FOUNDING BOARD CANDIDATE PACKAGE

A practical introduction to FTFA board service

Future Technology for All

Founded by Tress Schuyler - 2026

Core principle

The technology of the future should not become inaccessible to the people it is intended to benefit.

STATUS: WORKING DRAFT | v0.1

For prospective founding directors, advisers, and legal/governance review.

1. Why this package exists

Future Technology for All (FTFA) is preparing to recruit its founding Board of Directors. This package gives prospective directors enough information to decide whether the mission, responsibilities, governance structure, and expected level of involvement are a good fit before either side makes a commitment.

FTFA is still under development. It is not currently accepting public donations, operating assistance programs, or representing that tax-exempt status or corporate partnerships have been finalized. Founding directors will help turn a developed proposal into a legally organized and responsibly governed nonprofit.

2. Mission and current program direction

FTFA intends to pursue recognition as a U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity focused on expanding equitable access to useful modern technology. The primary operational focus is direct assistance for financially constrained people to obtain and maintain computers. Secondary programs may support schools, libraries, nonprofit/community organizations, qualifying financially constrained small businesses, and mission-aligned research. Large manufacturing or supply-expansion projects remain a future-stage option only if FTFA reaches enough scale and expertise to create measurable additional public benefit.

Funding concept

FTFA proposes a voluntary model in which users of participating AI services could contribute $2, $5, or $10 per month, with participating companies encouraged to match contributions in whole or in part. Other lawful charitable funding could include direct corporate support, public donations, grants, and foundation funding once FTFA is legally and operationally ready.

3. What the founding Board would actually do

The governing principle is simple: **Board governs. Staff administers.**

- Protect FTFA's charitable mission and approve major changes in strategy.
- Adopt and periodically review bylaws, conflict-of-interest rules, financial controls, reserve policies, and other core governance policies.
- Approve annual budgets and oversee the organization's financial condition and use of charitable assets.
- Hire, support, evaluate, and set reasonable compensation for the Executive Director using disinterested review and appropriate comparability information.
- Monitor program effectiveness and major risks without becoming the daily application-processing team.
- Approve unusually large, novel, conflicted, or policy-exception matters when required by delegated-authority rules.
- Help FTFA build credibility, resources, partnerships, and public trust.
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain appropriate records of Board decisions.

4. What the Board would not be expected to do

- Process routine individual applications.
- Personally perform bookkeeping, cybersecurity, legal work, or application support unless separately engaged for that function.
- Vote on the compensation of a director or officer who has a conflict in the matter.
- Micromanage ordinary staff decisions made within Board-approved policies and budgets.
- Guarantee donations or make a required minimum personal financial contribution unless the Board later adopts such a policy.

5. Proposed founding Board structure

Item	Working proposal
Size	Target 5 founding directors; bylaws allow a broader 5-9 member operating range after the initial formation period.
Michigan minimum	Michigan law generally requires at least 3 directors for a nonprofit corporation that is not a private foundation.
Terms	Working draft uses 3-year terms, with staggering possible as the Board develops.
Meetings	Quarterly regular Board meetings, primarily by video conference, plus special meetings when materially necessary.
Compensation	Directors are expected to serve as unpaid governing volunteers, with reasonable expense reimbursement permitted.
Independence	At least a majority should be independent of the Founder/Executive Director, paid staff, and material vendors; FTFA should aim for roughly two-thirds independence once practical.
Committees	Use only when helpful. Early FTFA should avoid creating committees merely for appearance.

6. Skills and perspectives FTFA is seeking

The goal is not to recruit five identical resumes. A strong founding Board should combine complementary judgment and expertise. One person may cover more than one need.

- Finance / accounting - budgeting, nonprofit accounting, controls, audit or CPA experience.
- Nonprofit governance / legal / compliance - especially charitable organizations, tax-exempt organizations, contracts, privacy, or regulatory compliance.
- Fundraising / corporate partnerships / business development - ability to help FTFA reach major technology companies, foundations, and other funders.
- Communications / marketing / public credibility - explaining a new idea clearly and responsibly.
- Technology / cybersecurity / systems - understanding of IT, data protection, automation, and scalable online operations.

