

## VERISIGN, INC.

### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As Amended Through February 11, 2020

#### ***A. INTRODUCTION***

The Board of Directors (the “***Board***”) of VeriSign, Inc. (the “***Company***”), has adopted these Corporate Governance Principles to assist it in following corporate practices that serve the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. These Corporate Governance Principles are published on the Company’s website. The Board intends that these Corporate Governance Principles serve as a flexible framework within which the Board may conduct its business, not as a set of binding legal obligations. These Corporate Governance Principles should be interpreted in the context of all applicable laws, the Company’s certificate of incorporation, bylaws and other governing documents.

#### ***B. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES***

The Company’s business is conducted by its employees, managers and officers, under the direction of the chief executive officer and the oversight of the Board, to enhance the long-term value of the Company for its stockholders. It is the Board’s responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of management’s policies and decisions. In addition to its general oversight of management, the Board also performs a number of other specific functions, including:

- reviewing, approving and monitoring the Company’s fundamental financial and business strategies and significant corporate actions;
- seeing that processes are in place for maintaining the integrity of the Company, including, through the Audit Committee, the integrity of the financial statements and compliance with laws and the Company’s Code of Conduct;
- selecting the chief executive officer and the other executive officers, evaluating the chief executive officer, and, through the Compensation Committee, determining the compensation of the chief executive officer and the other executive officers;
- periodically, reviewing and assessing the status of the succession plans, including emergency succession plans for the chief executive officer and, through the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, reviewing management development plans and developing the chief executive officer succession planning process;
- in conjunction with the appropriate committees of the Board, overseeing the Company’s processes for assessing and managing enterprise risk;
- overseeing the Company’s cybersecurity risk management program;
- through the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, developing a corporate governance structure that allows and encourages the Board to fulfill its responsibilities; and
- providing advice and input to the Company’s senior executives.

## ***C. BOARD COMPOSITION AND SELECTION OF DIRECTORS***

**1. Size of the Board.** The Board consists of a number of members that the Board deems appropriate as determined from time to time by a resolution of the Board, subject to the requirements of the Company's bylaws. No decrease in the authorized number of directors constituting the Board shortens the term of any incumbent director.

**2. Proportion of Independent Directors.** At least a majority of the Board's members are independent directors. An "independent director" means one who satisfies The Nasdaq Stock Market's requirements for independent directors, as they may be amended from time to time. Because it is not possible to anticipate or explicitly provide for all potential situations that may affect a director's independence, the Board periodically reviews each director's independence and annually makes an affirmative determination regarding the independence of each director.

**3. No Term or Age Limits.** The Board does not believe it should establish term limits or mandatory retirement ages for directors because such policies could result in the loss of directors who have developed insight into the Company and its operations and an institutional memory that might benefit the entire membership of the Board as well as the Company's management. The ability of individual directors to contribute to the Board is considered in connection with the annual nomination process, including the criteria for Board candidates and other perceived needs of the Board.

**4. Board's Role in the Selection of New Director Candidates.** The Board is responsible for nominating a slate of nominees to present to the stockholders as candidates for Board membership and for selecting members to fill Board vacancies. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and recommending to the Board this slate of nominees and potential candidates to fill Board vacancies. The Board and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will consider the performance and qualifications of each potential nominee or candidate not only for their individual strengths but also for their contribution to the Board as a group. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee also considers additional factors, such as diversity, business experience, and expertise within industries and markets tangential or complementary to the Company's industry. The pool of candidates from which the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee recommends nominees includes female and racially/ethnically diverse candidates, and any third-party search firm that the committee engages is instructed to include female and racially/ethnically diverse candidates in such pool as well. Additionally, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee evaluates and reviews with the Board the criteria for selecting new directors, including skills and characteristics such as diversity, in the context of the current composition of the Board and its committees.

**5. Stockholder Recommendation of Candidates and Stockholder Proposals.** The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers individuals for nomination to stand for election as directors who are recommended to it in writing by a stockholder of the Company who was a stockholder of record of the Company at the time of such recommendation. Such recommendations, including information concerning the nominee, must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Company and delivered to the principal executive office of the Company. For other stockholder proposals, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee reviews such proposals and makes recommendations to the Board for action on such proposals.

