

Political Grab Bag

By Steve Bagby Sr., Political Action Committee Chair

The Political Grab Bag for the month of August will be a condensed version due to summer vacation schedules. The upcoming Gubernatorial Recall Election in September is most important and there are some August dates related to the recall election that we need to be aware of, so we will direct some attention to those dates and other issues relating to the election.

California Gubernatorial Recall Election---Gavin Newsom

The recall election is scheduled for September 14, 2021. There are 46 candidates on the ballot running against Governor Newsom. There are ten candidates that did not specify a specific party affiliation and nine Democrats running against Gov. Newsom. There are 24 Republicans, two candidates from the Green Party and one candidate from the Libertarian Party. As is clear from the numbers above, the majority of the candidates challenging Governor Newsom are Republicans, which makes it obvious that the recall election is politically motivated. The most well known Republicans in the race include Larry Elder, John Cox and Caitlynn Jenner. We must do everything within our power to vote against the recall so we can retain Governor Newsom as the California Governor, because we are mindful of how Republicans throughout this state, as well as in the nation's "Halls of Congress," continue to thwart OUR efforts to advance the goals of the nation to "**... form a more perfect Union, establish Justice . . .**" as set forth in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, and whose actions make clear that they do not uphold the tenets upon which this country was founded as expressed in the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, **that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**" We need a leader who is more broad and inclusive in his thinking as opposed to one who is narrow-minded and exclusive . . who is trying to continue the "good ol' boys' network," so to speak, contrary to the goals for this country established over 240 + years ago!!

While many of us are already registered, we must always continue in our efforts to engage and encourage others, including the youth, about the need to register to vote. **For the recall election, August 30th is the last day to register to vote.** Per the L.A. County Registrar/Recorder's Office, the Voter Registration Form shall be mailed (postmarked by August 30th) or delivered to the county elections official by August 30th and is effective upon receipt. The Voter Registration Form may also be submitted by August 30th to the Secretary of State or to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

By **August 24, 2021**, the Secretary of State shall mail the State Voter Information Guide to all households in which voters were registered by July 16, 2021. This mailing is based on the information provided by county elections officials to the Secretary of State by July 26, 2021.

For the recall election, every active registered voter will be mailed a Vote-by-Mail ballot. No later than by **August 16, 2021**, county elections officials shall **begin** mailing each registered voter a Vote-by-Mail ballot, a Vote-by-Mail packet that includes an envelope with instructions on the use and return of the Vote-by-Mail ballot, and other information including the locations and hours of each vote center in the county or polling place. County elections officials shall have five days to mail a ballot to each person who is registered to vote by this date and five days to mail a ballot to each person who is subsequently registered to vote.

Per a July 27th article in the L.A. Times, **the troubling issue facing this recall election is voter complacency.** The findings of a poll conducted by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, which was co-sponsored by the L. A. Times, "dispel the notion that California's solid Democratic voter majority will provide an impenetrable shield for Newsom, and reveal a vulnerability created by a recall effort that has energized Republicans and been met with indifference by many Democrats and independent voters." "Nearly 90% of Republicans expressed a high level of interest in the recall election while just 58% of Democrats and 53% of independent voters were as interested," the poll found. "Democrats, at least in the middle of July, almost unanimously believed that Newsom will defeat the recall. I think that may be contributing to some complacency among those voters.

Republicans on the other hand, are confident that they can turn out the governor," said Mark DiCamillo, director of the poll. "**I think the Newsom campaign really has to light a fire among the Democrats and say, '[I]ook, the outcome is in jeopardy unless you get out there and vote.'**" "Though Republicans account for only about a quarter of all registered voters in California, the poll found that they account for 33% of those most likely to cast ballots in the recall election. Democrats make up 46% of the state's 22 million voters and 'no party preference' voters 24%, but their share of the likely recall voters drops to 42% and 18% respectively," DiCamillo said.

Governor Newsom's campaign has "long attempted to tie the recall effort to former President Trump, who was roundly defeated in California by President Biden in the 2020 presidential election. Trump supporters, along with anti-vaccination activists and far-right groups, were early supporters of the recall." **Per Nathan Click, spokesman for Newsom's anti-recall campaign, "Californians see this Republican recall for what it is - - - a blatant attempt by Trump supporters to grab power and impose their agenda on California. But Democrats can't get complacent. The only way to prevent the Republican takeover of California is by voting NO by September 14th. If Californians vote, we win."**

Thus, we need to do our part and make sure that we don't assume that because Democrats are in the majority that the Democratic Governor will automatically or easily retain his position. We have to vote! We have to call, text, email, tweet, use Facebook, Instagram and all other forms of social media to encourage our family and friends to vote in this recall election. As previously stated, we need to make sure that our youth who are just becoming eligible to vote, are indeed encouraged to register to vote and participate in this important election. We are aware of all the voter-suppression laws that are being passed by states with Republican Governors and Republican controlled state legislatures, and, should therefore **be mindful that it is important to exercise our current right to vote . . . so we must follow-up and do so! Let us NOT be complacent! Keep California Democratic!**

Thank you for reading! (August 2021)