



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

Executive Office | 1500 11th Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel 916.653.7244 | www.sos.ca.gov

February 1, 2022

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee

Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Chris Holden, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee

Keely Bosler, Director
Department of Finance

Re: Gubernatorial Recall Election Costs

Dear Chairpersons Skinner, Ting, Portantino, Holden, and Ms. Bosler:

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 128 (Chapter 21, Statutes of 2021), this report and supporting documents outline the total costs of the September 14, 2021, Gubernatorial Recall Election.

Background

On June 23, 2021, the Secretary of State notified the Department of Finance that a sufficient number of verified signatures had been submitted to initiate a recall election against the Governor.

On July 1, 2021, the Department of Finance notified the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Chairpersons of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee of the estimated costs of the gubernatorial recall election (See [Department of Finance letter \(ca.gov\)](#))

Assembly Bill 128 (Chapter 21, Statutes of 2021) was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, which provides that:

- (a) For the conduct of the election concerning the recall of the Governor during the 2021-22 fiscal year, \$215,234,000 is appropriated from the General Fund. The Legislature determines this amount is reasonably necessary to conduct the recall election and designates these funds for that purpose.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the Controller shall allocate these funds to counties according to a schedule provided by the Department of Finance. Any excess funds received by the county shall be used to offset state costs for the next election conducted by the county. Each county shall report its final total cost to administer the gubernatorial recall election to the Secretary of State in a manner and by a date determined by the Secretary of State.

(c) No later than February 1, 2022, the Secretary of State shall report on the final costs of the gubernatorial recall election to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. It is the intent of the Legislature to consider making adjustments to this appropriation based on that report.

The report shall include the following:

- (1) The total cost of the gubernatorial recall election by county.
- (2) The costs broken out by category for each county.
- (3) Any funds remaining, by county, that can be used to offset state costs for the next election conducted by the county.

Subsequently, Senate Bill 152 (Chapter 34, Statutes of 2021) made changes to how the 2021 gubernatorial recall election was to be held, including requiring it to be held as a regular election. As a result, the Department of Finance requested updated cost estimates from counties to administer the recall election under the provisions of Senate Bill 152. The updated estimated costs provided by counties was \$243,583,308.50.

Additionally, Senate Bill 152 provides:

The sum of thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for the purpose of supporting statewide and county costs related to administering the 2021 gubernatorial recall election. It is the intent of the Legislature to consider adjustments to this amount based on the final costs of the gubernatorial recall election.

On July 20, 2021, the Department of Finance requested that the State Controller's Office remit payment to county elections officials for the 2021 California gubernatorial recall election in a sum totaling \$243,583,308. (See [Allocation and Recall Election Costs Letter](#))

Subsequently, California's 58 counties received payment from the State Controller's Office as requested by the Department of Finance and successfully conducted the September 14, 2021, Gubernatorial Recall Election.

Total Cost of the September 14, 2021, Gubernatorial Recall Election

As a result of Assembly Bill 128 and Senate Bill 152, \$243,583,308.50 was allocated to California's 58 counties and \$35,000,000 was allocated to the Secretary of State to conduct the September 14, 2021, Gubernatorial Recall Election. The total statewide

cost of the gubernatorial recall election was \$200,241,680, which includes \$174,059,031.11 in county costs and \$26,182,649.08 in Secretary of State costs.

County Costs

The total cost by county are:

