



Proxy Voting and Governance Policy





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Introduction

AllianceBernstein L.P.'s ("AB," "we," "us," "our" and similar terms) mission is to work in our clients' best financial interests to deliver better investment outcomes through differentiated research insights and innovative portfolio solutions. As a fiduciary and investment adviser, we place the interests of our clients first and treat all our clients fairly and equitably, and we have an obligation to responsibly allocate, manage and oversee their investments to seek sustainable, long-term shareholder value.

AB has authority to vote proxies relating to securities in certain client portfolios and, accordingly, AB's fiduciary obligations extend to AB's exercise of such proxy voting authority for each client AB has agreed to exercise that duty. AB's general policy is to vote proxy proposals, amendments, consents or resolutions relating to client securities, including interests in private investment funds, if any (collectively, "proxies"), in a manner that serves the best financial interests of each respective client as determined by AB in its discretion, after consideration of the relevant clients' investment strategies, and in accordance with this Proxy Voting and Governance Policy ("Proxy Voting and Governance Policy" or "Policy") and the operative agreements governing the relationship with each respective client ("Governing Agreements"). This Policy outlines our principles for proxy voting, includes a wide range of issues that often appear on voting ballots, and applies to all of AB's internally managed assets, globally. It is intended for use by those involved in the proxy voting decision-making process and those responsible for the administration of proxy voting ("Investment Stewardship Team"), to ensure that this Policy and its procedures are implemented consistently.¹

This Policy forms part of a suite of policies and frameworks including [AB's Stewardship Statement](#) that outline our approach to investment stewardship. Proxy voting is an integral part of this process, enabling us to support sound corporate governance practices, strong shareholder rights, transparent disclosures, and encourage effective oversight of material issues.

This Policy is overseen by the Proxy Voting and Governance Committee ("Proxy Voting and Governance Committee" or "Committee"), which provides oversight and includes senior representatives from Investments, Legal and Operations. It is the responsibility of the Committee to evaluate and maintain proxy voting procedures and guidelines, to evaluate proposals and issues not covered by these guidelines, to consider changes in the Policy, and to review the Policy no less frequently than annually. In addition, the Committee meets at least three times a year and as necessary to address special situations.

Research Underpins Decision Making

As a research-driven firm, we approach proxy voting with the same commitment to rigorous research and engagement that we apply to all our investment activities. The different investment philosophies applied by our investment teams may occasionally result in different conclusions being drawn for certain proposals. In turn, our votes for some proposals may vary from issuer to issuer, while still aligning with our goal of maximizing the long-term value of securities in our clients' portfolios.

For accounts where proxy voting is directed by clients or newly acquired subsidiary companies, voting decisions may deviate from this Policy. To the extent there are any inconsistencies between this Policy and a client's Governing Agreements, the Governing Agreements shall supersede this Policy. We do not offer different versions of our Proxy Voting and Governance Policy.

Research Services

To facilitate the efficient and accurate voting of our client's securities, we subscribe to research services from vendors such as Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS") and Glass Lewis. These research

¹ Please note that while this Policy is intended to be applied globally, in certain jurisdictions in which we operate, a limited number of votes may vary due to local rules and regulations.

materials are used for informational purposes alongside company filings, and AB's voting decisions are always guided by AB's Proxy Voting and Governance Policy. Our investment professionals can access these research and informational materials at any time.

Engagement

In evaluating proxy issues and determining our votes, we seek the perspective and expertise of various relevant parties. Internally, the Investment Stewardship Team may consult the Committee, Chief Investment Officers, Portfolio Managers, and/or Research Analysts across our equities platform. By partnering with investment professionals, we are empowered to incorporate company-specific fundamental insights into our vote decisions.

Externally, we may engage with companies in advance of their Annual General Meeting, and throughout the year. We believe engagement provides the opportunity to share our philosophy, and more importantly, affect positive changes which we believe will drive shareholder value. In addition, we may engage with shareholder proposal proponents and other stakeholders to understand different viewpoints and objectives.

Escalation Strategies

Proxy voting and engagements work in conjunction to raise and escalate investor concerns to companies. In cases where we determine that the issuer's behavior isn't aligned with our clients' best financial interests, we may escalate our voting and engagement by taking actions such as voting against the relevant directors. The materiality of the issue and the responsiveness of management will guide our approach which is outlined in the AB Stewardship Statement.

