IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

In re:	)	Chapter 11
ASCEND ELEMENTS, INC. *et al.*,[1]	)	Case No. 26-90440 (CML)
Debtors.	)	(Jointly Administered)

NOTICE OF NON-VOTING STATUS TO HOLDERS OF IMPAIRED CLAIMS AND INTERESTS CONCLUSIVELY DEEMED TO REJECT THE PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT:

On April 9, 2026 (the "***Petition Date***"), Ascend Elements, Inc. and its affiliated debtors and debtors-in-possession each filed a voluntary petition for relief under the Bankruptcy Code. On July 8, 2026, the Debtors filed the *Combined Disclosure Statement and Joint Plan of Liquidation for Ascend Elements, Inc., et al*. [Docket No. **570**] (the "***Combined Disclosure Statement and Plan***" or, separately in relevant part, the "***Disclosure Statement***" or the "***Plan***," as applicable).[2]

By an order dated July 15, 2026 (the "***Disclosure Statement Order***"), the Court conditionally approved the Disclosure Statement as containing adequate information within the meaning of section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Disclosure Statement Order expressly reserves all parties' rights to raise objections to final approval of the adequacy of the information in the Disclosure Statement.

On **August 17, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time), subject to the Court's availability**, a hearing will be held before the Honorable Christopher M. Lopez in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas, 515 Rusk Street, 4th Floor, Courtroom 402, Houston, TX 77002, to consider final approval of the Disclosure Statement and Confirmation of the Plan, as the same may be amended or modified (the "***Combined Hearing***"). The Combined Hearing may be adjourned from time to time.

Non-Voting Status. You are receiving this notice (this "***Notice***") because of the nature and treatment of your Claim or Interest under the Plan. ***You are not entitled to vote on the Plan.*** Specifically, under the terms of the Plan, as a Holder of a Claim (as currently asserted against the Debtors) or Interest in the Debtors that is Impaired and conclusively deemed to have rejected the Plan pursuant to section 1126(g) of the Bankruptcy Code, you are ***not*** entitled to vote on the Plan. If, notwithstanding this Notice of your non-voting status, you believe that

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Ascend Elements, Inc. (2893) and Ascend Elements US, LLC (8309). The location of the Debtors' service address is: 133 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

[2] All capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Combined Disclosure Statement and Plan.

you may have a Claim against or Interest in the Debtors that entitles you to vote on the Plan, you should immediately request the appropriate Ballot by contacting the Solicitation Agent.

Objection Deadline. The deadline for filing objections to confirmation of the Plan and final approval of the Disclosure Statement is August 14, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) (the "*Objection Deadline*"). Any objection to the relief sought at the Combined Hearing must: (a) be in writing; (b) comply with the Bankruptcy Rules and the Local Rules; (c) state, with particularity, the legal and factual bases for the objection and, if practicable, a proposed modification to the Plan (or related materials) that would resolve such objection; and (d) be served on the Objection Notice Parties and filed with the Court on or before the Objection Deadline.

Administrative Claims Bar Date. The deadline for Holders of Administrative Claims, other than Professional Fee Claims and Section 503(b)(9) Claims, to file and serve an application for allowance of an Administrative Claim shall be **thirty (30) days after the Effective Date** (the "***Administrative Claims Bar Date***").

Copies. If you wish to receive paper copies of the Combined Disclosure Statement and Plan, they will be provided as **soon** as practicable upon request to Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC d/b/a Verita Global **(the** "***Solicitation Agent***") **through** the Solicitation Agent's website at https://www.veritaglobal.net/ascend**. The Combined Disclosure Statement** and **Plan is also** on file with the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas and may be reviewed during the regular hours of the Court or online through the Court's website at https://www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/bankruptcy-court.

