Pandora Media, Inc. Form DEF 14A April 22, 2016

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

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- ý Definitive Proxy Statement
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Pandora Media, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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 - (3) Filing Party:
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Pandora Media, Inc. 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1650 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 451-4100 Dear Stockholder:

We cordially invite you to attend the Pandora Media, Inc. 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be held on June 1, 2016 at Cathedral of Christ the Light Event Center, Conference Room C, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612 at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time. The attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement contain details of the business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will vote on a number of important matters.

Our Annual Report to Stockholders includes our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015, along with a discussion and analysis of our financial results. Please take the time to review our Annual Report and to read carefully each of the proposals described in the attached Proxy Statement.

Whether or not you attend the Annual Meeting, it is important that your shares be represented and voted at the meeting. Therefore, I urge you to promptly vote and submit your proxy via the Internet, or if you have elected to receive printed proxy materials, you may vote by phone or by signing, dating, and returning the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed envelope. If you decide to attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote in person. Please see the sections "If I am a stockholder of record of Pandora shares, how do I vote?" and "If I am the beneficial owner of Pandora shares held in street name, how do I vote?" in the Proxy Statement for additional instructions on how to vote your shares. You may submit questions in advance of the Annual Meeting by email to shareholder@pandora.com, and we will respond to as many inquiries as time allows.

We will be using the "Notice and Access" method of providing proxy materials to stockholders via the Internet. This process will provide stockholders with a convenient and quick way to access the proxy materials and vote, while allowing us to conserve natural resources and reduce the costs of printing and distributing the proxy materials. We will mail on or about April 22, 2016 to many of our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access our Proxy Statement and our Annual Report, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K, and vote electronically via the Internet. This notice will also contain instructions on how to receive a paper copy of your proxy materials. All stockholders who do not receive a notice will receive a paper copy of the proxy materials by email.

We will provide a live webcast of the Annual Meeting from the Pandora Investor Relations website at http://investor.pandora.com. A transcript along with the audio of the entire Annual Meeting will be available on the Investor Relations website shortly after the meeting. We hope this webcast will allow those of you who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting in person to hear Pandora Media, Inc. executives discuss our results for the year ended December 31, 2015. In addition, we make available at our Investor Relations website free of charge a variety of information for investors. Our goal is to maintain the Investor Relations website as a portal through which investors can easily find or navigate to pertinent information about us.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and ownership of Pandora Media, Inc. Respectfully,

Tim
Westergren
Chief
Executive
Officer,
Founder and
Director
April 22,
2016

Pandora Media, Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 1, 2016

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

The 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Pandora Media, Inc. will be held on June 1, 2016, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time, at Cathedral of Christ the Light Event Center, Conference Room C, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612, for the following purposes:

To elect one Class I director to serve until our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and three Class II directors to 1. serve until our 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or, in each case, until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified;

2. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016;

To consider and act upon a Company proposal to amend our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to impose certain ownership restrictions on our stock in order to comply with the conditions set forth in the Declaratory Ruling issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on May 1, 2015 in connection with our acquisition of the license to operate the FM radio station KXMZ; and

4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

These items of business are more fully described in the proxy statement accompanying this notice. Our board of directors has fixed the close of business on April 6, 2016 as the record date for determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any postponements or adjournments of the meeting. We will mail to our stockholders of record and beneficial owners on or about April 22, 2016 a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access our proxy statement, our Annual Report, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, via the Internet and how to vote online. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials also contains instructions on how you can receive a paper copy of the proxy materials.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting To Be Held on June 1, 2016: This proxy statement, along with our Annual Report, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, are available on the following website: http://investor.pandora.com in the "Annual Report and Proxy" section.

All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting in person. However, to assure your representation at the meeting, please vote as soon as possible.

By order of the board of directors.

