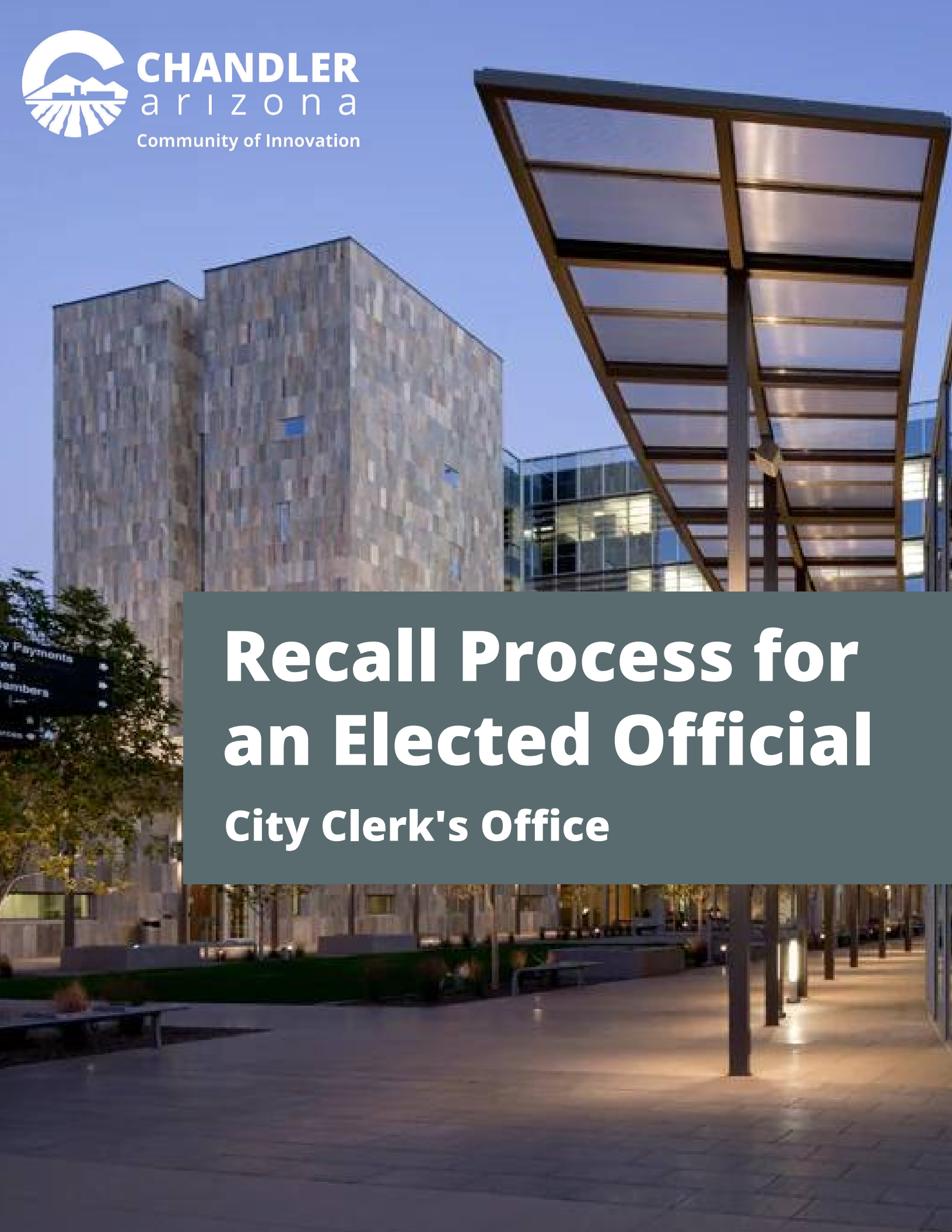
CHANDLER
arizona
Community of Innovation



Recall Process for an Elected Official

City Clerk's Office

Table of Contents

Page 2 - Letter from the City Clerk

Page 3 - Overview of the Recall Process

Page 5 - Submitting an Application

Page 6 - Receipt of Recall Application

Page 7 - Signature Requirements and Gathering

Page 8 - Deadlines

Page 9 - Verification, Certification, and Qualification

Page 10 - Next Steps

Letter from the City Clerk

This guide provides information on the process for recalling an elected official. While every effort is made to provide a comprehensive overview of the process and each step, this packet is provided with the understanding that the City Clerk's Office cannot render legal or financial advice. Individuals interested in pursuing a recall of an elected official are encouraged to refer to the Arizona State Constitution, the Arizona Revised Statues, Arizona Elections Procedures Manual, the Chandler City Charter, and Chandler City Code for legal requirements pertaining to recalls. It is the individual's responsibilities to ensure compliance with current legal requirements.

