



WADE BURLESON  
Lead Pastor

The Honorable Judge Allison M. Lafferty  
Associate Judge, District Court  
Blaine County  
212 N. Weigel Avenue  
Watonga, Oklahoma 73772-1286

Dear Judge Lafferty,

Judge Paul Woodward told me that you have been assigned "The Petition to Recall Ward Three City Commissioner Ben Ezzell, Submitted to the City of Enid on August 4, 2020," and will hear the case on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, in Enid, Oklahoma.

Enid City Clerk Alissa Lack certified the signatures on the recall petition on August 9, 2020. Enid's city charter states a recall election must be held within 60 days of the certification of the recall (October 8, 2020). As you know, the Oklahoma Supreme Court has mandated that local recall petitions must fall under the authority of the State Election Board, *thus superseding the City Charter*.

Due to delay tactics by Commissioner Ben Ezzell, including filing an Objection and Protest to Recall Petition with the Garfield County District Court on August 17, 2020, Enid's City Attorney missed the state deadline for filing the recall for the statewide November 3, 2020, election. Ben Ezzell seems to be using the courts to avoid being recalled. If he's successful delaying your ruling until November, then the filing deadline for the February 2021 statewide election will be missed too.

I am writing to urge you, Judge Lafferty, to uphold the rule of law and issue an *immediate ruling* so Enid City Attorney Carol Lehman can file with the State of Oklahoma a request for recall of Ben Ezzell on the February 2021 statewide ballot.

Enid City Attorney Carol Lehman represents the citizens of Enid. Carol is in a seemingly "conflict of interest" position, since she has publicly credited Ben Ezzell and his mother, Cheri Ezzell (a former Enid City Commissioner) for Carol getting her job as Enid's city attorney. I've spoken to Carol and informed her that the citizens of Enid will be watching closely to ensure Carol represents the citizens of Enid to the best of her ability.

Thank you, Judge Lafferty, for your service to Oklahoma. I'm confident that you will follow the rule of law and issue an immediate judgment that the recall petition meets Oklahoma state requirements, therefore allowing the citizens of Enid redress for their petition to recall.

Sincerely,

Wade Burleson  
Enid, Oklahoma