Proxy Voting Guidelines

Our proxy voting guidelines are both principles-based and rules-based. Subject to client guidelines, we adhere to a core set of principles described in this Policy. We assess each proxy proposal within the framework of these principles, with our ultimate "litmus test" being what we view as most likely to maximize long-term shareholder value. We believe that authority and accountability for setting and executing corporate policies, goals and compensation should generally rest with a company's board of directors and senior management. In return, we support strong investor rights that allow shareholders to hold directors and management accountable should they fail to act in the best interests of shareholders.

We generally vote proposals in accordance with these guidelines; however, we may deviate from these guidelines if we believe that deviating from our stated Policy is necessary to maximize long-term shareholder value or as otherwise warranted by the specific facts and circumstances of an investment. While our Policy is broadly applicable, we may make exceptions to these guidelines for non-operating companies such as closed-end funds. We will evaluate on a case-by-case basis any proposal not specifically addressed by these guidelines, whether submitted by management or shareholders, always keeping in mind our fiduciary duty to make voting decisions that are in our clients' best interests.

Shareholder Proposal Assessment Framework

AB's commitment to maximizing the long-term value of clients' portfolios drives how we analyze shareholder proposals. Shareholder proposals often address environmental, social and governance ("ESG") disclosures, which we believe can in some cases help improve the accuracy of our valuation of companies. We think it is in our clients' best interests to incorporate a comprehensive set of risks and opportunities, including but not limited to material ESG issues, from a long-term shareholder value perspective. The evaluation of a proposal that addresses an ESG issue will consider (among other things) the following core factors, as necessary:

- The materiality of the mentioned ESG issue for the company's business
- The company's current practice, policy, and framework
- The prescriptiveness of the proposal—does the shareholder make a request that unreasonably burdens management?
- The context of the shareholder proposal—is the proponent tied to any particular interest group(s)? Does the proposal aim to promote the interest of the shareholders or group that they are associated with?
- How does the proposal add value for the shareholders?

We do not vote in favor of all ESG-related proposals. This shareholder proposal assessment framework applies to all proposals slated by shareholders, globally.

Director Elections

AB's approach to voting on director elections is grounded in the belief that directors should represent shareholder interests and ensure management is maximizing long-term shareholder value. We generally vote in favor of the management-proposed slate of directors, but we consider a number of factors, including local market best practice, when making our decision. Each company's board of directors has a duty to act in the best interest of the company's shareholders at all times. These interests are best served by having directors who bring objectivity to the company and are free from potential conflicts of interests. Accordingly, we believe that companies should have a majority of independent directors and independent key committees. We will incorporate local market regulation and corporate governance codes into our decision making, though we may support requirements that surpass market regulation and corporate governance codes if we believe they will improve corporate governance practices.

We consider a director to be independent if they meet the criteria for independence set forth by the primary exchange or the best practice code in the country where the company is domiciled. We also take into account affiliations, related party transactions, and prior service to the company.

We believe that directors have a duty to respond to shareholder actions that have received significant shareholder support. We may vote against directors who fail to act on key issues. We oppose directors who fail to attend at least 75% of board meetings within a given year without a reasonable excuse. We prioritize transparency and disclosure in our analysis of director elections. If there is insufficient information about nominees disclosed in the proxy statement, we may abstain or vote against.

We also take into account compensation, audit, and governance practices when evaluating directors. If a company lacks a formal key committee or has demonstrated poor practices in these areas, we may vote against relevant directors, which may include committee chairs, committees as a whole, or the full board in cases of multi-year concerns.

Finally, we are committed to engaging with company management to resolve issues that arise. We may do so through phone, written, virtual or in-person communication until a satisfactory resolution is reached.

Majority Vote Standard

Sound corporate governance requires that shareholders have a meaningful say in the company's affairs. We believe that electing directors by a majority of votes cast at an annual meeting is a better method than plurality voting. Under plurality voting standards, a director could be elected by a single affirmative vote even if a majority of shareholders withheld support.

