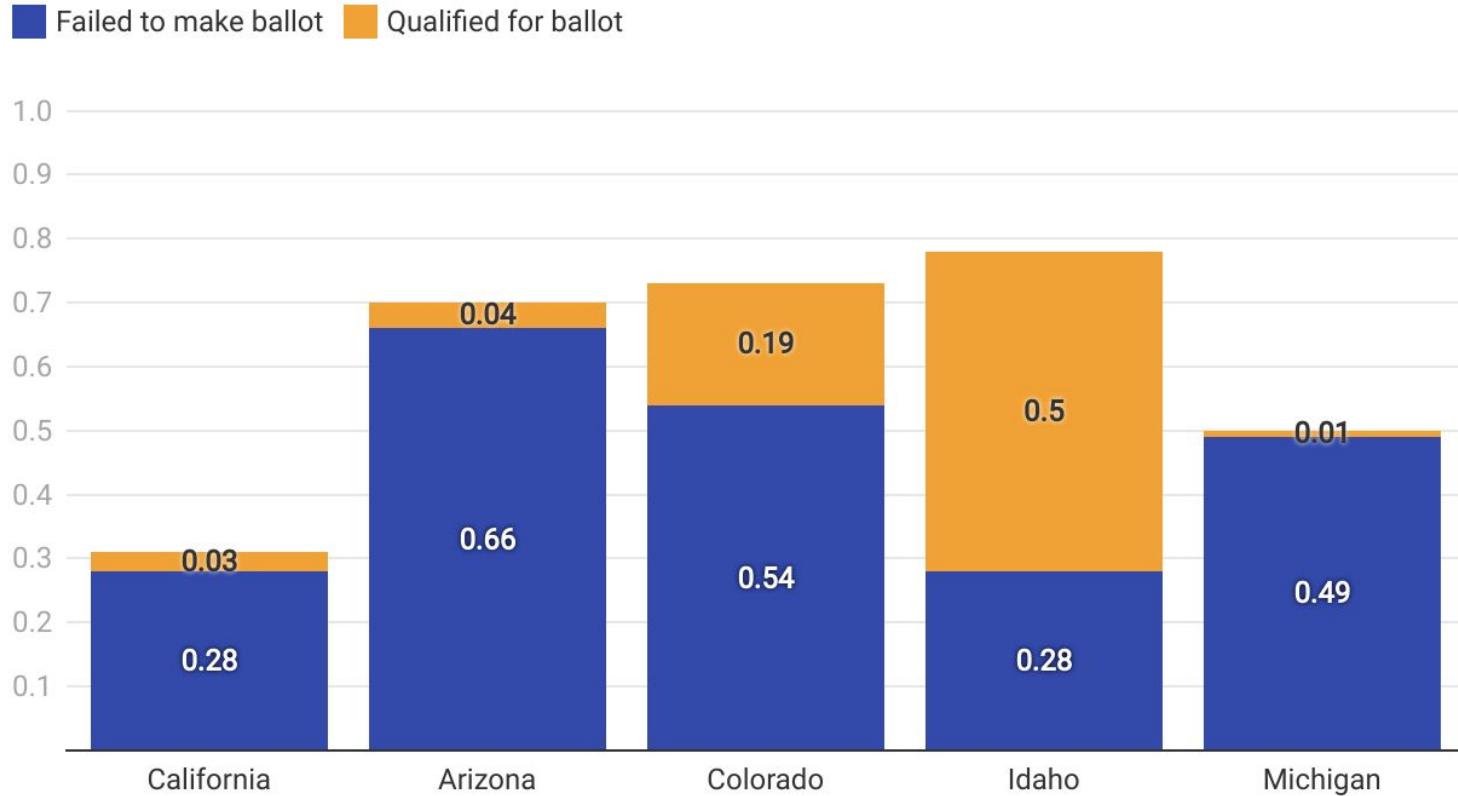


Local recalls across top 5 recall states, 2016-2021

California Arizona Colorado Idaho Michigan



2021 local recalls per 100,000 residents across top 5 recall states

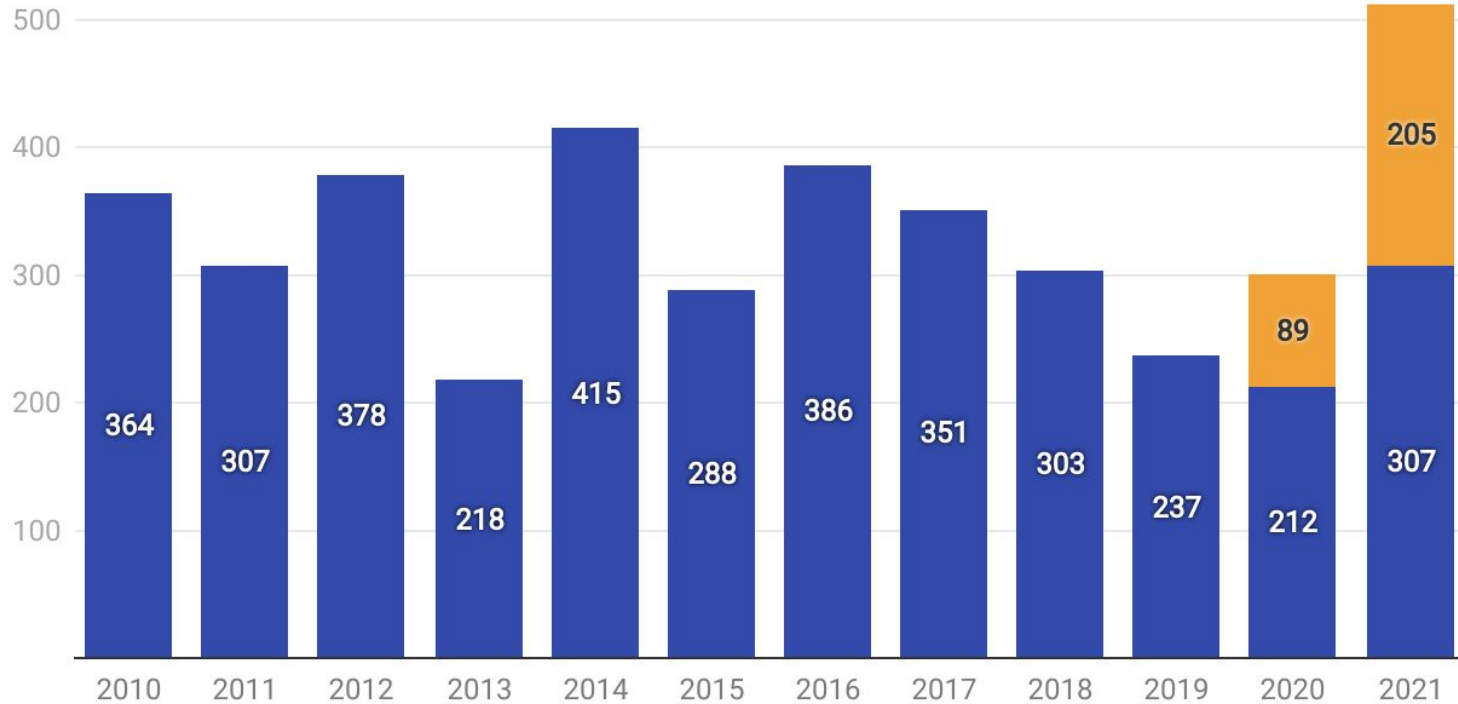


Recalls related to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Ballotpedia began tracking recalls related to the coronavirus and government responses to the pandemic in 2020.
 - This includes decisions on closing schools, requiring masks, requiring vaccines, and more.
- Overall in the U.S., 294 officials were included in COVID-related recalls from 2020 to 2021.
- California saw 55 officials included in COVID-related recalls from 2020 to 2021.