Please note that the Chandler City Clerk serves as the filing officer for all local election forms. All forms must be filed with the Chandler City Clerk’s Office within the deadlines noted in the statutes.

If you have questions regarding the recall procedural process, please feel free to contact the City Clerk’s Office at 480-782-2182; or email jennifer.rincon@chandleraz.gov.

Sincerely,

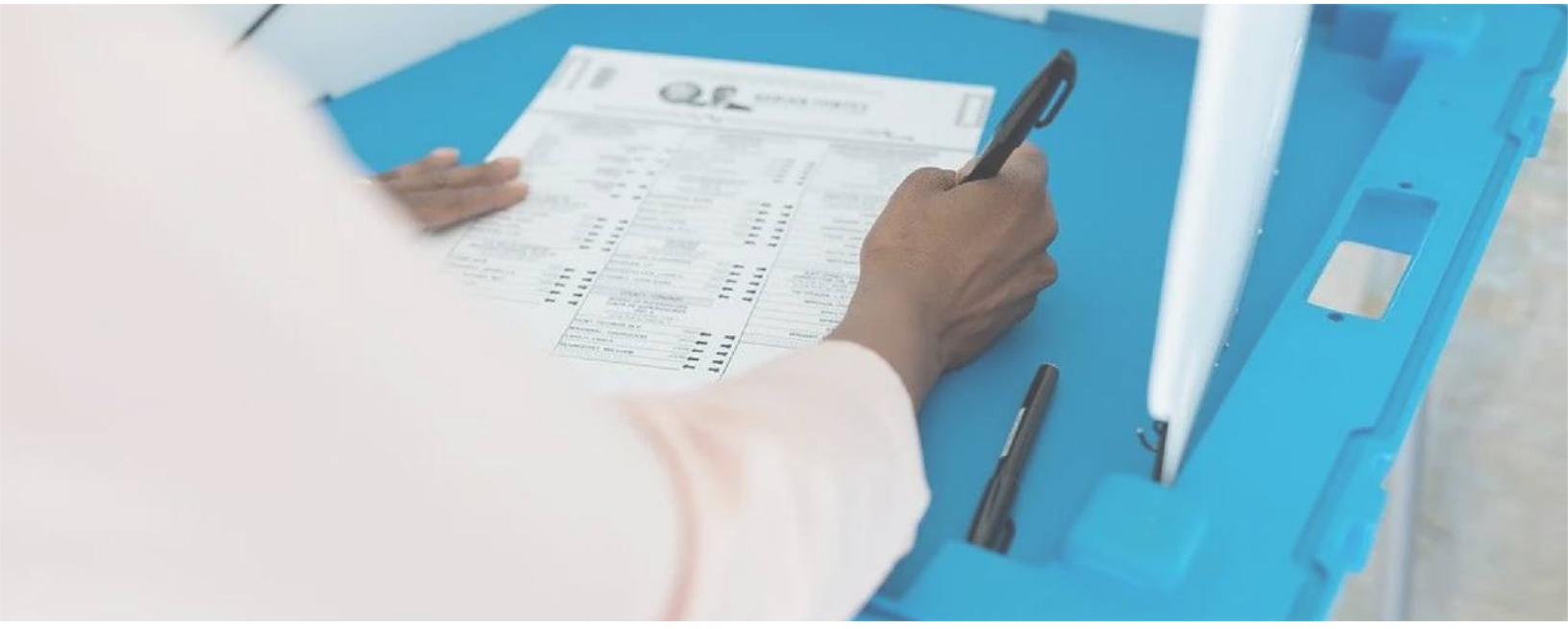
Jennifer Rincon, MMC, CPM, CRM
City Clerk
City of Chandler
480-782-2182
jennifer.rincon@chandleraz.gov

Overview of the Recall Process

Recall elections are governed by the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Revised Statutes. Please note that every public officer holding an elected office for at least six months, either by election or appointment, may be removed from office before the end of the officer's term by means of a recall procedure. (ARS § 19-201) The six months in which a candidate may not be recalled are the first 6 months of the first term of office. In other words, if a candidate is re-elected to the same office, the candidate could be recalled at any time within the second term. The recall process is subject to strict compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Applications, a blank master petition, and all associated documentation for a recall are available upon request from the City Clerk's Office and are provided as part of this packet.

Individuals are encouraged to review all election materials and laws with their individual attorney to ensure compliance with current legal requirements. While the City Clerk's Office will assist with procedural questions related to election filings, City Clerk's Office staff cannot render legal, financial, or other professional advice.



