



may need 10,000 or more verified signatures. Most recall efforts don't have the funding to hire paid signature gatherers like CI-126, 127 and 128 most recently did. Other recall efforts were thrown out by the district courts because the court didn't feel they had met the 'for cause' hurdle or because their petition didn't meet the form requirements. Some have been thrown out because they were slightly over the 200 statutory word limit of the petition. Others have failed because government lawyers convinced the petitioners to drop the case. While others have run the gauntlet and gotten all of the way to a recall election and failed to gain the 50% needed from the voters to recall the official.

There have been some successes however, although not always directly. In Stevensville, the recall effort against Mayor Brandon Dewey failed at the ballot box, but the effort encouraged the City police department to begin an investigation based on the claims the recall petitioners had made. The Mayor ended up pleading guilty to three misdemeanors and

-serving some time in prison.

How Should We Go Forward and What Can You Do?

It is clear that the 'for cause' requirement in the current Recall Act (MCA 2-16-6) needs to be removed, so the law reflects what the voters overwhelming voted for in 1976. There are enough safeguards within the law to keep it from being abused.

There is currently proposed legislation in the 2025 session sponsored by Senator Jeremy Trebas. Call your Senators and Representatives and tell them to pass this legislation (draft bill LC0521).

Elect judges who are voter friendly and follow the constitution. This applies all the way from the District Courts to the Montana Supreme Court.

Attend your County, City and School board meetings and hold the people who work for us

accountable to the voters.

If you are thinking about starting a recall petition there are a number of patriots in Montana that have attempted to recall. Reach out to them and learn what worked and what didn't. Who knows - they may even help you collect signatures!

To Conclude

The ability for the voters to recall elected and appointed officials who are not doing their job to the standards of their constituents is a right the Montana voters demanded in 1976. That effort was undermined by the same politicians and courts that it was intended to address. Now, 45 years later, it is time for that dream to be realized!

If you want to find out more about the Montana Recall Act you can find more details in the Montana Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 16, Part 6. 🇺🇸