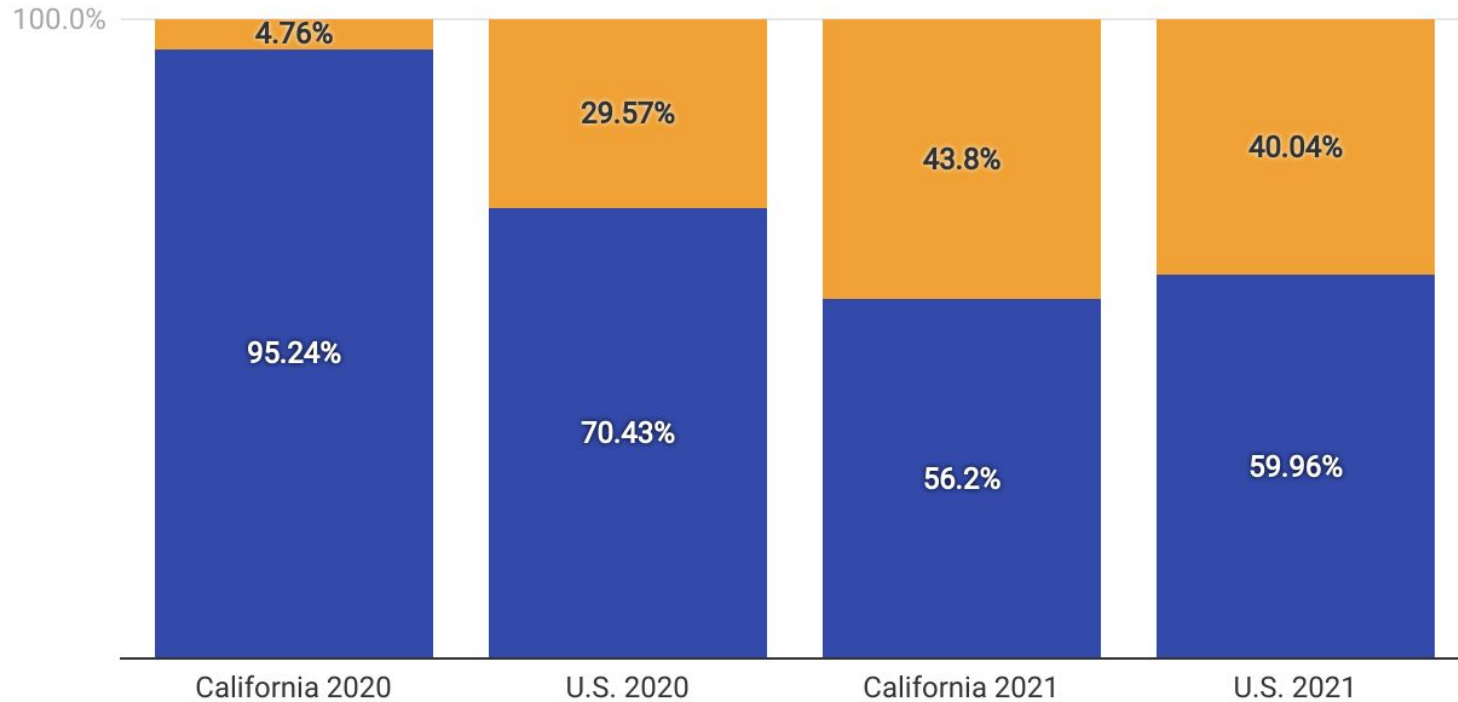
Total recalls in the U.S.

■ Other recalls ■ Recalls related to the COVID-19 pandemic



State and local recalls related to the COVID-19 pandemic (percentages)

