

Greetings from the TAGDV Election Committee, 2023. This election committee has been operational since Sep, 2023. We request your full support, understanding and cooperation in conducting a fair, representative and comprehensive election between November 1 - 4, 2023

The following are the dates/deadlines for the election.

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Last day to verify membership Information	Oct 25, 2023 @ 11:59 pm EST
Last day to file nominations	Oct 25, 2023 @ 11:59 pm EST
Last day for withdrawal of nominations	Oct 29, 2023 @ 10:00 am EST
Announcement of the Final list of Candidates	Oct 30, 2023 @ 10:30 am EST
Live Debate	Oct 30, 2023 @ 7:30 pm EST to 9:15 pm EST
Election Date(s)	November 1 @ 8:00 am EST To November 4, 2023 5:30 pm EST
Announcement of Results	November 5, 2023 5:00 pm EST

TAGDV Live Election Presentation from Candidates -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzhgohSY39A>

If you or your spouse did not receive Election email, Please reach out to TAGDV Election Committee - 2023 at [electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org](mailto:electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org)

**Please verify the FAQ's & Candidate - Code of Conduct section at the bottom of the page.**

**Good morning. Let the Elections begin! Hope you all received the email to Vote!**

The below will be posted in FAQ also. Means the General Body will have access to this information. We will also be adding another FAQ point about Floor Nominations on Saturday during the General Body Meeting.

We have received concerns from the President of TAGDV and concerns about the President of TAGDV. The President of TAGDV is also a contestant for Board of Trustees

**Concerns from the President:** The events being referred by him allegedly happened before this Election Committee was formed and The Election Committee does have formal approval from the Board and the Executive Committee for the candidates mentioned by him. The Election Committee has no jurisdiction on this issue and will defer to the Board of Trustees for any possible action.

**Concerns about the President:** Though he is a contestant, in his role as the TAGDV President, he has expressed strong desire for the best for the organization, from his point of view. The Election Committee is not in a position to validate why his concerns were not addressed before the election. However, the Election Committee will always encourage any expressions of such strong concerns to be validated. The Election Committee does understand these concerns being expressed in the capacity of TAGDV President even after he announced his candidacy. The Election Committee is formally asking the Board of Trustees to further proceed and evaluate if his concerns are valid.

Thus, the Election Committee has determined that all candidates are allowed to proceed further.

**This is our Tamil Association. We have a huge responsibility for the Tamil School Students studying in TAGDV Tamil Schools and we need to set a Role Model for them. I hope you all know that they are watching us.**

**The Election Committee appeals for unity and let the General Body exercise its 'Right to Vote'.**

The following are the Candidates for the TAGDV Administrative Body Position:

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE BODY POSITION</b>	<b>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</b>	<b>FINAL CANDIDATE LIST</b>	<b>TERM (Years)</b>
President	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bharathi Ponnappan</li> </ul>	2
Vice-President	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Saravanan Krishnan</li> <li>● Vasanthi Karthikeyan</li> </ul>	2
Secretary	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vani Lalmohan</li> </ul>	2
Treasurer	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ravichandran Raju</li> <li>● Shakthiprian Shanmugam Ramakrishnan</li> </ul>	2
EC - Member at Large	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bhuvaneshwari Natarajan Gunasekaran</li> <li>● Karthik Sundaram</li> <li>● Periyasamy Kanagaraj</li> <li>● Sundar Govindarajan</li> <li>● Thamilinian S K</li> <li>● Vasudevan Varadharajan</li> </ul>	2
Board of Trustees	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baskar Chinnusamy</li> <li>● Chandrasekar Shanmugavadivelu</li> <li>● Siva Prasath</li> <li>● Suresh K Paramasivam</li> <li>● Vijay Selvaraj</li> </ul>	4
Tamil School Board	3	No Nominations Received	2

## **Election Timeline & Process**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Process</b>
1	Managing Membership Database	TAGDV EC - Membership Coordinator		Membership data collected historically
			Aug 2023	Membership collected Annually
			Oct 25, 2023	Membership Info updated during Oct 2023 (Opportunity to update missing households)
2	TAGDV Election Buddy - Trial Run	TAGDV Election Committee	Oct 28, 2023	We have conducted the trial run (at least two times).
3	Preparing Final Membership Database to Import into Election Buddy	TAGDV EC - Membership Coordinator	Oct 30, 2023	
4	TAGDV Election from Administrative Positions - Live Presentation from Candidates	TAGDV EC & TAGDV Election Committee	Oct 30, 2023 @ 7:30 PM	TAGDV Election Committee chair Mr.Justin Thomas will address the TAGDV General Body on how the online elections will be conducted. The Live Presentation from the candidates will be moderated by TAGDV Senior Leaders - Dr.Mutharasan & Dr.Sivakumar

5	Staging Election Buddy with Candidate list and Settings without Data	TAGDV Election Committee	Oct 30, 2023	Cut off for any database updates
6	Share the Election Buddy tool password to TAGDV Secretary		Oct 31, 2023	
7	Importing the membership data into Election Buddy	TAGDV EC - Secretary	Oct 31, 2023	At this point of time, TAGDV Election Committee will share the Election Buddy Password to Membership Coordinator
			Oct 31, 2023	TAGDV Election Committee will provide adequate training the Secretary to import the data into Election Buddy
			Oct 31, 2023	This Action will be performed in presence of TAGDV Election Committee, EC - Membership Coordinator, TAGDV Board - Chair & TAGDV Senior GB Member (Dr.Sivakumar Ramachandran)
8	TAGDV Secretary will update the Election Buddy password and retain until the Election is over	TAGDV EC - Secretary	Oct 31, 2023	TAGDV EC-Secretary will be the custodian of the Member Email database in Election Buddy tool until the election is over
9	Election Email Notification - Kick off		Nov 1, 2023 8:00 AM	The Election emails will be sent out automatically by the Election Buddy tool
10	TAGDV Online Election		Nov 1, 2023 8:00 AM to Nov 4, 2023 5:30 PM EST	