ARTICLE XIII OF THE PLAN CONTAINS RELEASE, EXCULPATION, AND INJUNCTION PROVISIONS, AND ARTICLE XIII.E CONTAINS A THIRD-PARTY RELEASE. HOLDERS OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS THAT WISH TO PROVIDE THE RELEASES SET FORTH IN ARTICLE XIII.E MUST AFFIRMATIVELY ELECT TO OPT IN TO THOSE RELEASES ON THE ENCLOSED FORM. HOLDERS OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS THAT DO NOT TIMELY OPT IN SHALL NOT BE RELEASING PARTIES ON ACCOUNT OF SUCH CLAIMS OR INTERESTS. YOU ARE ADVISED TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE PLAN CAREFULLY BECAUSE YOUR RIGHTS MIGHT BE AFFECTED THEREUNDER. THIS NOTICE IS BEING SENT TO YOU FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

Houston, Texas
Dated: July 15, 2026

/s/ Ryan Manns

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OPTIONAL: RELEASE OPT-IN FORM

You are receiving this opt-in form (the "***Opt-In Form***") because you are a Holder of a Claim or Interest that is not entitled to vote on the *Combined Disclosure Statement and Joint Plan of Liquidation for Ascend Elements, Inc., et al*. (as may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time and including all exhibits and supplements thereto, the "***Plan***"). Holders of Claims or Interests that wish to provide the third-party release (the "***Third-Party Release***") set forth in the Plan and reproduced in this notice may affirmatively opt in to such releases by completing and returning this form in accordance with the directions herein on or before **4:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) on August 14, 2026** (the "***Opt-In Deadline***"). Holders that do not timely opt in shall not be Releasing Parties on account of such Claims or Interests.

If you believe you are a Holder of a Claim or Interest with respect to the Debtors and choose to opt in to the Third-Party Release set forth in Article XIII.E of the Plan, please promptly complete, sign, and date this Opt-In Form and return it via first class mail, overnight courier, the Solicitation Agent's online E-Ballot, or hand delivery to Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC d/b/a Verita Global (the "***Solicitation Agent***") at the address set forth below. Holders are strongly encouraged to submit their Opt-In Form through the Solicitation Agent's online E-Ballot. Parties that submit their Opt-In Form using E-Ballot should **NOT** also submit a paper Opt-In Form.

THIS OPT-IN FORM MUST BE ACTUALLY RECEIVED BY THE SOLICITATION AGENT BY THE OPT-IN DEADLINE. IF THE OPT-IN FORM IS RECEIVED AFTER THE OPT-IN DEADLINE, IT WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

Item 1. Important information regarding the Third-Party Release.

Article XIII.E of the Plan contains the following Third-Party

Release:

As of the Effective Date, in exchange for good and valuable consideration, including the obligations of the Debtors under the Plan, to the fullest extent permissible under applicable law, as such law may be extended or integrated after the Effective Date, each of the Releasing Parties, in each case on behalf of itself and its respective successors, assigns, and representatives, and any and all other Entities who may purport to assert any Cause of Action, directly or derivatively, by, through, for, or because of the foregoing Entities, will be deemed to have conclusively, absolutely, unconditionally, irrevocably, and forever released and discharged each Debtor and other Released Party from any and all Causes of Action, whether known or unknown, that such Entity would have been legally entitled to assert in its own right (whether individually or collectively) or on behalf of the Holder of any Claim against, or Interest in, a Debtor or other Entity, based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, the Debtors (including the governance, management, ownership or operation thereof), the Debtors' capital structure, the assertion or enforcement of rights and remedies against the Debtors, the Debtors' in- or out-of-court restructuring efforts, intercompany transactions between or among the Debtors and/or their Affiliates, the purchase, sale, or rescission of the purchase or sale of any security of the Debtors or the GUC Trust, as applicable, and the ownership thereof, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any Claim or Interest

