



## Penny's Picks

### September 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election

Statewide | September 14

"Penny's Picks" are posted online at [robbynordell.com/county/san-diego](http://robbynordell.com/county/san-diego).

Who is Penny? *See a brief bio at the end of these recommendations.*

#### Gubernatorial Recall Election 2021

*First of all, I ask you to PLEASE not sit this one out. This is an important election. Below are some details and my recommendations. Please pray for God's favor on our state.*

#### Key Dates

August 16 – Ballots mailed to all active registered California voters<sup>1</sup>

August 30 – Last day to register (by mail or online) to vote in the recall election<sup>2</sup>

September 11-14 – In-person voting available at poll locations

September 14 – Recall Election Day

<sup>1</sup> Active registered voters are those who have voted at least once in the last two federal elections (definition per the San Diego County Registrar's office). Please check your registration status [here](#) to ensure you receive a mail ballot. Track your ballot [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> You may still register after this date, but you will need to [register conditionally](#) in person at your registrar's office.

#### Ballot Explanation

Your ballot will have two questions:

- 1) **Do you want to recall the governor?** You will be asked to vote "yes" or "no" on whether Gov. Newsom should be removed from office.
- 2) **If recalled, who do you want to replace him?** You will then vote for one of the 46 replacement candidates listed. If more than 50% of voters answer "yes" to the first question, the replacement candidate with the most votes would then become the next governor. Candidate list [here](#). (Note: If Gov. Newsom is recalled, elections officials have 30 days to certify the election. The new governor will take office 38 days after Election Day and complete the rest of Gov. Newsom's term.)

While you may return your ballot by mail or at a county drop-off location, in-person polling locations will also be available. Find polling places and specific information to your area through your county registrar of voters (list [here](#)). I suggest voting in person if possible, which is the most secure and tamper-proof way to vote.

For San Diego County, polls will be open Saturday, Sept. 11 through Monday, Sept. 13 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. On Tuesday, September 14, poll locations will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. See the list of poll locations [here](#).

#### Why Recall Gov. Newsom?

Gavin Newsom has had a decidedly anti-family agenda since he was mayor of San Francisco and then lieutenant governor. His legislative actions as governor have upended the lives and livelihoods of perhaps 2 million independent contractors ([AB 5](#), later [partially repealed by voters](#)), expanded abortion by [requiring](#) public university campuses to provide medical abortions, and [allowed](#) biological male inmates merely claiming a female "gender identity" to be transferred to women's facilities, to name just a few. The RecallGavinNewsom site has a lengthy list of reasons [here](#).

*Why am I optimistic about recalling Gov. Newsom?*

Recent [polls](#) show a steady increase in the percentage of Californians who indicate they will vote to remove the governor. In the latest (as of this writing) SurveyUSA [poll](#), 51% would vote for his ouster.

#### Candidates

There are many important factors to consider when reviewing candidates. Where do they stand on important biblical values such as the sanctity of life, sexuality and gender, religious liberty, marriage and family, proper role of (and generally smaller) government, education, taxes, business and more? While issues are very important, *so is electability*, particularly in a "one-and-done" race with 46 candidates to select from on September 14. *This is not a primary*. Candidates from many parties and no party are all vying for the most votes. Remember, there are no "perfect" candidates Good people can differ – when we do, let's be gracious, please.

I believe that we must unite conservatives behind a single candidate to ensure that the most votes statewide do not go to a candidate who may well be worse than Gov. Newsom. Plain and simple: we live in a BLUE state – if we split the conservative vote too many ways we will lose. I have decided to narrow my review to the three conservative candidates polling the highest over the last three polls. I believe these are the most *viable* choices and all are pro-life. (I realize polls may change over time and will be reviewing them regularly.) There are clearly many conservative candidates among the 46, but most are simply not viable. They are unknown and there is no time for them to gain that recognition. I pray that many of them will re-think their campaigns and encourage what backing they do have to support my recommendation below. (Note: Even though he might be considered viable by some polling, Kevin Faulconer, San Diego's former mayor is not pro-life and has other serious shortcomings in my view.)

*That being said, I am supporting **Larry Elder**. Why? Read on, especially if we disagree.*

### Larry Elder

With his name recognition, funding, media acumen and generally conservative views, Larry Elder is my choice as the most electable Republican to replace Gov. Newsom. He is polling well ahead of all other Republicans, has increasing momentum (23% in the most recent poll), and is the candidate I believe we must unite behind. Pastor Jack Hibbs (Calvary Chapel Chino Hills – which Larry attends) and talk-show host Dennis Prager asked Larry to run. His supporters in the faith community and conservative media continue to grow. Dennis Prager has said, "If Larry Elder wins it will be the harbinger of retaking America. [He is] a man who loves America, loves American values, honesty, and morals."

Pastor Hibbs has been posting one-minute videos with Larry on his Facebook and Instagram pages. Larry's position on abortion is very clear. He is pro-life. He supports the right of business owners like baker Jack Phillips to follow their conscience and faith. On marriage, he speaks clearly about the importance of children being raised by their married parents to prevent social ills, but I acknowledge that he has not supported our previous California marriage initiatives, electing instead to take a libertarian stance. I pray his view in this important area will change, but, unless the nation's high court revisits *Obergefell*, sadly and realistically there is not much that state leadership – or even federal – can do to make policy changes on the definition of marriage. Larry is strong on fiscal issues and articulates his positions clearly.

### John Cox

I like John Cox. I supported him wholeheartedly for governor in 2018. He is a solid conservative on social and fiscal issues. Unfortunately, he lost the prior race by a sizable margin (38% to 62% for Newsom) and has not garnered significant widespread support this time around. I believe Larry Elder has the broader appeal that will be necessary to surpass the votes on the left. John leads the pack behind Larry, but is polling at just 10% to Larry's 23% in the most recent survey.

### Kevin Kiley

Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, elected in 2016, is an extremely bright, articulate and a stalwart conservative with a solid voting record in the California Legislature. He has worked diligently toward the goal of recalling Gov. Newsom and has posted his reasons for doing so extensively on his blog. Unfortunately, too few Californians know Kevin and he is polling quite low (3-4%). This lack of visibility and widespread support will be extremely difficult to overcome by September 14.

### Valuable Voter Resources

Below are links to online sources that you may find helpful as you research your choice to replace Gov. Newsom.

**Robyn Nordell's Conservative California Election Website** – [robbynordell.com](http://robbynordell.com). Find Robyn's recommendations, as well as others who offer their choices – and my "Picks" are posted there, of course.

**Craig Huey's Voter Guide** – [electionforum.org/california-recall-voter-guide-election](http://electionforum.org/california-recall-voter-guide-election)

**iVoterGuide** – [ivoterguide.com](http://ivoterguide.com) This resource is useful for the research it offers on the candidates. However, it does not take into account the candidates' electability, which must be considered as part of one's choice.

**Who is Penny?** Penny Harrington served as California's director of legislation for a national public policy organization for 13 years and continues to volunteer as a policy analyst for a pro-life and pro-family coalition in the state. She is passionate about making a difference in support of biblical values and equipping others to do the same.