

2023 Temple Election for the Hindu Temple Society (HTS), Board of Trustees (BOT) & Board of Governors (BOG), and Hindu Cultural Center (HCC) Board of Directors (BOD)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 from 1:00 - 3:00PM

Message #1 from the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Dear Devotees,

Another year has quickly gone by and it's time for the HTS annual elections. Please pardon the long message given that the announcement has been a little late this year. There is still enough time to have a smooth election process. The NEC along with the BOT will ensure the elections are conducted consistent with the constitution going forward.

This year the elections will be held on November 19th with subtle modifications given the learnings we have had over the last few years.

Please feel free to share this information with other devotees and temple members that are interested in serving the community and contributing to the temple and HCC management. It is in the interest of the members to participate in the election process since BOTs and BOGs play a vital role in governing the affairs of the temple and BODs in the governing of HCC. We are looking for devotees with knowledge of the constitution to come forward. Through this election, temple members will elect BOTs, BOGs and BODs.

We are pleased to announce the following vacancies.

BOT (Board of Trustees): Five for a term of Three Years each

BOG (Board of Governors): Three for a term of three years each

BOD (Board of Directors of HCC): One for a term of three years each

We seek nominations for each of the boards and you can email the scanned nomination form with signatures to Kirthivasan Nagarajan at HTSNEC2023@gmail.com. You can also submit your nomination form in the main temple in person to a NEC member on the following dates mentioned below. Please note that nominations dropped in the Hundi will not be accepted.

The rules for the elections as well the election nomination form is included for your convenience. This year the absentee ballot request can be made via email with the necessary details. An absentee ballot request form will not be needed. In the event of an election, it is important that you bring photo ID to enable you to cast your vote. In the absence of a photo ID, the NEC may ask two voters with photo IDs to certify your identity. Following are some important dates:

Election documents will be available soon on the temple website at www.albanyhindutemple.org.

Following are some important dates and deadlines:

- Suggested due date for candidates to mail nomination¹: **October 03, 2023**
- Date certified member list is available by: **October 07, 2023** (a preliminary list should be posted on the temple website)²
- Date NEC will accept nominations in person at the DVD desk: **October 14, 2023 between 7pm-9pm**
- Date by which nomination should be received by NEC: **October 14, 2023**
- Date by which candidates can withdraw their nomination: **October 20, 2023**
- Date by which request for an absentee ballot³ should be received by NEC: **October 21, 2023**
- Absentee ballots to be mailed by the NEC: **October 23, 2023**
- Suggested date for absentee ballots to be mailed back to the NEC: **October 29, 2023**
- Date by which absentee ballot should be received by NEC: **November 12, 2023**
- Election Date: **November 19, 2023 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Mr. Kirthi Nagarajan, Chairman (518) 285-9794

Mr. Purushotham Bangalore (518) 321-4704

Mrs. Sreedevi Mandava (518) 429-5237

Election Appeals Committee

Mr. Gurinder Garcha

Mr. Prakash Joshi

Mr. Veerabhadra Bheemineni

¹ Nomination forms are available on the temple website at

<https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/HTS-Nomination-2023.pdf>

²If your name does not appear on the member list and you believe you are a qualified member to vote, please contact the Membership Secretary – Smita Jain at 518-445-5678, manojandsmita@gmail.com. Please see below for the link for HTS member list:

<https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/HTS-Members-2023-published-oct7.pdf>

³Absentee ballot request can be made via email to HTSNEC2023@gmail.com. The person who needs the absentee ballots will have to make the request. Absentee ballot request from anyone else other than the member will not be entertained.

Election Guidelines 2023

Note on filing nomination

Nominations could be filed one of 2 ways.

- 1) Nominations could be handed over in person to a NEC member who will be present at the temple at specific times mentioned in NEC bulletin 1.
- 2) Scanned nominations could be emailed to the NEC member at HTSNEC2023@gmail.com.

Please note that nominations can **no longer be dropped in the Hundi** as was the practice in past years. The nomination form has to be filled in completely to avoid any confusion.

Absentee ballot request

There is no need to fill in an Absentee Ballot Request form. Request can be made via email to HTSNEC2023@gmail.com. However, the following information is mandatory to receive the Absentee ballots. The person who needs the absentee ballots will have to make the request. Any absentee ballot request from anyone else other than the member will not be entertained.

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Please note the last date to request an absentee ballot is October 21, 2023

Election Process

Elections will be conducted consistent with Article 6 of the constitution. Given the learnings during the past few elections the following guidelines will be adopted.

Term of Office: Members will be elected only for such a term that fulfils Article 6, Section 7 of the Constitution. There is a possibility that a member will be elected only for a period of one or two years.

Tie: In case of a tie, a flip of a coin by the EAC Chairman will determine the winner.

Absentee Ballots: Every effort will be made to ensure return of absentee ballots. However, if the absentee ballots are not returned on time NEC has no option but to assume that requestor has not returned the ballot.