

Election Guide 2024

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL
December 8, 2024
Elections commence following Divine Liturgy
and will conclude at 1:00 PM

Parish Council Elections: This year's Parish Council Elections will take place on **Sunday, December 8th**. The two-year terms will be for 2025-2026 calendar years.

We have an **uncontested election**; meaning, we have the same number of candidates for the same number of available positions. There are 5 incumbent candidates and 2 new candidates running for 7 positions.

The candidates are:

George Coutavas	Alexander A. Nikas
Thomas J. Cox	Maria Richie
Carla Johnson	Alex Tsioufaidis
Coleen Moses	

Elections Committee Named to Administer Election

The Elections Committee was selected at the Fall General Assembly meeting, held on November 3, 2024. The following Stewards comprise the Elections Committee for 2024:

Donna Christou	908-500-5697
Tina Coutavas	215-518-0192
George Prieston	215-565-6295

Please contact any of the Elections Committee members with questions concerning the election.

All stewards in good standing are invited to vote.

Under the rules of the Uniform Parish Regulations, only stewards in good standing can participate in voting. You must be Orthodox Christian and in financial good standing with the Parish.

Stewardship: Please note that to vote in the Parish Council Elections, you must have returned a 2024 Stewardship Commitment Form and be current in your commitment. Stewardship Commitment Forms can be found at the Pangari or on the table outside of the Parish office. In addition, when paying by check, it is imperative that you indicate "**Stewardship 2024**" in the memo line so that your account is properly credited. Also, if you make cash donations, please be sure to include your name either on the outside of the envelope or on a slip of paper attached to the cash. Should you have any questions, please see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson, or contact the Parish office.

Absentee ballots are available only for those physically unable to come to the church to vote.


In accordance with the Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR) that govern all Greek Orthodox parishes, and in accordance with the St. Sophia By-laws, absentee ballots will be made available only to those who are physically unable to come to the church to vote.


Any Steward wishing an absentee ballot must contact a member of the Election Committee or the Parish Office.


After it has been determined that the Steward is in financial good standing and current in their financial obligation for 2024, the office will send an absentee ballot directly to the Steward. All absentee ballots must be returned by the commencement of the elections on Sunday, December 8th for their ballot to be counted in the election.


CANDIDATE OVERVIEW

The following Candidate Profiles provide a brief background of each candidate for Parish Council. The Elections Committee asked each candidate to provide this information. **The Profiles are in no particular order.**


	Candidate Name George Coutavas
Years at St. Sophia Parish	Since 2009
Parish Activities with which you are / have been involved	Parish Council member, Treasurer, Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Chairperson, Chanter, Acolyte, Spring/Fall Festival Treasurer.
Goals as a Parish Council Member	To serve our Parish by using my Time, Talent and Treasure in the best way possible.


	<p>Candidate Name</p> <p>Thomas Cox, Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate</p>
<p>Years at St. Sophia Parish</p>	<p>35 years</p>
<p>Parish Activities with which you are / have been involved</p>	<p>Church organist for 34 years, choir director for 28 years, Stewardship committee and Chair for 22 years, Building Committee, Chair of Capital Campaign, Festival, Former President and Vice President of Parish Council. Coordinated restoration of the Church from the fire and Cultural Center from the flood. Many other committees and activities over the years. Ambassador Award Winner. Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.</p>
<p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p>	<p>I am looking forward to a successful 2025 for the Parish. We need to focus on engaging our current members, growing our community, reaching out to new families and enhancing our Stewardship Ministry. In addition, we need to continue to develop other spiritual Ministries of the Parish including youth and outreach. I look forward to having the opportunity to continue to serve God and this Parish in the years ahead.</p>

	<p>Candidate Name</p> <p>Alex Tsioulfaidis</p>
<p>Years at St. Sophia Parish</p>	<p>36 years</p>
<p>Parish Activities with which you are / have been involved</p>	<p>Altar Boy (Leader) 1988-1995</p> <p>Parish Council 2017 - Present</p>
<p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p>	<p>Bring innovative ideas to educate and promote Greek Orthodoxy amongst church members, local communities and through social media efforts.</p>

	<p>Candidate Name:</p> <p>Coleen Moses</p>
<p>Years at St. Sophia Parish</p>	<p>2 years & 2 months</p>
<p>Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psalti and Choir• Core Team Member for Strategic Vision• Prayer Warrior• Philoptochos member• Church Tours and Bake Table at the Spring Festival and Food and Craft Fair <p>Prior to joining St. Sophia, I served as a Parish Council member for 10 years at my former parishes (Holy Ghost Orthodox Church and Holy Ascension Orthodox Church). This includes Chairman for 6 years and Recording Secretary for 3 years. I was a Choir Member, Sisterhood Member and Meeting Leader. Stewardship Chairman, Greeter, and Sunday School Teacher.</p>
<p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p>	<p>To offer my God given skills to serve our amazing parish and continue to grow our beautiful community so that we will thrive in the future.</p>



	<p>Candidate Name</p> <p>Alexander Nikas, Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate</p>
<p>Years at St. Sophia Parish</p>	<p>24 years</p>
<p>Parish Activities with which you are / have been involved</p>	<p>Parish Council President, 2015-2017 Parish Council Treasurer, 2008-2014, 2018-2024 Finance Committee Chair, 2008-2024 Building & Capital Campaign Committees 2009-2014 By-laws Committee Chair, 2008 Parish Council Vice-President, 2007 Church Choir</p>
<p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p>	<p>I hope to continue to manage the finances of the parish and meet all our obligations while growing our ministries.</p>

	<p>Candidate Name</p> <p>Maria Richie</p>
<p>Years at St. Sophia Parish</p>	
<p>Parish Activities with which you are / have been involved</p>	
<p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p>	

Profile not available at time of publication

	<p>Candidate Name</p> <p>Carla Johnson</p>
<p>Years at St. Sophia Parish</p>	<p>2 years</p>
<p>Parish Activities with which you are / have been involved</p>	<p>Member of the Philoptochos Society Assist with Youth Ministry activities</p>
<p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p>	<p>As a Parish council member, I would ensure we maintain a welcoming atmosphere for all visitors and continually assess the needs of the Parish and its members. I would help foster and encourage a sense of community and assist in coordinating Parish activities that best serve the Parish's interests. Lastly, I would assist in cultivating activities that would keep our youth and young adults spiritually engaged and active in the church.</p>

Services for Christmas

Tuesday, 12/24
(MORNING)

8:00 am – Orthros & Great Hours;
10:00 am – Great Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Tuesday, 12/24
(EVENING)

8:00 pm – Orthros;
9:00 PM – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Wednesday, 12/25

Merry Christmas! Καλά Χριστούγεννα!
No Church Services Today