Stephen
Bené
General
Counsel
and
Corporate
Secretary

Oakland,
California
April 22,
2016

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Pandora Media, Inc. 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1650 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 451-4100

PROXY STATEMENT FOR 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

The enclosed proxy is solicited on behalf of the board of directors of Pandora Media, Inc. ("Pandora") for use at our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or at any postponement or adjournment of the meeting ("Annual Meeting").

These proxy solicitation materials are first being made available on or about April 22, 2016, together with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 ("Annual Report"), to all stockholders of record at the close of business on April 6, 2016.

ABOUT THE MEETING

When and where is the meeting being held?

Our Annual Meeting is being held on June 1, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time at Cathedral of Christ the Light Event Center, Conference Room C, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

At our Annual Meeting, stockholders will act on the matters outlined in the notice of Annual Meeting on the cover page of this proxy statement, namely,

the election of one Class I director to serve until our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and three Class II directors to serve until our 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or, in each case, until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified;

the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016;

the amendment of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation; and

any other matters that may properly be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Who is entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting?

You are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at our Annual Meeting (and any postponements or adjournments of the meeting) if our records indicate that you owned shares of our common stock at the close of business on April 6, 2016, the record date for the meeting. At the close of business on that date, 228,750,220 shares of our common stock

were outstanding and entitled to vote. You are entitled to one vote for each share held and you may vote on each matter to come before the meeting.

Why did I receive a notice in the mail regarding Internet availability of proxy materials instead of a paper copy of printed materials?

We are permitted to furnish proxy materials, including this proxy statement and our Annual Report, to our stockholders by providing access to such documents on the Internet instead of mailing printed copies. On or about April 22, 2016, we will mail to our stockholders of record and beneficial owners a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") containing instructions on how to access this proxy statement and our Annual Report via the Internet and how to vote online. As a result, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials in the mail unless you request a copy. All stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on a website referred to in the Notice and may request a printed

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set of the proxy materials by mail or electronically from such website. If you would like to receive a printed or electronic copy of our proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice. By participating in the e-proxy process, we will save money on the cost of printing and mailing documents to you and reduce the impact of our Annual Meeting on the environment.

What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner of shares held in "street name"?

Stockholder of Record. If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., you are considered the stockholder of record with respect to those shares, and the Notice will be sent directly to you. As our stockholder of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy directly to us or to vote in person at the Annual Meeting. We have enclosed a proxy card for your vote.

Beneficial Owner of Shares Held in Street Name. If your shares are held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, broker-dealer, or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in "street name," and the Notice will be forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct that organization on how to vote the shares held in your account. You are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the Annual Meeting unless you request, complete and deliver the proper documentation provided by your broker, bank or other holder of record and bring it with you to the meeting.

What is "householding" and how does it affect me?

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries (e.g., brokers) to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as "householding," can provide extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

This year, a number of brokers with account holders who are Pandora stockholders may be "householding" our proxy materials. A single proxy statement may be delivered to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker that it will be "householding" communications to your address, "householding" will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you notify your broker or us that you no longer wish to participate in "householding."

If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in "householding" and would prefer to receive a separate proxy statement and annual report, you may (1) notify your broker, (2) direct your written request to: Pandora Media, Inc., 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1650, Oakland, California 94612, Attention: Investor Relations or (3) contact our Investor Relations department by telephone at (510) 842-6960. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the proxy statement at their address and would like to request "householding" of their communications should contact their broker. In addition, we will promptly deliver, upon written or oral request made to the address or telephone number above, a separate copy of the annual report and proxy statement to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the documents was delivered.

If I am a stockholder of record of Pandora shares, how do I vote?

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting or by proxy on the Internet, by telephone or by mail, all as described below. We recommend that you vote by proxy even if you plan to attend the

Annual Meeting so that your vote will be counted even if you later decide not to attend the meeting. You can always change your vote at the meeting. The Internet and telephone voting procedures are designed to authenticate stockholders and to allow you to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded. If you vote by telephone or on the Internet, you do not need to return a written proxy card by mail. The Internet and telephone voting facilities will close at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 31, 2016.