11	Updating Missing Emails	TAGDV Secretary & Election Committee - 2023	Nov 2, 2023, 8:00 PM EST	The General Body will be given an opportunity to report Missing email ids for the first time after the Online election kick starts. The GB Members can reach out to the <b>Election committee</b> regarding their Missing email ids. The Membership Coordinator will duly verify and it will be added to Election Buddy tool by Secretary in the presence of TAGDV Election Committee
12	Ratification of President & Secretary Candidates at AGM	TAGDV Election Committee Chair	Nov 4, 2023, 10:30 AM EST	
13	Floor Nomination for Tamil School Board at the AGM	TAGDV Election Committee Chair	Nov 4, 2023, 10:30 AM EST	The Floor Nomination will be conducted only for Tamil School Board
14	Missing election email ids will be collected during the Annual General Body, The Members need to be physically present on the AGM and show identification proff, Duly Validated by Membership coordinator	TAGDV Secretary & Election Committee - 2023	Nov 4, 2023, 11:00 AM EST	This Action will be performed in presence of TAGDV Election Committee, EC - Membership Coordinator, TAGDV Board - Chair & TAGDV Senior GB Member and will end once the General Body Meeting ends. No paper ballots will be provided. Voting will be online and will be the responsibility of the member.
15	Publishing TAGDV Election Results	TAGDV Election Committee Chair	Nov 5, 2023, 5:00 PM EST	This Action will be performed in presence of TAGDV Election Committee, EC - Membership Coordinator, TAGDV Board - Chair & TAGDV Senior GB Member
16	TAGDV Election Committee - Survey	TAGDV Election Committee	Nov 5, 2023, 5:00 PM EST	

		Chair		
17	Recommendation Report	TAGDV Election Committee	Nov 6, 2023, 5:00 PM EST	

To encourage more participation in TAGDV Administration, The 2023 TAGDV Election committee recommends the following suggestions

- TAGDV Board should provide a platform to record the volunteer hours in a systematic manner
- The TAGDV election contestants can seek **endorsements** from past TAGDV officers ,EC Members, Member & Board of Trustees and publish in their Profile with their consent.

We are appreciative of your volunteer efforts and it is only through your active participation, will we be able to continue building a strong, active and successful association.

The following are the qualifications of contestants mandated by the TAGDV bylaws:

**1. Board of Trustees:**

- MUST be a TAGDV life Member
- MUST have served on the TAGDV Executive Committee
- In the extraordinary circumstance of unavailable members to satisfy the above, any life member during the past 5 years is eligible for nomination (5.1.2 of Bylaw)

**2. TAGDV President / Vice-President / Secretary / Treasurer / Member at Large:**

- MUST be a TAGDV member as of August 1, 2023
- A member of the Association **shall not contest** for more than one position on the Executive Committee or the Board in a given year. (6.4 of the ByLaw).

**3. Tamil School Board:**

- MUST be a TAGDV member as of Aug 1, 2023
- SHALL have served TAGDV

All communications regarding the elections must be addressed to the election committee at [electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org](mailto:electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org)

The Election Committee reserves the right to respond to election-related queries at a time it deems appropriate. All nominations will be validated within 24 hours of receipt. If you do NOT receive any communication within 24 hours after filing nomination, please contact through email again.

## **CANDIDATE CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Introduction**

This code of conduct has been produced for all candidates in the TAGDV elections in order to assist the smooth running of all stages of the process. The Code has been created based on TAGDV bylaws and in accordance with State and Federal laws and in consultation with an attorney specialized in non-profit organizations.

### **The Code**

1. The Nomination will be rejected if the form is filled incorrectly or if the nominee opt to contest for more than one position.
2. If there are no contestants for a position, it will be declared as vacant and filled by floor nomination during the Election day.
3. Candidates must be validly nominated by the deadline indicated in the timetable above.
4. Contact with members eligible to vote in the elections must not be carried out in a manner likely to cause offense or be seen as applying pressure to any member in regard to how they vote at any stage during the process.
5. Candidates should not contest as a Team

### **6. Any social media allowed for campaigning.**

7. Candidates are reminded of their obligations for the privacy and protection of personal information under the US Privacy Act. Use any information collected for election purposes only.
8. Only the Chairperson of the TAGDV Election Committee is authorized to issue statements about any aspect of the election procedure.
9. No candidate or members acting on her/his behalf will interfere or put under duress any member in regard to how they vote at any stage during the process.
10. Personal attack on any candidates are prohibited

### **TAGDV Election Campaign Rules Amended on Oct 29, 2023**

Candidates are now permitted to post their profiles and actively engage in campaigning within the TAGDV Facebook page/group, while adhering to the **TAGDV Election Code of Conduct**. Candidates may make **one posting per day** on the TAGDV Facebook page without engaging in any spamming activities. The moderation of this page will be overseen by the **TAGDV - EC Secretary**, and any instances of rule violations or personal attacks should be reported to the TAGDV Election Committee at [electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org](mailto:electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org).

It is important to note that the Election Campaign Postings made on the TAGDV Facebook Page/Group can be shared on the candidates personal social media profiles (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp).



