**FACTOM**

**COMMUNITY**

**Factom Authority Node**

**Operator Selection**

**Round 3**

**DOC 154**

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| 1.0 | 2019-04-03 | Factom Standing Parties | Ratified document |
| 1.1 | 2019-04-16 | Factom Standing Parties | Adding minimum score and correct Standing Party totals.  Fixed timeline.  Updated links |
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# Introduction

* 1. This document describes the process for the third election round of Authority Node Operator (ANO) candidates in the Factom protocol. The purpose of this document is to formally describe the process by which we will evaluate, elect, onboard, and promote new ANO candidates. Historically, the Guides have been the only Standing Parties permitted to vote in ANO elections. By allowing existing ANOs to vote on potential new ANO candidates, the Protocol furthers its goal of decentralization through the expansion of Standing Parties in voting matters.

1.1.1 This document describes the process for managing the third round of

ANO elections.

1.1.2 This document is a single-use process, and its usage is limited to Factom

ANO election round #3 in 2019.

1.1.3 This document may contain terms that are described in the Factom

Governance Document, Doc 001. All capitalized terms used herein and

not otherwise defined in this document shall have the meanings ascribed

to them in Doc 001. The latest version can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RVaVR7lvfGgOBMG-7oca9TtpnR7qaEfr6XJVaZJwd3M/edit).

1.1.4 In this selection round, a maximum of **4** Authority Node Operators will be

selected.

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# 2. Governance

2.1 Pursuant to Section 3 of the [Factom Protocol Governance Document](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1c3ujiauzfq49lezphcEf2niu6kN3oFpe),

membership in the Authority Set will currently be granted by the Guides and

Authority Node Operators (ANOs, collectively with the Guides, the “Standing Parties”).

# 3. General Information

3.1 Each ANO candidate will campaign to operate two Factom

authority servers with the knowledge that at some point in the future, this will

become one. Elected ANO candidates will be onboarded at a pace decided by

the Standing Parties, and the onboarding will happen in order of election. Once elected and onboarded they have full ANO status and rewards and carry the responsibility of being a Standing Party.

# 4. Communication channels and

# announcements

4.1 The ANO application round starts with an announcement from the Factom

Guides. This announcement contains information about how to apply for the

respective ANO round as well as dates and deadlines for said round. This

announcement will be made in the #guide-announcements Discord channel on

the [Factom Community Discord server](https://discord.gg/XWJezKm) , as well as in a Factomize Forum

thread in the [ANO Subforum](https://factomize.com/forums/factom/authority-nodes/). All users in the discord server will be tagged for this message.

4.2 Links to these announcements will be placed on social media platforms like the [Factom subreddit](https://www.reddit.com/r/factom) to reach a wider audience, as well.

4.3 Any announcements about the ANO application round are solely made by the

Factom Protocol Guides. Subsequent updates/announcements shall be

disseminated via the same channels as the initial announcement.

# 5. Scoring - How

5.1 With five Guides and twenty-four ANOs included as Standing Parties eligible to

vote, a total of twenty-nine Standing Party entities can vote in this election. The Standing Parties will evaluate application answers, will review any supplemental documents, and will consider the answers made by candidates to the questions that are asked on the Factomize forum by the Standing Parties and other community members.

Scoring to identify which candidates are most suitable to be onboarded into the Authority Set is as set out below:

\* 40% of the marks for the more objective/technical questions will be awarded by the guides in consultation with the Testnet admin.

\* 60% of the marks for the more subjective/less technical questions will be awarded by the Standing Parties.

