



HINDU TEMPLE & CULTURAL SOCIETY OF USA, INC. (HTCS)

Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir) and Community Center

1 Balaji Temple Drive, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807, USA | Telephone 908-725-4477

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization | www.venkateswaratemple.org

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PATRON MEMBER CATEGORY TRUSTEE

June 21, 2025

Dear Member, Greetings from the Nominations/Elections Committee (EC)!

This letter invites nominations for the upcoming election of Trustees to the Board. The Temple was unable to conduct biennial elections in 2024 due to disputes arising out of 1) the questionable validity of a disqualification stipulation identified as bylaw 3.12 based on the widely-held belief that it was improperly passed; and 2) the concern that this bylaw does not uphold the core principle of term limits as it sought to protect the tenures of certain individuals who have held trustee positions for decades while eliminating individuals with much briefer service records. This dispute ended up as a lawsuit and in a court-directed resolution under which the plaintiffs agreed to NOT APPLYING the exclusion stipulation identified as bylaw 3.12.

We are now proceeding with elections to fill the Two (2) PATRON Member Trustee vacancies (to be elected by PATRON Members only).

A nomination form is enclosed. Members with PATRON membership may contest for trusteeship in only PATRON category. The list of members in the PATRON category as of June 30, 2024, is posted on the Temple bulletin board. To be eligible to propose or second a nomination, the Proposer and Secunder must be PATRON members in good standing as of June 30, 2024, and cannot be the spouse of the Nominee. Each member may propose or second only one candidate.

For this Election Cycle the following sections of the Bylaws will not be implemented:

- Section 3.12. ALL trustees sitting and past are eligible to contest, subject to all other by laws such as attendance and good standing. NO TERM LIMITS APPLIED TO ANY ONE for this election cycle. However, the term of the trustees that are being elected in this election cycle will end on December 31, 2030.
- Section 3.07.1 In order to be eligible to receive a ballot to vote, each member must register with HTCS. Registration is not applied to this election cycle.

Nominees must meet the eligibility requirements, as outlined in the Election Manual, containing detailed information, along with a blank nomination form, is available on the Temple website: (<http://www.venkateswaratemple.org>) and HTCS Bylaws (AMENDED AND RESTATED February 16, 2020). The full Bylaws document is available on the Temple website: <https://venkateswaratemple.org/bylaws.pdf>

Eligibility to contest to be a Trustee:

- (a) must be a fully paid member of HTCS and must complete two years of membership by June 30, 2024, and
- (b) Current Trustees must have attended 50% of the Board meetings up to December 31, 2024 in his / her entire immediate term, if not they are not eligible to contest. If the current trustee contesting for reelection served only a part of the 6-year term, the percentage is applied to the number of meetings held during the trustee's partial term.

Each nominee must submit with the Nomination Form:

- One passport-size color photograph.
- A nominee statement (biography) not exceeding 150 words. The statement should be single-spaced, in Times New Roman 10-point font (body) and 14-point font (heading, bolded). The statement should include:
 1. Past contributions and service to HTCS.
 2. Reasons for seeking election/re-election and plans for service to HTCS during their term.
 3. Related experience or expertise, and other relevant information, including community service.

The photograph and nominee statement will be mailed to PATRON members with the ballots and posted on the Temple website. The EC reserves the right to reformat the statement to have all statements in the same format.

An electronic version (Word file) of the nominee statement, along with the photograph, must be sent to the Election Chair at elections.chair@venkateswaratemple.org with the Nomination Form.

The official Temple membership list as of June 30, 2024, will be used for mailing ballots. Members are responsible for updating their addresses using the official address change process on the Temple website:

https://www.venkateswaratemple.org/Membership_1.htm Accurate mailing addresses are crucial for timely ballot delivery.