The deadline for TAGDV Facebook Page Campaign postings is set for November 1, 2023, at 8:00 AM EST. Any candidate breaching this code of conduct or knowingly allowing others to do so on her/his behalf will be liable for disciplinary action. **The Election Committee will not hesitate to use its powers of disqualification to enforce the code.**

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
TAGDV Election Committee 2023

This is the Election Notification from the Executive Committee with content provided by the Election Committee 2023. Going forward, all communication regarding the 2023 TAGDV Elections will directly come from the Election Committee 2023 ONLY. As per our Bylaw, the Election Committee is an independent body - ***PLEASE DO NOT COPY/INCLUDE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD MEMBERS OR ANY OTHER OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SCHOOLS OR TAMIL SCHOOL BOARD, IN YOUR COMMUNICATION WITH THEM.***

## **FAQ's**

**Query 1:** What tool will be used to conduct online elections?

**Response:**

TAGDV Election Committee have thoroughly researched how to use Election buddy - <https://electionbuddy.com> to conduct online elections.

Please visit <https://electionbuddy.com/process/> to know more about the tool

**Query 2:** I am planning for the EC-Presidential nomination. I was wondering about one of the mentions in the nomination form quoting the TAGDV By-Law 6.4 "*A member of the Association shall not contest for more than one position on the Executive Committee or the Board in a given year*". Does this mean if I lose the contest and if there are still open positions in EC such as member at large and it goes for floor nomination, will I be able to participate in that? I feel like because of this one clause, the very interested contestants may not get opportunities to serve for TAGDV if they lose one position they originally nominated.

**Response:**

We stand with the TAGDV by-law 6.4 - "TAGDV By-Law 6.4 "A member of the Association shall not contest for more than one position on the Executive Committee or the Board in a given year".

You can apply for either President or EC Member. You cannot apply for two different positions in the same year.

**Query 3:** Who is eligible to Vote in TAGDV Election?

**Response:** As per TAGDV bylaw 6.1. An adult (of age 18 and above) who has been a member of the Association as of August 1st preceding the election is eligible to contest or vote for any office of the Executive Committee. Every adult member shall have a vote.

**Query 4:** When will the TAGDV Election Results be published?

**Response:** The election results will be published on Nov 5 via Email to the General Body Members.

**Query 5:** Do I need to be physically present at the Venue to Vote?

**Response:** TAGDV Election - 2023 will be conducted Online and you can vote online through your phone or computer. The Election Committee is collaborating with the Executive Committee to update your email address and EC is sending reminders also.

**Query 6:** I am a lifetime member. Am I eligible to vote online?

**Response:** Yes. All Life Members, Regular Members are eligible to Vote.

**Query 7:** How do I get access to vote online? Which of my emails will be used?

**Response:** You will get an Electronic ballot in the email that you have given during membership registration. Additionally, The TAGDV Executive committee have sent an email and posting in Social media requesting their members to update any missing details (Email or Phone) to get the email notifications for getting their Electronic Ballot.

Voting is online only. No paper ballots will be provided.

**Query 8:** If there are multiple members in our household, can each of us vote?

**Response:** The Household (Husband & Wife or Single) is eligible to vote. Any adults above 18 in the household need to be an individual member by themselves.

**Query 9:** How do I know no one else has used my email address? Will I get a password to use?

**Response:** You will receive a specific link for you to vote. Please do not forward that email with the specific link.

**Query 10:** Will I be able to vote on behalf of my spouse or friend?

**Response:** You need to ensure your privacy to make sure you exercise your vote on behalf of you.

**Query 11:** I am not a lifetime member. I have not paid my membership dues for the year. Am I eligible to vote?

**Response:** As per TAGDV bylaw 6.1. An adult (of age 18 and above) who has been a member of the Association as of August 1st preceding the election is eligible to contest or vote for any office of the Executive Committee. Every adult member shall have a vote

**Query 12:** What is Floor Nomination?

**Response:** As per TAGDV bylaw 6.4 - Floor nomination for a position on the Executive Committee or the Board shall be admissible only in the absence of a nomination for that position.

**Query 13:** What are the means for Election Campaign?

**Response:**The Election Committee is actively orchestrating the arrangement of an open debate, providing nominees with a platform to articulately present their visions and plans. Furthermore, the Election Committee will facilitate the posting of your profiles on the TAGDV website and various social media platforms, allowing for effective communication with our esteemed membership. You are also encouraged to establish connections with General body members whom you are acquainted with. We kindly urge, however, that you adhere to considerate communication practices to prevent any undue spam.

**Query 14:** What should i do, If you did not receive email regarding election notification?

**Response:** Please contact TAGDV Membership Coordinator before Nov 1, 2023 5:00 pm EST for a remedy.

**Query 15:** What if any Candidate Violates the Code of Conduct for their election campaign?

**Response:** Please verify Code of Conduct section and if you feel, any candidate have violated the Code of Conduct, do not hesitate to contact TAGDV Election Committee - 2023 @ [electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org](mailto:electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org) with appropriate proof

**Query 16:** Two of the General Body members have cited as per Article 15a electronic voting is not permitted in Non Profit Organizations.

**Response:** The Election Committee examined this with the actual text published by the state,

and we wish to inform you that it is with respect to proxy voting. It does not apply for electronic or mail balloting. We wish to note that such prestigious non-profit organizations as American Chemical Society, American Association of Advancement of Science and others conduct elections electronically, after ensuring membership validity. As long as our bylaws do not exclude electronic voting, the election committee is within its rights to conduct the voting via the web/email etc. Suitable provision to ensure that voting is done by the members and all members have access to voting.

