



August 26, 2021

**TO: Interested Parties**

**FR: Ben Greenfield, Change Research**

**RE: Newsom At 57% As Democrats' Motivation To Vote In Recall Grows**

A new survey of 782 likely voters in the September 14 recall election finds 42% supporting the recall effort, while 57% have voted or plan to vote to keep Governor Gavin Newsom in office. Just 1% are undecided.

### California Recall Election

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If the election were held today, would you vote Yes to remove Newsom from office, or No to keep him in office? If you already voted, please indicate how you voted.

● Yes ● Undecided



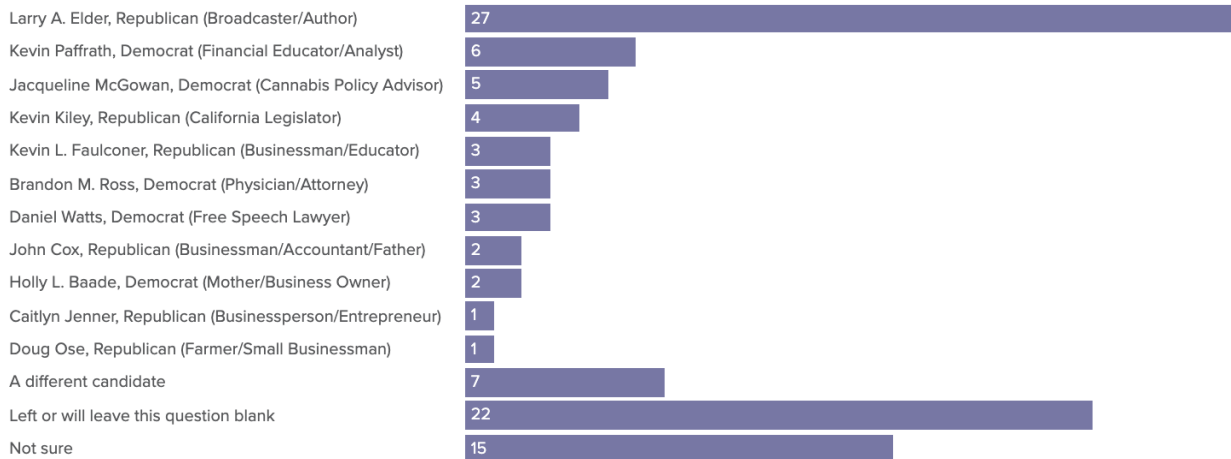
In a June poll, Change Research found that only 84% of Democrats said they'd definitely vote. But in the new poll, 92% of all Democrats have either already voted (54%) or say they definitely will (38%) -- still below Republicans' 98%, but enough to widen the margin among the likeliest voters. What's more, No voters are returning their ballots at a much faster clip: 58% of No voters say they have already voted, while only 35% of those who have voted Yes say the same.

On the ballot's second question, Larry Elder leads with 27% of the vote, including 67% of those who voted for Donald Trump in 2020.

## California Recall Election: Question 2

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The second question on the recall election ballot asks which candidate you would choose to replace Governor Newsom if he is removed from office. You may vote on this question regardless of how you voted on the first question. If the election were held today, who would you vote for to replace Newsom if he is removed from office? (If you already voted, please indicate who you voted for.)



Among those planning to vote No on the first question, just 32% have selected a candidate for the second question: Democrats Kevin Paffrath, Jacqueline McGowan, Daniel Watts and Brandon Ross all have the support of between 5% and 9% of No voters. But a plurality of No voters, 38%, plan to leave the second question blank. Another 19% of No voters are unsure how they'll vote on the second question.

Those planning to vote to retain Governor Newsom were also asked what was most motivating their No vote. The majority, 51%, said they wanted Newsom to continue serving as Governor. Another 38% don't want a Republican setting California's policies. 5% are mostly worried that, in the event of Dianne Feinstein's Senate seat opening up, a Republican would appoint her successor. Another 7% wrote in answers, many of which lamented the cost of the recall election, particularly with only a year until Newsom's term ends.

*A full summary of the survey's methodology can be found [here](#).*