

Recall Act – Summary of Changes

July 4, 2025

Summary of amendments to the *Recall Act* contained in Bill 54: *Election Statutes Amendment Act*.

Application

- Amended to require an application for a recall petition to include a statement of not more than 100 words explaining why the member should be recalled (s.2(2)(c)).
- Applications cannot be submitted outside of the recall period. Recall period amended to 12 months after the member is declared elected until 12 months before next scheduled Provincial General Election (PGE) (s.2(5)(a)).

Rejection or approval of application

- Added a timeline for rejection or approval of a recall application. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) will determine within 7 days of receiving the application whether the applicant has met the requirements.
 - If no, the CEO will reject the application and provide written notice with reasons for the rejection to the applicant (s.3(2)).
 - If yes, the CEO will approve and provide written notice to the applicant, the member (must include the applicant's statement), the leader of the member's registered party, and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (s.3(3)).

Member's response statement

- Added the ability for a member named in a recall application to submit a statement.
- The member may submit a 100-word maximum statement as to why the recall is not warranted within 7 days of notification (s.3.1).

Issuance of recall petition

- Added a time limit and requirements for the CEO when issuing a petition.
- Within 7 days of receiving the member's statement or the response period expires, the CEO will issue a recall petition and publish it on the Elections Alberta website along with the notice of recall petition and canvassing period. The recall petition must include the applicant's and member's statements. Each authorized participant will also be provided the total number of votes for the electoral division named in the petition (s.3.2).

Time limit for submitting recall petitions

- Amended the canvassing period to 90 days (was previously 60 days) (s.7(1)).
- Requires the CEO to complete verification within 21 days (was previously 30 days) (s.7(4)).

Verification

- Amended the threshold for a successful petition to require an applicant to collect signatures from electors equal to at least 60% of total number of votes cast in the most recent election in the electoral division (was previously 40% of voters eligible to sign the petition) (s.8).

Report

- Amended the requirement for the CEO to report verification results within 7 days after completing the verification process (was previously “as soon as practicable”) (s.9).

Contributions and expenses

- Only an individual ordinarily resident in Alberta, a corporation other than a prohibited corporation, and an Alberta trade union or Alberta employee organization may make contributions to a to an authorized representative in respect to a recall petition or recall vote (was previously only an individual) (s.11 & s.16).

Recall Vote

- The Lieutenant Governor in Council will order a recall vote to be conducted within 4 months of the date on which the successful results were published (was previously 6 months). (s.15(1)).

Judicial review

- Changes made in the *Election Act* and *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* regarding judicial review apply to recall votes, subject to the regulations (s.51(1)).

Administrative penalties

- Changes made in the *Election Act* and *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* regarding administrative penalties apply to recall votes, subject to the regulations (s.64(0.1)).



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For media inquiries, please contact:

Michelle Gurney
Media Relations
Phone: 403.431.0759
Email: media@elections.ab.ca