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- Ballotpedia has an annual budget of $6.6 million.
- Revenues are derived from donations from individuals and foundations; data sales; digital ad sales and corporate sponsorships.
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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Failed to make ballot</th>
<th>Pending</th>
<th>Qualified for ballot</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
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<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Local California recalls, 2010-2021 (percentages)

Failed to make ballot   Pending   Qualified for ballot

Year | Failed to make ballot | Pending | Qualified for ballot
--- | ----------------------|---------|---------------------
2010 | 32.3%                  |         | 67.7%               
2011 | 37.2%                  |         | 62.8%               
2012 | 19.0%                  | 81.0%   |                     
2013 | 20.4%                  | 79.6%   |                     
2014 | 19.0%                  | 81.0%   |                     
2015 | 17.4%                  | 82.6%   |                     
2016 | 16.5%                  | 83.5%   |                     
2017 | 7.2%                   | 92.8%   |                     
2018 | 19.4%                  | 80.6%   |                     
2019 | 8.6%                   | 91.4%   |                     
2020 | 28.2%                  |         | 71.8%               
2021 | 8.3%                   |         | 91.7%               

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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 recalls in California vs. United States, 2010-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Local California recalls</th>
<th>Local recalls in the rest of the U.S.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>25.76%</td>
<td>74.24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>15.99%</td>
<td>84.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>25.59%</td>
<td>74.41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>14.04%</td>
<td>85.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25.37%</td>
<td>74.63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>21.01%</td>
<td>78.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>20.23%</td>
<td>79.77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>20.74%</td>
<td>79.26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>15.98%</td>
<td>84.02%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>14.08%</td>
<td>85.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>24.44%</td>
<td>75.56%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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

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

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

For California 2020:
- Other recalls: 95.24%
- Recalls related to COVID-19: 4.76%

For U.S. 2020:
- Other recalls: 70.43%
- Recalls related to COVID-19: 29.57%

For California 2021:
- Other recalls: 56.2%
- Recalls related to COVID-19: 43.8%

For U.S. 2021:
- Other recalls: 59.96%
- Recalls related to COVID-19: 40.04%
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.
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

- <5,000: 58
- 5,000-20,000: 47
- 20,000-50,000: 17
- 50,000-100,000: 12
- 100,000-500,000: 45
- >500,000: 13
Thank you!