Election Schedule (See Backside)



SRI VENKATESWARA TEMPLE (BALAJI MANDIR) AND COMMUNITY CENTER
1 Balaji Temple Dr., Bridgewater, NJ 08807; Telephone: (908) 725-4477

Election Schedule

The Nominations/Elections Committee will be using the following schedule subject to change as necessary:

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| <u>CALL FOR NOMINATIONS</u> June 21, 2025 | EC posts Call for Nominations on temple website and mail hard copies to all members. The EC will be available at the Temple boardroom on Sunday, June 29th, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for nomination form drop-off. |
| July 5, 2025 (Saturday) | Last day to receive completed and legible (PDF) completed nomination forms with hand signatures to the EC Chair via email elections.chair@venkateswaratemple.org before 11:00 pm. EC Will notify all candidates with the list of nominations received. Nominee statement and photos must be sent to the EC Chair with the nomination form. |
| July 7, 2025 Monday) | Last date to withdraw nominations. Withdrawals must be received by the Elections Committee Chair via registered e-mail before 11 p.m. |
| <u>VOTING OPENS</u> July 13, 2025 (Sunday) | Ballot preparation and mailing to all members from the Bridgewater post office (candidates may observe). Members may mail their Ballot Envelope via USPS to the Bridgewater PO box or send via OVERNIGHT service to EC Chair or drop them at the Temple office Ballot Box. |
| July 25, 2025 (Friday) | Last day to request missing ballots by emailing elections.chair@venkateswaratemple.org. |
| Each Saturday | Each Saturday at 8:30 a.m. EC will pick up all ballots, record and store in EC lock box at the temple safe. (Candidates are welcome to monitor) |
| August 8, 2025 (Friday) | Last date to receive ballots at the Bridgewater P.O. Box or Temple Ballot Box or Overnight package to EC Chair. |
| <u>BALLOT COUNTING</u> August 9, 2025 (Saturday): | Final pick up of ballots from P.O. Box, Temple Ballot Box and Overnight packages received. (Candidates are welcome to monitor) |
| August 9, 2025 Saturday) | Ballot counting and notification of results to candidates and the Board of Trustees. Trustee certification will occur three days after counting, pending any recount requests. (Candidates may observe). |
| August 10, 2025 (Sunday) | 10 a.m., Ballot Recounting, if necessary. (Candidates are welcome to monitor) |

Notes: 1. Schedule is *subject to change* as necessary

Nominations/Election Committee:

Suresh Makam (Chair), Ramana Yalamanchili (Vice Chair), Venkat Bommakanti, Murty Bhavaraju



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NOMINATION FORM FOR PATRON MEMBER CATEGORY TRUSTEE

Two TRUSTEES will be elected from the PATRON MEMBER category; the term of the trustees that are being elected in this election cycle will end on 31st December 2030.

QUALIFICATION: The Nominee must be a fully paid member of HTCS and must complete two years of membership by June 30, 2024, *member for a minimum of two years* in the PATRON member category. See the cover letter for additional eligibility requirements. To be eligible to propose or second a nomination, the Proposer and Secunder must be PATRON members as of June 30, 2024, and cannot be the spouse of the Nominee. Each member may propose or second only one candidate.

If the Nominee, Proposer, & Secunder are all qualified, please email scanned PDF of the completed nomination form with hand signatures, on or before July 5, 2025 (11:00p.m.) to HTCS Election Chair at elections.chair@venkateswaratemple.org. An electronic version (Word file) of the nominee statement, along with the photograph, must be sent to the Election Chair at elections.chair@venkateswaratemple.org with the Nomination Form. Please review the HTCS Election Manual posted on the Temple website to understand the election process (<http://www.venkateswaratemple.org>)

NOMINEE'S DETAILS

Nominee's name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Nominee's address: _____

Nominee's phone #: Home _____ Cell: _____

*Nominee's email address (**Required**): _____

(*This will be the ONLY email address to be used during this election process.)

PROPOSER'S DECLARATION

Proposer's name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Proposer's address: _____

Proposer's E-mail: _____ Phone#: _____

I hereby declare that I have been a member in good standing in the PATRON member category of HTCS. I hereby propose the nomination of _____ as a trustee representing PATRON member category of HTCS.

Date: _____ Signature of the Proposer: _____

SECONDER'S DECLARATION

Secunder's name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Secunder's address: _____

Secunder's E-mail _____ Phone#: _____

I hereby declare that I have been a member in good standing in the PATRON member category of HTCS. I hereby second the nomination of _____ as a trustee representing PATRON member category of HTCS.

Date: _____ Signature of the Secunder: _____

NOMINEE'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I have met all the eligibility requirements listed above and documented in the Election Manual to contest as a Trustee. I accept the nomination to serve as a trustee of the HTCS. If elected, I promise to serve as a Trustee to uphold the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws, the objectives, rules and regulations of HTCS. All information furnished in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: _____ Signature of the Nominee: _____