

# Prop 86 Fire Them All Part: Understanding the 2008 California Constitutional Amendment

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 86, also known as the "Fire Them All Part." This constitutional amendment aimed to give voters the power to recall state legislators and set term limits for them.



## FIRE THEM ALL??: Washington's Pyrates and Snakes. THE ONLY HOPE: PROP. 86 (FIRE THEM ALL?? - Part 1) by Thom Hartmann

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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The passage of Prop 86 sparked controversy and debate. Supporters argued that it would increase voter empowerment and hold legislators accountable. Opponents, however, warned that it could lead to political instability and weaken the legislature.

## Background: California's Recall Process

Prior to Prop 86, California already had a process for recalling state officials. However, this process was complex and required a high number of

signatures to initiate a recall election.

Prop 86 aimed to make the recall process easier by reducing the number of signatures required and by allowing recall elections to be held during special elections, rather than waiting for the next regularly scheduled election.

## **Key Provisions of Prop 86**

Prop 86 included the following key provisions:

- **Reduced the number of signatures required to initiate a recall election:** From 20% of registered voters in the legislator's district to 12%.
- **Allowed recall elections to be held during special elections:** Rather than waiting for the next regularly scheduled election.
- **Set term limits for state legislators:** Limited Assembly members to three two-year terms and Senators to two four-year terms.

## **Arguments for Prop 86**

Supporters of Prop 86 argued that it would:

- **Increase voter empowerment:** By giving voters the power to remove legislators who were not performing their duties.
- **Hold legislators accountable:** By making it easier to recall legislators who were not meeting the needs of their constituents.
- **Reduce political corruption:** By limiting the time that legislators could serve in office.

## Arguments Against Prop 86

Opponents of Prop 86 argued that it would:

- **Lead to political instability:** By making it too easy to recall legislators.
- **Weaken the legislature:** By limiting the experience and expertise of legislators.
- **Be used for partisan purposes:** By allowing political opponents to easily recall legislators from the other party.

## Implementation and Impact of Prop 86

Prop 86 was implemented after its passage in 2008. However, it has not been used to recall any state legislators.

Some analysts have argued that Prop 86 has had a chilling effect on legislators, making them more hesitant to take controversial positions or vote against the wishes of their constituents.

Others, however, have argued that Prop 86 has not had a significant impact on the behavior of legislators or the overall functioning of the state government.

Prop 86 Fire Them All Part remains a controversial amendment to the California Constitution. While it aimed to increase voter empowerment and hold legislators accountable, it has not been used to recall any legislators and its long-term impact remains uncertain.

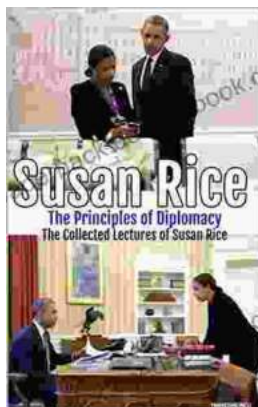
The debate over recall elections and term limits is likely to continue in California and other states, as voters grapple with the balance between accountability and political stability.



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