AB also views majority voting provisions as beneficial to director accountability. Therefore, we generally support companies amending their by-laws to require director nominees be elected by an affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. However, we recognize that in contested elections where the number of nominees exceeds the number of board seats, a carve-out should be provided to allow for plurality voting. While we generally prefer a majority vote standard, we may take a case-by-case approach if the issuer is a non-operating company such as closed-end funds.

Board Leadership

We believe there can be benefits to an executive chairman and to having the positions of chairman and CEO combined as well as split. When the chair is non-independent, the company must have sufficient counter-balancing governance in place, generally through a strong lead independent director. AB therefore generally supports the establishment of a lead independent director if the chairman is non-independent. We believe that having a robust lead independent director role with clearly defined duties and responsibilities, such as the authority to call meetings and approve agendas, is an effective way to balance governance.

If a company already has a lead independent director in place with robust responsibilities, we will generally oppose proposals that require an independent board chairman, unless there are additional concerns regarding board leadership or broader corporate governance.

Classified Board

Typically, a classified board is divided into three classes, each holding office for a term of three years, with only a portion of the board being elected or replaced each year. We generally favor declassified boards, but we may take a case-by-case approach if certain conditions are met, such as an adequate sunset provision, a justifiable financial reason, or if the issuer is a non-operating company such as closed-end funds.

Board Capacity

We believe that assessing each nominee's capacity for a board seat is essential for ensuring meaningful board oversight of management. Nominees who are "over-boarded", or have too many outside board commitments, may be unable to dedicate sufficient time toward their board oversight responsibilities.

- **Non-Executive Directors:** AB generally votes against the appointment of non-executive directors who serve on more than four public company boards.
- **Active CEOs:** AB generally votes against the appointment of active CEOs who serve on more than two public company boards.
- **Active CEO of the Company Under Voting Consideration:** For CEOs of the company under consideration, AB generally votes against their appointment if they serve on more than three public company boards.

Board Composition

Diversity is an important element of assessing a board's composition, as it promotes a wider range of perspectives to be considered for companies to both strategize and mitigate risks. We believe diversity is multi-faceted and should incorporate a broad range of factors in order to promote diversity of thought, which may include professional experience, tenure, age, gender, ethnicity, and/or nationality. We comply with the requirements of local market regulation and note that several European countries legally require board-level gender diversity at publicly listed companies.

Taking into account a board's size as well as regional considerations, AB may vote against the nominating committee chair, or a relevant incumbent board member such as a nominating committee member if the chair is not up for election, when the board lacks sufficient diversity, unless there are mitigating factors (e.g. the board has articulated plans to diversify board membership, or has made recent improvements).

Compensation

Compensation policies play a critical role in attracting, retaining, and motivating executives, directors, and employees. Incentives should be aligned with shareholder interests to facilitate long-term value creation and sustainable performance.

Executive Compensation

It is crucial to establish a direct correlation between variable pay and the company's operational and financial performance, through metrics that are challenging and align with the company's strategy. Compensation plans are often complex and are a major corporate expense, so we evaluate them carefully and on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, however, we assess each proposed executive compensation plan within the framework of four guiding principles, each of which ensures a company's compensation plan helps to align the long-term interests of management with shareholders:

- Valid measures of business performance tied to the firm's strategy and shareholder value creation, which are clearly articulated and incorporate appropriate time periods, should be utilized;
- Compensation costs should be managed in the same way as any other expense;
- Compensation should reflect management's handling, or failure to handle, any recent social, environmental, governance, ethical or legal issue that had a material adverse financial or reputational effect on the company and;
- In granting awards, management should clearly exhibit integrity and a rigorous decision-making process.

Further, we believe that compensation plans should be sufficiently long-term oriented. Long-term incentive plans should adhere to a minimum of three-year vesting periods and clearly target long-term financial goals. We are generally unsupportive of special bonuses that are not explicitly tied to a company's financial performance or lack multi-year vesting periods. If a retention grant is awarded, we expect companies to provide a rationale detailing how the award aligns with business needs and overall strategy. In cases where the compensation committee has exercised discretion to adjust pay outcomes, we expect a detailed justification and explanation of the method used to determine the adjustment. Additionally, we expect disclosure on how the revised outcome is consistent with the shareholders' interests.

We believe that compensation plans should include clawback provisions that require executives to relinquish their awards if their compensation was based on erroneous financial statements or deceitful business practices.

