

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
 FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

**OFFICIAL PRODUCER BALLOT**  
**TOMATOES GROWN IN FLORIDA**  
**MARKETING ORDER NO. 966**

This ballot will be held in strict confidence. Be sure Part II of your ballot is complete. Unsigned ballots or ballots with Part II incomplete that cannot be validated will not be counted.

**PART I - REFERENDUM INSTRUCTIONS**

**A. REFERENDUM PERIOD:** June 25 through July 3, 20 , is the referendum period during which producers may vote for or against the proposed amendments to the marketing order regulating the handling of Tomatoes grown in Florida. All votable issues have been included on this ballot.

For an amendment to the marketing order to pass, it must be supported by at least two-thirds of the growers voting or at least two-thirds of the volume of production represented in the referendum. In other words, if more than one-third of the growers voting, or more than one-third of the volume of production represented in the referendum vote against an amendment, the amendment will fail.

**B. PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE**

1. Any producer who produced tomatoes for the market during the period of August 1, 20 , through July 31, 20 , may vote on items (1) through (6) of the attached ballot.
2. A producer is defined as - (a) any person who produced tomatoes for market in the designated production area; (b) a renter or tenant of acreage producing tomatoes for market; or (c) a landlord who received from a renter or tenant tomatoes as rent for the land on which such tomatoes were grown. A cash landlord, lienholder, or person having only a financial interest in the crop is ineligible.
3. A business unit, partnership, family enterprise, corporation, association, estate or firm may cast only one vote, but each separate entity is entitled to one vote.
4. If you believe you are eligible to submit more than one ballot, additional ballots may be obtained by contacting the Southeast Marketing Field Office at (813) 299-4770. Ballots are also available at your County Extension Offices and the Tomato Program Administrative Office.
5. Proxy voting is not authorized.

**C. INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING**

1. Provide the voter information requested in Part II.
2. Mark in the block of your choice for each referendum question in Part III. Please note that each issue includes a reference to the affected section of the Order as it appears in the attached Order Amending the Order.
3. Sign in the appropriate section of Part IV.

Please call (813) 299-4770 if you have any questions.

**PART II - VOTER INFORMATION**

**A. PRODUCER'S NAME** *(Please Print)*

**B. PRODUCER'S ADDRESS** *(Street and No., R.F.D. No., City, State, ZIP Code)*

**C. Do you reside on the property which produces the tomatoes for which this ballot is cast?** ( ) YES ( ) NO *(If "NO," provide residence address and telephone number.)*

*Street and No., R.F.D. No., City, State, and ZIP Code)*

TELEPHONE NO.

**PART II - VOTER INFORMATION (Con.)**

D. If you are not voting as an individual producer, please check the appropriate box indicating voter status:

( ) Partnership      ( ) Corporation      ( ) Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

<p>E. Number of cartons (25 lb.) Tomatoes produced for market during the period of August 1, 20 through July 31, 20 .</p>	<p>F. Total number of acres of Tomatoes represented by this ballot.</p>
<p>G. Specific location of Tomato acreage represented by this ballot (Highway or Street Address, if applicable; County; City, State, ZIP Code)</p>	<p>H. Packinghouse(s) which handled your tomatoes</p>

*If you need space to answer the above questions, use remarks section of this official ballot.*

**PART III - REFERENDUM QUESTIONS**

**"YES" vote means you favor the change.**

**"NO" vote means you oppose the change.**

TOMATOES GROWN IN FLORIDA MARKETING ORDER AMENDMENTS:		YES	NO
1. Do you favor authorizing production research and paid advertising? (Section 966.48)			
2. Do you favor letting the Committee accept advance payment of assessments, and borrow money? (Section 966.42)			
3. Do you favor allowing the Committee to accept voluntary contributions for research and promotion projects? (Section 966.45)			
4. Do you favor limiting consecutive years of service (tenure) on the committee as a member to six years and limiting consecutive years of service (tenure) as an alternate to six years? At the end of six consecutive years of service as either a member or alternate member, a person would have to change positions or leave the committee. (Section 966.23)			
5. If a member and that member's alternate are absent from a committee meeting, do you favor allowing another alternate member from the same district to serve in a voting capacity at that meeting? (Sections 966.32)			
6. Do you favor conducting a referendum on continuance of the order every six years beginning in 1992? (Section 966.84)			

Should you have any questions about these six issues, please refer back to the summary on the introductory page.

Minor conforming, editorial, and non-substantive modifications of the Order language included in the Order amending the Order have not been specifically described in the six referendum questions presented above for voting, but will be incorporated in the order as appropriate.

**PART IV - VOTER CERTIFICATION**

All information provided in this ballot will be subject to on-site verification by officials of the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The information on this ballot is required to determine voter eligibility and the vote of Florida tomatoes producers. Falsification of information on the Government document may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five (5) years, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001).

*I am the producer named in Part II of this ballot, and I certify that I am not a cash landlord, lienholder, or person having only a financial interest in the crop and that the information provided on this ballot and any attachment hereto is accurate to the best of my knowledge.*

A. YOUR SIGNATURE IF SIGNING AS AN INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE:** *If you are a partner casting the ballot for a partnership; an officer or employee casting the ballot for a cooperative association, corporation, school, institution, or similar business unit; or the administrator, executor, or trustee casting the ballot for a producing estate, by signing this ballot you agree to provide evidence thereof at the request of an authorized agent of the Secretary.*

*I certify that I am duly authorized to vote on behalf of the producing entity named in Part II of this ballot and that the information provided in this ballot and any attachment hereto is accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.*

B. YOUR SIGNATURE IF SIGNING AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRODUCING ENTITY OTHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title of Person Signing)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**BALLOTS RECEIVED IN THE SOUTHEAST MARKETING FIELD OFFICE LATER THAN (Insert Date Two Days After Referendum Period) WILL NOT BE COUNTED IN THE REFERENDUM.**

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**REMARKS**

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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 20 minutes 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.

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