County	Allocated Gubernatorial Recall Election Costs	Actual Gubernatorial Recall Election Costs	Remaining Balance of Funds from Gubernatorial Recall Election Allocation	Additional Funding Needed for Gubernatorial Recall Election Costs Incurred
Alameda	\$21,013,151.00	\$9,605,891.79	\$11,407,259.21	
Alpine	\$41,950.00	\$43,416.92	(\$1,466.92)	\$1,466.92
Amador	\$119,440.00	\$120,043.62	(\$603.62)	\$603.62
Butte	\$958,450.00	\$580,905.39	\$377,544.61	
Calaveras	\$194,197.00	\$222,843.52	(\$28,646.52)	\$28,646.52
Colusa	\$101,395.00	\$122,161.64	(\$20,766.64)	\$20,766.64
Contra Costa	\$5,506,800.00	\$4,976,675.37	\$530,124.63	
Del Norte	\$120,447.00	\$112,217.56	\$8,229.44	
El Dorado	\$879,750.00	\$724,917.63	\$154,832.37	
Fresno	\$4,072,000.00	\$3,096,230.24	\$975,769.76	
Glenn	\$198,645.00	\$138,959.63	\$59,685.37	
Humboldt	\$585,300.00	\$494,411.95	\$90,888.05	
Imperial	\$490,165.00	\$431,732.99	\$58,432.01	
Inyo	\$97,777.47	\$160,049.63	(\$62,272.16)	\$62,272.16
Kern	\$2,916,032.00	\$1,972,111.59	\$943,920.41	
Kings	\$546,497.00	\$259,097.20	\$287,399.80	
Lake	\$306,275.00	\$272,013.13	\$34,261.87	
Lassen	\$74,700.00	\$95,036.00	(\$20,336.00)	\$20,336.00
Los Angeles	\$59,793,000.00	\$52,920,735.00	\$6,872,265.00	
Madera	\$743,800.00	\$643,007.34	\$100,792.66	
Marin	\$1,617,392.00	\$1,221,644.12	\$395,747.88	
Mariposa	\$64,275.00	\$70,549.81	(\$6,274.81)	\$6,274.81
Mendocino	\$293,004.00	\$457,631.16	(\$164,627.16)	\$164,627.16
Merced	\$1,108,813.35	\$1,111,175.60	(\$2,362.25)	\$2,362.25
Modoc	\$39,230.00	\$43,674.84	(\$4,444.84)	\$4,444.84
Mono	\$189,307.00	\$111,812.51	\$77,494.49	
Monterey	\$2,944,401.00	\$1,936,590.34	\$1,007,810.66	
Napa	\$557,155.92	\$561,978.46	(\$4,822.54)	\$4,822.54
Nevada	\$717,006.00	\$433,379.60	\$283,626.40	

Orange	\$7,778,712.00	\$8,559,262.93	(\$780,550.93)	\$780,550.93
Placer	\$2,251,950.00	\$1,678,076.79	\$573,873.21	
Plumas	\$74,231.00	\$68,485.46	\$5,745.54	
Riverside	\$5,000,000.00	\$7,905,838.93	(\$2,905,838.93)	\$2,905,838.93
Sacramento	\$8,039,887.50	\$3,288,675.22	\$4,751,212.28	
San Benito	\$449,250.00	\$442,706.14	\$6,543.86	
San Bernardino	\$33,898,412.00	\$11,014,207.17	\$22,884,204.83	
San Diego	\$21,800,000.00	\$14,039,587.38	\$7,760,412.62	
San Francisco	\$8,985,238.00	\$8,085,256.22	\$899,981.78	
San Joaquin	\$6,579,551.00	\$3,169,175.76	\$3,410,375.24	
San Luis Obispo	\$1,173,430.26	\$952,671.63	\$220,758.63	
San Mateo	\$4,330,000.00	\$3,722,113.29	\$607,886.71	
Santa Barbara	\$2,836,509.00	\$1,712,600.14	\$1,123,908.86	
Santa Clara	\$16,127,225.00	\$13,493,052.72	\$2,634,172.28	
Santa Cruz	\$1,360,996.00	\$1,123,771.06	\$237,224.94	
Shasta	\$1,207,876.00	\$766,195.44	\$441,680.56	
Sierra	\$24,700.00	\$25,710.04	(\$1,010.04)	\$1,010.04
Siskiyou	\$330,598.00	\$342,010.68	(\$11,412.68)	\$11,412.68
Solano	\$2,991,426.00	\$2,377,480.59	\$613,945.41	
Sonoma	\$1,454,863.00	\$561,582.86	\$893,280.14	
Stanislaus	\$1,708,212.00	\$1,277,206.18	\$431,005.82	
Sutter	\$345,961.00	\$225,716.61	\$120,244.39	
Tehama	\$180,314.00	\$187,762.46	(\$7,448.46)	\$7,448.46
Trinity	\$137,139.00	\$108,842.10	\$28,296.90	
Tulare	\$1,685,537.00	\$1,035,498.01	\$650,038.99	
Tuolumne	\$206,750.00	\$147,501.89	\$59,248.11	
Ventura	\$4,288,976.00	\$3,490,885.38	\$798,090.62	
Yolo	\$1,729,200.00	\$1,055,075.89	\$674,124.11	
Yuba	\$316,009.00	\$261,187.56	\$54,821.44	
Totals:	\$243,583,308.50	\$174,059,031.11	\$69,516,628.44	\$4,022,884.50

As indicated in the table above, forty-two counties have remaining funds available for a total of \$69,516,628.44. Sixteen counties will need additional funding in the amount of \$4,022,884.50. The counties and the additional funding needed by county are:

Alpine	\$1,466.92
Amador	\$603.62
Calaveras	\$28,646.52
Colusa	\$20,766.64
Inyo	\$62,272.16
Lassen	\$20,336.00
Mariposa	\$6,274.81

Mendocino	\$164,627.16
Merced	\$2,362.25
Modoc	\$4,444.84
Napa	\$4,822.54
Orange	\$780,550.93
Riverside	\$2,905,838.93
Sierra	\$1,010.04
Siskiyou	\$11,412.68
Tehama	\$7,448.46
Total	\$4,022,884.50

The total costs for counties by category statewide are:

Category	Allocated	Actual
Ballot Costs	\$78,255,636.14	\$53,855,686.30
Equipment & Logistics	\$34,008,162.75	\$34,208,571.72
Staffing	\$115,352,963.35	\$81,239,716.62
Outreach and Communication	\$10,565,413.05	\$4,361,078.35
COVID-19 Related Expenses	\$5,393,484.26	\$393,978.12
Totals:	\$243,583,308.50	\$174,059,031.11

For the county-by-county cost by category, please see [Attachment A](#).

