

TAGDV Polling guidance Frequently Asked Questions:

TAGDV ByLaw:

6.7 Once the Election Committee is formed, the Election Committee shall act as an independent autonomous body without the influence of anyone in the Association. The Election committee shall have full rights and authority to make effective decisions during the election period in the best interest of the Association. They shall have access to a mechanism or process to communicate directly with the general body and to verify eligible members for contesting and voting.

- 1) Who is eligible to vote?
 - a. Same criteria will be used as what was used for the General election. If you were eligible to vote then, you will be eligible now.
- 2) Is the polling confidential?
 - a. Yes, we will change the password when the polling starts. TAGDV secretary will have total control until the polling ends. No one else including the Election Committee will have access to any of the polling information.
 - b. No one including the TAGDV secretary will be able to identify who voted which way, but the total votes cast will be available at any time.
 - c. Only aggregated totals will be available and that too only after the polling is completed. The results will be published after the polling is completed.
 - d. Initial email and one reminder email will be sent during the voting process.
- 3) What are the campaign rules?
 - a. Everyone including current officers (Executive Committee and Board of Trustees) are permitted to encourage all eligible TAGDV members to vote as well as canvass.
 - b. The Election Committee will also encourage all eligible TAGDV members to vote.
 - c. Any form of on-line campaign is allowed. However, any personal attacks will not be tolerated. Just present the facts please.
- 4) How much time was given to the Fact-Finding Committee?
 - a. Please note the Election Committee gave two weeks for the Board to complete the legal opinion and the DUE PROCESS. In our view, the Fact-Finding Committee, consisting of well-respected Former Presidents, did a commendable job producing their report within the assigned time frame.
 - b. The Election Committee gave an extension only because FFC was waiting on the requested documents from two of the candidates.

- c. To be fair to the candidates against whom there were complaints, we are including any response the Election committee receive from them. We are also providing them an opportunity to speak to the General Body directly, online, about their view. Their views will also be available on YouTube. We are also providing the candidates the opportunity to canvass for two days.
- 5) How do you provide feedback to the Election Committee?
- a. Please reach out to us using email at electioncommittee2023@tagdv.org.
 - b. The Election Committee reserves the right to publish your feedback in TAGDV Website or at any online site such as Facebook where there is TAGDV presence.
 - c. Any feedback received from the candidates will be shared with the General Body.
- 6) Who are all aware of the results for 'Board of Trustees' election?
- a. Per, Election Committee Chair on November 6th, 'We have already communicated that 'The results will be opened by the Secretary in my presence and that of the two Senior leaders of TAGDV, Dr. Ramachandran Sivakumar and Prof. Raj Mutharasan.' No one else, including the other two Election Committee members and the Board/EC were exposed to any of the polling data. The other two Election Committee members and the Board/EC were only informed of the results contemporaneously with the general membership.
 - b. We are not aware of any leakage of this data.

Schedule:

Election Committee is giving an opportunity for the candidates to respond to FFC report so that the General Body is aware of the view of the candidates.

- 1) The Election Committee is requesting a response for the FFC Report from the candidates against whom there were complaints. The Deadline for this submission is Saturday, 12/02/2023 at 10:00 pm EST. **Replies of the candidates will be shared with General Body.**
- 2) There will be a public broadcast of the candidate's response for the alleged complaints against them. This session will be on Sunday, 12/03/2023 at 8:30 pm EST and it will be broadcasted live, and it will be available on YouTube. Each candidate will be given 10 minutes to respond to the FFC report. If any candidate is unable to join us live for the broadcast, they have the option of sending a 10-minute video by 6 PM so that we can broadcast the submitted video during their allotted time.

- 3) The candidates will be given a 2 days' time window (Dec 4 & Dec 5) to reach out to the General body to explain their stand and response.
- 4) The Final on-line voting will be conducted on Dec 6 & Dec 7.
- 5) The General Body verdict will be opened publicly online after the poll closes. The Invitees for the online session will include the Candidates and the Board & Executive Committee Members.