We may oppose plans which include, and directors who establish, compensation plan provisions deemed to be poor practice such as automatic acceleration of equity, or single-triggered, in the event of a change in control. Although votes on compensation plans are by nature only broad indications of shareholder views, they do lead to more compensation-related dialogue between management and shareholders and help ensure that management and shareholders meet their common objective: maximizing shareholder value.

Equity Compensation Plans

Equity compensation plans (or “omnibus stock plans”) are intended to align the interests of employees and executives with those of shareholders by providing stock-based incentives. While we generally support the use of equity in compensation plans, we assess each plan on a case-by-case basis. Our evaluation criteria include the overall cost of the plan, potential dilution to shareholders, historical burn rates, and the specific design features of the plan. We may vote against equity compensation plans that contain provisions that are misaligned with shareholder interests, such as the ability to reprice options without shareholder approval or the inclusion of evergreen provisions.

Director Compensation

For non-executive directors, we believe that compensation should be structured in such a way that it does not compromise their independence. We will generally oppose performance-based variable remuneration for non-executive directors.

Auditors

We believe that the company is in the best position to choose its accounting firm, and we generally support management's recommendation. We recognize that there may be potential conflicts when a company's independent auditors perform substantial non-audit related services for the company. Therefore, we consider the proportion of non-audit fees to total fees and other factors like auditor tenure to assess independence. Excessive non-audit fees may lead us to vote against the auditor and/or audit committee members. In determining what is excessive we exclude non-audit fees related to extraordinary events such as IPOs, bankruptcy emergence, and spin-offs. Additionally, we may vote against or abstain if the audit firm is not disclosed, considering local market practices.

In some markets, companies are required to submit their financial statements for shareholder approval. We generally approve financial statements unless there are reasons to vote otherwise, such as if the information is not made available prior to the meeting. In markets requiring the election of internal statutory auditors (e.g., Japan), we generally support management's nominees if they meet regulatory requirements. However, we may vote against nominees who are designated independent statutory auditors but serve as executives of a subsidiary or affiliate of the issuer, or if there are other reasons to question their independence. We review proposals to limit auditor liability on a case-by-case basis, considering whether such a provision is necessary to secure appointment and whether it helps to maximize long-term shareholder value.

Transactions and Special Situations

Transactions, Restructurings, Mergers and Acquisitions

Proposals requesting shareholder approval for corporate restructurings, merger and acquisitions, and spin-offs are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Our primary objective in assessing and voting on these proposals is to maximize long-term shareholder value. We consider a multitude of factors that could impact the company's future performance and shareholder returns, including the board's rationale behind the transaction, the potential financial benefits and risks, the alignment with the company's long-term strategic goals, and the overall integrity of the transaction process. We may abstain from voting on transactions in instances where there is insufficient information.

Shareholder Rights Plans

Our approach to voting on shareholder rights plans, or poison pills, is grounded in our commitment to protecting shareholder rights and maximizing long-term value. Accordingly, we assess these proposals on a case-by-case basis. We will oppose poison pills that unreasonably seek to impede takeovers or entrench management. We may support proposals which protect shareholders' right to consider and potentially accept a compelling offer. Additionally, we may support net operating loss rights plans when the protection of a company's tax assets is material to its financial health and future value. We generally support shareholder proposals that require the company to submit a shareholder rights plan to a shareholder vote, though may take a case-by-case approach if the issuer is a non-operating company such as closed-end funds.

Shareholder Rights

Capital Structure

The one share, one vote principle—that voting power is proportional to an one's economic interest— is preferred to ensure the board is accountable to shareholders. AB's general expectation of companies with multi-class equity structures carrying unequal voting rights (or "supervoting shares") is to attach safeguards for minority shareholders when appropriate and in a cost-effective manner, which may include a sunset provision or periodic shareholder reauthorizations. We expect boards to routinely review existing multi-class share structures and articulate why the structure is beneficial for long-term shareholders. If a multi-class share structure is in place without adequate safeguards, AB will generally vote against relevant directors.

With that backdrop, we acknowledge that multi-class structures may be beneficial for a period of time for certain companies, allowing management to focus on longer-term value creation which benefits all shareholders. Accordingly, AB may refrain from voting against relevant directors if the multi-class capital structure is subject to a formal sunset provision, or if company-specific conditions warrant it.

