

JEFFERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 2026-06

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
TENNESSEE ENACT LEGISLATION TO ENABLE CITIZENS TO RECALL LOCAL
ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Sponsor: Jim Snodgrass

Co-Sponsors: Austin Brooks, Greg Byrd, Ransom Douglas, Janet Norton, Marcus Reed, Anthony AJ Walker, Tim Seals, Rob Blevins, Randy Bales, Jimmy Dale Patterson, Ronnie Coleman, Joe Coleman

WHEREAS, election recall of local elected officials serves as a means of holding elected officials accountable; and

WHEREAS, current Tennessee law limits the voters from recalling local elected officials and holding them responsible for their actions, or inactions, while in office; and

WHEREAS, citizens deserve to have a means of recalling local elected officials that fail to properly represent the values of the electorate, violate the public trust, or fail to uphold the duties of their office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Jefferson County Tennessee, meeting on this 20th day of January 2026, as follows:

SECTION 1: That the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee is urged to enact proposed legislation HB1448 / SB1466 by Representative Torrey C. Harris and Senator Brent Taylor respectively for the purpose of empowering citizens of the state of Tennessee to recall certain local elected officials from office. A copy of the proposed recall legislation is attached to this resolution as **Exhibit A**.

SECTION 2: That upon approval and signing of this resolution, a copy be transmitted by the County Clerk to the State Representatives and State Senator that represent Jefferson County, Tennessee and to the Tennessee Association of County Clerks with a cover letter requesting that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to other county legislative bodies in Tennessee for consideration.

Adopted and Approved on: January 20th, 20 26

Votes: 15 Yes 3 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Approved: James E. Carmichael Date: 01-20-2026
James E. Carmichael – Chairman, County Commission

Attest: Frank C. Herndon Date: 01-20-2026
Frank C. Herndon – County Clerk



Date Received by County Mayor: 1/27/2026

Approved: Mark Potts Date: 1/27/2026
Mark Potts – County Mayor

Vetoed: _____ Date: _____
Mark Potts – County Mayor

Veto
Override Votes: _____ Yes _____ No _____ Abstain _____ Absent

Veto
Override: _____ Date: _____
James E. Carmichael – Chairman, County Commission

SENATE BILL 1466
By Taylor

HOUSE BILL 1448

By Harris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2;
Title 8, Chapter 47 and Title 49, Chapter 2, relative
to recall of local elected officials.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-213, is amended by deleting the section.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 47, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

8-47-201. Part definitions.

As used in this part, "local official" means an elected member of a local legislative body, mayor, sheriff, trustee, register, clerk, assessor of property, or member of a school board.

8-47-202. Recall of local officials.

A local official may be removed from office by the registered voters of the jurisdiction from which the local official was elected.

8-47-203. Recall process.

(a) A person who resides within the geographic boundaries of the jurisdiction of which a local official is sought to be removed and who cast a vote in the last regular election, may file a petition with the county election commission that demands the recall of the elected local official. The petition must be signed by registered voters who reside within the geographic boundaries of the jurisdiction of which the local official is sought to be removed equal in number to at least sixty-six percent (66%) of the total vote cast for the office in the last regular election. Each person signing the petition must sign the

person's name, provide the date of signing, and provide the signer's place of residence by street and number or by other customary designation.

(b) The petition must contain a general statement of the grounds upon which the removal is sought.

(c) At submission, the petition must include a sworn affidavit by the petition circulator stating the number of petition signers, that each petition signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be, that the signatures were received within ninety (90) days of the start of the petition, and that the petition circulator voted in favor of the local official sought to be removed in that local official's last regular election.

(d) Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the petition, the county election commission shall determine the sufficiency of the petition signatures. The county election commission shall attach a certificate to the petition with the results. If the county election commission determines the petition signatures are:

(1) Sufficient, then within fifteen (15) days of such determination, the county election commission shall give notice of the filed petition by publication in a newspaper of general circulation and shall provide the grounds upon which removal of a local official is sought; or

(2) Insufficient, then the person who filed the petition may amend the petition within fifteen (15) days from the date of the certificate and file the amended petition with the county election commission. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of an amended petition, the county election commission shall make a sufficiency determination. If the amended petition is still deemed insufficient or if no amended petition is filed, then the county election commission shall attach a certificate to the petition and return the petition to the person who filed the

petition. If an amended petition is deemed sufficient, then the county election commission shall provide notice as required by subdivision (d)(1).

(e) A separate petition must be filed for each local official sought to be removed.

8-47-204. Recall election.

(a) A county election commission shall call an election on the question of whether to recall a local official if the county election commission determines that a petition is sufficient in accordance with § 8-47-203(d).

(b) The question must only be posed to voters who are represented by the local official sought to be removed.

(c) The question on the ballot must ask whether the local official should be recalled, and the voter must be provided the option to vote "for recall" or "against recall."

(d) If a majority of those voting vote "for recall," then the person named is removed from office and the office is declared vacant. A vacancy cannot be filled by renaming the removed person to the office and the vacancy must be filled in accordance with the applicable law for the office.

(e) No election for the purpose of recall shall be held within a period beginning ninety (90) days before and ending ninety (90) days after a regular election.

SECTION 3. The headings in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the code commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.