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Gascón recall approved

Gascón recall effort approved by L.A. county

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■ BH officials continue to support D.A.'s removal

BY AARON BLEVINS

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk approved the petition to recall L.A. County District Attorney George Gascón, who could be removed from office if proponents of the recall gather enough signatures.

On Jan. 4, the Beverly Hills City Council voted to support the recall of Gascón, citing policies that city officials believe have led to an increase in crime in L.A. County. On Feb. 1, Vice Mayor Lili Bosse praised the petition's approval.

"I feel extremely confident that the signatures will be gathered, and I feel equally confident that he will be recalled," she said.

In a statement, Gascón campaign spokesperson Elise Moore on Feb. 2 said the recall effort is politically motivated.

"On the campaign trail, George Gascón promised to end discriminatory practices and other failed policies," she said. "The voters of L.A. County agreed and voted overwhelmingly to embrace reform. All voters need to do is take one look at



photo courtesy of georgegascón.org
George Gascón

the key proponents of the recall effort and they will see it for what it truly is: a politically motivated attempt to undermine the will of the voters. The people of L.A. County are far more interested in actually enhancing community safety for families, victims and all those living in L.A. County than they are in yet another politically motivated recall attempt."

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However, Bosse said the recall effort is bipartisan.

"When you deal with safety, this crosses all party lines, and everyone that I've spoken to – no matter what their political affiliation is – has said they've had enough," she added.

In January, the City Council referenced three special directives issued by Gascón that have been problematic: a pre-trial release policy that removed cash bail for non-serious crimes, a case management policy that led to declined or dismissed charges for misdemeanors and the elimination of sentencing enhancements for certain crimes.

Bosse said some of Gascón's policies encourage criminals, as there are no consequences to their unlawful activity.

"Mr. Gascón has had ample opportunity to hear from the hundreds of thousands of community members pleading with him to change course, and he's only stood stronger in his belief," she added.

The district attorney took office

in December 2020. In March 2021, the City Council approved a resolution that stated city officials had "no confidence" in Gascón. At the time, city officials met with representatives of Gascón's office, but little has changed, Bosse said.

"At least from what I have seen in press conferences and from what I've read, he stays very strong in his belief and, if anything, doubles down, so I have not, as of yet, seen him be willing to discuss another approach," she added.

Bosse stressed that the policies have impacted many communities in L.A. County – not just Beverly Hills.

"This is way beyond a Beverly Hills issue," she said. "This is the destruction of the heart and soul of many communities and many victims who have been [impacted] by crime, because there was no consequence to it."

According to supporters of the recall, more than 20 cities and districts have joined the effort to remove Gascón from office.

Former Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley is among the board members of the campaign.

"We are sick and tired of living in the pro-crime paradise Gascón has created," Desiree Andrade and Tania Owen, co-chairs of the Recall D.A. George Gascón campaign, said in a statement. "Gascón turned his back on us, and now his policies are destroying Los Angeles County right before our eyes and needlessly creating more innocent victims."

According to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office, proponents need 566,857 signatures by July 6 to further the recall process.

On Feb. 5, the recall campaign will hold petition signing and distribution events at several locations in the county, including Beverly Hills. The local event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Via Alloro, 301 N. Canon Drive.