Proxy Access

Proxy access allows "qualified shareholders" to nominate directors. Our voting stance typically favors proposals for proxy access that adhere to the 2010 SEC proposal (since vacated) which allowed a single shareholder, or group of shareholders, who hold at least 3% of the voting power for at least three years continuously to nominate up to 25% of the current board seats, or two directors, for inclusion in the subject company's annual proxy statement alongside management nominees. We may vote against proposals that include requirements that are stricter than the SEC's framework including implementation restrictions and against individual board members, or entire boards, who exclude from their ballot properly submitted shareholder proxy access proposals or compete against shareholder proxy access proposals with stricter management proposals on the same ballot. We will generally vote in favor of proposals that seek to amend an existing right to more closely align with the SEC framework. We will evaluate on a case-by-case basis proposals with less stringent requirements than the vacated SEC framework.

Majority Vote Standard for Charter & Bylaw Amendments

We generally favor the implementation of simple majority vote requirements for charter and bylaw amendments. This means that a proposal would only need to receive a majority of votes cast in order to be approved. We believe that this approach promotes greater shareholder accountability and ensures that the will of the majority is reflected in important decisions affecting the company. As such, we will generally vote for proposals to reduce supermajority voting requirements, though may take a case-by-case approach if the issuer is a non-operating company such as closed-end funds.

Special Meetings

We are generally supportive of the right for shareholders to call special meetings, which allows shareholders to take action on certain matters that arise between regularly scheduled annual meetings. This right may apply only if a shareholder, or a group of shareholders, owns a specified percentage as defined by the relevant company bylaws.

We recognize the importance of the right of shareholders to remove poorly performing directors, respond to takeover offers and take other actions without having to wait for the next annual meeting. However, we also believe it is important to protect companies and shareholders from nuisance proposals. We further believe that striking a balance between these competing interests will maximize shareholder value. We believe that encouraging active share ownership among shareholders generally is beneficial to shareholders and helps maximize shareholder value. Accordingly, we will generally support proposals to establish shareholders' right to call a special meeting if one is not already in place. When evaluating proposals to reduce the existing special meeting right threshold, we will assess the potential abuse of the right based on the company's current share ownership structure, and whether the request goes beyond market practice.

Written Consent

Action by written consent enables a large shareholder or group of shareholders to initiate votes on corporate matters prior to the annual meeting. We believe this is a fundamental shareholder right and, accordingly, will generally support shareholder proposals seeking to restore this right. However, in cases where a company has a majority shareholder or group of related majority shareholders with majority economic interest, we may oppose proposals seeking to restore this right as there is a potential risk of abuse by the majority shareholder or group of majority shareholders. We may also vote against the proposal if the company provides shareholders a right to call special meetings with an ownership threshold of 15% or below in absence of material restrictions, as we believe that shareholder access rights should be considered from a holistic view rather than promoting all possible access rights that may impede one another in contrast to long-term shareholder value.

Material Environmental and Social Issues

Climate

Proposals addressing climate change concerns are plentiful and their scope varies. Climate change increasingly receives investor attention as a potential material risk to the sustainability of a wide range of business activities. These proposals may include emissions standards or reduction targets, quantitative goals, and impact assessments. We evaluate these proposals on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the materiality of the issue to the business and whether the proposal is of added benefit to shareholders. We will additionally consider company specific context as well as our ongoing research and engagements for evaluating the company's existing policies and practices.

For proposals related to climate change, we will carefully assess the company's current policies/disclosures and its incorporation of national standards and best practices. In addition, we will evaluate the potential enactment of new regulations, as well as any investment risk related to the specific issue.

For issuers with material exposure to climate risk, AB assess the climate risk management strategy by considering factors such as, but not limited to:

Emissions Metrics and Targets

- Does the company have emissions metrics and targets in place for Scopes 1 and 2 emissions?

Climate Risk Management

- Does the company perform scenario analysis that includes the use of a widely recognized, scientifically based 1.5 degree scenario?

Governance

- Does the board provide oversight on the issuer's climate change strategy?
- Has the company incurred any recent material failures, or been involved in any controversies, related to managing climate-related risk?

