

# PD/GWSS Referendum Vote Underway

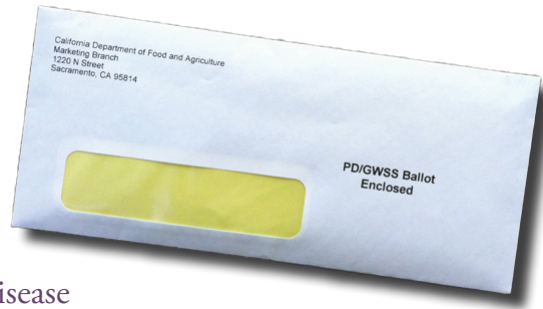
Ballots were mailed in early April to California winegrape growers to vote on whether or not to continue the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Assessment to fund research and outreach on Pierce's disease, glassy-winged sharpshooter, and other designated pests and diseases of winegrapes through 2026.

Grape producer entities that paid the assessment on grapes crushed in 2019 received ballots and must return them by May 8. Last time growers voted, over 80 percent favored the continuation of the assessment. Voting results will be announced in mid-June.

At least 40 percent of the eligible voting entities must cast ballots for the referendum to be valid. Passage of the referendum requires either:

1. At least 65 percent of those voting, representing a majority of assessments paid by those who voted, vote "yes," OR
2. A majority of those voting, representing at least 65 percent of the assessments paid by those who voted, vote "yes."

The PD/GWSS Board advises the CDFA on use of assessment funds for research and outreach on PD, GWSS, and other designated pests and diseases of California winegrapes. The Board sets the annual assessment rate, with a maximum of \$3.00 per \$1,000 of grape crush value. The annual assessment rate has averaged \$1.39 over the past 19 years and was \$1.00 for 2019.



## New PD/GWSS Board Officers and Members

At its February meeting, the PD/GWSS Board elected the following officers for 2020:

- **Chair:** Domonic Rossini, Fratello Farming, based in Denair
- **Vice Chair:** William Drayton, Treasury Wine Estates, based in St. Helena
- **Treasurer:** Randy Heinzen, Vineyard Professional Services, based in Paso Robles

New members joining the Board this year:

- Rich Hammond, Hammond Family Vineyards, based in Fresno County
- Aaron Lange, LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyards, based in Acampo