

# Recall petitions may be circulated in Lake Township

*January 15, 2026*

**By Cheryl Holladay**

Roscommon County Clerk Michelle Stevenson said the start date for circulating recall petitions against Lake Township Supervisor John Hibbard was Jan. 2.

No appeal was submitted, she said.

The recall petition is valid for 180 days, including the 10-day appeal period since the Dec. 22, 2025, recall petition language hearing, Stevenson said.

The language Jayne VanNess of Lake Township filed against Hibbard states, “At the October 14, 2025, Lake Township Board meeting, while the Board was deliberating on an agenda item, a resident spoke out from the audience and Supervisor John Hibbard raised his voice at members of the public stating ‘Don’t disturb this meeting,’ and ‘Goodbye. Have a nice day.’ ‘Stop, Stop, Stop!’, ‘Enough!’ On November 11, 2025, Supervisor Hibbard during board comment referred to a group of residents as ‘Karens.’ These actions led to a prolonged and confrontational exchange.”

Hibbard told the Reporter he has asked members of the audience at some recent meetings to be quiet because some had become unruly. It is up to him to control the meetings, he said, in order for the township board to conduct its business.

As supervisor, he said he is being recalled “for doing my job.”

Some meetings had become so contentious, he said, that police needed to be called. He said everyone has an opportunity for public comment at the meetings, as the law requires.

VanNess had submitted language on not only Hibbard, but Trustee Scott Hassler and Treasurer Harry Trier, as well.

The three-member Election Commission (which includes Stevenson) voted 2-1 against approving the petition language filed against Hassler. During the hearing, VanNess had withdrawn the recall petition language against Trier.

Stevenson said within the 180-day window for the petitions against Hibbard, valid signatures collected are good for only 60 days, and the minimum number of signatures required is 179.

In order for the recall to get on the May ballot, they would need to be filed with the county by Jan. 30, she said.

VanNess told the Resorter she intended to collect signatures once more people have returned from their winter destinations.