**6. Director Elections.** The members of the Board are elected by the Company's stockholders at each annual meeting of stockholders. In an uncontested election, a candidate is elected to the Board if the number of shares voted "for" the candidate exceeds the number of votes cast "against" for that candidate at the meeting of stockholders. If, as of the date that is five (5) days in advance of the date the Company files its definitive proxy statement (regardless of whether or not thereafter revised or supplemented) with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the number of nominees exceeds the number of directors to be elected, the directors shall be elected by the vote of a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting. If a nominee for director in an uncontested election is not elected and the nominee is an incumbent director, the director must offer to resign, subject to acceptance by the Board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee recommends whether to accept or reject the resignation offer and the Board must act on the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee's recommendation and publicly disclose its decision and the rationale therefor within 90 days following the date of the certification of the relevant election results.

#### ***D. BOARD PROCEDURES***

**1. Selection of Chairman of the Board, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer.** The Board may, in its discretion, elect a Chairman of the Board, a Vice Chairman of the Board and a chief executive officer. The Board regularly considers the appropriate leadership structure for the Company and has concluded that the Company and its stockholders are best served by not having a formal policy on whether the same individual should serve as both chief executive officer and Chairman of the Board. This flexibility allows the Board to utilize its considerable experience and knowledge to elect the most appropriate director as Chairman, while maintaining the ability to separate the Chairman of the Board and chief executive officer roles when necessary. This determination is made according to what the Board believes is best to provide appropriate leadership for the Company at such time. The Board believes that presently it is in the best interests of the Company for a single person to serve as both the Chairman of the Board and chief executive officer.

**2. Lead Independent Director.** The independent directors of the Board have elected a Lead Independent Director from among the Board's members that are independent directors to serve for a period of at least one year. The Lead Independent Director's responsibilities include: (a) presiding at all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman of the Board is not present, including executive sessions of the independent directors; (b) serving as liaison between the Chairman of the Board and the independent directors; (c) working with the Chairman of the Board to facilitate timely and appropriate information flow to the Board; (d) reviewing and approving agendas and schedules for meetings of the Board; (e) exercising such other powers and duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Board; and (f) meeting with significant shareholders, as appropriate. The Lead Independent Director also has the authority to call executive sessions of the independent directors.

**3. Executive Sessions of Independent Directors.** The independent members of the Board meet separately without management at each regularly-scheduled Board meeting and at such other times as called by the Lead Independent Director to discuss such matters as they deem appropriate.

**4. Attendance at Board Meetings.** The Board has five (5) regularly scheduled meetings each year, plus special meetings, as required. Board members are expected to prepare for, attend and participate in meetings of the Board and of committees on which they serve. Directors are expected to attend at least 75% of the aggregate number of Board meetings and meetings of committees on which they serve, absent special circumstances. Each Board member makes every effort to attend each Board or committee meeting, as appropriate, in person but in special circumstances via telephone conference call or other electronic means.

**5. Selection of Agenda for Board Meetings.** The Chairman of the Board establishes the agenda for each Board meeting, taking into account suggestions from other Board members. The Chairman of the Board also consults with the chief executive officer (unless the two offices are held by the same person) and the Lead Independent Director (if a Lead Independent Director has been elected) in setting the agenda. Certain continuing oversight responsibilities should have priority on the agenda, given the Company's focus on preserving and increasing stockholder value, including reviewing Company strategy and performance, accounting and financial controls, ethical business practices and legal compliance, financial structure, management oversight, and preservation of assets.

**6. Distribution of Board Materials.** To the extent practicable, information and data that is pertinent to the Board's understanding of matters on the agenda are distributed in writing and/or electronically to the members of the Board prior to the Board meetings in order to ensure adequate review.

**7. Board Minutes.** The Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company records minutes of all meetings of the Board and stockholders. In the absence or incapacity of the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary, the Chairman of the Board may designate a director or outside counsel for the Company to record the minutes of meetings of the Board or stockholders.

**8. Time Commitment and Board Service.** Each Board member is expected to arrange his or her other existing and planned future commitments so that they do not materially interfere with such member's service on the Board. No director sits on the board of directors of more than four public companies (in addition to membership on the Board), or two public companies in the case of a director serving as a chief executive officer of a public company (which includes membership on the Board), without the approval of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Service on the boards of subsidiary companies with no publicly traded stock, non-profit organizations and non-public for-profit organizations is not included in this calculation. Moreover, if a director sits on several mutual fund boards within the same fund family, it will count as one board for purposes of this calculation. In addition, directors should advise the Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee in advance of accepting an invitation to serve on the board of another for-profit organization.

