

Recall effort surpasses required threshold

By Nick Baptista, The Valley Springs News, Friday June 10, 2016

Those seeking to recall District 5 Supervisor Steve Kearney have gone over the required number of signatures to place the issue on the ballot and will continue to seek more between now and the June 27 deadline.

Kearney recall proponent Clyde Clapp said the group seeking to remove the supervisor from office has surpassed the 1,245-signature milestone. However, they will continue to push during the next 17 days and have a goal of collecting a total of 1,600.

The extra signatures are insurance as they expect some signatures to be ruled invalid.

The recall group received criticism for gathering signatures in front of the Good Samaritan Church polling place during Tuesday's election.

Clapp said recall proponents discussed the rules and regulations a day before the election with County Clerk Rebecca Turner.

Turner confirmed her office received several complaints on election day. Turner said she outlined the regulations with recall proponents and told them stationing a recall station near the polling place would likely upset some voters.

"We advised them not to impede or make anyone feel uncomfortable," Turner said. "After that there is not a lot we can do about it if they follow the guidelines and stay 100 feet away from the polling place."

Clapp said recall proponents gathered 45 signatures near the church on election day.

An article in the June 3 Calaveras Enterprise headlined "Kearney recall might miss November ballot," was strange, Clapp said.

Recall proponents from the outset knew they would not meet the timetable for the Nov. 8 election, he added.

Back on April 29, The Valley Springs News reported: "Given the many timelines in the recall process, Clapp said he doubts the issue will make the Nov. 8 Presidential Election ballot and instead go to a special election if enough valid signatures are collected."

Recall proponents will have until 4 p.m. June 27 to collect 1,245 valid signatures from registered District 5 voters to place the recall on the ballot. The number of signatures represents a quarter of the 4,980 registered voters within the district, which includes the communities of Jenny Lind, Milton and Rancho Calaveras. Only signatures from registered voters residing within District 5 will count.

Recall proponents cite Kearney's votes on the proposed asphalt plant off Hogan Dam Road and terminating a developer agreement for State Route 26 and Olive Orchard Road intersection improvements as reasons for removing the first-term supervisor.