



Sat Nam Sadh Sangat Ji,

We are again sharing an important communication regarding the election process. Since our last communication, the company we hired to review the election process steps and certify the election, Armanino, has conducted an exhaustive manual review of new voter applications. The process Armanino followed and the results they achieved are included in their following report (*in italics below*):

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*Report from Armanino*

*We write to provide you with a status report on our team's recent activities, processes, and anticipated next steps in support of the SSSC Board election. This update will further expand upon the updated election timeline we provided yesterday morning.*

*We have actively performed multiple final reviews and analysis of the new voter applicants. Lewis Roca provided us with community reports of potentially eligible voters and/or recommenders being excluded from the election process. We conducted multiple additional levels of review and manual analysis of the work performed. We have been provided with various additional information and questions from community members, which we have reviewed and cross-referenced with our work. To provide additional clarity and information, we determined that conducting a manual review of new voter applicants would best address and resolve the questions raised. As a result of this process, we identified multiple, albeit relatively small groups of applicants who, following the additional reviews, are now being advanced in the process.*

*For example, in performing manual reviews we identified individuals who were utilizing one common email address which resulted in matching issues with the applicant and recommendations. The manual review process also assessed applicants who submitted multiple applications to evaluate whether the applicant met the Board's established criteria.*

*In another example, manual review identified recommendations that previously were not successfully linked to a new voter's list of recommenders. This issue arose largely from discrepancies in how an applicant and a recommender identified each other in the new voter application and recommendations.*

*For example, a new voter applicant may write her last name as Khalsa whereas the recommender wrote the last name as Kaur Khalsa. Similar discrepancies existed between the use of a legal v. spiritual name, personal v. professional email account being listed, different phone numbers identified, slight misspellings, use of a hyphen or space in a name, etc. In the manual review process, we were able to determine whether minor spelling discrepancies between these documents could still result in a positive link. We did this by assessing the nature of the deviations and other supporting information (e.g., address, email, phone number).*

*Consistent with past procedures and the Board's January 12, 2023 Resolution, if a newly identified new voter applicant did not have 3 linked recommendations, then the new voter applicant received a SurveyMonkey link to identify any and all recommenders such that Armanino could attempt to successfully link 3 recommendations for the applicant. Armanino is now in the process of comparing those survey results with the recommendations on file.*

*As it presently stands and based upon these and other manual procedures Armanino has performed, there will be additional new voters added to the voting population. The next step, consistent with the Board's November 17, 2022 Resolution, will be to send out Recommender Attestations via DocuSign to the newly approved new voter applicants. Consistent with prior procedures, the recommenders will have 7 days to return their attestations. Armanino will then review the DocuSign responses and update the new voter list.*

*Armanino has also initiated the process for combining the new, renewal, and preapproved voter populations to identify and update the approved list of voters such that each approved voter receives only 1 voting credential despite potentially qualifying through multiple tracks. Armanino is sensitive to the fact that an individual may have completed a voter renewal, but also automatically qualified by virtue of his/her role as a member of the Khalsa Council, Sikh Dharma Minister in good standing, and/or active ATA trainer.*

*Armanino is also planning on coordinating with the SSSC's voting vendor, Assembly Voting, to facilitate the exchange of secure voter information.*

*Finally, we note that the manual review processes are consistently performed for all affected populations. This means that when a potential issue came up as to one applicant, it was explored and vetted to capture other similarly situated applicants.*

*Armanino has executed these manual procedures independently according to its discretion and without interference from any outside individual or entity.*

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With this process winding down, the SSSC has worked with Armanino to prepare the following timeline culminating in voting beginning on July 17, 2023:



We know this process has required patience for all involved, and some have expressed

frustration about the time it has taken to reach this point. At each step, the project has been guided by principles of fairness and assuring that a neutral third party, using its experience and best practices, assess all applications received and process them according to the public guidelines for this election.

Thank you.

The SSSC Election Team.