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

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**SCHEDULE 14A**

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**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

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

**CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check all boxes that apply):

- No fee required
  - Fee paid previously with preliminary materials
  - Fee computed on table in exhibit required by Item 25(b) per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11
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# Your **Vote** Counts!

## CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY

2024 Annual Meeting

Vote by February 12, 2024 11:59 PM ET. For shares held in a Plan, vote by February 8, 2024 11:59 PM ET.



CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY  
1340 TREAT BOULEVARD, SUITE 600  
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597



V27239-P98863

## You invested in CENTRAL GARDEN & PET 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 February 13, 2024.**

### Get informed before you vote

View the Notice and Proxy Statement, 2023 Annual Report and Shareholder Letter online OR you can receive a free paper or email copy of the material(s) by requesting prior to January 30, 2024. 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](http://www.ProxyVote.com), (2) call 1-800-579-1639 or (3) send an email to [sendmaterial@proxyvote.com](mailto: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.



For complete information and to vote, visit [www.ProxyVote.com](http://www.ProxyVote.com)

Control #

### Smartphone users

Point your camera here and vote without entering a control number



### Vote Virtually at the Meeting\*

February 13, 2024  
10:30 a.m. Pacific Time

Virtually at:  
[www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/CENT2024](http://www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/CENT2024)

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

V1.1

## 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.

Voting Items	Board Recommendations
1. Election of Directors <b>Nominees:</b> 01) William E. Brown                      04) Brendan P. Dougher                      07) Brooks M. Pennington III 02) Courtnee Chun                              05) Michael J. Griffith                      08) John R. Ranelli 03) Lisa Coleman                              06) Christopher T. Metz                      09) M. Beth Springer	☑ For
2. To ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending on September 28, 2024.	☑ For
<b>NOTE:</b> Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.	

Prefer to receive an email instead? While voting on [www.ProxyVote.com](http://www.ProxyVote.com), be sure to click "Delivery Settings".