GENERAL ELECTRIC CO Form DEFR14A March 16, 2016

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# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## **SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. 1)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

**Preliminary Proxy Statement** 

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

**Definitive Proxy Statement** 

**Definitive Additional Materials** 

Soliciting Material under § 240.14a-12

## General Electric Company

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

PAYMENT OF FILING FEE (CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX):

#### No fee required.

## Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1)	Title of each class of securities to which the transaction applies:
(2)	Aggregate number of securities to which the transaction applies:
(3)	Per unit price or other underlying value of the transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
(4)	Proposed maximum aggregate value of the transaction:
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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1)	Amount Previously Paid:
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(3)	Filing Party:
(4)	Date Filed:

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## **Explanatory Note**

We are filing this revised proxy statement to correct a typographical error that occurred in the HTML conversion process.

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## **GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY**

#### **Current Executive Offices**

(through August 2016) 3135 Easton Turnpike Fairfield, CT 06828

#### **New Executive Offices**

(effective September 2016) 33-41 Farnsworth Street Boston, MA 02210

## WHY ARE WE SENDING YOU THESE MATERIALS?

Beginning on March 14, 2016, we are making these materials available to you in connection with GE s solicitation of proxies, on behalf of its Board of Directors, for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareowners.

## WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

Please read these materials and submit your vote and proxy by telephone, mobile device, the Internet, or, if you received your materials by mail, you can also complete and return your proxy card or voting instruction form.

#### WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Check out our interactive, mobile-friendly online proxy & annual report as well as our new integrated summary report

www.ge.com/proxy www.ge.com/annualreport www.ge.com/ar2015/ integrated-report

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# GOVERNANCE Q&A with Our Lead Director

What has been the Board s role in the significant portfolio shift that s underway at GE?

**Brennan:** Capital allocation is one of the most important areas that the Board oversees. There have been two critical capital allocation decisions for GE this year the GE Capital exit and the Alstom acquisition. These were not impulsive decisions, but rather the product of a multi-year strategic planning process with the Board. For example, the Board reviewed more than 10 potential acquisition targets before approving the Alstom deal. Governance works best when decisions are made in strategic partnership between management and the Board, where the Board is active and constructively challenges management, yet is not too disruptive. After approving a deal, the Board continues its engagement by closely monitoring the integration or disposition process.

What were some of the big structural changes on the Board in the past year?

**Brennan:** We implemented proxy access at 3% for 3 years, which we believe is appropriate based on our conversations with investors and given our size and shareowner base. There has been a fair amount of discussion around the finer points of proxy access, so I will say that we will administer proxy access the way we implemented it, by striking a fair balance.

The other significant change was our adoption of a 15-year director term limit policy. This change came out of the Board s self-evaluation process and allows us to achieve a balanced mix of director ages and tenures. Nowadays, you may find someone qualified to join the Board at a pretty young age. So term limits are a good tool to work in tandem with our age limit policy.

The Board recently oversaw the redesign of GE is compensation plans. What were the key changes, and do you think they ire working?

**Brennan:** This year, we implemented a more formulaic, less discretionary annual bonus plan. It has been successful because it has provided greater transparency and accountability. With a more formulaic plan, it is important for the Board to monitor it and make appropriate adjustments to ensure that changes in company strategy are supported by active plan targets.

There were some key management changes this year. Can you talk about the Board s role in succession planning?

**Brennan:** One of our most important duties as a Board is overseeing overall succession planning at GE and understanding the depth and breadth of talent in the company. The MDCC reviews the management team and succession plans across the company at all of its eight regularly scheduled meetings. In addition, there are numerous touchpoints for all of our directors to personally get to know GE leaders, such as our director-only site visits.

Sincerely,

John J. Brennan, Lead Director

See our proxy website (www.ge.com/proxy) for a video Q&A with our Lead Director

#### AN ACTIVE & ENGAGED BOARD

Recruited 8 new directors over last 5 years, including 3 new nominees for 2016

Adopted director term limit of 15 years

Implemented proxy access
(3%, 3yrs, 20% of Board, up to 20 shareowners can aggregate)

2014 Redesigned incentive compensation programs

(annual bonus + long-term equity)

Eliminated dividend equivalents on unvested RSUs

Adopted anti-pledging/hedging policy

2013 Enhanced lead director responsibilities & selection

Formed independent committee to oversee R&D

Lowered special shareowner meeting threshold to 10%

## **BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY TO INVESTORS**

Annual director elections with majority voting standard

Proxy access at 3%, 3 years, 20% of Board

Annual Board review of investor views & feedback

Periodic independent director meetings with investors

## INDEPENDENT BOARD LEADERSHIP

3X/year

meetings in executive session without management present 2X+/year

visits to GE businesses by each director

50+

committee meetings in 2015 (all committees are independent)

annual

assessment of Board leadership structure

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## **Board Composition & Refreshment**