- Education, libraries, community service, refurbishment, or technology-access experience - direct knowledge of populations or institutions FTFA may serve.

7. Founder and Executive Director structure

Tress Schuyler founded FTFA and is the proposed initial Executive Director. The current bylaws draft intentionally tries to balance two legitimate needs: the Board must retain real fiduciary authority over the charity, while the founding mission should not be casually displaced after the organization has been built around it.

- The Founder does not receive unilateral authority over charitable assets, compensation, or conflicted transactions.
- The current draft proposes one designated Founder-Director seat while maintaining an independent Board majority; Michigan nonprofit counsel should confirm the final legal structure.
- Removal of the Founder while serving as Executive Director is proposed to require heightened disinterested voting and defined notice/process protections, subject to legal review.
- The Founder must recuse from votes on the Founder's compensation and other personal conflicts.
- Once FTFA can support compensated employment, a separate written Executive Director employment agreement should address duties, compensation, termination, and transition rights.

8. Expected time commitment

FTFA is being designed as a remote-first organization. Founding directors should expect approximately one regular Board meeting per quarter, normally by video conference, with advance materials provided for review. During formation and major corporate outreach, occasional additional working sessions may be needed.

- Read meeting materials before meetings.
- Attend and participate consistently.
- Respond to occasional votes or urgent governance questions between meetings.
- Serve on a committee or short-term task group if the Board determines one is useful.
- Make introductions or provide advice within the director's area of expertise when reasonably possible.
- Maintain confidentiality and disclose conflicts promptly.

9. Fiduciary and ethical expectations

Directors are expected to exercise the duties commonly described as care, loyalty, and obedience: become sufficiently informed before decisions, put FTFA's interests ahead of personal interests when acting as a director, disclose conflicts, and keep the organization faithful to its charitable purposes.

FTFA expects annual conflict disclosures and recusal when a director, family member, employer, business partner, or other material interest could benefit from a decision.

10. What founding directors will receive before accepting

- Current Founding Proposal.
- Current Operating Framework.
- Current Board-review draft of the Bylaws.
- A summary of the Operations Manual rather than requiring every candidate to read the entire internal manual immediately.
- Board Member Expectations / Letter of Agreement.
- Conflict-of-interest disclosure form when the Board is ready to organize.
- Opportunity to ask questions and recommend changes before the organizational meeting.

11. Candidate discussion questions

1. What part of FTFA's mission interests you most?
2. What experience would you bring to the Board?
3. Are there parts of the proposal or bylaws you would want changed before serving?
4. Can you realistically prepare for and attend quarterly remote meetings?
5. Are you comfortable governing rather than managing day-to-day staff work?
6. Do you have any current relationships that could create conflicts with major technology companies, vendors, applicants, or potential funders?
7. Are you comfortable with the Founder/Executive Director continuity provisions being openly reviewed by independent counsel and the founding Board?
8. What risks do you think FTFA is underestimating?
9. Who else should FTFA speak with before incorporation or corporate outreach?

12. Prospective director expression of interest

This is not a binding acceptance. It is a discussion aid for a prospective director.

Name:

_____

Current role / organization:

_____

Email / phone:

_____

Relevant expertise:

_____

Why FTFA interests me:

_____

Areas where I could contribute:

_____

Potential conflicts or relationships to disclose:

_____

Questions or concerns before I would consider joining:

_____

13. Review status and external references

This package reflects FTFA's current working plan and should be revised as the founding Board and qualified nonprofit counsel review the organization. It is not legal or tax advice.

External governance references used in preparing this draft:

- Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, including MCL 450.2501 and 450.2505.
- IRS Form 1023 conflict-of-interest guidance.
- BoardSource resources on board roles, recruitment, board composition matrices, candidate expectations, and board member job descriptions.