

# DA Danner scoffs at recall efforts

By LANE WALLACE  
STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ — District Attorney Art Danner has publicly scoffed at the effort to recall him since it began, and he continued that stance in official papers filed late yesterday.

The Recall Coalition "is a small number of individuals with personal and political agendas," Danner said in a five-paragraph response that will be printed on the recall petitions.

"Their allegations are inaccurate distortions of the truth and total fabrications," Danner wrote.

"Most of their 'allegations' are leftovers from the last elections — which I won by an overwhelming majority," Danner said.

Danner won a fifth term last year, getting 60 percent of the vote in a two-man race with Ed Frey, who also lost to Danner in 1990.

Recall proponents, who plan to start collecting signatures Friday, need to get 14,100 signatures in five months to get the recall issue on the ballot.

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Danner's statement said he and his staff "have built a district attorney's office known for its integrity, effectiveness and professionalism."

Recall leaders say they want Danner out of office because he doesn't have integrity. Their brief statement on the petitions says Danner is unfit for public office, has double standards, has abused power and betrayed the public trust. The statement contains no specific allegations.

The recall drive was prompted by Danner's dismissal of attorney Catherine Gardner last year, after she admitted using what she thought was cocaine. She said she did it under duress from an abusive boyfriend.

Gardner was kept on the payroll for three months, without being required to work, before she was fired. Danner said he was trying to work out a settlement with Gardner, but opponents say he wanted to keep it quiet during his campaign for the June election.

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In his statement, Danner said the state attorney general's office reviewed the Gardner case and other issues "and supported my actions."

A special election could cost as much as \$420,000, Danner said, taking money that could be better used on public safety, prevention of domestic violence and child abuse, and libraries.

Danner said he maintains a conviction rate over 90 percent, and has an anti-gang program that has become a model for the state.