

# Election FAQ's

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	
Question	Answer
How is the election announced?	The election is announced publicly through a press release naming open seats, directions about how to become a candidate, and required action dates. A direct mailing is sent to growers and handlers announcing the election along with a diversity letter from USDA.
What type of candidate should consider running?	ABC encourages eligible women, minorities, and people with disabilities to consider running for a position on the Board of Directors. We believe individuals from all walks of life can contribute to improving the lives of almond growers and the communities in which they live.
What qualifications are needed to run for a seat on the Board?	Prospective candidates must be a current Grower or Handler. Additionally, Growers must submit a Grower Petition which includes at least 15 signatures of current Growers.
How do I run for an open Independent Grower or Independent Handler seat on the Board?	To become an official candidate for these positions and have your name appear on the ballot, you must qualify for the open position, and declare your candidacy in writing to the Board. More details can be found by clicking <a href="#">here</a> .
What is the latest date I can turn in my intent to run?	April 1 <sup>st</sup> is the last day to turn in an intent to run for an open seat on the Board. Documents must be sent to <a href="mailto:abcboelections@almondboard.com">abcboelections@almondboard.com</a> .
Who is allowed to vote in the election?	Any person, including a business unit, engaged in a crop ownership capacity of the commercial production of almonds and delivering them to an independent handler. For more information on the included categories, please email <a href="mailto:abcboelections@almondboard.com">abcboelections@almondboard.com</a> .
What if I don't receive a ballot?	Contact your Handler to make sure they have your name & correct address on their Grower List. Have your Handler contact the Elections team at <a href="mailto:abcboelections@almondboard.com">abcboelections@almondboard.com</a> to have a ballot mailed to you before May 20 <sup>th</sup> . You can also pick up a ballot from the ABC office.
Why do the elections run from Feb. to June?	This timeline allows Board members' terms to coincide with the almond crop year.  It also allows more time for handlers to submit their intentions to run, growers to collect signatures on grower petitions, and ABC staff to verify grower signatures and prepare the ballots for industry votes.

<p>Why does the Almond Board of California exist?</p>	<p>The Almond Board of California (ABC) was established in 1950 to administer the Federal Marketing Order for almonds. ABC assures industry compliance with marketing order regulations and is responsible for administering all aspects of the marketing order. It also serves the almond industry in other major areas, including production research, global advertising and public relations, and accumulation, compilation, and dissemination of statistical information.</p>
<p>Why does the Almond Board of California have a Board of Directors?</p>	<p>The Board of Directors was established as a requirement of the Federal Marketing Order. More information about the Federal Marketing Order can be found at the following link: <a href="https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/part-981/subpart-A">https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/part-981/subpart-A</a></p>
<p>What is the role of the Board of Directors?</p>	<p>The Board of Directors guides the work of ABC in administering the Federal Marketing Order. This includes research programs, programs to grow market demand, and addressing challenges to the industry's reputation. The Board is also responsible for establishing policy, recommending budgets and programs to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval, and evaluating the results and effectiveness of established programs.</p>
<p>Who makes up the Board of Directors?</p>	<p>The Board of Directors is composed of 10 members, with one alternate for each member. More than 7,600 almond growers and approximately 99 almond handlers elect five growers and five handlers and corresponding alternates in an annual election process held throughout the state of California. Once elected, the Board chooses its chair and vice-chair. Board and committee members serve without compensation.</p>
<p>What types of positions are there on the Board of Directors?</p>	<p>There are four types of seats related to the types of membership representation: Independent Handler, Independent Grower, Cooperative Grower, and Cooperative Handler. More information about total number of seats and terms can be found in the Federal Marketing Order at the following link: <a href="https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/part-981/subpart-A">https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/part-981/subpart-A</a></p>
<p>What is the Alternate's role on the Board?</p>	<p>The alternate acts in the place of a member in his/her absence. In the event of a member's death, removal, resignation or disqualification, the alternate will serve as member until a new member has been selected and qualified.</p>
<p>How are the Cooperative Grower and Cooperative Handlers Elected?</p>	<p>Cooperative handlers and growers are elected through their cooperative organizations. Each cooperative casts a vote for nominees for each position. ABC is not involved with this election process, but provides the cooperative with a ballot</p>

	to submit the names of the nominees by the required due date.
Are there term limits for the ABC BOD?	Yes; Board members can serve for a total of six consecutive years. Once they reach the six years they have termed out and must leave the Board for at least one year before becoming eligible to serve again. (Does not apply to alternates)
How are vacancies handled?	Vacancies shall be filled by the Secretary after consideration of recommendations from members of the group represented by the vacancy unless the Secretary deems it unnecessary to fill the vacancy.
When does the new term begin?	The new term begins on August 1 <sup>st</sup> , with the Board seated and Chair/Vice Chair chosen at the August Board of Directors meeting.
What if I have more Election questions?	Election questions can be directed to <a href="mailto:abcboelections@almondboard.com">abcboelections@almondboard.com</a> .