**Query 17:** Election Committee has received several communications questioning the candidacy of some of the candidates.

**Response:** Election Committee has validated the membership as well as eligibility criteria based on the bylaws. If the Election Committee receives any legal advice from a practicing attorney, the Election Committee will withhold the election result of the specific individuals.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee to validate any potential candidates prior to the election. If the Board of Trustees initiates any legal discussions, Election Committee will withhold election results till further clarity.

**Query 18:** Being a member, can I ask one of the contesting candidates to endorse me? Can I also endorse my co-contestants?

**Response:** Yes. Candidates can endorse each other and work together. You can include endorsements from other team members in your own campaign and at the most we should not see more than two members combining together.

We want to encourage candidates campaigning together, but will not tolerate Groupism (More than two candidates).

**Query 19:** I've received a couple of enquiries asking me whether there will be NOTA (None of the above) options in the voting process.

**Response:** Yes. We have an "Abstain" option in the voting process for all Positions.

**Query 20:** Can I campaign as a Team?

**Response:** Team Campaigning is Prohibited as Candidates should not combine and contest a team. Pls refer to **code of conduct 5**.

You can include endorsements from other team members in your own campaign and at the most we should not see more than two members combining together.

We want to encourage candidates campaigning together, but will not tolerate Groupism (More than two candidates). This is the definition from TAGDV Election Committee and we are adding this to FAQs

There should not be a Campaign picture consisting of more than two candidates.

**Query 21:** General Communication sent on Oct 31, 2023

TAGDV Executive Committee, please forward this communication to the General Body.

**Please note:**

Per bylaws:

5.1.1.3. The Board shall be responsible for all legal aspects of the Association.

6.4. Election is to be conducted by an Election Committee of three members, of whom one shall not be a member of the Executive Committee or the Board. One of them will be the Chairperson. The Election Committee is responsible for receiving nominations, verifying eligibility of nominees and conduct of the elections. Nominations shall be in writing, which shall include a statement of the nominee's willingness to serve and the signature of the proposer. Members of the Election Committee shall not contest in the election. A member of the Association shall not contest for more than one position on the Executive Committee or the Board in a given year. The deadline for closure of nomination shall be one week prior to the Election Day and the deadline for withdrawal of nomination shall be three days prior to the scheduled election. Floor nomination for a position on the Executive Committee or the Board shall be admissible only in the absence of a nomination for that position.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee to determine eligibility of candidates such as membership requirements.

If any legal opinion is sought, it is the sole responsibility of the Board, to initiate and get such legal opinion.

If such an investigation is initiated prior to announcing the results, the Election Committee will withhold any election results till there is additional clarity.

Since the Election Committee received a detailed complaint from the President of the organization, it is imperative that the Board takes appropriate action including seeking legal opinions.

Election Committee is a voluntary committee to conduct elections only and does not have the bandwidth for any other issues.

Regards,  
TAGDV Election Committee 2023

Query 21: Presentation of candidate's session and voting process:

Q&A will be open to all members and will only focus on updates of membership details and actual voting process. Will not cover any other topics.

General guidelines:

Any member, whether they are a candidate or not, can endorse any candidate and work with them. Candidates can start their campaign immediately.

Election Buddy Password will be changed and kept by the Secretary of the Executive Committee. The Election Committee will receive updates on count of votes. No one else will have access to Election software except the time of updates to the membership data.

Query 22: Whether Q & A is open to All Members?

**Response:** Q&A will be open to all members and will only focus on updates of membership details and actual voting process. Will not cover any other topics.

We already covered the point that any member, whether they are a candidate or not can endorse any candidate and work with them.

Election Buddy Password will be changed and kept by the Secretary of the Executive Committee. The Election Committee will receive updates on the count of votes. No one else will have access to Election software except the time of updates to the membership data.

Query 23: Electionbuddy provides audit logs about who logged in and what operations were done when the election is ongoing. Can you share it?

**Response:** The Audit Log can be downloaded from the Election Buddy tool. This will be in Possession by the TAGDV - Board of Trustees & EC - Secretary

<https://support.electionbuddy.com/en/articles/4870237-results-and-reports-viewing-and-exporting>

Query 24: What electionbuddy configuration will you be using for this setting - "Administrator Access to Results"? Will it be "Anytime after voting starts" or "Only after voting ends".

**Response:** Only after voting ends

Query 25: Who will be responsible for verifying the accuracy of the eligible voters' email IDs that will be imported into electionbuddy and who would be held accountable in the event of any potential discrepancies.

**Response :** TAGDV Secretary & Membership Coordinator

**Query 26:** Is there a demo of the electionbuddy software for the candidates? If you can arrange this during tonight's live debate, it would not only benefit the candidates but also provide assistance to the voters in understanding the process.

**Response:** For the benefit of the candidates, we have attached the Screenshot of the configuration. We will go live on Nov 1, 2023 @ 8:00 AM.

**Query 27:** When will you share the audit logs with all the candidates?

**Response:** After the Election is over, the Audit Logs will be in possession with the EC - Secretary & TAGDV Board.

**Query 28:** Can you share Membership Metrics?

**Response:** TAGDV Election Committee will request the EC - Secretary to share the Membership Metrics to the General body .



**Query 29:** What is the process of Floor Nomination?

**Response:** The Tamil School Board positions will be filled through Floor Nomination during the Annual General Body Meeting.

The General Body Members will have an option to propose a member as a Nominee followed by someone seconding. If there are multiple candidates for the available positions, we will choose the candidate by Voice Voting. There will not be Secret ballot or Online voting for the Floor Nomination.

