ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

+ Rev. Presbyter Neofitos Sarigiannis, Proistamenos

November 2, 2026

Dear Parishioners:

At the General Assembly meeting of November 1, 2026 nominations were held to fill the six (6) upcoming vacancies on the Parish Council of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church. The following were nominated:

Michael Christakis	Michael Koutelis	Sultana (Susie) Varvarousis
John "Yianni" Googas	Maria Mitsios Pidgeon	Anastasia Vasilakos

A candidate for the Parish Council must be a parishioner in good standing of the Parish for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election and who must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church. ([Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America 2005, Part Three, Uniform Parish Regulations, Chapter Two, hereinafter "UPR"] Article 25, §2.

Nominations shall remain open until the twenty-first (21st) day prior to elections, up to which time, two (2) members in good standing (in accordance with Article IV of these By-Laws) may submit in writing the nomination of a third member in good standing (in accordance with Article IV of these By-Laws), providing that such nominee has indicated his or her assent thereto by countersigning same. (Article VII, Section 6, Saint Sophia By-Laws 1996 [Amended 2/13/05].)

Any parishioner wishing to have their name placed in nomination, please complete the form below and return it addressed to the Election Committee, Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany, NY 12208, **received no later than 10:00 AM on Sunday, November 15, 2026**.

For the election of the Parish Council, balloting will be provided for members in good standing who are shut-ins, individuals who are away for military reserve duty, individuals who are unable to vote due to employment conflict, individuals who knowingly will be out of town, and out of town college students. Such ballot requests must be submitted in writing to the Board of Elections no later than 5:00 PM on the Friday immediately prior to the elections. Such ballots must be submitted to the Board of Elections not later than the commencement of voting and shall be opened and tabulated with the ballots personally cast. (Article VII, Section 7, Saint Sophia By-Laws 1996 [Amended 2/13/05].)

If you qualify to vote by absentee ballot, please request an application from the Election Committee. This application must be returned to Saint Sophia Church c/o Election Committee **no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, December 4, 2026**.

Every person who is baptized and chrismated according to the rites of the Orthodox Church is a parishioner. The religious, moral and social duties of a parishioner are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his/her life and to: adhere to and live according to the tenets of the Orthodox faith; faithfully attend the Divine Liturgy and other worship services; participate regularly in the holy sacraments; respect all ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church; be obedient in matters of the Faith, practice and ecclesiastical order; contribute towards the progress of the Church's sacred mission; and be an effective witness and example of the Orthodox faith and Traditions to all people. A parishioner in good standing practices all the religious and moral duties as described in this Section 1. At a minimum, a parishioner in good standing must: be eighteen years of age or over; be current in his or her stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish, abide by all the regulations

herein stated and the Parish Bylaws; and cooperate in every way towards the welfare and well being of the Parish. (UPR, Article 18, §1).

A parishioner in good standing and duly enrolled in the Parish Record but delinquent in his or her Parish stewardship obligations for the current year may vote in the election by meeting his or her stewardship obligation prior to the election. (UPR, Article 25, §4).

A new parishioner of the Parish may vote in the election if he/she has become a member in good standing at least three (3) months prior thereto (UPR, Article 25, §5).

Voting will take place on **Sunday**, **December 6, 2026** immediately after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and will end promptly at 2:00 PM. (Article VII, §9, Saint Sophia By-Laws 1996, Amended 2/13/05.)

Every eligible parishioner is urged to exercise their right to vote. The voting procedure will be greatly facilitated, if your 2026 stewardship commitment is fulfilled before entering to vote.

NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE UNLESS HIS OR HER STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT IS MET 100% PRIOR TO VOTING (Article IV, §1, Saint Sophia By-Laws 1996, Amended 2/13/05).

In accordance with UPR, Article 25, ¶A of §3, *all candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the Priest prior to the election at which the Priest shall discuss and explain to the candidates the Uniform Parish Regulations, and the significance of the affirmation of office.* You will be notified when the seminar will be held.

Sincerely,

Chris Pappis

Chris Pappis, Chair

Election Committee: Norma Damascos, Alex Jefferson, Theo Karatzou, Andrea Papandrea, Chris Pappis
Alternates: Foti Rantzaklis, Helen Vasilakos

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I, ..., wish to place my name in nomination as a candidate for the Parish Council of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church. It is understood that I have been a member in good standing for at least one year preceding the date of election.

Signature (Nominee/Candidate).....

....

Endorsed by Endorsed by

Date.....

440 Whitehall Road • Albany, New York 12208 • Tel.: (518) 489-4442

Web: www.stsophiaalbany.org • **E-mail**: parishoffice@stsophiaalbany.org