

# Sikh Society of Minnesota

9000 WBloomingtonFreeway, Bloomington, MN55431

[www.mnsikhs.com](http://www.mnsikhs.com) Phone: 952-888-2705



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## CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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### Advisory Committee 2024 Election

(For one year term from February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026)

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>THE NAMES OF THE CANDIDATES ARE LISTED ALPHABETICALLY</b></li><li>• <b>CANDIDATES SUPPLY THE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION</b></li><li>• <b>SIKH SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA DOES NOT VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION</b></li></ul>
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## Dr. Charanjeet Singh Guron

Business Owner – Business  
Executive

PhD, MBA



<b>1.</b>	<b>Briefly describe why you are interested in a position on the Advisory Committee.</b>  I have been a member of the Twin Cities Sikh community for over 24 years and have actively served the SSM as a Director for three non-consecutive terms and as Treasurer on three occasions for two years each. In addition, I have served as the Gurdwara sevadar for ever since we moved to the Twin Cities. My wife, Kuljeet Kaur, and I raised two children around the Gurdwara who are now working professionals. My son, Manbir, has attended the Guru Arjan Dev School and has volunteered at the school and the library. In my professional life I have served as a technology commercialization executive in various positions at the University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania, and the Argonne National Laboratory for over twenty years. I have a unique ability to provide strategic insight, financial review, adherence to the SSM bylaws, guidance on compliance with tax laws, and examination of financial statements and expenditures of the Gurdwara.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Briefly describe the skills and expertise you bring to SSM that you believe will allow you to advance the purpose of the Advisory Committee (E.g. financial audit or oversight experience).</b>  My work as a technology commercialization executive, professional tax accountant, SSM Treasurer, and business owner has prepared me well to develop, refine, and apply various unique and commonsense skills to further the goals of any business. I uniquely bring the financial compliance, analysis, and audit skills, strategic thinking, and team leadership skills to the SSM Advisory Committee.

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**3. Briefly describe how you have served the Sikh community.**

My wife Kuljeet and I have been a member of the local Sikh community for 24 years and raised two children who are now professionals. I have served the Gurdwara as a volunteer, board member for three terms, and treasurer thrice for two years each. As treasurer I have been the go-to person for financial matters, building maintenance, and strategic purchases and provided leadership around financial management. This role included managing expenses and budget, final payments on mortgages and pandemic loans. I have served as the key volunteer and led the health emergency committee that installed the automatic external defibrillator and provided general health emergency response and CPR training to volunteers. I have been instrumental in bringing a visiting divinity and Gurbani Sangeet teacher from India for a summer residency at Gurdwara where children learned shabad kirtan. I volunteered with my son, Manbir who brought his Boy Scouts troop members where middle school and high school students and their parents painted the classrooms of Guru Arjan Dev School at Gurdwara.

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## Jagtar Singh Sidhu



1.	<p><b>Briefly describe why you are interested in a position on the Advisory Committee.</b></p> <p>There have been numerous concerns about the functioning of the current advisory committee, but these issues were not taken seriously, and nothing was resolved. It has been frustrating, as it seems the committee is merely following the directives of the current board of directors without addressing the needs of the local congregation. I aim to serve as an independent advisory member, committed to listening to both the board of directors and the local congregation.</p>
2.	<p><b>Briefly describe the skills and expertise you bring to SSM that you believe will allow you to advance the purpose of the Advisory Committee (E.g. financial audit or oversight experience).</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ensure fair approval of general body members and transparent elections.</li><li>2. Conduct thorough financial audits, leveraging my experience in banking applications.</li><li>3. Provide honest and impartial oversight of the entire process.</li><li>4. Facilitate effective communication to resolve conflicts.</li></ol>
3.	<p><b>Briefly describe how you have served the Sikh community.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Served in the Langar.</li><li>2. Assisted with cleaning the kitchen and Langar hall.</li><li>3. Helped prepare Langar meals.</li><li>4. Contributed through donations.</li></ol>

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## Jatinder Kaur Mand



1.	<p><b>Briefly describe why you are interested in a position on the Advisory Committee.</b></p> <p>Dear respected members of Sikh Society of Minnesota, for two decades, I have served our Gurdwara community with devotion and love for Sewa and Kirtan. Nominated for the Advisory Board, I envision a Gurdwara that unites all, free from divisive politics. I believe Gurdwara management can nurture leadership in our youth. My goal is to empower young Sikhs to understand governance and make positive changes. I propose leadership programs for our children and youth, instilling Sikh values and practical skills. I aim to encourage their active participation in community engagement and fundraising. Together, we can create an inclusive Gurdwara community that honors traditions while embracing youth potential. Let us make our Gurdwara a hub of spiritual growth, service, and leadership development. Thank you for your support. Jatinder Kaur Mand.</p>
2.	<p><b>Briefly describe the skills and expertise you bring to SSM that you believe will allow you to advance the purpose of the Advisory Committee (E.g. financial audit or oversight experience).</b></p> <p>Khalsa Camps, Guiding and inspiring youth and Kids</p>
3.	<p><b>Briefly describe how you have served the Sikh community.</b></p> <p>Khalsa Camps, Sewa</p>

