



2024 CAC GENERAL ELECTION

PRODUCER NOMINATION PROCEDURE

DATE: July 15, 2024

TO: CALIFORNIA AVOCADO PRODUCERS

Created in 1978, the California Avocado Commission strives to enhance the premium positioning of California avocados through advertising, promotion and public relations, and engages in related industry activities. Representing nearly 2,000 avocado growers throughout California, CAC serves as the official information source for California avocados and the California avocado industry.

In October 2024, the Commission will conduct its regularly scheduled general election to fill available seats on CAC's Board of Directors. The Commission strives to be a diverse and inclusive organization and is committed to continually educating the Board and employees, while evaluating internal processes, programs and policies. CAC recognizes the inherent benefit to the California avocado industry by having a diverse group of individuals serve as Board Members and Alternates. To ensure that the Board reflects the diversity of the avocado industry, the Commission is actively seeking individuals of all race, gender, age, religion, and sexual orientation, as well as persons with disabilities, for positions on the Board. The enclosed Summary of Open Seats lists the seats that shall be filled in the 2024 CAC General Election. Elected individuals shall serve a two-year term, ending on October 31, 2026.

The CAC Election Procedures provide that Producer candidates for Member or Alternate Member seats on the CAC Board may be nominated by a petition, *signed by five eligible producers in the district in which the person is seeking election.* * A person nominated as a Producer shall certify that they meet the definition of a "Producer" or "Grower", defined by CAC Law as "any person who is engaged within this state in the business of producing, or causing to be produced, avocados for market. "Producer" or "grower" does not include any person who has an average annual production of less than 10,000 pounds of avocados in the three preceding marketing years." Nominated Producers shall complete an Affidavit of Eligibility declaring their eligibility to serve on the CAC Board as a representative of the district in which their grove is located, Disclosure of Affiliations form and Candidate Statement. Please refer to the enclosed city and zip code list to determine the district in which your grove is located.

The Commission will conduct the 2024 General Election utilizing a ranked choice voting method. With this method, the ballots ask voters to cast their vote by ranking candidates in order of preference (1st choice, 2nd choice, etc.), with the candidate receiving the highest number of 1st choice votes offered their choice of the available seat(s).

Enclosed are the following required election nomination forms and additional reference documents:

Required election nomination forms (on yellow paper)

1. *Producer Affidavit of Eligibility*
2. *Producer Nomination Signature Petition**
3. *Producer Disclosure of Affiliations*
4. *Producer Candidate Statement*

For your reference (on white paper)

1. *2024 CAC Board Election Schedule & Summary of Open Seats*
2. *Listing of Districts by City & Zip Code*

**A producer already serving on the Commission may simply notify the Commission of his or her intention to run for re-election in the same district without providing a petition signed by five other producers of that district.*

To be considered for the 2024 CAC General Election, complete and return the YELLOW NOMINATION FORMS to the Commission prior to August 26, 2024.

Please inform us promptly if you receive a duplicate mailing of this letter, or if any error exists in your name or address, so that corrections can be made to our records.

Call 949-341-1955, Ext. 118 or email April Aymami at aaymami@avocado.org.



2024 CAC GENERAL ELECTION PRODUCER AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY

The California Avocado Commission Election Procedures provide that Producer candidates for Member or Alternate Member seats on the CAC Board may be nominated by a petition, *signed by five eligible producers in the district in which the person is seeking election**. In addition, all Producer candidates must sign this affidavit of eligibility to serve, certifying that they meet the qualifications for nomination as outlined below.

**A producer already serving on the Commission may simply notify the Commission of his or her intention to run for re-election, in the same district, without providing a signed nomination petition.*

QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATION

1. Any person nominated as a Producer shall certify that they meet the definition of a “Producer” or “Grower”, defined by CAC Law as “any person who is engaged within this state in the business of producing, or causing to be produced, avocados for market. “Producer” or “grower” does not include any person who has an average annual production of less than 10,000 pounds of avocados in the three preceding marketing years.”
2. Any person nominated as a Producer shall certify that, under the same legal entity which qualifies him/her as a Producer, he/she is not a handler or an employee of a handler.
3. A person shall be nominated in *only one district*. Producers who produce avocados in more than one district must select one district in which they wish to be nominated.
4. All Producer candidates must meet the qualifications for nomination and submit a Disclosure of Affiliations Statement and any other documents required by the Commission. Any person elected to the Commission shall maintain his/her qualifications during the entire term of office.

