#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20549

### SCHEDULE 14A (Rule 14a-101) INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant  $\square$ Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  $\square$ Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- □ Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- □ Soliciting Material Under §240.14a-12

# THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter) (Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- $\square$  No fee required.
- $\Box$  Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

- □ Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- □ Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
  - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  - (3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:



THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY ATTENTION: HEATHER L. MICOZZI 1500 N. MANTUA ST. KENT, OH 44240

# Your Vote Counts!

#### THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY

2021 Annual Meeting of Sharesholders Vote by May 17, 2021 11:59 PM EDT. For shares held in the 401K Plan, vote by May 13, 2021 11:59 PM EDT.



D47912-P53682

## You hold shares in THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY and it's time to vote!

You have the right to vote on proposals being presented at the Annual Meeting. This is an important notice regarding the availability of proxy material for the shareholder meeting to be held on May 18, 2021.

### Get informed before you vote

View the Notice, Proxy Statement, Annual Report and Form 10-K online OR you can receive a free paper or email copy of the material(s) by requesting prior to May 4, 2021. If you would like to request a copy of the material(s) for this and/or future shareholder meetings, you may (1) visit www.ProxyVote.com, (2) call 1-800-579-1639 or (3) send an email to sendmaterial@proxyvote.com. If sending an email, please include your control number (indicated below) in the subject line. Unless requested, you will not otherwise receive a paper or email copy. **PLEASE RETAIN AFTER VOTING. CONTROL NUMBER IS NEEDED TO ACCESS THE VIRTUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING.** 



\*Please check the meeting materials for any special requirements for meeting attendance.

## Vote at www.ProxyVote.com

# THIS IS NOT A VOTABLE BALLOT

This is an overview of the proposals being presented at the upcoming shareholder meeting. Please follow the instructions on the reverse side to vote these important matters.

### The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR ALL nominees listed on Proposal 1 and FOR Proposal 2.

Voting Items	Board Recommends
1. To elect Donald C. Brown, Catherine M. Kilbane and Karl J. Warnke as Directors, to serve until the Company' Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified, and t Thomas A. Haught as a Director, to serve until the Company's 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and u successor is duly elected and qualified.	o elect
Nominees:	
1a. Donald C. Brown	Sec. For
1b. Catherine M. Kilbane	Sec. 10
1c. Karl J. Warnke	Sec. 10
1d. Thomas A. Haught	Sec. 10
2. To ratify the appointment of the Company's independent accounting firm (Deloitte & Touche LLP) for the fisc ending December 31, 2021.	al year 🔗 For

# NOTE: Any other matter that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

If you have questions regarding information contained in the Proxy, please send your questions to: sendproxy@davey.com

Prefer to receive an email instead? While voting on www.ProxyVote.com, be sure to click "Sign up for E-delivery".