

# COMMITTEE AGAINST RECALL ỦY BAN VẬN ĐỘNG CHỐNG BÃI NHIỆM

## PRESS RELEASE

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RE: Certification of Westminster Recall Election Completed

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### **Orange County Registrar of Voters Certifies Results of Special Westminster Recall Election**

(Westminster—CA) The Orange County Registrar of Voters has certified the results of the April 7 special recall election in Westminster. The results show that the year-long recall effort has failed, by a large margin, against the three incumbent Vietnamese-American members of the city council. Details on the vote results show that Mayor Tri Ta received 10,165 votes, or 59.32%, Vice Mayor Kimberly Ho received 9,790 votes, or 57.34%, and Councilman Chi Charlie Nguyen garnered 9,847 ballots, equal to 57.68%.

A total of 17,205 Westminster voters casted their ballots in this special election, which is 38% of the entire electorate in the city. This turn-out rate is a historic high for a stand-alone special election, with Vietnamese-American voters returning their ballots at an almost two-to-one ratio. With approximately an 85% rate of opposition to the recall, Vietnamese voters in the city played a crucial role in the election's success, while sending a powerful message that they support the three council incumbents and the direction the city is heading. The voters have also rejected the use of dark money and attempts from outsiders to buy control of the city council. It is estimated that recall supporters, with the backing of a Los Angeles area business tycoon, spent over 1.5 million dollars for this year-long recall campaign.

Campaign staffs for the three recall targets tracked the returned ballots on a daily basis through intensive phone banking activities and door-to-door canvassing almost a month before the election, while continuing to exhort voters to turn in their ballots early in this vote-by-mail only election. The high percentage of opposition to the recall also reflects the strong sentiments of numerous civic organizations and veterans groups from within Westminster and throughout the nation. They have unanimously expressed their support for the three council incumbents and condemned the recall effort and its supporters.

With an almost 60% rejection rate against the recall effort, the voters of Westminster have sent a clear message that the objective of the recall, which cost Westminster's taxpayers \$500,000.00 of the city's general fund, is illegitimate. The three council targets have insisted all along that this recall is trumped-up, unjustifiable and baseless.

Despite the unambiguous results, recall supporters continue to spread rumors that there may have been an organized voter fraud scheme from the anti-recall campaign, including baseless accusations of printing ballots and switching ballots from the voters. The dissemination of these rumors reflects the opponents' lack of knowledge of the voting process, the ballot count and auditing procedures, and the provisions of the elections laws, while engaging in a last-ditch attempt to discredit these Vietnamese-American elected officials. As guided by state elections law, unless received permission from the ROV, based on legal criteria and provided with a unique password, a voter ballot could not be printed at home by anyone. Moreover, a voter's signature must be matched between the ballot and that of the one on file. It is a crime of perjury if falsely requesting or filling out a ballot request.

Although the results of this election was overwhelmingly against the recall, the incumbents recognize of the need to work harder and to resolve any pending issues affecting the city, including any misunderstanding or differences. They also vow to redouble their effort to improve relations with all Westminster residents so to minimize future problems in the city and protecting the community from any attempts by the Hanoi regime to cause turmoil and chaos among its members.

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