

# 2017 IEEE Annual Election

## Candidates for IEEE Division X Delegate-Elect/Director-Elect, 2018



**JOHN R. VIG**  
(Nominated by IEEE Division X)

Consultant  
ECS Federal  
Colts Neck, New Jersey, USA



**LJILJANA TRAJKOVIC, PhD**  
(Nominated by IEEE Division X)

Professor  
Simon Fraser University  
British Columbia, Canada  
<http://www.ensc.sfu.ca/~ljilja/>



**OKYAY KAYNAK**  
(Nominated by Petition)

Professor Emeritus (UNESCO  
Chair On Mechatronics)  
Department of Electrical and  
Electronic Engineering  
Bogazici University  
Istanbul, Turkey  
[www.OkayKaynak.com](http://www.OkayKaynak.com)

### What do you believe are the major issues facing the IEEE?

A generation ago, IEEE's main services were publications, conferences, standards and membership services. Today, our main services remain the same. Our products and services have evolved too slowly - while the world has undergone revolutionary changes; e.g., social media, multimedia (in publications and conferences), open access, new means of communications and collaboration, wikis, massive open online courses (MOOCs), etc. *"Adapt or perish, now as ever, is nature's inexorable imperative"* said H. G. Wells. To continue to thrive, IEEE must adapt, faster, or...

### What do you believe are the major issues facing the IEEE?

- Staying at the forefront of current developments in science and engineering and facing the challenges of boldly exploring future technologies.
- Reaching out to under-represented groups such as women, young professionals, graduate, undergraduate, and high school students by creating opportunities for their involvement in IEEE activities and actively recruiting and providing training for future leaders.
- Creating additional opportunities for student competitions, hackathons, workshops, and conferences.
- Offering awards and scholarships to new generations of engineers and scientists, including high-school, undergraduate, and graduate students.
- Offering membership benefits that will ensure retention of current members and be attractive to new recruits.

### What do you believe are the major issues facing the IEEE?

We are witnessing tremendous changes in science and technology. The boundaries between different disciplines are eroding; the connections between them are becoming seamless in a trans-disciplinary manner. It is becoming very difficult to define who an engineer is, let alone who an electrical and electronics engineer is. Addressing the needs of such a diversified audience is going to be a major challenge. Furthermore, disruptive changes are expected to be seen in the two main revenue streams of IEEE, namely publications and conferences.

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### What do you think is the number one goal for the IEEE leadership?

That IEEE is a diverse organization is one of its major strengths. The number one goal, as well as the number one challenge, is to serve all our technical communities, our members and humanity. This goal may sound like a platitude, but, it is a great deal more complicated than it sounds because more than 50% of IEEE's ~400,000 members now reside outside the USA. The country with the second highest membership is India, and IEEE has members in every corner of the globe. Of all the degrees held by members, there are about as many non-EE as EE degrees.

### What do you think is the number one goal for the IEEE leadership?

- Ensuring that IEEE continues to be an inclusive and equitable volunteer-governed international organization that supports its members and offers equal volunteer and leadership opportunities to all.
- Continuing to promote a collegial, supportive, and friendly environment for its volunteers and leaders.
- Increasing involvement in humanitarian activities and funding of global projects worldwide that are of benefit to humanity.
- Embracing transparency of IEEE operations and practices and being accountable to the membership.
- Making better use of the new media that our members have been instrumental in creating.

### What do you think is the number one goal for the IEEE leadership?

Keeping IEEE in the front line as the largest, volunteer-based, international professional organization of the world should be the number one goal for the IEEE leadership. For this, the leadership needs to take a dynamic positioning in the design, the implementation and the deployment of new initiatives to turn what may be considered as threats of today into opportunities of the future.

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### What motivates you and what qualifies you for the position you are seeking?

At the risk of sounding trite, what motivates me is the desire, and ability, to do good. My parents were unable to be volunteers; they were busy trying to survive persecution – in a different world. I am fortunate to have what my parents were unable to have.

What qualifies me is that I have the knowledge, experience and, I can afford the time. I have chaired many of the major IEEE committees, including the Technical Activities Board, and the Board of Directors (as IEEE President). I have a thorough understanding of what it takes to get things done in IEEE.



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### What motivates you and what qualifies you for the position you are seeking?

As a President of two Societies (Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society and Circuits and Systems Society), I have served two terms on Technical Activities Board (TAB). I have a wide research experience in systems, communications, circuits, and applied mathematics in both industry and academia. My experience as a researcher, educator, and volunteer makes me well qualified to deal with a variety of issues and tasks. My long-term involvement with IEEE Societies and TAB, past service on various TAB Committees, as well as service to the Vancouver Section and local Chapters, makes me qualified to serve as the Division Director.



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### What motivates you and what qualifies you for the position you are seeking?

The global and multi-faceted challenges that IEEE faces motivate me to stand up as a candidate. I feel I can contribute effectively to the policy decisions that need to be made in this respect. I have led a very international life and my technical interests have always been very diversified, due to the different technical, industrial and cultural environments I have had to operate in. Meanwhile, I have learned to establish cross-cultural bridges and also how to be a collaborator, and a team builder and unifier. It is my hope that I will be given the chance to serve.