

## ESSTS Board Elections 2026 - Voting Rules and Procedures

### Voter Eligibility

Only active ESSTS members for the election year 2026 are eligible to vote.

Active membership status must be current as of the opening of the voting period on 18 June 2026.

**Membership Deadline:** Interested parties may join ESSTS or renew their membership until 13:30 on 18 June 2026, when the General Assembly begins. Memberships completed by this time will be eligible to vote in the board elections.

### Voting Method

#### E-Voting System

- A secure, anonymous electronic voting system will be used
- All active members will receive a unique voting link via email
- The system ensures one vote per member while maintaining ballot anonymity
- Members attending the General Assembly in Ljubljana and those participating remotely will use the same e-voting system

#### Anonymity and Security

- Your vote is completely anonymous
- The system records that you voted (for participation tracking) but does not link your identity to your ballot choices
- Votes cannot be traced back to individual members

### Voting Period

**Start:** 18 June 2026 at the General Assembly, Ljubljana

**End:** 19 June 2026, 24 hours after opening

**Duration:** 24 hours total

The exact opening time will be communicated to all members via email when voting links are distributed.



## Ballot Structure

You will vote on candidates for **four board positions**:  
(listed in alphabetical order)

### 1. Chair:

- Natalia Szejko

Voting format: Yes / No / Abstain

### 2. Vice-Chair:

- Elia Abi-Jaoude
- Osman Malik
- Natalia Szejko

Voting format: Select one candidate OR Abstain

### 3. Secretary:

- Elia Abi-Jaoude
- Laavanya Damodaran

Voting format: Select one candidate OR Abstain

### 4. Treasurer:

- Elia Abi-Jaoude
- Laavanya Damodaran

Voting format: Select one candidate OR Abstain

Please note: Some candidates are running for **multiple** positions. You may vote for the same candidate in different positions if they appear as options in multiple races.

## Voting Format Explanation

The voting format differs between positions based on the number of candidates. For the Chair position, where one candidate is running, a Yes/No/Abstain format allows members to explicitly confirm or decline their support. For positions with multiple candidates, members express their preference by selecting among the competing candidates.



## How to Vote

### -For Chair (single candidate):

You will select one of the following options:

- Yes - You support this candidate for the position
- No - You do not support this candidate for the position
- Abstain - You prefer not to vote on this position

**Yes:** Indicates your support for the candidate to serve as Chair

**No:** Indicates you do not support the candidate for this position. This is not a vote against the individual personally, but rather a vote on their suitability for this particular role at this time.

**Abstain:** Allows you to participate in the election while choosing not to express a preference. This may be appropriate if you do not know the candidate well enough to make an informed judgment, if you feel unable to assess their suitability for the role, or if you prefer to defer to other members' evaluation.

### -For Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (multiple candidates):

For each of these positions, you will vote for ONE candidate from the available options OR select "Abstain."

- Voting for a candidate: Indicates your support for that candidate to serve in the specified role
- Abstain: Allows you to participate while choosing not to express a preference for this position

## Voting Guidance

While you may vote for the same candidate across multiple positions, your **individual vote** for each position helps determine the final Board composition.

## Determining Results

### -Chair Position (single candidate, Yes/No/Abstain format)

- If the candidate receives more Yes votes than No votes, they are elected to the position
- Abstain votes are not counted in the Yes/No tally but are recorded for participation purposes



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- If the candidate receives more No votes than Yes votes, the position will remain vacant, and the current Board will determine next steps

### **-Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer Positions (multiple candidates)**

For each position, the candidate receiving the most votes will be elected to that position.

If a candidate is elected to multiple positions:

- They will be seated in the highest-ranked position for which they were elected Position hierarchy: Vice-Chair > Secretary > Treasurer
- The position(s) with the next-highest vote count will go to the runner-up candidate(s)

### **In Case of a Tie**

**-For Chair (if Yes votes = No votes):**

#### **Runoff Vote**

- A runoff vote will be held using the same Yes/No/Abstain format The runoff will open within 48 hours of the initial results
- The runoff period will remain open for 24 hours
- All active ESSTS members will be notified and eligible to vote
- The candidate must receive more Yes than No votes in the runoff to be elected
- If the runoff also results in equal Yes/No votes, or if the candidate receives more No than Yes votes, the position will remain vacant

**-For Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (if two or more candidates tie):**

#### **Runoff Vote**

- A runoff vote will be held exclusively between the tied candidates for the affected position, unless the tied candidates mutually agree on an alternate resolution
- The runoff will open within 48 hours of the initial results
- The runoff period will remain open for 24 hours
- All active ESSTS members will be notified and eligible to vote
- The candidate receiving the most votes in the runoff will be elected



## Special Provisions

### Chair Position - Extended Term

The Chair position carries a **six-year total commitment**:

- 3 years as Chair (2026–2029)
- 3 years as Past Chair (2029–2032)

In accordance with the Society's statutes, our current Chair, [Nanette Mol Debes](#), will serve as Past Chair for the 2026–2029 term.

The Past Chair role provides continuity and supports the incoming board leadership. Members voting on the Chair position should consider this extended commitment.

## Results and Transparency

### Announcement

Election results will be:

- Announced at the closing ceremony on 19 June 2026
- Published on the ESSTS website immediately following the announcement
- Communicated to all members via email

Results will include:

- For Chair: The number of Yes, No, and Abstain votes
- For other positions: The number of votes each candidate received
- Which candidate was elected to each position (or if Chair position remains vacant)
- Voter participation rate

## Audit Trail

The e-voting system maintains an audit trail showing:

- Who voted (participation record)
- When votes were cast
- **NOT** how individuals voted (ballots remain anonymous)

This ensures both transparency and anonymity.



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## Questions and Support

For questions about:

- Voter eligibility or membership status: [membership@essts.org](mailto:membership@essts.org)
- Technical issues with voting: [administrator@essts.org](mailto:administrator@essts.org)
- General election inquiries: [elections@essts.org](mailto:elections@essts.org)

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**Remember:** Voting opens **18 June 2026** at the General Assembly and closes 24 hours later. Watch your email for your unique, secure voting link.

**Your participation shapes the future of ESSTS. Every vote matters.**

