

GENERAL ELECTRIC CO
Form DEFA14A
March 24, 2017

**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

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.

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- (1) Title of each class of securities to which the transaction applies:
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GE's 2017 Proxy 10 Key Highlights

Election of Directors

1. **Significant Board refreshment over the last 5 years** more than 50% of the Board refreshed (added 10 new directors & 8 directors retired), including 2 new directors since the 2016 annual meeting:

Steven M. Mollenkopf, CEO of Qualcomm, brings leadership, global, technology and finance experience

Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, President & CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (who will be retiring from the position in April 2017), brings leadership, industry, talent development and government experience

For more information, see How We Think About Board Refreshment on page 2 and Election of Directors on page 12

2. **Board size at 18 is large, but reflects the size of GE and the diversity and complexity of our businesses and markets** in addition, we expect that the following directors will retire over the next couple of years, consistent with our term limit policy:

Andrea Jung, our longest-tenured director, not expected to be renominated in 2018

Rochelle Lazarus, our next longest-tenured director, not expected to be renominated in 2019

For more information, see How We Assess Board Size on page 19

Say on Pay

3. **Pay aligns with performance** bonus pool funded 80% of target as a result of 95% achievement of our strategic goals (including significant moves to strengthen and simplify the portfolio, such as integrating Alstom, announcing the planned Baker Hughes combination and executing on the GE Capital exit plan) and 74% achievement of our financial goals as follows:

Above-maximum performance on cash flow goal

Above-threshold, but below-target performance on EPS and margin goals, and

Below-threshold performance on operating profit goal

For more information, see 2016 Annual Bonuses on page 32

4. **CEO year-over-year compensation analysis**

SEC total compensation down 35% driven by 26% lower grant date fair values for equity awards (PSUs & options), 20% lower bonus, 79% lower amount reported for long-term performance awards & 45% lower change in pension value

Realized compensation (based on W-2 cash) up 174% driven by 3-year long-term performance award payout reported in full in 2016

For more information, see CEO Compensation Analysis on page 35

Seeking approval of Amended 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan

5. **Amendment would add 150M shares to the plan** would bring total number of shares available for new grants after 2016 to 373.5M

We expect this share authorization to cover new grants for next 4 to 5 years

The 150M additional shares includes 25M shares previously authorized for the Consultant's Plan that we are reallocating to the 2007 LTIP

Amendment also would extend the term of the plan by 10 years, but as a matter of good corporate governance we intend to seek shareholder approval within 5 years

For more information, see Management Proposal No. 3 Approval of the GE 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as Amended to Extend the Plan and Increase the Number of Plan Shares on page 56

6. GE's current equity grant practices balanced award mix of PSUs, RSUs and options for senior officers, long-term vesting of 5 years for RSUs/options and 3 years for PSUs, no dividend equivalents on unearned RSUs/PSUs for senior officers. GE's grant practices over the last 3 years compare favorably with the Dow 30:

	GE	Dow 30
Gross burn rate	0.6%	0.9%
Net burn rate (adjusted for shares returned to pool)	0.5%	0.7%
Overhang/dilution	7.8%	10.5%
Proxy officer concentration ratio	4.2%	7.6%

7. Plan designed to protect shareholder interests no evergreen feature, no share recycling, no option repricing, no discounted options, no automatic change-of-control benefits

Disclosure Enhancements

8. How our Board operates

Four new videos with Jack Brennan, our Lead Director, sharing the Board's perspective on director recruitment, Board oversight of strategy, investor outreach and how our performance-based compensation plans fit together (*see the videos at www.ge.com/proxy*)

More disclosure around Board operations to provide investors a glimpse inside the boardroom (*see Board Operations on page 21*)

New forward-looking disclosure of future director recruitment priorities (*see Board Priorities Going Forward on page 19*)

9. Executive compensation

More explanation about why we pay each element of compensation (*see Primary Compensation Elements for 2016 on page 31*)

New disclosure around changes in our incentive compensation performance metrics and targets from the prior year (*see Aligning Pay with Performance on page 6*)

10. Integrated reporting

Published our second annual integrated summary report, which concisely links the most critical information from our annual report, proxy statement and sustainability website in a user-friendly, graphic-rich format (*download the integrated report at www.ge.com/ar2016/integrated-report*)