that is treated in the Plan, the business or contractual arrangements between any Debtor and any Released Party, the Cash Collateral Orders, the Prepetition Note Documents, the applicable asset purchase agreements, and the sale transactions, the Chapter 11 Cases and any related adversary proceedings and related prepetition activities, the formulation, preparation, dissemination, negotiation, filing, or consummation of the Plan, or any contract, instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the Cash Collateral Orders, the Prepetition Note Documents, the applicable asset purchase agreements, the sale transactions, the Disclosure Statement, the Plan, or the Plan Supplement, the Debtors' restructuring efforts, the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases, the pursuit of Confirmation, the pursuit of Consummation, the administration and implementation of the Plan, including providing any legal opinion requested by any Entity regarding any transaction, contract, instrument, document, or other agreement contemplated by the Plan or the reliance by any Released Party on the Plan or the Confirmation Order in lieu of such legal opinion, any action or actions taken in furtherance or consistent with administration of the Plan, the issuance or distribution of any debt and/or securities pursuant to the Plan, or the distribution of property under the Plan or any other related agreement, or upon any other related act or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence taking place on or before the Effective Date. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the releases set forth above do not release (a) any obligations of any Entity arising on or after the Effective Date under the Plan, the Confirmation Order, any applicable asset purchase agreement, any restructuring transaction, any assumed executory contract or unexpired lease, or any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement the Plan or an applicable section 363 asset sale, (b) any Entity from any claim or Causes of Action related to an act or omission that is determined in a Final Order by a court of competent jurisdiction to have constituted actual fraud, willful misconduct, or gross negligence by such Entity, or (c) any of the Debtors' commercial tort claims and Avoidance Actions transferred to the GUC Trust, or (d) the Debtors of their obligations under the Cash Collateral Orders to the Prepetition Secured Parties.

Entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019, of the releases by Holders of Claims and Interests set forth in this Article XIII.E, which includes by reference each of the related provisions and definitions contained herein, and, further, shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's finding that such releases are: (1) in exchange for the good and valuable consideration provided by the Released Parties; (2) a good faith settlement and compromise of the Claims and Causes of Action released by such releases; (3) in the best interests of the Debtors and their Estates; (4) fair, equitable and reasonable; (5) given and made after due notice and opportunity for hearing; (6) an essential component of the Plan; and (7) a bar to any of the Releasing Parties asserting any Claim or Cause of Action released pursuant to such releases. For the avoidance of doubt, the Non-Released Parties are not Released Parties and are not subject to the releases set forth in this Article XIII.E.

* * *

UNDER THE PLAN, "***RELEASED PARTY***" MEANS, COLLECTIVELY, AND IN EACH CASE ONLY IN ITS CAPACITY AS SUCH: (I) EACH OF THE DEBTORS; (II) THE CRO; (III) THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE; (IV) THE PROFESSIONALS; (V) THE COMMITTEE IN ITS CAPACITY AS SUCH; (VI) EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE; (VII)

EACH OF THE PREPETITION SECURED PARTIES, SOLELY IN THEIR CAPACITIES AS SUCH; AND (VIII) WITH RESPECT TO EACH OF THE FOREGOING ENTITIES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (I) THROUGH (VII), EACH OF SUCH ENTITY'S RELATED PARTIES, IN EACH CASE OTHER THAN THE NON-RELEASED PARTIES.

UNDER THE PLAN, "***RELEASING PARTY***" MEANS, COLLECTIVELY, AND IN EACH CASE ONLY IN ITS CAPACITY AS SUCH: (I) THE RELEASED PARTIES; (II) EACH CONSENTING CREDITOR; AND (III) WITH RESPECT TO EACH OF THE FOREGOING ENTITIES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (I) THROUGH (II), EACH OF SUCH ENTITY'S RELATED PARTIES FOR WHICH SUCH ENTITY IS LEGALLY ENTITLED TO BIND SUCH RELATED PARTY TO THE RELEASES CONTAINED IN THIS COMBINED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND PLAN UNDER APPLICABLE NON-BANKRUPTCY LAW; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PREPETITION SECURED PARTIES AND THEIR RELATED PARTIES SHALL ONLY BE CONSIDERED A RELEASING PARTY TO THE EXTENT SUCH PERSON OR ENTITY (I) TIMELY AND AFFIRMATIVELY ELECTS ON THE APPLICABLE BALLOT OR NOTICE OF NON-VOTING STATUS TO OPT IN TO THE RELEASES SET FORTH IN THE PLAN AND (II) DOES NOT TIMELY OBJECT TO THE PLAN IN RESPECT OF THE RELEASES CONTAINED THEREIN IN A MANNER THAT IS NOT WITHDRAWN OR OTHERWISE RESOLVED BEFORE CONFIRMATION.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE RELEASES

HOLDERS OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS THAT WISH TO PROVIDE THE RELEASES SET FORTH IN ARTICLE XIII.E MUST AFFIRMATIVELY ELECT TO OPT IN ON THIS FORM. HOLDERS THAT DO NOT TIMELY OPT IN SHALL NOT BE RELEASING PARTIES ON ACCOUNT OF SUCH CLAIMS OR INTERESTS.