By Internet: You may submit your proxy over the Internet by going to www.proxyvote.com and completing an electronic proxy card in accordance with the instructions provided on the proxy card.

By Telephone: If you have elected to receive printed proxy materials, you may submit your proxy by telephone in accordance with the instructions provided on the proxy card.

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By Mail: If you have elected to receive printed proxy materials, you may choose to vote by mail by marking your proxy card, dating and signing it and returning it in the postage-paid envelope provided by following the instructions on the proxy card. If the envelope is missing, please mail your completed proxy card to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717. Please allow sufficient time for mailing if you decide to vote by mail.

In Person: You may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. We will give you a ballot when you arrive.

If I am the beneficial owner of Pandora shares held in street name, how do I vote?

If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting (subject to obtaining a "legal proxy" as described below) or by proxy on the Internet, by telephone or by mail, by following the voting instructions you will receive from the holder of record, which is the brokerage firm, bank, broker dealer, or other similar organization holding your shares. You must follow these voting instructions to vote your shares. Since a beneficial owner is not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting unless you obtain a "legal proxy" from the holder of record (your broker, bank, trustee, or nominee that holds your shares) giving you the right to vote the shares at the meeting.

Can I change my vote after I have voted?

You may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the proxy is exercised at the Annual Meeting. If you are a stockholder of record of Pandora shares, you may change your vote by submitting another proxy on a later date on the Internet or by telephone (only your latest Internet or telephone proxy submitted prior to the meeting will be counted), or by signing and returning a new proxy card with a later date, or by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. Your attendance at the Annual Meeting will not automatically revoke your proxy unless you vote again at the meeting or specifically request in writing that your prior proxy be revoked by providing a written notice of revocation to our Corporate Secretary at Pandora Media, Inc., 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1650, Oakland, California 94612, Attention: Corporate Secretary. If you are a beneficial owner of Pandora shares, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to the holder of record (your broker, bank, trustee, or nominee that holds your shares) following the instructions they provided or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from the holder of record (your broker, bank, trustee, or nominee that holds your shares) giving you the right to vote your shares, by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

What if I don't give specific voting instructions?

Stockholders of Record: If you are a stockholder of record and you indicate that you wish to vote as recommended by our board of directors, or you return a signed proxy card but do not specify how you wish to vote, then your shares will be voted "FOR" all of the director nominees, "FOR" Proposal 2 and "FOR" Proposal 3. If you indicate a choice with respect to any matter to be acted upon on your proxy card, your shares will be voted in accordance with your instructions on such matter.

Beneficial Owner of Pandora Shares Held in Street Name: If you are a beneficial owner of Pandora shares held in street name and do not provide the organization that holds your shares with voting instructions, your broker, bank, trustee or other nominee will vote your shares only on those proposals on which it has discretion to vote; if your broker, bank, trustee or nominee does not have discretion to vote, your returned proxy will be considered a "broker non-vote." Broker non-votes will be considered as represented for purposes of determining a quorum but are not counted for purposes of determining the number of votes cast with respect to a particular proposal. Your broker, bank, trustee or nominee does not have discretion to vote your shares on the non-routine matters such as the election of

directors (Proposal 1) or the amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (Proposal 3). However, we believe your broker or nominee does have discretion to vote your shares on routine matters such as the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2).

What constitutes a quorum?

The meeting will be held if a majority of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding on the record date are present at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by proxy. This is called a quorum for the transaction of business. On the record date, there were 228,750,220 shares of common stock issued and outstanding. Accordingly, the presence (either in person or by proxy) of the holders of common stock representing at least 114,375,111 shares will be required to establish a quorum.

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Your shares will be counted for purposes of determining if there is a quorum if you properly cast your vote in person at the meeting, electronically or telephonically, or if a proxy card has been properly submitted by you or on your behalf. Votes "for" and "against," and proxies received but marked as "abstentions" and "broker non-votes" will each be counted as present for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.