

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012 (Anon., AP) — *In a petition drive to recall Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker, nearly twice the number of signatures required were turned in by the deadline. The AP writer consulted Spivak on the story:*

"I don't know if it's insurmountable, but it would be extremely difficult," said Joshua Spivak, a recall expert and senior fellow at Wagner College in New York.

During the recall of California Gov. Gray Davis in 2003, petitioners also turned in almost double what was needed and only about 18 percent were tossed, Spivak said. ...

Spivak said he would expect strong voter turnout for a recall election against Walker, noting that in California turnout rose from 36 percent in the general election to 61 percent for the Davis recall.

"There's going to be so much focus on this, it is not going to be like a special election where turnout is suppressed," Spivak said.

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012 (Kirsten Adshead, Wisconsin Reporter) — One million signatures to recall Walker are almost twice the necessary total, and the Kleefisch estimate of 845,000 is 56 percent higher than the minimum needed.

"You're talking about a very significant part of the population," said Joshua Spivak, an expert on recalls and a senior fellow at Wagner College in New York.

Walker would be only the third governor in the nation's history to be recalled.

The last time a governor was recalled — Gray Davis in California, in 2003 — voter turnout was high, Spivak said.

With a million signatures collected in Wisconsin, Spivak said, "that bodes well for them to turn out people. Of course, Walker is going to also do a huge outreach."

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012 (Patrick Marley, Jason Stein and Tom Tolan, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel) — Recall expert Joshua Spivak, a senior fellow at the Hugh L. Carey Institute for Government Reform at Wagner College in New York, said that, including state Senate recalls from last year, no state in American history has held as many recall elections for state office as Wisconsin seems set to have in 2011 and 2012.

"Wisconsin is really, completely a total anomaly," Spivak said.

In the two other recall elections for governors in history, California Gov. Gray Davis was defeated in 2003 and North Dakota Gov. Lynn Frazier was defeated in 1921.

Spivak said the signatures for Walker are almost certain to hold up. To force a recall election against Walker and Kleefisch, 540,208 valid signatures are needed for each - a figure equivalent to 25% of all the votes cast in the November 2010 election that put Walker in office.

"One million signatures sounds like it's definitely going on the ballot," Spivak said.