**9. Conflicts of Interest.**

- *Director Conflicts of Interest.* Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee – after consulting with counsel if it deems necessary or appropriate – evaluates and makes recommendations with respect to actual or potential conflicts of interest involving directors.

- *Executive Officer Conflicts of Interest.* Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board, the Audit Committee – after consulting with counsel if it deems necessary or appropriate – evaluates and makes recommendations with respect to actual or potential conflicts of interest involving executive officers.

**10. Code of Conduct.** Members of the Board shall act at all times in accordance with the requirements of the Company’s Code of Conduct, as amended or revised from time to time. This obligation shall at all times include, without limitation, adherence to the Company’s policies with respect to conflicts of interest, confidentiality, protection of the Company’s assets, ethical conduct in business dealings and respect for and compliance with applicable law. Any waivers of the Company’s Code of Conduct, as applicable to the Company’s directors, principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller or persons performing similar functions must be approved by the Company’s Board. The Board – after consulting with counsel if the Board deems necessary or appropriate – shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether a waiver should be granted for any action that is contrary to the Code of Conduct. If the Board determines that a waiver of the Code of Conduct is warranted, the Company shall publicly disclose the nature of such waiver as required under applicable rules, regulations and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Board has delegated to the Compliance Officer responsibility for monitoring compliance with the Code of Conduct by other officers and employees of the Company.

**11. Availability of Outside Advisors.** The Board and its committees may retain outside advisors (legal, accounting, investment banking, compensation and any others as deemed necessary or appropriate) of their choosing at the Company’s expense. The Board or its committees need not obtain management’s consent to retain outside advisors.

**12. Access to Information and Employees.** The Board and its committees have complete, unfettered access to any information about the Company that the Board and its committees deem necessary or appropriate to carry out their duties. This includes, among other things, access to the Company’s employees (executive officers, in particular), documents and the Company’s facilities. The Board and its committees should use their business judgment to ensure that any such contact with the Company’s employees is not unduly distracting to the Company’s business operations.

**13. Director Orientation.** The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee oversees the director orientation process. The chief executive officer, chief financial officer and the general counsel are responsible for the orientation of new directors, and for periodically providing materials or briefing sessions for all directors on subjects that would assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities. Each new director shall, within six months of election to the Board, attend a briefing by the executive officers on the Company’s strategic plans, its financial statements, and its key policies and practices.

**14. Board Evaluation.** The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for overseeing an annual evaluation of the performance of the full Board and of each committee and shall report its conclusions to the Board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee’s report should generally include an assessment of the Board’s compliance with these Corporate Governance Principles and The Nasdaq Stock Market Rules, as

well as identification of areas in which the Board could improve its performance. In addition, the Lead Independent Director (if a Lead Independent Director has been elected) solicits comments and feedback from each director on the operation of the Board and its committees and areas for improvement.

**15. Chief Executive Officer Evaluation.** The independent directors of the Board perform a formal evaluation of the chief executive officer at least annually. The Lead Independent Director, or the Chairman, if a Lead Independent Director has not been elected, reports the results of the evaluation to the chief executive officer.

**16. Succession Plan.** The Board periodically reviews and assesses the status of the succession plans, including the emergency succession plans, for the chief executive officer and the management development plans. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee develops the chief executive officer succession planning process and recommends such process to the Board. If the Board commences a search for candidates from outside the Company to succeed the chief executive officer, the pool from which the Board selects a candidate includes female and racially/ethnically diverse candidates, and any third-party search firm that the Board engages is instructed to include female and racially/ethnically diverse candidates in such pool as well.

**17. Strategic Planning.** The Board reviews the Company's long-term strategic plan at least annually and monitors implementation of the strategic plan throughout the year.

**18. Communication with the Board.** Every stockholder has the ability to communicate with the Board as a whole and with individual members of the Board through the Company's established process for stockholder communication. Stockholders may communicate with the Board electronically by sending an e-mail to the following address: [bod@verisign.com](mailto:bod@verisign.com). Alternatively, a stockholder may contact the Board by writing to: Board of Directors, VeriSign, Inc., 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, VA 20190, Attention: Secretary. Communications received through these methods will be distributed to the Chairman of the Board or to other members of the Board, as appropriate, based on the facts and circumstances outlined in the communication received.