Your vote is needed on Director Elections:

election of the 16 nominees named in the proxy for the coming year

Your Board recommends a vote FOR

#### **DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS**

16 (100%)

leadership

12 (75%)

global

10 (63%)

industry

10 (63%)

finance

7 (44%)

talent development

5 (31%)

investor

5 (31%) technology

4 (25%)

risk management

3 (19%)

government

2 (13%)

marketing

GE POLICY: create an experienced Board with expertise in areas relevant to GE

## HOW WE THINK ABOUT BOARD REFRESHMENT

term limits

retirement age

annual Board evaluation

8 new directors & 8 retired directors over last 5 years

## **DIVERSITY OF BACKGROUND**

GE POLICY: build a cognitively diverse board representing a range of backgrounds

#### **INDEPENDENCE**

94% independent (all director nominees except CEO)

81% of current directors meet heightened independence standards for Audit, Compensation or Governance Committees

#### **TENURE**

50% with 5 years or less

75% with 10 years or less

GE POLICY: all non-management directors must be independent

**GE POLICY:** balanced mix of both deep GE knowledge & new perspectives

**NEW IN 2015** 

TERM LIMIT POLICY: 15 years with a 2-year transition for current directors

## **BOARD SIZE**

GE POLICY: 13 18, given need for expertise across multiple businesses

## 2016 BOARD REFRESHMENT

AGE DIVERSITY

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## **Board Nominees**

				Com	mitte	е Ме	mbers	hips
Name	Age	Director Since	Primary Occupation & Other Public Company Boards	A**	G	M	GEC	Т
Bazin	54	Nominee	Chair & CEO, Accor Boards: Accor, China Lodging Group					
Beattie	55	2009	CEO, Generation Capital & former CEO, The Woodbridge Company Boards: Maple Leaf Foods, Royal Bank of Canada, Acasta Enterprises				С	
Brennan	61	2012	Chair Emeritus & Senior Advisor, The Vanguard Group  Boards: LPL Financial Holdings			С		
D Souza	47	2013	CEO, Cognizant Technology Solutions  Boards: Cognizant	F				
Dekkers	58	2012	Chair of the Board of Management, Bayer*  Boards: Unilever*					
Henry	46	Nominee	Dean & Professor of Economics & Finance, NYU s Stern School of Business  Boards: Citigroup					
Hockfield	64	2006	President Emerita & Professor of Neuroscience, MIT					С
Immelt	60	2000	Chair & CEO, General Electric					
Jung	57	1998	President & CEO, Grameen America & former Chair/CEO, Avon Boards: Apple, Daimler					
Lane	66	2005	Former Chair & CEO, Deere Boards: BMW	F				
Lazarus	68	2000	Chair Emeritus & former CEO, Ogilvy & Mather Boards: Blackstone, Merck		С			
McAdam	61	Nominee	Chair & CEO, Verizon Communications  Boards: Verizon					
Mulva	69	2008	Former Chair & CEO, ConocoPhillips  Boards: General Motors	F				
Rohr	67	2013	Former Chair & CEO, PNC Financial Services Group  Boards: Allegheny Technologies, EQT, Marathon Petroleum					
Schapiro	60	2013	Vice Chair of Advisory Board, Promontory & former Chair, SEC Boards: London Stock Exchange					
Tisch	63	2010	President & CEO, Loews  Boards: Loews and its consolidated subsidiaries					

**INDEPENDENCE.** All director nominees other than the CEO are independent.

ATTENDANCE. All director nominees attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board and committees on which they served in 2015.

Α	Audit	М	Management Development &	Т	Technology & Industrial Risk
G	Governance & Public Affairs		Compensation	С	Chair
		GEC	GE Capital	F	Financial expert

<sup>\*</sup>Mr. Dekkers is expected to retire from Bayer in April 2016 and become Chairman of the Board, Unilever.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

LeadershipInvestorGlobalTechnologyIndustryRisk ManagementFinanceGovernmentTalent DevelopmentMarketing

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Ms. Schapiro will become the Audit Committee chair following the annual meeting.

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## **Board & Committees**

## **FULL BOARD**

ChairLead DirectorJeff ImmeltJack Brennan

## 2015 meetings

13, including 3 formal meetings of independent directors

Board Rhythm

8X/year