



2026 CAC GENERAL ELECTION

PRODUCER NOMINATION PROCEDURE

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 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 either one- or two-year terms, ending on October 31, 2027 and October 31, 2028, respectively. Also included is a schedule of important dates and deadlines related to the 2026 CAC General Election.

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.

Producers 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/commission/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 seats. In election cycles where more than one seat is available, among the candidates remaining, the candidates with the highest combined total number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice votes will be offered the remaining seats.

If you receive a duplicate mailing of this notice, or if any error exists in your name or address, please contact the Commission CACElections@avocado.org so that corrections can be made to our records.



2026 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 17, 2026**. Names of candidates who are determined by the Commission to be eligible shall appear on the 2026 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 17, 2026 VIA EMAIL
EMAIL CACElections@avocado.org



2026 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> <u>OR</u> <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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2026 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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EMAIL CACElections@avocado.org



CAC BOARD SEAT PREFERRED: ☐ MEMBER ☐ ALTERNATE ☐ NO PREFERENCE

This form will be included with the ballots to inform growers about your qualifications. *Please limit your statement to the space provided.*

[illegible]

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

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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

Avocado Growing Area District Assignments by Zip Code
Effective November 1, 2026 through October 31, 2031

Zip Code	City	District	Zip Code	City	District
90265	Malibu	2	93001	Ventura	2
90631	La Habra	1	93003	Ventura	2
91360	Thousand Oaks	2	93004	Ventura	2
91361	Westlake Village	2	93010	Camarillo	2
91709	Chino Hills	1	93012	Camarillo	2
91711	Claremont	1	93013	Carpinteria	4
91935	Jamul	1	93015	Fillmore	3
92003	Bonsall	1	93021	Moorpark	2
92019	El Cajon	1	93022	Oak View	3
92021	El Cajon	1	93023	Ojai	3
92025	Escondido	1	93033	Oxnard	2
92026	Escondido	1	93036	Oxnard	2
92027	Escondido	1	93040	Piru	3
92028	Fallbrook	1	93060	Santa Paula	3
92029	Escondido	1	93065	Simi Valley	2
92040	Lakeside	1	93066	Somis	2
92057	Oceanside	1	93103	Santa Barbara	4
92059	Pala	1	93105	Santa Barbara	4
92061	Pauma Valley	1	93108	Santa Barbara	4
92064	Poway	1	93109	Santa Barbara	4
92065	Ramona	1	93110	Santa Barbara	4
92069	San Marcos	1	93111	Santa Barbara	4
92078	San Marcos	1	93117	Goleta	4
92082	Valley Center	1	93244	Lemon Cove	4
92084	Vista	1	93247	Lindsay	4
92313	Grand Terrace	1	93286	Woodlake	4
92359	Mentone	1	93292	Visalia	4
92373	Redlands	1	93401	San Luis Obispo	4
92374	Mentone	1	93402	Los Osos	4
92503	Riverside	1	93405	San Luis Obispo	4
92504	Riverside	1	93420	Arroyo Grande	4
92506	Riverside	1	93428	Cambria	4
92507	Riverside	1	93430	Cayucos	4
92521	Riverside	1	93436	Lompoc	4
92544	Hemet	1	93442	Morro Bay	4
92557	Moreno Valley	1	93444	Nipomo	4
92562	Murrieta	1	93446	Paso Robles	4
92590	Temecula	1	93452	San Simeon	4
92592	Temecula	1	93454	Santa Maria	4
92595	Wildomar	1	93455	Santa Maria	4
92602	Irvine	1	93465	Templeton	4
92618	Irvine	1	93631	Kingsburg	4
92620	Irvine	1	93647	Orosi	4
92675	Dana Point	1	93960	Soledad	4
92705	Santa Ana	1	95615	Courtland	4
92782	Tustin	1	95690	Walnut Grove	4
92881	Corona	1			
92882	Corona	1			
92883	Corona	1			

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.