

## TWO TARGETS GONE BEFORE FIRE DISTRICT RECALL SUBMITTED

DAVE HAWKINS  
THE STANDARD  
479 WORDS  
3,068 CHARACTERS

There are more twists and turns in a roller coaster recall ride in the Hualapai Valley Fire District. The effort to oust four members of the five member board began last September, but two of the targets resigned before the recall petitions were submitted.

James McCarthy, because of his ailing health, stepped down shortly after the recall effort began last fall. And Board member Gene Newman tendered his resignation several weeks ago.

Members of the Citizens for a Safe Fire District (CSFD), however, were unaware of Newman's December resignation when they submitted recall petitions at the Mohave County Elections office January 10. The departures of McCarthy and Newman leave Board members Jimmie Bodenhamer and Edward Schrum as recall targets.

"There's been a lot of problems that have been expressed throughout their term," said CSFD Chairman Mike Collins. "The ultimate goal is to restore integrity back to the Hualapai Valley Fire District."

Collins said petitions proposing the recall of Bodenhamer and Schrum both drew roughly 1,100 signatures. He said recall workers were meticulous in their circulation of petitions and collection of signatures that he believes will withstand statutory review and scrutiny.

"I'm very confident that everything's going to be in place," Collins said. "We've double checked and triple checked ourselves to make sure."

Collins said he and some undisclosed others plan to run against incumbents should the recall be scheduled for election.

Calculating timeframes for the two-pronged review by Mohave County, Elections Director Allen Tempert said it would likely be mid-to-late March before it's known if the petitions are validated. He said that would mean that September would likely be the earliest the recall election could be scheduled.

Bodenhamer's and Schrum's current terms of office expire at the end of November. Unless the recall effort is invalidated or withdrawn, the Board members could, conceivably, face a recall challenge in September and a re-election vote in November.

Robert Borker, head of the local Professional Firefighter's Association that supports the recall campaign, was caught off-guard by Newman's resignation. His first suspicion was that Newman stepped down to run from recall while allowing the Fire District Board to appoint a successor loyal to Wayne Eder, the Fire Chief whose ouster has been sought by the union.

Newman, however, said his resignation is required given his pending move outside the fire district. At the same time, Newman conceded he's grown weary of strife within the district.

“I got tired that no good deed goes unpunished in Kingman,” Newman said. He said Borker and others had previously called for his resignation anyway, adding they would have also cried foul had he moved from the district and remained on its board.

“So either way I'm a dirty rotten scoundrel,” Newman said. “That's kind of been it through the whole history of this.”