The Election Committee's decision will be final.

**Query 30:** Path forward from the Board

**Response:**

**Email from the Board Chair**

Vanakkam,

As per TAGDV Election Committee's request, the Board will now take over seeking legal opinion on the probable actions / criteria defining what/who is not 'Good standing'. The board members will handle this and will keep this group in communication.

EC Secretary, Please amend the 10/27 board-EC joint session minutes with this updated decision, per requested by the election committee and share it across.

Thanks and regards,  
TAGDV Board of trustees.

**Response from TAGDV Election Committee - 2023**

**TAGDV Election Committee Strongly recommends that the Board must follow through validating the concerns raised during the election process**

## Screenshot 1:

### Vote Details

#### Vote Title

TAGDV Administrative Body Positions Election - 2023

#### Voting Time

Schedule votes that run more than 60 minutes. Manually end the vote with either choice.

- Manually start the vote and automatically end after  :  mm:ss  
Use for meeting agenda items and motions
- Schedule a Start and End time  
Use for multiple-day elections and meeting registration

#### Start Date and Time

November 1, 2023 8:00 AM

Date when voting opens for voters. Enter relative times such as [now](#) or [tomorrow](#)

#### End Date and Time

November 4, 2023 5:00 PM

Date when voting closes for voters. Enter relative times such as [in 8 hours](#) or [in one week](#)

- Automatically end the vote when all voters have voted

#### Vote Box

### Organization Details

#### Organization

Tamil Association of Greater Delaware Valley (TA...

Location: Philadelphia, PA, USA

#### Time zone

(GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

#### Primary Contact for Voters

TAGDV Election Committee –  
electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org

#### Primary Voter Language

English

Additional languages can be added for voters. [Learn more](#)

## **Screenshot 2:**

### **Vote Options**

#### **Test or Live**

Run a test vote before running your live vote (recommended). [Learn more](#)

- Test**  
Up to 5 voters, all available features. Free.
- Live**  
Unlimited voters, all available features. Free for simple votes with less than 20 voters. [See Pricing](#)

#### **Vote Type**

Not sure which option to use for your vote? [Learn more](#)

- Election Vote**  
Create a ballot with one or more positions or questions, send notifications, record votes, and tabulate results.
- Meeting Vote**  
Vote on agenda items during a meeting or conference. Votes are accessed from a central [Meeting Page](#).
- Announcements**  
Notify voters of a future election and collect nominations.

#### **Remote or Onsite Voting**

Choose how voters access their ballot. [Learn more](#)

- Remote**  
Voters are located in their homes or offices.
- Onsite**  
Voters are present at a meeting or conference.
- Remote and Onsite**

### **Security**

#### **Voter Access to Ballot**

Choose which level of ballot security is required. [Learn more](#)

- High Integrity**  
ElectionBuddy creates a unique link per voter, with a random and secret access key for each voter.
- Medium Integrity**  
The administrator creates a shared link for all voters, and creates a unique access key for each voter.
- Low Integrity**  
The administrator creates a shared link for all voters, and no access key is required per voter. Voters can submit ballots multiple times.

#### **Voter Anonymity**

- Secret Ballot**  
Voters' choices cannot be linked to voters.
- Poll**  
Voters' choices can be made available to administrators.
- Show of Hands**  
Voters' choices can be made available to administrators and voters.

#### **Administrator Access to Results**

- Anytime after voting starts
- Only after voting ends

#### **Voter Access to Results**

Results are never automatically sent to your voters. [Learn more](#)

- Anytime after voting starts
- Only after voting ends
- No access allowed

### **Screenshot 3:**

## **Advanced Ballot Customization**

Select options to customize your ballot, review page and confirmation. You can also show or hide ballot positions or questions to groups of voters on the voters page after you add your voter list. [Learn more](#)

**Show organization logo**

Changing the organization logo will also change the logo displayed in any other election run by this organization.

Edit organization logo



**Customize Voting Buttons and Menu Bar Colors**

**Quorum Voting** - Voters register their vote while abstaining from all choices on the ballot. [Learn more](#)

**Proxy Voting** - Allow voters to transfer their vote to another eligible voter or the voting administrator. [Learn more](#)

**Customize Ballot Review and Confirmation Information**

« Back to Election Details

👁 Preview Ballot

Continue to Voter Notice »

**Screenshot 4:**

## Notice Options

Specify how voters will receive notices and access keys — choose any of the following:

- Email notices**  
Electionbuddy emails each voter the announcement and a link to the nomination ballot — highest anonymity.
  - Email a receipt to voters**  
Voters will receive a receipt on their email after submitting their ballots. [Learn more](#)
  - Use your organization name as email sender**  
Change the "From" name on emails to voters from "ElectionBuddy Elections" to "Tamil Association of Greater Delaware Valley TAGDV".
  - Allow proxy voting**  
The email includes instructions that indicate that the notification can be shared.
- SMS notices**  
Electionbuddy sends each voter the announcement via text message to their mobile phone.
- Postal notices**  
Electionbuddy sends each voter the announcement via physical mail.
- Printed notices**  
You receive a printable PDF file that includes, for each voter, voting instructions and a link with a access key.
- Create Notices Yourself**  
You receive a list of access keys that you can add to your own e-newsletter, printed documents or invoices.

@

## Notice Templates

- Advanced Notice Customization**  
Edit notice text, add other languages, edit reminder text when voting opens and results notification text when voting ends.

