



## **Statement on the 2021 Recall of Governor Newsom**

### **Orange County Democratic Socialists of America**

The election to recall Governor Gavin Newsom will be held on September 14th, 2021. This recall is a shameless power grab by a minority of far-right authoritarians, hoping to seize control of our state outside of an election year and counting on low turnout to install an unpopular saboteur in Sacramento. Holding this election with merely a year left in the governor's term is a disgraceful waste of public money amid a perilous fire season, drought emergencies across the state, and a rise in COVID-19 hospitalizations. We need our state government to function now, more than ever.

As democratic socialists, we acknowledge that Newsom has harmed the most vulnerable Californians with his failure to endorse single-payer healthcare, his refusal to support serious rent control and tenant protections, and his service to the tech and healthcare corporations that line his pockets. Frankly, he is no friend of the working class, and has governed California by overpromising and under-delivering.

However, we are concerned that the election of any of the candidates running to replace Governor Newsom could irreparably harm vulnerable communities. We haven't forgotten that earlier this year the authoritarian right, emboldened by extremist rhetoric, sent a bloodthirsty mob to storm the United States Capitol on live television. This resurgent fascist movement, enabled by the Trumpian unreality Republicans have fabricated in the last decade, is responsible for initiating this wasteful recall effort in an attempt to hijack California's government and thwart our progress towards a society committed to the welfare, empowerment, and flourishing of all people. There is too much at stake to take this political moment lightly. Failing to vote NO on the recall will embolden reactionaries and fascists in California.

### **So what's really at stake in this recall election?**

- Republicans have made no secret of their plans to destroy the public benefits Californians rely on, and a Republican governor will sabotage programs and withhold funds our communities rely on... money that puts food in people's mouths and houses them: from public schools to Medi-Cal, CalFresh, homelessness relief, addiction treatment, and other lifesaving programs.

- Californians have worked together to keep our communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Any governor who would roll back common-sense public health strategies such as masking and vaccination will increase infection rates and pose a danger to Californians.
- Trump's Supreme Court will hear a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade* next spring. This could mean the end of federal abortion rights, and a GOP governor would work tirelessly to end reproductive freedom in this state.
- Assaults against trans people soared with Donald Trump in the White House, and anti-Asian violence has also exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic. Anti-immigrant sentiment, sinophobia, and islamophobic hysteria are rampant on the right in the aftermath of Trump's despotic presidency. Flipping the governor's seat in a state as reliably blue as California would encourage aggressors to continue committing violence with impunity.
- Republican governors and legislatures across the United States are working to gut the Voting Rights Act, especially in marginalized communities. While it is currently relatively easy to vote in California, we cannot take these rights for granted.

It is imperative that we continue the struggle for a more just society where all of us have an equal say in how we govern ourselves democratically—free from coercion, repression, and the corruption of the bourgeois class. For this election, let us work to prevent a hostile GOP takeover of California. While we understand that some may be concerned about not naming a replacement candidate, there is no preferable alternative to Newsom on the ballot. We can campaign for a governor who shares our vision in 2022, but for now, **vote NO on the recall.**