

# California Walnut Board

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**TO:** ALL CALIFORNIA WALNUT GROWERS

**FROM:** Robert Verloop, Executive Director

**DATE:** February 24, 2025

**RE:** **California Walnut Board Elections (Grower Candidates)**

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Every two years, the California Walnut Board conducts elections for the Board of Directors under the supervision of the USDA. The packet you have received contains the guidelines for the election process and the forms required to be nominated and placed on the grower's ballot.

The California walnut industry requires the involvement of growers and handlers of all types and sizes to lend their ideas, critical thinking, and time to advance the industry. Guided by the 2023 Strategic Plan, growers and handlers can contribute to the industry in many ways, including serving on the Board of Directors and/or one of several committees. We encourage individuals who recognize the importance of board functions and are willing to put their "company" hats aside and think and act for the betterment of the overall industry. Elected board members serve a critical role in guiding our industry, offering their unique knowledge and expertise, representing the interests of growers and handlers in their regions, and providing oversight and governance functions to the California Walnut Board.

Eligible walnut growers can petition to have candidate names included on the grower ballots by using the enclosed form(s) and the procedures outlined on the form(s) (refer to the district map on the reverse side of this memo for more information). The nomination petition forms must be postmarked and filed with the California Walnut Board no later than April 1, 2025, in order to have the candidate name(s) on the grower ballot, which will be mailed in early April.

Getting involved with the board is especially important for young people, who represent the future of California walnuts. Many California walnut farmers are from multi-generational farm families that want to see their agricultural legacies live on – and your sons and daughters hold the ticket. Please encourage them to get involved with the industry!

<b>California Walnut Board 2025 Election Timeline</b>	
Nomination Period	March 1-31
Election Period	April 14 – May 16
USDA Certification	June
Results Announced	August

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Verloop at the California Walnut Board at (916) 932-7070.

OVER 

# California Walnut Districts



## DISTRICT 1

Encompasses the counties in the state of California that lie north of a line drawn of the south boundaries of San Mateo, Alameda, San Joaquin, Calaveras, and Alpine Counties.

## DISTRICT 2

Consists of all other walnut producing counties in the state of California south of the boundary line set forth in District 1.





**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

*In the event one handler does not handle 35% or more of the crop:*

984.35(a)(3) Two grower members from District 1;

984.35(a)(4) Two grower members from District 2;

984.35(a)(5) One grower member nominated at large from the production area.

*In the event one handler handles 35% or more of the crop:*

984.35(b)(4) One member to represent growers from District 1 who market their walnuts through handlers that do not handle 35% or more of the crop;

984.35(b)(5) One member to represent growers from District 2 who market their walnuts through handlers that do not handle 35% or more of the crop; and

984.35(b)(6) One member to represent growers who market their walnuts through handlers that do not handle 35% or more of the crop shall be nominated at large from the production area.

*Grower Districts:*

984.35(c) Grower Districts:

(1) District 1. District 1 encompasses the counties in the State of California that lie north of a line drawn on the south boundaries of San Mateo, Alameda, San Joaquin, Calaveras, and Alpine Counties.

(2) District 2. District 2 shall consist of all other walnut producing counties in the State of California south of the boundary line set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

*At-large Member Position:*

984.437(a) With regard to Board grower member positions specified in §984.35(a)(5) or (b)(6), any ten or more such growers who marketed an aggregate of 500 or more tons of walnuts through handlers who did not handle 35% or more of the crop during the marketing year preceding the year in which Board nominations are held, may petition the Board to include on the nomination ballot the name of an eligible candidate for this position, and the name of an eligible candidate to serve as his or her alternate. The names of the eligible candidates proposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be included on the ballot together with the names of any incumbents who are willing to continue serving on the Board.

*District 1 and 2 Member Positions:*

984.437(b) Any ten or more growers eligible to serve in the grower member positions specified in §984.35(a)(3) and (4), or §984.35(b)(4) and (5), and who marketed an aggregate of 500 or more tons of walnuts through handlers who did not handle 35% or more of the crop during the marketing year preceding the year in which Board nominations are held, may petition the Board to include on the nomination ballot for a district the name of an eligible candidate for the applicable position, and the name of an eligible candidate to serve as his or her alternate. The names of the eligible candidates proposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be included on the ballot together with the names of any incumbents who are willing to continue serving on the Board.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0178. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

(Exp. 3/31/2024) Destroy previous editions.





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**CALIFORNIA WALNUT BOARD**

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a candidate for the 2025 election of members and alternates to the California Walnut Board.

In a brief paragraph or two, use the space below to provide any background information you deem important for walnut growers to know about your interest in serving on the Board. This information will be sent with the election ballots.

If elected, I am willing to dedicate the time and effort necessary to serve as a contributing member, alternate or committee member on the Board to which I am appointed.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)