Disclosure

- Does the company disclose its exposure to climate risk via the framework developed by the Taskforce on Climate related Financial Disclosure?

Biodiversity

Companies are increasingly recognizing the importance of managing biodiversity and nature-related factors to generate long-term financial returns for shareholders. This can be achieved by implementing appropriate risk oversight and establishing relevant metrics and targets to manage their reliance on, impact on, and use of natural capital. Companies—particularly those that have significant impacts on local environments or have supply chains exposed to locations with biodiversity-related risk—should disclose how they integrate these factors into their strategy and how they manage material risks and opportunities relating to biodiversity. Additionally, companies should consider engaging with stakeholders, including local communities and conservation organizations, to ensure that their activities do not have a negative impact on biodiversity, which could potentially cause negative reputational or financial risks. Accordingly, we will vote on proposals related to biodiversity on a case-by-case basis.

Political Spending

We believe that increased transparency in political contributions and lobbying expenses is essential for ensuring accountability and promoting responsible corporate citizenship. As such, we generally vote in favor of proposals that request increased disclosure of these expenses, including those paid to trade organizations and political action committees at the federal, state, or local level. By doing so, we can better understand how a company is using its resources to influence political decisions and ensure that these activities align with its stated values and principles and are in the best interests of shareholders. Increased transparency can also help to mitigate reputational risks and promote public trust in the company. We believe that companies have a responsibility to disclose their political contributions and lobbying expenses to their shareholders and the public.

Human Capital Management

Human capital management is a critical component of a company's long-term success. Companies should provide fair compensation and benefits, as well as opportunities for career growth and advancement. Additionally, companies should prioritize employee health and safety, both physical and mental, and provide a supportive work environment that fosters collaboration and innovation. Effective communication and engagement with employees is also essential for building a strong corporate culture and ensuring that employees feel valued and heard. By prioritizing human capital management, companies can attract and retain top talent, foster innovation and creativity, and ultimately drive long-term value for shareholders. We will vote case-by-case on proposals related to human capital management considering a company's current practices, policies and disclosures.

Conflicts of Interest

Introduction

As a fiduciary, we must always act in our clients' best financial interests. We strive to avoid even the appearance of a conflict that may compromise the trust our clients have placed in us, and we insist on strict adherence to fiduciary standards and compliance with all applicable federal and state securities laws. We have adopted a comprehensive Code of Business Conduct and Ethics ("Code") to help us meet these obligations. As part of this responsibility and as expressed throughout the Code, we place the interests of our clients first and attempt to mitigate any perceived or actual conflicts of interest.

AB recognizes that potentially material conflicts of interest arise when we engage with a company or vote a proxy solicited by an issuer that sponsors a retirement plan we manage (or administer), that distributes AB-sponsored mutual funds, or with which AB or one or more of our employees have another business or personal relationship, and that such conflicts could affect how we vote on the issuer's proxy. Similarly, potentially material conflicts of interest arise when engaging with and deciding how to vote on a proposal sponsored or supported by a shareholder group that is a client. In order to address any perceived or actual conflict of interest, the procedures set forth below (see Handling Potential Conflicts of Interest section below) have been established for use when we encounter a potential conflict to ensure that our engagement activities and voting decisions are in our clients' best interest consistent with our fiduciary duties and seek to maximize shareholder value.

Adherence to Stated Proxy Voting Policies

Subject to client guidelines, votes generally are cast in accordance with this Policy. In situations where our Policy involves a case-by-case assessment, the following sections provide criteria that will guide our decision. In situations where our Policy on a particular issue involves a case-by-case assessment and the vote cannot be clearly decided by an application of our stated Policy, a member of the Committee or his/her designee will make the voting decision in accordance with the basic principle of our Policy to vote proxies with the intention of maximizing the value of the securities in our client accounts. In these situations, the voting rationale must be documented either on the voting platform of our proxy services vendor, by retaining relevant emails or another appropriate method. Where appropriate, the views of investment professionals are considered. All votes cast contrary to our stated voting Policy on specific issues must be documented. If a proxy vote involves a potential conflict of interest, the voting decision will be determined in accordance with the processes outlined in the Handling Potential Conflicts of Interest section of the Policy below. On an annual basis, the Committee will receive and review a report of all such votes so as to confirm adherence with the Policy.