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## Manpreet Kaur Anand (Preet)

Pharmacist



1.	<p><b>Briefly describe why you are interested in a position on the Advisory Committee.</b></p> <p>I am an active member of the community and I feel I would be able to serve to support Sikh Community that I dearly love. Growing up my family taught me what it means to be a Sikh. I have always admired and have been motivated by our Guru's sacrifice for the community and love for God.</p>
2.	<p><b>Briefly describe the skills and expertise you bring to SSM that you believe will allow you to advance the purpose of the Advisory Committee (E.g. financial audit or oversight experience).</b></p> <p>I am a pharmacist by profession and I know what it takes to gain trust and be a reliable source for the community. I believe it is important to follow procedure but also to be open-minded to new ideas. I will be able to help bridge the generational gap in our community.</p>
3.	<p><b>Briefly describe how you have served the Sikh community.</b></p> <p>I have grown up with the MN Sikh Community over the last 25 years. I have and continue to actively participate in Langar Sewa, facilitated and coordinated the annual Vaisakhi cultural programs, and help with Gurmat Sunday School classes for kids.</p>

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## Satinder Singh

IT Professional - M.S.



<b>1.</b>	<b>Briefly describe why you are interested in a position on the Advisory Committee.</b>  Respected members of the Sikh Society of Minnesota, for over three decades, I have actively served our Sikh community, including as Secretary and President in 1999. I am now seeking to return as part of the Advisory Board, bringing experience in fostering inclusion and diversity and mentoring teams at companies like Amazon and United Health. I envision our Gurdwara as a place of unity, free from divisive politics, where we nurture the next generation with Sikh values and practical skills. My goal is to empower our youth to lead with inclusivity, respect, and confidence. I am committed to upholding our by-laws and ensuring transparency while introducing interfaith initiatives for deeper community engagement. I, Satinder Singh, look forward to contributing to the spiritual growth, leadership, and service within our Gurdwara.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Briefly describe the skills and expertise you bring to SSM that you believe will allow you to advance the purpose of the Advisory Committee (E.g. financial audit or oversight experience).</b>  I bring extensive experience in building high-performing teams at Fortune 50 companies. I have successfully established Data Governance processes, bringing transparency and auditing at both a major bank and Amazon's Advertising Organization. My background has equipped me with strong leadership, strategic thinking, and operational expertise. I am skilled at fostering collaboration and ensuring transparency in decision-making. These abilities will allow me to contribute effectively to the Advisory Committee's goals. I



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	am committed to advancing the Sikh Society of Minnesota's vision with inclusivity and long-term sustainability in mind.
3.	<b>Briefly describe how you have served the Sikh community.</b> I have previously engaged with the Indian Association and built strong relationships with leaders from diverse religious organizations, including those from Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu faiths. I believe deeply in the value of diversity, and I have always felt that the best way to influence and connect with other communities is by stepping out, sharing our stories, and helping others understand who we are as Sikhs." to say I always welcomed newer families who visited gurudwara and ensuring they feel included and in the process made lifelong friend who are still living in Rochester MN". I represented the Sikh community at 10 th anniversary of 911 with Governor Mark Dayton in 2011.

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## Surinder Jit Singh

ENTREPRENEUR – M.S.



<b>1.</b>	<b>Briefly describe why you are interested in a position on the Advisory Committee.</b>  I along with other founding members sowed the seeds of the SSM and Gurdwara when as a student of U of M in the 1970s, I with others, including Balwinder Sekhon, conducted weekly paths/langar, etc. This was the first start of Gurdwara in MN. As a member of the Advisory Committee, I would ensure that the by-laws are followed, the growth of the organization along with the community remains strong, and harmony remains among the sangat/congregation, transparency towards sangat continues, and continued strengthening of the founding values of SSM as we grow. I strongly believe that the Gurdwara in the existing location can be expanded by expanding the existing property size further and initiating a focused, phased approach towards rebuilding the Gurdwara building and procuring the nearby land to build future community housing for needy seniors, and the community.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Briefly describe the skills and expertise you bring to SSM that you believe will allow you to advance the purpose of the Advisory Committee (E.g. financial audit or oversight experience).</b>  As a successful manager, I managed project budgets, financial planning, and business planning. Engineer by education, I managed manufacturing operations for 5 departments. I also managed government projects for the Navy/other departments. I can make and interpret financial statements, balance sheets, cash flow statements, etc. As a successful entrepreneur, I managed financials for 5+ businesses, managed property, rental properties, restaurants, travel agency, and other businesses.

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**3. Briefly describe how you have served the Sikh community.**

Served as a board member, officer, and as volunteer contributed to the strategic planning, often taking up work such as regular cleaning chores & upkeep of Gurdwara, taking regular langar sewa, etc. Participated in the renovation of the Fridley location, managed construction, watching regular progress, and fundraising. Involved in decision-making and convincing the community to relocate the Gurdwara to the existing location. The effort involved selling the old land, securing funds, project execution, and regular follow-ups with the renovation crew.