The objective/technical criteria is considered straight-forward and would likely yield very similar scores when compared between the voting parties. Since the metrics of evaluation are objective and technical in nature, any variance between scorers would be minimal, and the time it would take for all Standing Parties to perform the objective scoring would be better used in evaluating other sections of an ANO’s candidacy. ⅘ of the voting guides must agree on the objective/technical score for it to be valid. The objective/technical questions and their breakdown by category (total of 40 points) can be seen [here.](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rZmFmETAlmBJKbtNoRQi2nvrFuwJnnnqqYYcrNMo0hU/edit?usp=sharing)

For the other 60% (60 points) of the total maximum score, known as Human Determinable Factors, all Standing Parties will evaluate and vote. In this subjective/non-technical criteria, Standing Parties will evaluate all relevant information in an ANO’s candidacy, and will vote. The subjective/non-technical questions, and their breakdown by category can be seen [here.](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QgIHKgET_q4QGhRKMhCHAqqF5u08l-SvNK0_ElMST5o/edit?ts=5c8bbb7d#gid=221345807) The total of the Guide scores plus ANO scores for each candidate will be divided by the total amount of Standing Parties that have voted to yield the final score for each candidate within the Human Determinable Factors section.  
  
A PDF extract and a Google sheet will be provided to all of the Standing Parties. This will contain all the questions and individual applicant answers relevant to the non-technical aspects amounting to 60% of the total score. It also provides a suggested breakdown of the scoring by section and scoring guidelines, none of which is mandatory. The final scores from the Standing Parties will be collected via Factomize for each applicant. The resultant score per applicant will be derived by dividing the total by the number of the Standing Parties that have voted.

If a Standing Party has to recuse themselves, the total score will be divided by the number of Standing Parties who have voted. The points earned in the objective/technical criteria, and the points earned in the subjective/non-technical criteria are added together to produce a final score per ANO candidate. At most 4 ANO candidates with the highest scores will be onboarded this round. An ANO candidate needs to score at least 60 points to be eligible for ANO status and onboarding.

Scores for each candidate from each Guide and ANO, will be posted at the same time and shared publicly [in this Google sheet.](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17v9UaYev3WFzmSQCe0Za4FnH-Oq-A4rso3kD5MZVG1o/edit?ts=5c87bd85#gid=810694220)

5.2 Guides and ANOs may discuss applicants and scores together in private, in

public, or work separately.

5.3 There will be no appeals but Applicants can re-submit in future elections.

# 6. Scoring - Criteria

6.1 A scoring matrix that will be used [can be seen here.](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lJ9yZiyvGtIZu9kRrFdpfBN0v4roBntMPx7fcOXE5fk/edit?ts=5c8ecc4c#gid=815263885) Over time, additional variables will be added, and voting control will continue to expand to other Standing Parties.

# 7. How to apply

To apply for becoming a Factom Authority Node Operator, complete steps

1-4 below between April 15th (00:00 UTC) and **April 30th 2019 (23:59 UTC)**. Note: All steps MUST be completed prior to the deadline above (green highlight). No applications filed after this date and time will be considered in this round (batch #3).

1. [Fill out this ANO Application](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQw09uxVt82ZSoStKfcjOAG5bPeqz9qdswqZbKncGI3Tv6bQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)
2. [Review the technical specifications sheet](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MF2E9G_hZ3bD0EwKlbsTNvaHMcHqJkLAIfYJb-AGJfg/edit?usp=sharing) to help you determine your server specs.
3. [Join this discussion forum](https://factomize.com/forums/).
4. Create a thread in the [ANO Application Forum](https://factomize.com/forums/factom/Round3/) Note: The title of the thread should be the name of your entity applying such as, “Acme Hosting Services”. This thread will be visible to everyone once applications are made public. Guides and other community members will use this thread to ask questions until May 18th, 23:59 UTC 2019. Please respond as quickly as you can to all questions and prior to May 20th, 23:59 UTC 2019 as the answers will be used in the scoring process. Please also note that your answers could lead to follow up questions, so do not postpone replying until the end.

# 8. Timeline (all dates 2019)

Application period is announced: 5th of April at 00:00 UTC.

Application period opens 15th of April at 00:00 UTC.

**Application period ends: 30th of April at 23:59 UTC.**

**All applications are made public**: 1st of May at 12:00 UTC.

Forum threads opens for questions: 1st of May at 12:00 UTC.

Forum threads closes for questions: 18th of May at 23:59 UTC.

Forum threads closes for answers: 20th of May at 23:59 UTC.

Standing Parties officially begin scoring: 21st of May at 00:00 UTC.

Standing Parties officially end scoring: 27th of May at 00:00 UTC.

Final results of the Applications process posted: 27th of May around 02:00 UTC.