



2026 CAC GENERAL ELECTION

HANDLER NOMINATION PROCEDURE

TO: CALIFORNIA AVOCADO HANDLERS

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 3,000 avocado growers throughout California, CAC serves as the official information source for California avocados and the California avocado industry.

In October 2026, the Commission will conduct its regularly scheduled general election to fill available seats on CAC's Board of Directors. On the reverse side of this notice is a Summary of Open Seats which lists the seats that shall be filled in the 2026 CAC General Election. Elected individuals shall serve a two-year term, ending on October 31, 2028. Also included is a schedule of important dates and deadlines related to the 2026 CAC General Election.

The CAC Election Procedures provide that Handler candidates for Member or Alternate Member seats on the CAC Board may be nominated by a petition, *signed by one eligible handler (aside from the handler organization the nominee represents).* * A person nominated as a Handler shall certify that they have 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. Furthermore, to be eligible to serve in a Handler seat, the handler entity which the nominee represents must have handled no less than one percent (1%) of the total industry volume of avocados in the preceding marketing year. Nominated Handlers shall complete an Affidavit of Eligibility declaring their eligibility to serve on the CAC Board as a Handler representative, Disclosure of Affiliations form and Candidate Statement.

Handlers interested in being declared a candidate in the upcoming 2026 CAC General Election can complete and return the forms included in this mailing. Alternatively, an electronic version of the nomination forms can be found at CaliforniaAvocadoGrowers.com/cac-general-election or by scanning the QR code provided in this notice.



To be considered for the 2026 CAC General Election
Complete and return the required nomination forms prior to August 17, 2026

The Commission will conduct the 2026 CAC 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). In election cycles where two seats are available, among the candidates remaining, the candidate with the highest combined total number of 1st and 2nd choice votes will be offered the second available seat.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission at CACElections@avocado.org.



2026 CAC GENERAL ELECTION HANDLER AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY

The California Avocado Commission (CAC) Election Procedures provide that Handler candidates for Member or Alternate Member seats on the CAC Board will be nominated by a petition, *signed by one eligible handler**. In addition, all Handler candidates must sign this affidavit of eligibility to serve, certifying that they meet the qualifications for nomination as outlined below.

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

QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATION

1. **Handler Eligibility** – To be nominated and elected for a Handler seat on the CAC Board, a person must have 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. Furthermore, the handler entity that the nominee represents must have handled no less than one percent (1%) of the total industry volume of avocados in the preceding marketing year.
2. **Nomination Petition** - Commission Election Procedures provide that Handler candidates for seats on the Commission shall be nominated through a ***petition*** with one (1) signature from another handler. A Handler already serving on the Commission may simply notify the Commission of his/her intention to run for re-election without providing a petition. A blank petition for Handlers is enclosed with this packet.

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION

The following **Handler Affidavit of Eligibility** bearing your statement of eligibility to serve must be returned to the Commission along with the completed **Handler Nomination Petition**. All Handler candidates must also complete and submit the **Disclosure of Affiliations** form and the **Candidate Statement**. **All completed forms must arrive at CAC no later than August 17, 2026.** Names of candidates who are determined by the Commission to be eligible shall appear on the 2026 General Election Ballot.

HANDLER AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY

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

Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Company Name & Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number(s) () _____ () _____

FAX Number () _____ E-Mail Address _____

MUST ARRIVE AT CAC ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17, 2026 VIA EMAIL
EMAIL CACElections@avocado.org



**2026 CAC GENERAL ELECTION
HANDLER NOMINATION PETITION**

The undersigned person nominates _____ as a candidate for a
Handler seat on the California Avocado Commission Board of Directors.

Please PRINT all information. One signature required.

Name & Title	Company Name	Phone/E-Mail Address	Signature*

****With your signature you certify that you meet the definition of a "Handler", defined by CAC Law as "any person who engages, in this state, in the operation of selling, marketing, or distributing avocados which he or she has produced or purchased or acquired from a producer, or which he or she is marketing on behalf of a producer, whether as owner, agent, employee, broker, or otherwise. Handler also includes any person engaged as a processor in the business of processing avocados."***

MUST ARRIVE AT CAC ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17, 2026 VIA EMAIL

EMAIL CACElections@avocado.org



2026 CAC GENERAL ELECTION HANDLER DISCLOSURE OF AFFILIATIONS

I, _____, hereby declare that I have a financial interest in handling avocados for market for producers, through my involvement with _____, in the following capacity: (Name of Handler Entity)

_____ Owner/Partner
_____ Officer/Director
_____ Employee

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

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 **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.

_____ 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:** _____

MUST ARRIVE AT CAC ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17, 2026 VIA EMAIL
EMAIL CACElections@avocado.org



CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Annual CAC Board Election will be held in October 2026 for 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 seats also are being filled. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will announce the results of the 2026 Annual CAC Board Election and seat new Board Members at the CAC Board meeting in November 2026.

SUMMARY OF OPEN SEATS*

District	<u>Two Member Seats</u> <u>One 2-Year Term</u> <u>One 1 Year Term</u>	<u>One Alternate Seat</u> <u>One 2-Year Term</u>
1 (Previously District 1 & 2)	Robert Jackson Al Stehly Ohannes Karaoghlanian Tina Wolferd	Enrico Ferro Kurt Bantle
2 (Previously District 3)	Maureen Cottingham John Berns	Doug O'Hara
3 (Previously District 4)	Rachael Laenen Stephen Sheldon	Nathan Lurie
4 (Previously District 5)	Andy Sheaffer Daryn Miller	Adam Franscioni
	<u>One Member Seat</u> <u>One 2-Year Term</u>	<u>One Alternate Seat</u> <u>One 2-Year Term</u>
Handler	John Dmytriw	<i>Currently Vacant</i>
Public Member	Marty Ordman	Maddie Cook

* Names shown are incumbents presently holding producer/handler seats

2026 ELECTION SCHEDULE	
July 15	Election announcement / self-nomination notice sent to all Producers and Handlers
August 17	Deadline for receipt of signed nomination petitions, candidate disclosure statements & affidavits and requests for voter access mailings
August 28	Deadline for CAC receipt of voter access mailings
September 18	CAC mails ballots to producers and handlers
October 19	Deadline for receipt of ballots by CDFA
November 2	CDFA advises CAC staff of election results
November 10	CDFA announces election results to CAC Board and seats new Board Members and Alternates