

RECALL

Quick Reference

"He got 43 votes. Now he's in charge."

Genre	Comedy-Drama
Tone	The Holdovers meets Being There
Setting	Small-town New Mexico (shadow of Trinity)
Runtime	100-110 minutes
Budget	\$12-18M
Status	Screenplay complete

LOGLINE

When a small New Mexico town's mayor is recalled for corruption, an obscure charter clause installs the second-place finisher—a conspiracy podcaster who got 43 votes and believes the government poisoned his mother. Which they did. Now he has real power. With monsoon season approaching, he has to fix a flooding street and pass a contractor verification ordinance before the town washes out—and before the machine punishes his estranged daughter for standing near him.

THE HOOK

- Gil's paranoia has roots: his mother was a downwinder, denied for decades.
- Trackable goal + clock: fix Oak Street drainage and pass the Verification Ordinance before monsoon season.
- Antagonist with a face: Wade Sutter weaponizes procedure, committees, and "optics" pressure through the clinic board.
- Theme dramatized, not speechified: the poison is paperwork—the antidote is boring attention to process.
- Moral hinge: Gil's transparency hurts someone before he learns to be careful.

CASTING TARGETS

Gil Padilla	Paul Giamatti; Richard Jenkins; John Hawkes
Sandra Chen	Sandra Oh; Hong Chau; Carrie Coon
Destiny Padilla	Kaitlyn Dever; Lili Reinhart; an unknown
Wade Sutter	J.K. Simmons; Sam Elliott; Nick Offerman
Dolores Vega	Rita Moreno; Linda Hunt; Adriana Barraza

AWARDS POSITIONING

- Original Screenplay (thesis scene architecture, Marlene hinge)
- Lead Actor (transformation role, comedy-to-drama range)
- Supporting Actress (Destiny's cost; Dolores's deadpan)

COMPARABLES

The Holdovers; Nebraska; Being There; Little Miss Sunshine; Sideways

Pattern Films — Albuquerque, New Mexico