■ Other recalls ■ Recalls related to the COVID-19 pandemic

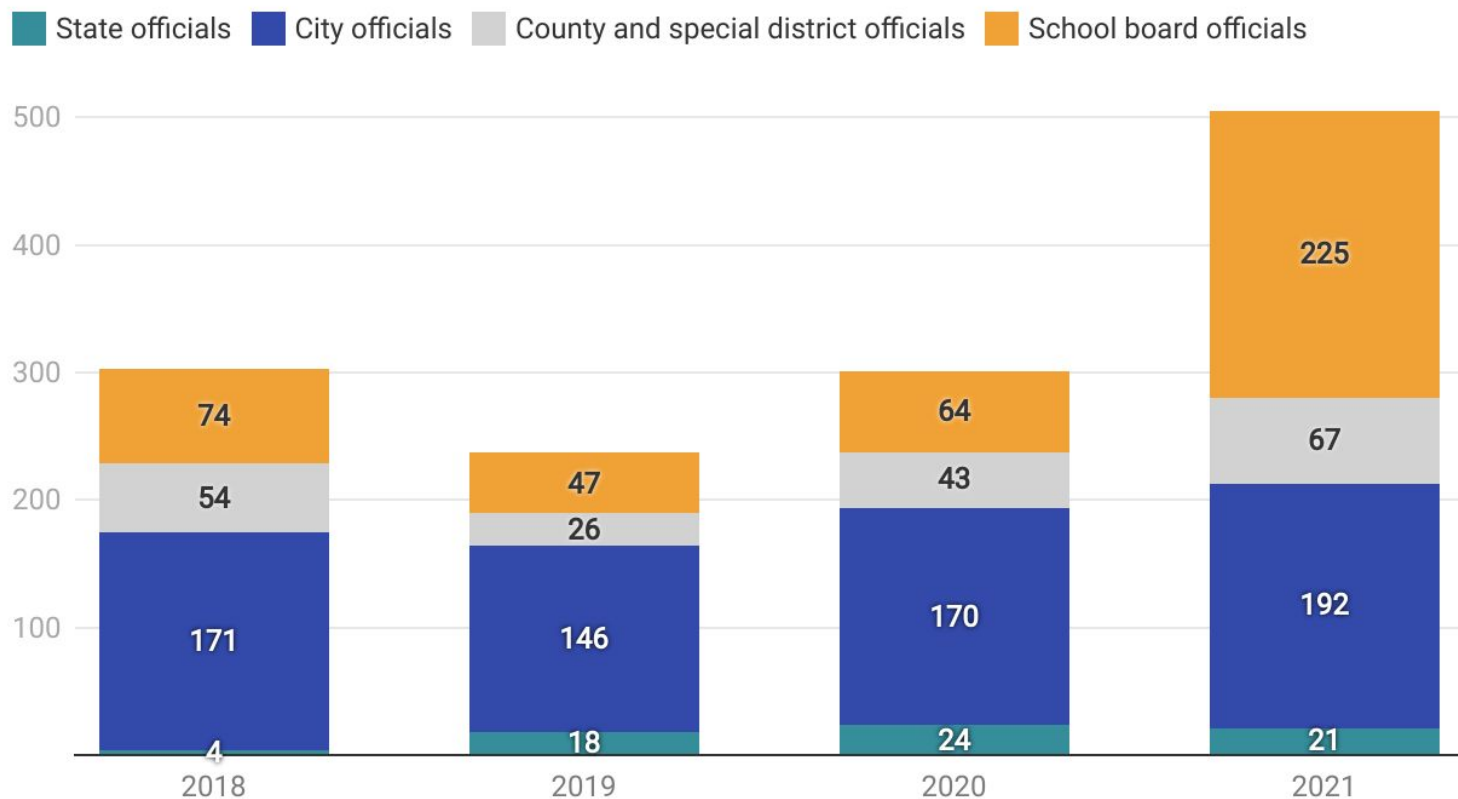


Recalls by office type

- When separated by office type, city-level officials, such as mayors and city council members, usually see the most recalls
- That changed in 2021, when school board officials saw the most recalls