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION BY PETITION

The following **Producer Affidavit of Eligibility** bearing your statement of eligibility to serve must be returned to the Commission along with the **Producer Nomination Petition**, with the signatures of *five growers in the district* who endorse your nomination. All Producer candidates must also complete and submit the **Disclosure of Affiliations** form and **Candidate Statement**. **All completed forms must arrive at CAC no later than August 26, 2024**. Names of candidates who are determined by the Commission to be eligible shall appear on the 2024 General Election Ballot.

PRODUCER AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY

I hereby declare my eligibility to serve as a Producer on the California Avocado Commission Board of Directors in District # _____. By my signature below I declare under penalty of perjury that I meet the qualifications for nomination outlined above.

Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number(s) () _____ () _____

FAX Number () _____ E-Mail Address _____

MUST ARRIVE AT CAC ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 26, 2024 VIA MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL

12 Mauchly, Suite L, Irvine, CA 92618-6305

FAX: (949) 208-3503

EMAIL AAYMAMI@AVOCADO.ORG



**2024 CAC GENERAL ELECTION
PRODUCER NOMINATION PETITION**

The undersigned persons nominate _____ as candidate for a Producer seat in
District # _____ on the California Avocado Commission Board of Directors.

Please PRINT all information. Five signatures required.

Grove Owner's Name (Print)	<u>Grove</u> District	<u>Grove Address and Zip Code</u> OR <u>Assessor Parcel Number (APN)</u>	Phone Number & E-Mail	Signature*

**With your signature you certify that you meet the definition of a "Producer" or "Grower", defined by CAC Law as "any person who is engaged within this state in the business of producing, or causing to be produced, avocados for market. "Producer" or "grower" does not include any person who has an average annual production of less than 10,000 pounds of avocados in the three preceding marketing years."*

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2024 CAC GENERAL ELECTION PRODUCER DISCLOSURE OF AFFILIATIONS

I declare that I am engaged, within this state, in the business of producing or causing to be produced avocados for market through a legal entity (individual ownership, partnership, corporation, or other) which is not also involved in the handling of avocados, and that my *grove* is located in California Avocado Commission District Number ____ (Refer to enclosed *Grove District Zip Code List*)

I **own** the following number of planted avocado acres in California ____ and derive a portion of my gross avocado industry income from producing or causing to be produced avocados. I also have a financial interest in groves located in District(s) _____.

I **manage** the following number of planted avocado acres in California ____ and derive a portion of my gross avocado industry income from producing or causing to be produced avocados. I also have a financial interest in groves located in District(s) _____.

I **pack** my fruit with the following handlers: _____; _____; _____; _____.

In addition, I am also involved in the avocado industry in the following capacities (*check all that apply*):

- Handler – Owner/Partner
- Handler – Officer/Director
- Handler – Employee
- Holder of a personal financial interest in the production of avocados outside of the United States.
- Holder of a personal financial interest in a handling operation that imports fruit from outside of the United States.

Please briefly describe that financial interest and specify the location of the out-of-country operation.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a complete, true and correct explanation of each of my affiliations with the avocado industry. I understand that this form may be made available upon request, or reproduced and included with election information mailed to eligible voters.

PRINT NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

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CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Annual CAC Board Election will be held in October 2024 for one Producer Member Seat in each of the five CAC districts. In addition, one Handler Member Seat also is open. All seats in the 2024 CAC Election are for two-year terms. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will announce the results of the 2024 Annual CAC Board Election and seat new Board Members at the CAC Board meeting on November 14, 2024.