Submitting an Application for a Recall

The person or organization intending to file a recall petition must, prior to circulating the petitions, submit a Recall Application to the City Clerk.

The Recall Application must contain the following:

1. Name and address of individual or, if organization, name of the organization and names and titles of its officers.
2. The person's or organization's intent to circulate and submit a recall petition.
3. Text of the general statement of not more than 200 words stating the grounds of the demand for the recall.
4. A separate electronic copy of the general statement in the format prescribed by the City Clerk at the same time as submission of the application and petition. (ARS § 19-202.01)
5. Request for issuance of an official number to appear on all petitions.
6. The person or organization must submit the application and petition as a single document to the City Clerk.



Receipt of Recall Application

Upon receipt of the Recall Application, the City Clerk will:



1. Assign a number to the petition that must appear in the lower right-hand corner on each side of each signature sheet.



2. Issue that number to the applicant.



3. Provide the number of signatures required: 25% of the votes cast at the last preceding election at which the public officer who is the subject of the recall was declared elected.

Signature Requirements

When the recall is for a member of the Council who is elected at large at a nonpartisan election, the number of signatures needed for the Recall Petition is determined by the last preceding election at which the public officer who is the subject of the recall was declared elected.

The calculation is made by adding together the votes for each of the candidates cast at the last preceding election for the same office as the public officer who is the subject of the recall. The result is then divided by the number of seats to be filled at that election. The remainder is multiplied by 25% which determines the minimum number of signatures that must be collected for the recall petition.

Effective as of the July 21, 2026 Primary Election

Mayor

- Total votes cast for all candidates for Mayor: 43,310 / 1 seat = 43,310
- 43,310 x 0.25 = **10,827 signatures required to recall Mayor**

Councilmember

- Total votes cast for all candidates for Councilmember seats available: 112,961 / 3 seats = 37,653
- 37,653 x 0.25 = 9,413 **signatures required to recall a Councilmember**

Effective as of the July 30, 2024 Primary Election

Councilmember

- Total votes cast for all candidates for Councilmember seats available: 112,960 / 3 seats = 37,635
- 37,635 x 0.25 = **9,413 signatures required to recall a Councilmember**

Effective as of the November 5, 2024 General Election

Councilmember

- Total votes cast for all candidates for Councilmember seats available: 103,477 / 1 seat = 103,477
- 103,477 x 0.25 = **25,869 signatures required to recall a Councilmember**

Recall Petition Signature Gathering

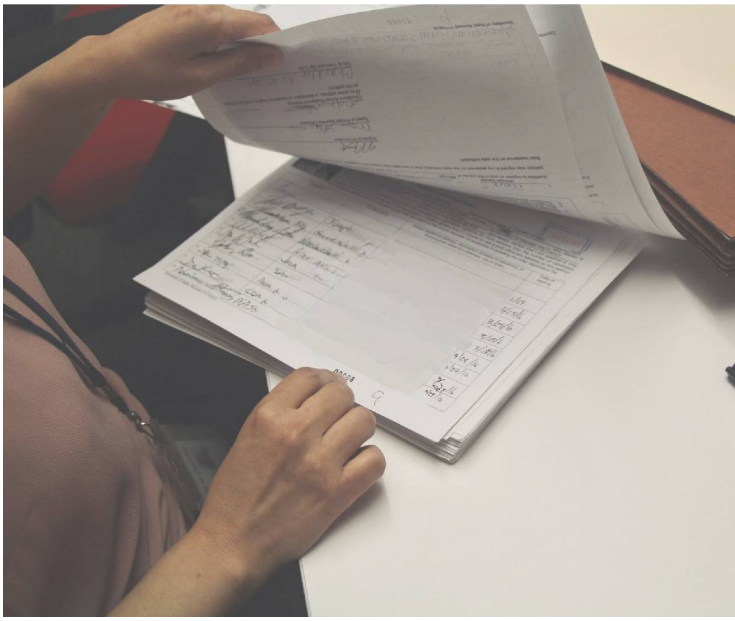
Every qualified elector signing a Recall Petition for a recall election must sign in the presence of the person who is circulating the petition and who is to execute the circulator affidavit on the reverse side of the signature sheet.

Petition Circulators

All paid circulators and nonresident circulators must register with the Secretary of State. Any signature without a checked box that indicates whether circulator is paid or a volunteer is void and cannot be counted. State law bars the circulation of recall petitions by a county recorder or justice of the peace. Any petitions circulated by such a person are void.