Secretary of State Costs

The total costs for Secretary of State by category were \$26,182,649.08. The Secretary of State had estimated \$32,408,658.16 in costs and was allocated \$35,000,000 through Senate Bill 152. The Secretary of State did have \$1,682,215.11 in costs that were not previously identified. Additionally, the Secretary of State notes that the invoicing process is still ongoing and that costs are subject to change based upon the final invoicing and processing through our office and the Department of General Services. The table below details the Secretary of State estimated and actual costs for the September 14, 2021, Gubernatorial Recall Election.

Secretary of State Recall Costs		
	Estimated	Actual
Voter Information Guide	\$ 9,206,312.00	\$ 5,651,171.13
Printing	\$ 6,740,587.00	\$ 2,862,882.60
Mailing	\$ 2,465,725.00	\$ 2,788,288.53
Voter Hotline Support	\$ 651,629.16	\$ 183,037.46
Temporary Contracted Workers	\$ 455,268.00	\$ 89,070.90
Student Assistants	\$ 124,569.00	\$ 31,483.86
Retired Annuitant Supervisors	\$ 71,792.16	\$ 62,482.70
Elections Overtime	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 85,496.47
Overtime (Elections)	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 85,496.47
ITD Costs	\$ 270,658.00	\$ 393,218.13
Election Night Reporting Infrastructure	\$ 134,024.00	\$ 189,159.63
Enhanced cyber security	\$ 87,082.00	\$ 144,799.00
Emergency phones	\$ 2,879.00	\$ 2,495.50
Pollworker Recruitment Portal	\$ 46,672.00	\$ 56,764.00
Ballot tracking	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Los Angeles Support	\$ 989,630.00	\$ -
Synch VoteCal/EMS Support	\$ 589,630.00	-
Consultant Support	\$ 400,000.00	-
Election Observation	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 30,629.36
Voter's Choice Act (VCA) Program	\$ 2,998,173.00	\$ 2,520,309.35
Local Assistance Grants to Counties	\$ 1,898,173.00	\$ 1,470,357.85
Sub-Grants to CBOs/ hard-to-reach populations	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 550,000.00
State Operations and Administration	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 499,951.50
Communications/Office of Cybersecurity	\$ 17,500,000.00	\$ 15,117,300.00
Production/Shoots	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Outreach - Text Messaging	\$ 1,000,000.00	-
Paid Communication - Digital Ads	\$ 5,750,000.00	see TV/Cable/Radio
Paid Communication - Direct Mail	\$ 500,000.00	-
Paid Communication - Print Ads/Billboards	\$ 250,000.00	see TV/Cable/Radio
Paid Communication Real-time Crisis Response	\$ 250,000.00	-
Paid Communication - TV/Cable/Radio	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ 13,999,800.00
Translation - Real-time Translation Services	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Vendor support - Campaign Management/Data Analysis	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 977,500.00
Headquarters	\$ 297,256.00	\$ 294,272.07
Security - CHP	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Security - Platinum	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
Security - City of Sacramento	\$ 600.00	\$ 331.00
Postage - USPS	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Postage - Fed-Ex	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Overtime - DGS Building Staff	\$ 7,272.00	\$ 7,272.00
Overtime - SOS Building Staff	\$ 3,384.00	\$ 669.07
Health Screening	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Not Previously Identified	\$ -	\$ 1,707,215.11
Legal - Litigation Costs	\$ -	\$ 294,265.00
Labor Costs Charged to Recall	\$ -	\$ 345,400.76
Labor Costs Projected in Jan & Feb	\$ -	\$ 4,413.66
Communications - CBO Microgrants	\$ -	\$ 847,000.00
Communications - Earned Media/Outreach	\$ -	\$ 190,000.00
Elections - Rental E-Night Vans	\$ -	\$ 1,135.69
ITD - Website Support	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Total	\$ 32,408,658.16	\$ 26,182,649.08

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-7244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shirley N. Weber', with a large circular flourish at the end.

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State

Attachment(s)

CC: Hanz Hemann, Chief Consultant, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel