

HERSHEY CO  
Form DEFA14A  
March 20, 2012

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**

**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**(Amendment No.   )**

Filed by the Registrant  Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

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 Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**The Hershey Company**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)



.. 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:

**\*\*\* Exercise Your *Right* to Vote \*\*\***

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the  
Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on May 1, 2012.**

**Meeting Information**

**THE HERSHEY COMPANY**

**Meeting Type:** Annual Meeting  
**For holders as of:** March 5, 2012  
**Date:** May 1, 2012      **Time:** 10:00 a.m. EDT  
**Location:** GIANT Center  
550 West Hersheypark Drive  
  
Hershey, PA 17033

*THE HERSHEY COMPANY*

*P.O. BOX 810*

*HERSHEY, PA 17033-0810*

You are receiving this communication because you hold shares in the above named company.

This is not a ballot. You cannot use this notice to vote these shares. This communication presents only an overview of the more complete proxy materials that are available to you on the Internet. You may view the proxy materials online at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) or easily request a paper copy (see reverse side).

We encourage you to access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials before voting.

**See the reverse side of this notice to obtain proxy materials and voting instructions.**

**Before You Vote**

How to Access the Proxy Materials

**Proxy Materials Available to VIEW or RECEIVE:**

NOTICE AND PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

**How to View Online:**

Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow (located on the following page) and visit: [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).

**How to Request and Receive a PAPER or E-MAIL Copy:**

If you want to receive a paper or e-mail copy of these documents, you must request one. There is NO charge for requesting a copy. Please choose one of the following methods to make your request:

- 1) *BY INTERNET:* [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)
  
- 2) *BY TELEPHONE:* 1-800-579-1639  
1-866-412-8385 (for rotary phone users only)
  
- 3) *BY E-MAIL\*:* [sendmaterial@proxyvote.com](mailto:sendmaterial@proxyvote.com)

\* If requesting materials by e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow (located on the following page) in the subject line.

Requests, instructions and other inquiries sent to this e-mail address will NOT be forwarded to your investment advisor. Please make the request as instructed above on or before April 17, 2012 to facilitate timely delivery.

**How To Vote**

Please Choose One of the Following Voting Methods

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**Vote In Person:** Please review the proxy materials for directions to the annual meeting and information on what you will need to bring with you to gain access to the meeting. You must have a government-issued photo identification and an admission ticket to be admitted. **THIS NOTICE WILL SERVE AS AN ADMISSION TICKET.** At the meeting, you will need to request a ballot to vote these shares.

**Vote By Internet:** To vote now by Internet, go to [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com). Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow available and follow the instructions.

**Vote By Mail:** You can vote by mail by requesting a paper copy of the materials, which will include a proxy card.

**Voting Items**

**The Proposals to be voted on at our Annual Meeting are listed below along with the Board of Directors' recommendations.**

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR each of the following nominees:**

1. Election of Directors

**NOMINEES:**

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 01) P. M. Arway     | 06) J. M. Mead     |
| 02) J. P. Bilbrey   | 07) J. E. Nevels   |
| 03) R. F. Cavanaugh | 08) A. J. Palmer   |
| 04) C. A. Davis     | 09) T. J. Ridge    |
| 05) R. M. Malcolm   | 10) D. L. Shedlarz |

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR Proposals 2 and 3:**

2. Ratify the Appointment of KPMG LLP as Independent Auditors for 2012.
3. Approve, on a non-binding advisory basis, a resolution approving executive compensation.