SUMMARY OF OPEN SEATS*

<u>District</u>	<u>Member</u>
1	Jessica Hunter
2	Ohannes Karaoghlanian
3	Maureen Cottingham
4	Rachael Laenen
5	Will Carleton
Handler	John Dmytriw

** Names shown are incumbents presently holding producer/handler seats*

2024 ELECTION SCHEDULE	
July 15	Election announcement / self-nomination notice sent to all Producers and Handlers
August 26	Deadline for receipt of signed nomination petitions, candidate disclosure statements & affidavits and requests for voter access mailings at CAC
September 5	Deadline for CAC receipt of voter access mailings
September 25	CAC mails ballots to producers and handlers
October 25	Deadline for receipt of ballots by CDFA
November 8	CDFA advises CAC staff of election results
November 14	CDFA announces election results to CAC Board and seats new Board Members and Alternates

**Avocado Growing Area District Assignments by Zip Code
Effective November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2026**

Zip Code	City	District	Zip Code	City	District
90265	Malibu	3	92882	Azusa	2
91301	Agoura	2	92883	Corona	2
91320	Newbury Park	3	92887	Anaheim	2
91360	Santa Clarita	3	93001	Ventura	4
91361	Westlake Village	3	93003	Ventura	3
91709	Chino Hills	2	93004	Ventura	3
91711	Claremont	2	93010	Camarillo	3
91935	Alpine	1	93012	Camarillo	3
92003	Bonsall	2	93013	Carpinteria	5
92019	La Mesa	1	93015	Fillmore	4
92021	El Cajon	1	93021	Moorpark	3
92025	Escondido	1	93022	Oak View	4
92026	Escondido	1	93023	Ojai	4
92027	Escondido	1	93033	Oxnard	3
92028	Fallbrook	2	93036	Oxnard	3
92029	Escondido	1	93040	Piru	4
92040	Lakeside	1	93060	Santa Paula	4
92055	Camp Pendleton	2	93063	Simi Valley	3
92057	Oceanside	2	93065	Simi Valley	3
92059	Pala	1	93066	Somis	3
92061	Pauma Valley	1	93103	Santa Barbara	5
92064	Poway	1	93105	Santa Barbara	5
92065	Borrego Springs	1	93108	Summerland	5
92069	San Marcos	1	93109	Santa Barbara	5
92078	San Marcos	1	93110	Santa Barbara	5
92082	Valley Center	1	93111	Santa Barbara	5
92084	Vista	2	93117	Goleta	5
92313	Grand Terrace	2	93221	Alpaugh	5
92346	Highland	2	93244	Lemon Cove	5
92359	Ontario	2	93247	Lamont	5
92373	Redlands	2	93257	New Cuyama	5
92374	Rancho Cucamonga	2	93286	Tulare	5
92503	Riverside	2	93292	Visalia	5
92504	Riverside	2	93308	Bakersfield	5
92506	Riverside	2	93401	San Luis Obispo	5
92507	Riverside	2	93402	Los Osos	5
92521	March Air Reserve Bas	2	93405	San Luis Obispo	5
92544	Hemet	2	93420	Los Osos	5
92557	Aguanga	2	93422	Atascadero	5
92562	Murrieta	2	93428	Buellton	5
92570	Perris	2	93430	Cayucos	5
92590	Temecula	2	93436	Lompoc	5
92592	Temecula	2	93442	Morro Bay	5
92595	Wildomar	2	93444	Harmony	5
92602	Irvine	2	93446	Paso Robles	5
92610	Laguna Niguel	2	93452	San Simeon	5
92618	Irvine	2	93454	Santa Margarita	5
92620	Irvine	2	93455	Santa Maria	5
92656	Aliso Viejo	2	93465	Templeton	5
92675	Capistrano Beach	2	93647	Orosi	5
92705	Santa Ana	2	93662	Selma	5
92782	Tustin	2	93960	Salinas	5
92880	Corona	2	95076	Watsonville	5
92881	Corona	2			

Avocado growing zip codes are derived using CAC's avocado acreage inventory and grove location data submitted by handlers. If your grove location is not on this list please notify the Commission.