

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

(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 Under § 240.14a-12

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

ELLIOTT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT L.P.
ELLIOTT ASSOCIATES, L.P.
ELLIOTT INTERNATIONAL, L.P.
THE LIVERPOOL LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
ELLIOTT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT GP LLC
PAUL E. SINGER
MICHAEL CAWLEY
DAVID CUSH
SARAH FEINBERG
JOSHUA GOTBAUM
DAVID GRISEN
NANCY KILLEFER
ROBERT MILTON
GREGG SARETSKY
EASWARAN SUNDARAM
PATRICIA WATSON

(Name of Persons(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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Elliott Investment Management L.P., together with the other participants named herein (collectively, “Elliott”), intend to file a proxy statement and accompanying proxy card with the Securities and Exchange Commission to be used to solicit proxies with respect to the election of Elliott’s slate of highly qualified director candidates and other proposals that may come before the next shareholder meeting of Southwest Airlines Co., a Texas corporation (the “Company”), whether an annual or special meeting of shareholders.

Item 1: On September 10, 2024, Elliott issued the following press release:

Elliott Statement on Southwest Airlines’ Board Resignations

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. (September 10, 2024) – Elliott Investment Management L.P. (“Elliott”), today released the following statement on behalf of Partner John Pike and Portfolio Manager Bobby Xu regarding Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) (“Southwest”) and the actions announced today – including the resignation of seven directors:

We learned yesterday, which was made public today, that nearly half of Southwest’s Board of Directors had decided to resign based on shareholder feedback. In our experience, this is unprecedented.

We are pleased that the Board is beginning to recognize the degree of change that will be required at Southwest, and we hope to engage with the remaining directors to align on the further necessary changes.

The need for thoughtful, deliberate change at Southwest remains urgent, and we believe the highly qualified nominees we have put forward are the right people to steady the Board and chart a new course for the airline.

For more information about Elliott’s investment in Southwest, please visit *StrongerSouthwest.com*.

CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PARTICIPANTS

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THE PARTICIPANTS STRONGLY ADVISE ALL SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT AND OTHER PROXY MATERIALS, INCLUDING A PROXY CARD, AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. SUCH PROXY MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE ON THE SEC’S WEB SITE AT [HTTP://WWW.SEC.GOV](http://www.sec.gov). IN ADDITION, THE PARTICIPANTS WILL PROVIDE COPIES OF THE PROXY STATEMENT WITHOUT CHARGE, WHEN AVAILABLE, UPON REQUEST. REQUESTS FOR COPIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE PARTICIPANTS’ PROXY SOLICITOR.

The participants in the solicitation are anticipated to be Elliott Investment Management L.P. (“EIM”), Elliott Associates, L.P. (“Elliott Associates”), Elliott International, L.P. (“Elliott International”), The Liverpool Limited Partnership (“Liverpool”), Elliott Investment Management GP LLC (“EIM GP”), Paul E. Singer (“Singer”), Michael Cawley, David Cush, Sarah Feinberg, Joshua Gotbaum, David Grissen, Nancy Killefer, Robert Milton, Gregg Saretsky, Easwaran Sundaram and Patricia Watson.

As of the date hereof, Elliott has combined economic exposure in the Company of approximately 11.0% of the shares of its Common Stock, \$1.00 par value per share (the “Common Stock”), outstanding. As of the date hereof, EIM, the investment manager of Elliott Associates and Elliott International (together, the “Elliott Funds”) with respect to the shares of Common Stock held by the Elliott Funds and/or their respective subsidiaries, beneficially owns 61,116,500 shares of Common Stock. Additionally, as of the date hereof, the Elliott Funds are party to notional principal amount derivative agreements in the form of cash settled swaps with respect to an aggregate of 4,808,000 shares of Common Stock (the “Derivative Agreements”). Elliott Associates, Elliott International and Liverpool are the direct holders of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by EIM, and are party to the Derivative Agreements. Liverpool is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Elliott Associates. EIM GP is the sole general partner of EIM. Singer is the sole managing member of EIM GP. As of the date hereof, Mr. Cawley holds 19,765 shares of Common Stock, Mr. Cush holds 10,000 shares of Common Stock, Ms. Feinberg beneficially owns 3,068 shares of Common Stock, including 2,800 shares of Common Stock held directly and 268 shares of Common Stock held by her domestic partner, Mr. Gotbaum holds 19,162 shares of Common Stock, Mr. Milton holds 1,953 shares of Common Stock, Mr. Saretsky holds 4,000 shares of Common Stock, Mr. Sundaram holds 2,073 shares of Common Stock, and Ms. Watson beneficially owns 5,243 shares of Common Stock, including 3,964 shares of Common Stock held directly and 1,279 shares of Common Stock held by her spouse.

About Elliott

Elliott Investment Management L.P. (together with its affiliates, “Elliott”) manages approximately \$69.7 billion of assets as of June 30, 2024. Founded in 1977, it is one of the oldest funds under continuous management. The Elliott funds’ investors include pension plans, sovereign wealth funds, endowments, foundations, funds-of-funds, high net worth individuals and families, and employees of the firm.

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Item 2: Also on September 10, 2024, Elliott posted updated materials to www.strongersouthwest.com, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 3: Also on September 10, 2024, Elliott updated www.strongersouthwest.com to contain the following updated disclosure legend in the footer of each page:

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