Signature Withdrawal

Individuals who signed a Recall Petition may withdraw their signatures not later than 5:00 p.m. on the date the Recall Petitions are submitted to the City Clerk. Individuals may withdraw their signatures by signing an Affidavit of Signature Withdrawal from Recall Petition and filing it with the City Clerk. Also, individuals may withdraw their signatures by mailing a signed, notarized statement of intent to withdraw to the City Clerk. Withdrawn signatures and crossed-out signatures may not be counted in determining the legal sufficiency of the petition.



Filing Deadline and Review of Recall Petitions by City Clerk

The signed Recall Petitions must be filed with the City Clerk no later than 120 days after the date of the Recall Application.

No Later than 10 Days



No later than 10 days after receipt of the signed Recall Petitions, the City Clerk will review each sheet for completeness and compliance. The City Clerk must count the number of signatures and remove the sheets that do not comply with statutory requirements for verification and notify the applicant of this total number eligible for verification.

If the City Clerk refuses to accept and file a Recall Petition that has been presented within the time prescribed, the City Clerk must provide a written statement of the reason for the refusal to the person or organization who submitted the Recall Petition, signature sheet or affidavit.

Within 5 Days of Refusal



Within 5 calendar days of the City Clerk's refusal, any citizen may apply to the superior court for a writ of mandamus to compel the City Clerk to act; the superior court decision may be appealed to the Arizona Supreme Court within 5 calendar days after judgment.

If the Court finds the Recall Petition is legally sufficient, the City Clerk must file it with a certified copy of the judgment attached as of the date on which it was originally offered for filing in the City Clerk’s Office.

Verification, Certification, and Qualification of Signatures

Recall Verification Process by the City Clerk

If the total number of signatures eligible for verification equals or exceeds the minimum number required, the City Clerk will do the following:

- Make front and back copies of the petition signature sheets that are eligible for verification.
- Certify the number of sheets and signatures that are being transmitted to the County Recorder and retain a copy.
- Obtain a dated, signed receipt from the recorder.

Recall Petition Certification by the County Recorder

The County Recorder has 75 days after receipt of the front and back of the Recall Petition signatures sheets to determine the number of signatures. The County Recorder must certify the number of valid signatures and return the facsimile copies of the sheets to the City Clerk and obtain a dated, signed receipt of the copies from the City Clerk. The county recorder must mail or email the certification results to the person or organization that submitted the Recall Petition and to the City Clerk.

Qualification of Certified Signatures

After the City Clerk receives copies of the certified number of signatures from the County Recorder, the City Clerk has 5 days (excluding Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays) to determine the total number of certified signatures to qualify for the recall. If there are sufficient signatures (equals or exceeds the minimum), the City Clerk must immediately officially file the Recall Petition and notify the Mayor and County Recorder that a recall will be placed on the ballot as provided by law.

If there are not sufficient signatures, the City Clerk must provide notice of the insufficiency of signatures to the person or organization who submitted the petitions, and the City Clerk must return the Recall Petition sheets to the person or organization.

The returned Recall Petition signatures sheets may not be reused or resubmitted at any later date.

Next Steps

The City Clerk will notify the official subject to the recall within 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and other legal holidays) of the official filing of the Recall Petition.

If the officer does not resign within 5 days from the date of the filing, the City Council must call an election within 15 days.

The election must be held on the next consolidated election date that is 120 or more days after the call.

Recall Ballot Requirements and Candidate Nominations

The officer's name subject to the recall will automatically appear on the ballot at the recall election.

The ballot will also include the statement from the recall petition regarding the grounds for a recall as well as the elected official's statement that must not be more than 200 words in length.
(ARS § 19-213)

Other candidates may be nominated in a recall election and must submit a Statement of Interest and Nomination Petition containing signatures of qualified electors of at least 2% of the total votes cast for all candidates for that office in the last election for that office. Any Nomination Petition signatures that are collected before the date of the Statement of Interest is filed and before the date the Recall Application is filed are invalid and subject to challenge. The filing deadline for recall election nomination must be not more than 120 days nor less than 90 days before the date of the recall election.

Recall Election Nomination Signature Requirements

Effective as of the August 2, 2022 Primary Election

Total Votes for Mayor: 51,104 x 2% = 1,022

Effective as of the November 5, 2024 General Election

Total votes for Councilmember seats available: 103,477 x 2% - 2,069

Recall Election Results

The candidate who receives the largest number of votes is declared elected for the remainder of the unexpired term on the candidate's qualification for the office and on completion of the canvass of the election returns.

If the incumbent receives the largest number of votes, the incumbent continues in office. If the incumbent does not receive the largest number of votes, the incumbent must be removed from office upon qualification of the incumbent's successor. If the incumbent's successor does not qualify within 5 days after the results of the election have been declared, the office is vacant and may be filled pursuant to law.

Notes



175 S. Arizona Ave.
Chandler, AZ 85225
480-782-2181