### Email Notice

Subject

Normal : **B** **I** U Variables

You are invited to vote in the {{organization\_name}} - {{election\_name}}.

The voting deadline is {{election\_end\_date}} {{election\_time\_zone}}.

We are using an online election system to tabulate our votes. You have been assigned a unique access key which can only be used to vote once and your voting choices will remain anonymous. Do not forward this email. Do not reply to this email to vote, as your vote will not be registered.

If you have election questions, feedback or want to be removed from future ballot lists, please email {{administrator\_name}} at {{administrator\_email}}.

**To vote, visit:**

{{ballot\_link}}

Or copy and paste the link into your web browser.

You can also visit {{access\_link}} and enter " {{access\_key}} "

Preview

Screenshot 5:

[Details](#)[Ballot](#)[Notice](#)[Voters](#)[Review](#)[Pay](#)[Results](#)

## Voter Options

Select how each voter accesses their ballot and the number of votes they receive.

- Ballot IDs**  
Assign a unique identifier to each voter to better manage voter lists – eg. member ID. [Learn more](#)
- Voter Label**  
Assign a label to each voter to personalize notices and manage voter lists – eg. name. [Learn more](#)
- Weighted Ballots**  
Multiple votes per voter – eg. home owner elections use square footage to assign votes. [Learn more](#)
- Voting Groups**  
Categorize each voter to a group and allow groups to vote on specific questions. [Learn more](#)
- Two Factor Authentication**  
Increase voter integrity by verifying the voter with a text message or voter password. [Learn more](#)
- Reporting Groups**  
Add groups like Gender or Location to your voting list so that your results can be summarized. [Learn more](#)

## Voter Information

Add eligible voters from a previous election, from another application, by copying and pasting from Excel or Google Sheets, or by typing details into each cell. After adding your voters, please validate your voter list using the "Validate" button.

- Use a voter list from a prior election
- Copy and paste or type a voter list (use with lists with less than 5,000 voters)
- Import from a CSV file (typically only for lists with more than 5,000 voters)
- Import from an external application or service

I would like  manual keys to give to voters that don't have email addresses.

## Additional Voters

We recommend reserving Access Keys for **5% to 10%** of your current voter list, to accommodate voters that join after your vote has started, or to replace spoiled ballots.





Reserve  additional voters. We recommend 5 for voters joining after the vote starts, or to replace spoiled ballots.

[« Back to Voter Notice](#)[Continue to Review »](#)

Before continuing, [add a voter list](#)

## Sample Nomination for Vice President & Treasurer

### Vice President

Voting system  voters select one or more choices (e.g. 1 of 5, 4 of 8) [Learn more](#)

Voters choose  Candidates  Options  Other

for  vacancy and voters select   choice



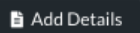






Settings  Random order  Ask for comments  Allow abstain  Write-ins [Learn more](#)


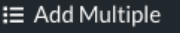
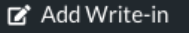
**Voter Instructions** – Instructions are based on the voting system, choice type, vacancies and settings.

Select ONE choice. If you don't want to vote, select abstain.

Edit Voter Instructions

### Candidates 2

	Saravanan Krishnan		 Add Details	
	Vasanthi Karthikeyan	 	 Edit Details	

 Add  Add Multiple  Add Write-in



## Sample Nomination for Board of Trustees & Member at Large

### Board of Trustees

Voting system **Plurality** voters select one or more choices (e.g. 1 of 5, 4 of 8) [Learn more](#)

Voters choose  Candidates  Options  Other

for  vacancies and voters select **up to**  choices with a minimum of  choice

Settings  Random order  Ask for comments  Allow abstain  Write-ins [Learn more](#)

**Voter Instructions** – Instructions are based on the voting system, choice type, vacancies and settings.

Select ONE to FOUR choices. If you don't want to vote, select abstain.

Edit Voter Instructions

### Candidates 5

<input type="checkbox"/>	Baskar Chinnusamy		<input type="button" value="Edit Details"/>	<input type="button" value="X"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chandrasekar Shanmugavadivelu		<input type="button" value="Edit Details"/>	<input type="button" value="X"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Siva Prasath		<input type="button" value="Edit Details"/>	<input type="button" value="X"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suresh K Paramasivam		<input type="button" value="Edit Details"/>	<input type="button" value="X"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vijay Selvaraj		<input type="button" value="Edit Details"/>	<input type="button" value="X"/>

General FAQs from Election buddy -

<https://support.electionbuddy.com/en/articles/5470545-voter-faqs>

## **EMAIL COMMUNICATION WITH GENERAL BODY MEMBERS**

Dear Candidates,

We have received complaints from several members and a few candidates regarding a recent campaign poster, as depicted below.

It's important to clarify that team campaigning is not permitted. Candidates should not form a collective team for their candidacy, as outlined in Code of Conduct section 5.

You are allowed to include endorsements from other team members in your individual campaigns, but we emphasize that no more than two members can combine their efforts.

The TAGDV Election Committee for 2023 defines "Groupism" as a situation where more than two candidates campaign together. While we encourage candidates to campaign collaboratively, we do not tolerate Groupism. This provision has been added to ensure that new members can effectively participate in the election. It will also be included in the FAQs for further clarity.

Campaign materials should not feature more than two candidates together.

In case of any violations, please report them to [electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org](mailto:electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org).

Attention TAGDV Secretary,

We kindly request the removal of the below-mentioned picture from the TAGDV Facebook group/page and the posting of this message on the TAGDV Facebook page.

