

CAC Accepting Nominations for the Upcoming 2026 General Election

In October 2026, the California Avocado Commission will conduct its regularly scheduled general election to fill available seats on CAC's Board of Directors. As a reminder, the election will be conducted with the new four district composition that will take effect November 1, 2026. Additional details concerning the new districts can be found in the Redistricting article on page 9 of this issue.

The election will fill two Producer Member seats and one Producer Alternate Member seat in each of the four CAC districts. In addition, one Handler Member, Handler Alternate Member, Public Member and Public Member Alternate seat is being filled. Elected individuals shall serve either one- or two-year terms ending on October 31, 2027, and October 31, 2028, respectively. Ballots will be mailed to producers and handlers September 28, and ballots must be returned by October 19.

Qualifications for the producer positions are as follows:

- Nominee shall certify they meet the definition of a producer/grower as defined by CAC: "engaged within this state in the business of producing, or causing to be produced, avocados for market." It should be noted the definition does not include persons whose average annual production is less than 10,000 pounds of avocados in the three preceding market years.
- Nominee shall certify they are not a handler or employee of a handler under the same entity that qualifies them as a producer.
- Nominees can be nominated in only one district — those who produce avocados in more than one district must select one district for their nomination.
- Nominees must complete and submit all required documents and maintain their qualifications throughout the term of their office.

Qualifications for the handler positions are as follows:

- Nominee shall certify they meet the definition of a handler as defined by CAC: "has a financial interest in handling avocados for market either through ownership, employment or membership in a legal entity which is actively and directly engaged in the handling of avocados."
- Nominee shall certify that the handler entity they represent must have handled no less than 1% of the total industry volume of avocados in the preceding marketing year.
- Nominees must complete and submit all required documents and maintain their qualifications throughout the term of their office.

The election will again be conducted using a ranked choice voting method, with the candidate receiving the highest number of first choice votes offered their choice of available seats. The candidates with the highest combined total of first, second and third choice votes will be offered the remaining seats. The California Department of Food and Agriculture will announce the results of the election November 2, and seat new Board members at the November 10 Board meeting.

Nominations for the open seats are now being accepted through August 17. Nomination forms can be found at CaliforniaAvocadoGrowers.com/commission/cac-general-election or by scanning the QR code below. Nomination documents can be emailed to CACElections@avocado.org. For additional information, contact the Commission at 949.341.1955 or email cac.iaf@avocado.org. 🥑

