

# Recall of the Governor: Proposed Amendment to the Illinois Constitution

## What You Need to Know to Vote November 2, 2010

### The Recall Amendment

At the general election to be held on November 2, 2010, you will be asked to decide whether the Illinois Constitution should be amended to add a new Section 7 to Article III to provide for a special election to recall a governor and for a special election to elect a successor governor. (See HJR121, [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov))

If you believe the Illinois Constitution should be amended to provide for a special election to recall a Governor and for a special election to elect a successor Governor, **Vote "YES"**.

If you believe the Illinois Constitution should not be amended to provide for a special election to recall a Governor and for a special election to elect a successor Governor, **Vote "NO"**.

3/5ths of those voting on the question or a majority of those voting in the election must vote "YES" in order for the amendment to become effective.

### Summary of the Amendment

- No sooner than six months after the beginning of a governor's term, an affidavit may be filed with the State Board of Elections indicating notice of intent to circulate a petition to recall the Governor.
- The affidavit must have the signature of 20 members of the Illinois House of Representatives and 10 members of the Illinois Senate. No more than 50% of signatures can be from members of the same political party.
- The number of petition signatures required is 15% of the total votes cast for Governor in the preceding election. Based on the 2006 gubernatorial election almost 525,000 signatures would be needed.
- Signatures must be collected within 150 days. 100 signatures must come from each of at least 25 of Illinois' 102 counties.
- Two special elections may be required, one to recall the Governor and, if necessary, a second to elect a successor Governor. (The State Board of Elections estimates the cost of these elections at \$101 million.)

### Recall: Pros and Cons

#### PROS

- Recall improves the performance of elected officials.
- Recall provides a way for voters to retain control over elected officials who are not representing the best interests of their constituents.
- Recall stimulates interest in public affairs.
- Recall encourages elected officials to be more responsive to constituents.
- Voters should have the ability to remove a Governor mid-term.

#### CONS

- Recall puts an additional burden on the voter (longer ballots, more frequent elections).
- Elected officials may feel unduly restrained; they may be reluctant to support action in the public interest for fear of recall.
- Expense of additional recall election is not justified, especially when impeachment or next election is available for getting rid of an elected official.
- Recall can be used for partisan purposes.
- Recall can lead to abuses by well-financed special interest groups.