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## Sens. Morse, Giron's fate up Tuesday: Some facts about recall elections

*A nationally recognized expert on recall elections weighs in as Colorado decides whether to oust two Democratic state senators for their support for stricter gun laws*

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Polls close at 7 p.m. Tuesday [in the recalls](#) of Senate President [John Morse](#) of Colorado Springs and Sen. [Angela Giron](#) of Pueblo. Only residents of their districts are eligible to vote.

Here are the highlights [of a report](#) from [Joshua Spivak](#), senior fellow at the Hugh L. Carey Institute for Government Reform at Wagner College:

1. The recall (among the 11 states like Colorado that have a political recall) has never been limited to or focused on corrupt officials. The argument that the recall was suppose to be used only to oust corrupt officials is a long running canard, one disproved by both history and the fact that there are actually seven states that limit the recall to corruption issues.
2. The two recalls represent the 37th and 38th recalls of state legislators in U.S. history, and the first in Colorado's history.
3. The removal record in the 36 legislative recalls up till now is 18-18 ... .
4. There have been recalls focused on gun control in the past, including one in 1994 of a state legislative leader in California (he survived).
5. Morse is the fifth legislative leader to face a recall vote. Three of the four survived the vote.
6. Big campaign spending in recalls in recalls are nothing new. In at least two other states, the most expensive state legislative campaigns were recalls.
7. Recalls tend to be blowouts, though there are plenty of close races.
8. Multi-official recalls tend to be clean sweeps (either all officials win or lose), though in Wisconsin in both 2011 and 2012 we had split results. (Remember Scott Walker?)
9. Colorado has held between 12 recalls (or resignations) in 2011, 10 last year and 11 this year. Officials have survived at a better than 50 percent rate.
10. There have been polls showing voters opposed to the use of the recall on policy grounds. There is a very strong partisan divide to the polls — based on whether you support or oppose the specific recall that is being run. Following recalls, state legislators invariably try to tinker or eliminate the recall, but they never seem to go the voters with a proposal.