

## RECALL ELECTION PROCESS

A recall election is a process whereby the qualified electors of a school district may force a seated school district governing board member to stand for election prior to the completion of the full length of his/her term in office. This process applies to governing board members who are elected or appointed. Recalls may only proceed after the officer has been in office for at least six (6) months and it applies only to the first term in office.

Below is a summary description of the process to conduct a recall.

1. An *Application for a Recall Serial Number* must be filed with the Pinal County School Superintendent's Office provide the information for the individual and/or organization who wish to initiate a recall. A statement not to exceed 200 words must also be submitted with the Application providing the reasons for the recall of the governing board member. Once an application is received, a serial number will be issued that must be included on every recall petition being circulated. Recalls cannot begin without this serial number.
2. The number of signatures to collect is based as follows:
  - a. For elected members, the number of signatures is dependent on 25% of the total number of votes cast at the last General Election for all candidates for the office and then divided by the number of offices filled at that election.
  - b. For appointed members, the number of signatures is based on 10% of the registered voters at the last General Election.
3. Once an Application is filed and serial number issued, the recall committee has up to 120 days to collect the minimum number of signatures required by law to initiate a recall election. Failure to file within 120 days ends the recall process.
4. If the minimum number of signatures are collected and filed within the 120-day window, the County School Superintendent's Office has up to 10 days to review petitions and signatures based on specific statutory eligibility requirements. If after this review there are still the minimum number of signatures remaining, the petitions are transmitted to the County Recorder for voter registration verification. If insufficient signatures remain, the

petitions are returned to the recall committee with a statement as to why signatures or petitions were removed and the process ends.

5. After receipt of petitions, the County Recorder has up to 60 days to validate the signatures of the individuals who signed the recall petitions. All individuals must be registered voters of the school district where the recall is taking place. If insufficient signatures remain after this review, the recall process ends.
6. If after the County Recorder's review there are still sufficient signatures, the Committee is notified and the County School Superintendent's Office will notify the school board member that they have up to five (5) business days to resign the office. If the board member resigns, the vacancy is filled by the County School Superintendent as authorized by state law and the recall ends.
7. If the school board member does not resign, the County School Superintendent's shall issue an order within fifteen (15) days calling for a recall election. The date of the recall election is at least ninety (90) days or more after the date of the order on one of the four consolidated election dates set in statute.
8. The current school board member will automatically appear on the recall election ballot. For challengers, the number of signatures to collect to appear on the recall ballot are:
  - a. For elected board members, the minimum number is 2% of the number of votes cast during the last election for the office.
  - b. For appointed board members, one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the number of active, registered voters at the last general election.
9. If a challenger receives a greater number of votes than the sitting school board member, the school board member is deemed recalled and immediately removed from office. The individual elected will serve the remaining portion of the term of the recalled school board member.