Disclosure of Conflicts

When considering a proxy proposal, members of the Committee or investment professionals involved in the decision-making process must disclose to the Committee any potential conflict (including personal relationships) of which they are aware and any substantive contact that they have had with any interested outside party (including the issuer or shareholder group sponsoring a proposal) regarding the proposal. Any previously unknown conflict will be recorded on the Potential Conflicts List (discussed below). If a member of the Committee has a material conflict of interest, he or she generally must recuse himself or herself from the decision-making process.

Potential Conflicts

Potential conflicts related to proxy voting may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Votes involving publicly traded clients of AB;
- Votes involving publicly traded companies that distribute AB mutual funds;
- Votes where investment teams have different views;

- Votes involving any clients that try to advocate for proxy voting support;
- Voting contrary to the Policy; and
- Any other company subject to a material conflict of which a Committee member becomes aware.

We determine our votes for all meetings of companies that may present a conflict by applying the processes described in the Handling Potential Conflicts of Interest section below. We document all instances when the Conflicts Officer determines our vote.

Handling Potential Conflicts of Interest

When we encounter a potential conflict of interest, we review our proposed vote using the following analysis to ensure our voting decision is in the best interest of our clients:

- If our proposed vote is consistent with the Policy, no further review is necessary.
- If our proposed vote is contrary to the Policy, the vote will be presented to AB's Conflicts Officer. The Conflicts Officer's review and determination will be documented and presented to the Proxy Voting and Governance Committee. The Conflicts Officer will determine whether the proposed vote is reasonable and in line with our fiduciary duties to clients. If the Conflicts Officer cannot determine that the proposed vote is reasonable, the Conflicts Officer may instruct AB to refer the votes back to the client(s) or take other actions as the Conflicts Officer deems appropriate in light of the facts and circumstances of the particular potential conflict. The Conflicts Officer may take or recommend that AB take the following steps:
 - Recuse or "wall-off" certain personnel from the proxy voting process;
 - Confirm whether AB's proposed vote is consistent with the voting recommendations of our proxy research services vendor; or
 - Take other actions as the Conflicts Officer deems appropriate.

Review of Third-Party Proxy Service Vendors

AB engages one or more Proxy Service Vendors to provide voting research and voting execution services. From time to time, AB will evaluate each Proxy Service Vendor's services to assess that they are consistent with this Policy and the best interest of our clients. This evaluation may include: (i) a review of pre-populated votes on the Proxy Service Vendor's electronic voting platform before such votes are cast, and (ii) a review of policies that address the consideration of additional information that becomes available regarding a proposal before the vote is cast. AB will also periodically review whether Proxy Service Vendors have the capacity and competency to adequately analyze proxy issues and provide the necessary services to AB. AB will consider, among other things, the adequacy and quality of the Proxy Service Vendor's staffing, personnel and/or technology, as well as whether the Proxy Service Vendor has adequate disclosures regarding its methodologies in formulating voting recommendations. If applicable, we will also review whether any potential factual errors, incompleteness or methodological weaknesses materially affected the Proxy Service Vendor's services and the effectiveness of the Proxy Service Vendor's procedures for obtaining current and accurate information relevant to matters included in its research.

The Committee also takes reasonable steps to review the Proxy Service Vendor's policies and procedures addressing conflicts of interest and verify that AB's primary Proxy Service Vendor(s) is, in fact, independent based on all of the relevant facts and circumstances. This includes reviewing each Proxy Service Vendor's conflict management procedures on an annual basis. When reviewing these conflict management procedures, we will consider, among other things, (i) whether the Proxy Service Vendor has adequate policies and procedures to identify, disclose, and address actual and potential conflicts of interest; and (ii) whether the Proxy Service Vendor provides adequate disclosure of actual and potential conflicts of interest with respect to the services provided to AB by the Proxy Service Vendor and

(iii) whether the Proxy Service Vendor's policies and procedures utilize technology in delivering conflicts disclosure; and (iv) can offer research in an impartial manner and in the best interests of our clients.