THE ELECTION TO GRANT THE THIRD-PARTY RELEASE IS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY. IF YOU CHECK THE BOX BELOW AND PROPERLY SUBMIT THIS OPT-IN FORM BY THE OPT-IN DEADLINE, YOU WILL BE TREATED AS A RELEASING PARTY UNDER THE PLAN ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR CLAIM OR INTEREST, UNLESS YOU TIMELY FILE AN OBJECTION TO THE RELEASES CONTAINED IN THE PLAN AND THAT OBJECTION IS NOT RESOLVED BEFORE CONFIRMATION. IF YOU DO NOT CHECK THE BOX BELOW, YOU WILL NOT BE A RELEASING PARTY ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR CLAIM OR INTEREST, BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE THE SAME TREATMENT ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR CLAIM OR INTEREST UNDER THE PLAN.

OPTIONAL RELEASE ELECTION. YOU MAY ELECT TO OPT IN TO THE THIRD-PARTY RELEASE CONTAINED IN ARTICLE XIII.E OF THE PLAN ONLY IF YOU CHECK THE BOX BELOW:

☐ **The Undersigned Holder of the Claim or Interest elects to OPT IN to the Third-Party Release.**

Item 2. Certifications.

By signing this Opt-In Form, the undersigned certifies to the Court and the Debtors that:

a. as of the Voting Record Date, either: (i) the Entity is the Holder of a Claim or Interest; or (ii) the Entity is an authorized signatory for the Entity that is a Holder of a Claim or Interest;

b. the Entity (or in the case of an authorized signatory, the Holder) has received a copy of the Notice of Non-Voting Status to Holders of Claims and Interests Conclusively Presumed to Reject the Plan and that this Opt-In Form is made pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth therein;

c. the Entity has submitted the same respective election concerning the releases with respect to all Claims or Interests in a single Class; and

d. no other Opt-In Form has been submitted or, if any other Opt-In Forms have been submitted with respect to such Claims or Interests, then any such earlier Opt-In Forms are hereby revoked.

Name of Holder: _____
(Print or Type)

Signature: _____

Name of Signatory: _____
(If other than Holder)

Title: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Date Completed: _____

IF YOU HAVE MADE THE OPTIONAL OPT-IN ELECTION, PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, AND DATE THIS OPT-IN FORM AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY BY ONLY ONE OF THE METHODS BELOW:

If by First-Class Mail, Hand Delivery, or Overnight Mail:
Ascend Ballot Processing Center
c/o KCC dba Verita Global
222 N Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 300
El Segundo, CA 90245

By electronic, online submission:

Please visit https://www.veritaglobal.net/ascend. Click on the "E-Ballot" section of the Debtors' website and follow the directions to submit your Opt-In Form. If you choose to submit your Opt-

In Form via the Solicitation Agent's E-Ballot system, you should not also return a hard copy of your Opt-In Form.
IMPORTANT NOTE: You will need the following information to retrieve and submit your customized electronic Opt-In Form: **Unique E-Ballot ID: _____** **Unique E-Ballot Password: _____** "E-Balloting" is the sole manner in which this Opt-In Form will be accepted via electronic or online transmission. Opt-In Forms submitted by facsimile or email will not be counted.
THE OPT-IN DEADLINE IS AUGUST 14, 2026 AT 4:00 P.M. (PREVAILING CENTRAL TIME). THE SOLICITATION AGENT MUST *ACTUALLY RECEIVE* YOUR OPT-IN ELECTION ON OR BEFORE THE OPT-IN DEADLINE.