U.S. recalls by office type, 2018-2021

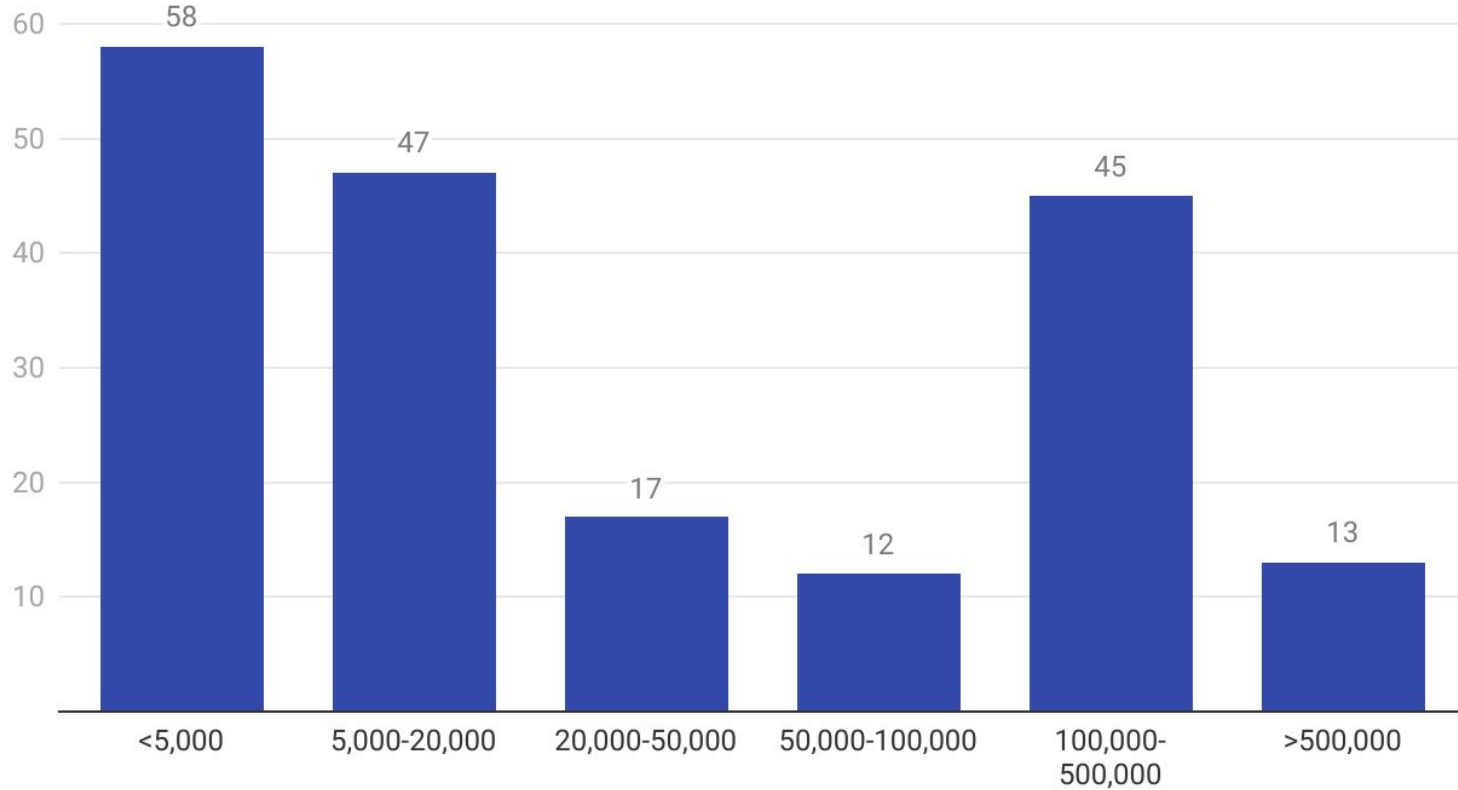


City recalls by population

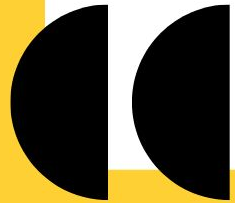
- Recalls against city officials across the U.S. in 2021 most often occurred in populations under 20,000.
- Cities with populations between 100,000 and 500,000 residents saw the next-most recalls, accounting for 23.44%.
- Recalls happened least often in cities with populations between 20,000 and 100,000 and cities with populations over 500,000.



Number of 2021 city official recalls in U.S. by city population



Thank you!



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