

CalCPA 2026 Women to Watch Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I submit a nomination for the *Women to Watch Awards*?

Submitting a nomination is easy! Shine a spotlight on a remarkable woman by submitting an application and supporting documents through the online nomination links below.

- CPA Emerging Leader: [Submit a nomination](#)
- CPA Experienced Leader: [Submit a nomination](#)
- CPA Trailblazer: [Submit a nomination](#)

Who can I nominate?

You can nominate a colleague, a client, your supervisor, an employee, or even yourself, so long as the nominee is a CPA! The key is to provide compelling, business-focused reasons that highlight a nominee's contributions to the profession that align with the award criteria.

Are Chartered Accountants eligible for nomination?

To be eligible, nominees must hold a California CPA license.

Can nominees live outside of California?

Absolutely! Nominees can live and work remotely from outside California, as long as they are employed by a California-based firm.

Are nominees required to be employed by a firm?

No, nominees are not required to be employed by a firm. Individuals working at non-profits, government entities, corporations or other organizations are also eligible, as long as they hold a valid CPA license.

Can more than one nominee from the same firm or organization be nominated?

We encourage all qualified women from a given firm or organization to be nominated, whether for the same award category or different categories.

Can previous CalCPA *Women to Watch Award* winners be nominated again?

Yes, they can! Previous winners are eligible for nomination in a different award category. With three unique categories to choose from, there's plenty of room to celebrate exceptional achievements. There are three distinguished award categories for which nominees can be recognized:

- CPA Emerging Leaders: 2-8 years of Accounting industry experience
- CPA Experienced Leaders: 9-14 years of Accounting industry experience
- CPA Trailblazers: 15+ years of Accounting industry experience

Are letters of recommendation required?

We strongly encourage submission of one letter of recommendation, but it is not required. We welcome and encourage additional letters to provide a more comprehensive nomination. We recommend a maximum of two (2) letters of recommendation.

Who can write a letter of recommendation?

We welcome letters from colleagues, peers, supervisors or other individuals, as long as they come from a professional connection or setting. These recommendations are a fantastic way to illustrate how the nominee shines in their role or with their volunteer experience and meets the award category criteria.

Is there a specific format or length for letters of recommendation?

Not at all! Feel free to use any format that best highlights how the nominee aligns with the award's qualifications. Be creative and authentic!

When will the nominees and winners be announced?

Nominees will be published online after the application period concludes. Winners will be announced at the *Elevate: Women's Leadership Forum 2026*, which will take place on May 7-8, 2026, at the Pasea Hotel and Spa in Huntington Beach, CA. The *Women to Watch Awards* ceremony will take place on May 8.

Will there be an opportunity to highlight a nominee on social media or via a press release?

CalCPA can provide a press release template and suggested copy for social media upon request. A separate press release template can be provided for announcing a winner, so that one can be prepared in advance.

Questions?

If you have any questions about your application or the selection process, feel free to contact the CalCPA Conference Team at womentowatch@calcpa.org. Good luck with the nomination process—we can't wait to celebrate the extraordinary women in our profession!

Celebrate excellence in the accounting profession—submit your nomination for a deserving woman today!