Warm regards,

Thomas Justin  
Election Committee - Chair  
TAGDV Election Committee - 2023

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Narayanan,

I'd like to clarify that the TAGDV By-laws do not prohibit online elections. Furthermore, there is no explicit prohibition in the TAGDV By-Laws preventing us from commencing the election process prior to the Diwali event day.

If, during your tenure, the Election officers have generated any written records pertaining to their conversation with the Attorney, such as Minutes of the Meeting, kindly provide them to the TAGDV Election Committee by 7:30 pm EST today. We like to review them.

Copy to Board, Executive Committee, and TAGDV Senior Members.

Sincerely,

Thomas Justin  
TAGDV Election Committee - Chair

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Narayanan,

We appreciate your email.

The TAGDV Election Committee would like to examine the email or letter sent by the Attorney.

Could you kindly provide the email or letter that you received from the Attorney before today 5:30 pm EST?

This message has also been forwarded to TAGDV Board Members.

Sincerely,

TAGDV Election Committee - 2023

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Duraikkannan,

Thank you for your email and your valuable input.

As per the discussion with the Election Committee Chair, we have decided to amend the rules governing TAGDV Election Campaign activities on social media.

Candidates are now permitted to post their profiles and actively engage in campaigning within the TAGDV Facebook page/group, while adhering to the TAGDV Election Code of Conduct. Candidates may make one posting per day on the TAGDV Facebook page without engaging in any spamming activities. The moderation of this page will be overseen by the TAGDV - EC Secretary, and any instances of rule violations or personal attacks should be reported to the TAGDV Election Committee at [electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org](mailto:electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org).

It is important to note that the Election Campaign Postings made on the TAGDV Facebook Page/Group should also be shared on the candidates' personal social media profiles (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp).

The deadline for TAGDV Facebook Page Campaign postings is set for November 1, 2023, at 8:00 AM EST.

Candidates are encouraged to seek endorsements from TAGDV Ex-Office Bearers, Ex-Presidents, and Members, and they may post these endorsements in their profiles with the consent of the individuals involved. This underscores the importance of candidates collaborating with other members to garner support.

CC - TAGDV Administrative Body  
BCC - All Candidates

Note:  
We request you not to reply to this email chain.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Esteemed Members of the Executive Committee and Respected Board Members,

We are pleased to apprise you of the recent deliberations held by the TAGDV Election Committee on October 24th and 25th. During these sessions, we addressed several significant issues:

1. To foster greater participation, we propose conducting Floor Nominations once a substantial number of attendees have gathered. We kindly request your assistance in coordinating the necessary logistics and providing security to maintain order during this process.
2. We kindly request the EC - Membership to validate and authenticate all membership details by October 30, 2023. This information is essential for the smooth execution of our upcoming Online Elections through the utilization of the Election Buddy tool.
3. The Election Committee has resolved to organize a Live Debate Session on October 30, 2023, at 7:00 pm. This session will be moderated by esteemed TAGDV Senior Members, Dr. Mutharasan and Dr. Sivakumar Ramachandran. We recommend the Executive Committee to grant access to the StreamYard tool (Commercial edition) to facilitate this debate. We also request technical support to arrange the YouTube and Facebook links in advance, ensuring timely communication to the General Body members by October 30.
4. As per the recent email communication from the President, we will engage with the treasurer to procure a subscription for the Election Buddy Tool.  
We urge the Membership Coordinator to verify the nominations by tomorrow at noon, 12:30 pm EST. We intend to publish the candidate list to the General Body before 7:00 pm EST.
5. We recommend Board & EC to allocate a delegate from each body to oversee the election process. The respective delegates should not contest in the current election and they need to provide technical & operational assistance to the Election Committee.

An update has been made to our Election FAQs section. We kindly request the inclusion of a hyperlink to the Election FAQ document on the TAGDV website and encourage sharing it with our esteemed General Body members:

[Hyperlink to Election FAQ Document](#)

We deeply appreciate your support and collaboration in these endeavors as we strive to ensure a transparent and efficient election process for our community.

Sincerely,

TAGDV Election Committee - 2023

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello TAGDV Election Committee,

Hope all is well. My name is Ravi and I have been a TAGDV member since 2015 and a great volunteer for Tamil school for several years.

Wanted to raise a few concerns about the upcoming election. Code of conduct is set in a way that there is no opportunity to talk to people about the contention in case I choose to nominate. What are the opportunities for the nominees to convey to people and seek votes? The nomination form has a clause members should be in good standing, what does it mean?

Looks like no single date for the chosen election, which raises a couple questions, will there be a later announcement of the election date or is it going to be in different locations (at school venues?) It would be very good to know these details at the earliest.

Also, the communications regarding the election seem to be very sparse and unclear, thus calling for a huge concern as this limits the ability to bring in additional volunteers to serve the Tamil community.

I expect there will be an acknowledgement to this email in some sort.

Regards,  
Ravi

Response from Election committee:

Mr.Ravi,

I trust this correspondence finds you in the best of health. Your longstanding membership with TAGDV and your invaluable service to the Tamil school have not gone unnoticed, and we extend our sincerest appreciation.

In response to your inquiries:

**Opportunities for Nominees:** Your concerns regarding the limited avenues for interaction with our membership have been duly noted. To address this, the Election Committee is actively orchestrating the arrangement of an open debate, providing nominees with a platform to articulately present their visions and plans. Furthermore, the Election Committee will facilitate the posting of your profiles on the TAGDV website and various social media platforms, allowing for effective communication with our esteemed membership. You are also encouraged to establish connections with General body members whom you are acquainted with. We kindly urge, however, that you adhere to considerate communication practices to prevent any undue spam.

