



Municipal Technical Advisory Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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Recall Elections

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Recall Elections

Reference Number: MTAS-190

Recall elections are available only if the municipality's charter authorizes them. Procedures for recall elections are found in T.C.A. § 2-5-151, but these provisions do not apply in Nashville-Davidson County. Recall petitions must contain one or more specific grounds for removal. T.C.A. § 6-53-108.

Petitions for Recall, Referendum, or Initiative

T.C.A. § 2-5-151 outlines procedures for cities having charter provisions for recall, referendum, or initiative. The statute contains extensive rules, including:

- A registered voter must submit the prepared petition and question to the county election commission, which must certify within 30 days whether it is proper;
- The individual who files has 15 days to fix any problems;
- The petition must include the question, the printed name of each signer, the date of the signature, and the signatures of at least 15 percent of the city's registered voters;
- The completed petition must be filed within 75 days after certification by the election commission and at least 60 days before the election; and
- Individuals have eight days after filing to remove their names from the petition.

Since July 1, 1997, a municipality has been allowed to enact or re-enact controlling charter requirements relative to the number of signatures required and the 75-day deadline after election commission certification of the petition. T.C.A. § 2-5-151.

DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.

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