

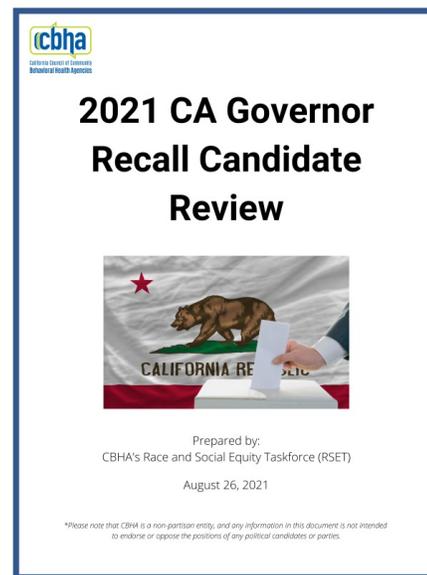
2021 Recall Candidate Review: A Behavioral Health Lens

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8/26/2021

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Sacramento, CA - More than 93,000 people died of a drug overdose in the U.S. last year — a record number that reflects a rise of nearly 30 percent since 2019. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 1 in 3 California high school students surveyed reported feeling sad or hopeless. Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego reports a 25 percent increase in mental health emergency room visits over the past year. These statistics are alarming, and we anticipate that our behavioral health system is poised to experience an influx in service use as a result of the pandemic. Indeed, this pandemic has brought us to the verge of a behavioral health crisis like we have never seen before.

As we determine a strategy for combating a rise in behavioral health emergencies, our elected leadership plays an instrumental in passing legislation to keep our state healthy. **Tuesday, September 14th, 2021, is the 2021 California gubernatorial recall election.** The recall has been part of California’s political system since 1911 and provides a mechanism for the public to attempt to remove elected public officials from office before the end of their term of office. Every active registered voter will be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot for the recall election.



The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) represents mental health and substance use disorders nonprofit community-based organizations that provide behavioral health services to over 775,000 Californians. This election could substantially effect California’s response to growing mental health and substance use treatment needs and long-term policy for addressing this public health issue. In the hopes of educating the community and driving engagement, CBHA decided it was critical to examine each candidate’s platform from both a behavioral health and social equity lens.

This **2021 Recall Candidate Review** provides an overview of the 2021 recall candidates’ positions, as well as Governor Newsom’s, on behavioral healthcare and social determinants of health. We identified eighteen candidates who have shown a commitment to these critical issues by gathering information directly from campaign platforms. We believe that civic engagement is an important aspect of pursuing social equity and offer this review as an educational resource to the community.

The political affiliation of the recall candidates is as followed:

- o 4 Democrats
- o 12 Republicans
- o 4 No Party Preference Candidates

Of the eighteen recall candidates, nine candidates showed a clear commitment to behavioral health care, and twelve stated homelessness as a key issue.

To learn more, please read CBHA’s **2021 Recall Candidate Review**.

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California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) is a statewide association of nonprofit community-based organizations who provide mental health, substance use, housing, education, and vocational rehabilitation services to over 775,000 children, youth, adults, and

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California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies

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