**Good Standing:** The stipulation of members being in "good standing" denotes that their TAGDV membership should be both current and valid at the time of the election. Additionally, members should not have committed any violations of our by-laws.

**Election Date and Venues:** We are pleased to inform you that the dates for the election have been finalized. This election will be conducted online over the span of four days, commencing on November 1 and concluding on November 4. The Election Committee is diligently crafting the intricate logistics to ensure a meticulously executed process. This approach has been designed to ensure the process is as accessible and inclusive as possible.

**Communication:** Our commitment to providing every member with the opportunity to participate in this election is unwavering. Our primary objective is to establish a more transparent and engaging experience for all.

Your proactive involvement within our community is held in the highest regard, and your concerns and queries are accorded the utmost significance. We are fully devoted to addressing these concerns to ensure the forthcoming election is conducted with fairness and transparency.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further queries or any additional information you may require. Your engagement in this process is genuinely appreciated, and we eagerly anticipate a successful and all-encompassing election.

Thank you!!

Warm regards,  
TAGDV Election Committee - 2023

#####

Dear Election Committee

Requesting you to please read the Title 15 of Pennsylvania General Assembly regarding proxy voting . It is a violation conducting this election online. I know none of you are going to listen to me, I want to record that except myself and Bharathi everyone else are in support of this online election and violation.

Baskar Chinnusamy

Vice President – TAGDV

[vicepresident@tagdv.org](mailto:vicepresident@tagdv.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Response from Election committee:

Dear Baskar Chinnusamy

Renowned figures like Mahatma Gandhi and George Washington surmounted countless hurdles to secure the precious right of free voting for all citizens, granting them the power to select their leaders. The TAGDV Election Committee stands tall, boasting its ability to empower every TAGDV member to exercise their voting right, irrespective of their physical presence at the Deepavali function venue.

This committee, comprised of individuals who've clinched online elections and orchestrated multiple such events for 501C3 organizations (such as the IIT Madras Alumni Association in North America), all while residing in Pennsylvania, has resolved to ensure an equitable voice for all its members.

Oh, brace yourselves, everyone! A senior member of the illustrious Executive Committee has deigned to grace us with their presence, all to address the matter with the mighty Title 15. Truly, their commitment to the grand cause of equality is nothing short of awe-inspiring. We ought to throw a parade in their honor when they accomplish equal voice for those who are unable to be physically present at that day at that venue.

Behold, the audacity of their audacious move to present this matter to the hallowed halls of the "appropriate authorities" for some sort of "remedial actions." It's almost as if they're daring the TAGDV Election Committee to rise to the occasion, summoning their inner warriors of mettle. Such a bold challenge, a true clarion call for valor, isn't it?

The relentless dedication to ensuring the ability for every eligible member to vote, be it online or in person, will be shared with the TAGDV community. We kindly request the inclusion of this correspondence and our response in the forthcoming FAQ of the Election Process, as a source of public enlightenment.

Regards,

TAGDV Election Committee - 2023

#####

Dear TAGDV President & Secretary,

I trust this message finds you in good health and high spirits.

The TAGDV Election Committee is committed to enhancing transparency and open communication with the General body. In our pursuit of this goal, we plan to create a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section, consolidating the queries we have received from the General body. To facilitate this, we kindly request your assistance in providing a link to the PDF document prepared by the Election Committee.

Furthermore, we aim to promote greater participation within our organization by periodically publishing the nominations we receive, following a thorough verification of eligibility criteria. We believe that this practice will not only encourage increased engagement but also inspire more individuals to step forward and volunteer for the betterment of our organization.

Your support and cooperation in this endeavor are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

TAGDV Election Committee - 2023

#####

Hello Everyone,



Traditionally, we revel in the festivities of festivals, basking in the warm embrace of friends and family over several days. The TAGDV election committee, duly sanctioned by the EC, now joins in the spirit of celebration, marking Diwali's joyous occasion from November 1st to November 4th. We extend a fervent appeal to all TAGDV members to exercise their democratic privilege during these jubilant four days.

Notably, our by-laws remain silent on the election's specific nature, leaving room for interpretation. The election committee, however, stands behind the well-established tradition of conducting elections for distinct positions.

With the solemn duty of overseeing and orchestrating these elections, we beseech you to heed the guidance of the election committee. Your adherence is paramount to the integrity of this process.

Best Regards,  
TAGDV Election Committee - 2023

#####

Vanakkam Election Committee ,

1) 4 positions are Open per Update from Board . Position of Mr.Velankanni Raj has full 4 years per Election process n various deliberations by EC Board that remains unquestionable at this point .

2 ) There isn't any secrecy in Appointment of Election Committee ., We followed Democratic n Transparent process per bylaw n precedent which is well known to all General Body members that included the individual questioning .

3) TTAGDV Treasurer Mr.Kathir to be contacted for any payment on Election Related expenses .

Our lookout is a fair n free conduct of Election confirming to our bylaw n fair practice that does not violate the law of the Land .

Nandri

Chandrasekar.S / 2673423397

President - TTAGDV

[www.tagdv.org](http://www.tagdv.org)

#####

Dear President & Secretary,

I'm pleased to relay our correspondence sent on 05/07/2023. Kindly distribute it to Executive Committee members requiring clarifications on the tool and pricing.

Notably, the last two Executive Committees used this tool for By-Law Amendment Voting.

We request the email regarding TAGDV Elections be dispatched to the General Body by 6:00 PM EST. Your prompt attention is invaluable.

Regards,  
TAGDV Election Committee - 2023

#####