**19. Periodic Review.** The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee conducts a periodic review of these Corporate Governance Principles, as well as considers other corporate governance principles that may, from time to time, merit the Board's consideration. The full Board approves any changes made to these Corporate Governance Principles, provided, however, that to the extent the Board or a committee of the Board has approved actions which update information contained in these Corporate Governance Principles, these Corporate Governance Principles are deemed to have been automatically amended by such Board or committee actions and such actions are incorporated into these Corporate Governance Principles.

**20. Change of Circumstances.** If a director experiences a significant change (including retirement) in the principal occupation or business association of such director previously disclosed (or which would otherwise be required to be disclosed) in the Company's Proxy Statement per the requirements of Item 401 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the director promptly notifies the Chairman of the Board and/or the

Executive Chairman and/or the Secretary. The notified party then promptly notifies the Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Upon the receipt of such notification, the Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee evaluates whether the change warrants review by the full Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. If review by the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is warranted, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will decide what recommendation to make to the Board, if any.

**21. Liaison to Safety and Security Council.** Management charters a Safety and Security Council (the “Council”) to see that the Company’s safety and security functions are effective and performed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. The Council provides strategic direction and oversight for initiatives to minimize cyber, physical and other security risks to the Company. The Council, which is composed of executives of the Company, is chaired by the Company’s chief executive officer. The Board appoints a member of the Board to serve as the Board’s liaison to the Council. The liaison participates in Council meetings and receives regular, scheduled briefings from Council members regarding safety and security matters. The Board reviews and discusses the activities of the Council with the liaison at each scheduled Board meeting.

## ***E. BOARD COMMITTEES***

**1. Number of Committees.** The Board has three (3) standing committees: Audit, Compensation, and Corporate Governance and Nominating. From time to time, the Board may form a new Board committee or disband a current Board committee depending upon the circumstances. Each of these committees is governed by a written charter approved by the Board and by the respective committee.

**2. Appointment and Term of Service of Committee Members.** The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee recommends nominees for Board committees. The Board appoints Board committee members and Board committee chairs (if any), who shall serve until the Board appoints a successor. Each of the Audit, Compensation and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committees consists solely of independent directors. Additionally, the members of the Audit and Compensation Committees also meet the additional applicable requirements for independence under the Securities and Exchange Commission, The Nasdaq Stock Market Rules and any tax rules applicable to such committees.

### **3. Committee Procedures.**

- **Committee Charters.** Each Board committee has its own charter, which sets forth the role and responsibilities of the committee as well as qualifications for committee membership. Annually or periodically, as set forth in the committee’s charter, each Board committee reviews its existing committee charter and determines whether any amendments are required. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee also periodically reviews each committee charter and approves any amendments.

- **Meetings.** The Chair of each Board committee determines the frequency and length of the committee’s meetings in consultation with the committee’s members and consistent with any requirements set forth in the committee’s charter. Special meetings are called from time to time, as necessary. All Board members are welcome to attend Board

committee meetings, unless such attendance will present a conflict of interest.

- **Agenda and Reports.** The Chair of each Board committee develops the committee's agenda, if any, in consultation with the committee's members and any other interested persons. Any agendas and meeting minutes of the Board committees are shared with the full Board (if requested). Unless the full Board is present for a committee meeting, Board committee members report to the Board on significant matters discussed by the committee pursuant to their respective charters or as they deem appropriate.

- **Distribution of Committee Materials.** To the extent practicable, Board committee materials, if any, are distributed to members of the committee in advance of any committee meetings to permit adequate preparation.

## ***F. COMPENSATION***

**1. General Philosophy.** The Company's general compensation philosophy for its officers is that total compensation should vary with the Company's performance in achieving financial and non-financial objectives, and that any long-term incentive compensation should be closely aligned with stockholders' interests. In addition, for officers and directors, the Company has established a stock retention policy that may be found on the Company's website at <https://investor.verisign.com/corporate-governance/governance-policies>.

**2. Components.** It is the Board's intention to structure officer compensation with the foregoing philosophy in mind. The Compensation Committee, with the advice of its outside consultant, is responsible for the Company's director and executive compensation programs. For officers, the Company's compensation programs include a base salary that is competitive with that of the Company's identified peer group used for benchmarking executive compensation. In addition, a portion of officer compensation will continue to be focused on pay-for-performance through the combination of equity awards and cash incentive compensation tied to, among other things, company and individual performance. For directors, the Compensation Committee sets director compensation levels at or near the market median relative to directors at companies in the peer group so that directors are paid competitively for their time commitment and responsibilities.