

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)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
 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:

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

THE HERSHEY COMPANY



THE HERSHEY COMPANY
P.O. BOX 810
HERSHEY, PA 17033-0810

Meeting Information

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

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 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 → XXXX XXXX XXXX (located on the following page) and visit: 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
- 2) *BY TELEPHONE:* 1-800-579-1639
 1-866-412-8385 (for rotary phone users only)
- 3) *BY E-MAIL*:* 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 → XXXX XXXX XXXX (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

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. Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow → XXXX XXXX XXXX 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.