Confidential Voting

It is AB's policy to support confidentiality before the actual vote has been cast. Employees are prohibited from revealing how we intend to vote except to (i) members of the Committee; (ii) Portfolio Managers who hold the security in their managed accounts; (iii) the Research Analyst(s) who cover(s) the security; (iv) clients, upon request, for the securities held in their portfolios; (v) clients who do not hold the security or for whom AB does not have proxy voting authority, but who provide AB with a signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement; or (vi) declare our stance on a shareholder proposal(s) that is (are) deemed material for the issuer's business for generating long-term value in our clients' best interests. Once the votes have been cast for our mutual fund clients, they are made public in accordance with mutual fund proxy vote disclosures required by the SEC, and we generally post all votes to our public website one business day after the meeting date.

We may participate in proxy surveys conducted by shareholder groups or consultants so long as such participation does not compromise our confidential voting policy. Specifically, prior to our required SEC disclosures each year, we may respond to surveys asking about our proxy voting policies, but not any specific votes. After our mutual fund proxy vote disclosures required by the SEC each year have been made public and/or votes have been posted to our public website, we may respond to surveys that cover specific votes in addition to our voting policies.

On occasion, clients for whom we do not have proxy voting authority may ask us how AB's Policy would be implemented. A member of the Committee or one or more Investment Stewardship Team may provide the results of a potential implementation of the AB policy to the client's account subject to an understanding with the client that the implementation shall remain confidential.

Any substantive contact regarding proxy issues from the issuer, the issuer's agent or a shareholder group sponsoring a proposal must be reported to the Committee if such contact was material to a decision to vote contrary to this Policy. Routine administrative inquiries from proxy solicitors need not be reported.

A Note Regarding AB's Structure

AB and AllianceBernstein Holding L.P. ("AB Holding") are Delaware limited partnerships. As limited partnerships, neither company is required to produce an annual proxy statement or hold an annual shareholder meeting. In addition, the general partner of AB and AB Holding, AllianceBernstein Corporation is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Equitable Holdings, Inc.

As a result, most of the positions we express in this Proxy Voting Policy are inapplicable to our business. For example, although units in AB Holding are publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), the NYSE Listed Company Manual exempts limited partnerships and controlled companies from compliance with various listing requirements, including the requirement that our board have a majority of independent directors.

Voting Transparency

We publish our voting records on our website one business day after the shareholder meeting date for each issuer company.

Many clients have requested that we provide them with periodic reports on how we voted their proxies. Clients may obtain information about how we voted proxies on their behalf by contacting their Advisor.

Record Keeping

All of the records referenced below will be kept in an easily accessible place for at least the length of time required by local regulation and custom, and, if such local regulation requires that records are kept for less than six (6) years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on such record, we will follow the US rule of six (6) or more years. If the local regulation requires that records are kept for more than six or more years, we will comply with the local regulation. We maintain the vast majority of these records electronically.

Proxy Voting and Governance Policy

The Policy shall be maintained in the Legal and Compliance Department and posted on our company intranet and on the AB website.

Proxy Statements Received Regarding Clients' Securities

For US Securities, AB relies on the SEC to maintain copies of each proxy statement we receive regarding client securities. For Non-US Securities, we rely on ISS, our proxy voting agent, to retain such proxy statements.

Records of Votes Cast on Behalf of Clients

Records of votes cast by AB are retained electronically by our proxy research service vendor.

Pre-Disclosure of Vote Intentions on Select Proposals

As part of our engagement and stewardship efforts, AB may publish our vote intentions on certain proposals in advance of select shareholder meetings, with an emphasis on issuers where our discretionary managed accounts have significant economic exposure. The selected proposals are chosen because they impact a range of key topics where AB may have expressed our viewpoints publicly, through prior engagement or proxy voting. We do not pre-disclose our vote intentions on mergers and acquisition activity. The published vote intentions are available on our website.

Documents Prepared by AB that Are Material to Voting Decisions

The Investment Stewardship Team is responsible for maintaining documents prepared by the Committee or any AB employee that were material to a voting decision. Therefore, where an investment professional's opinion is essential to the voting decision, the recommendation from investment professionals must be made in writing to a member of Investment Stewardship Team.

Proxy Voting Procedures

Voting Administration

To efficiently execute proxy voting for clients' holdings, AB uses ISS to submit votes electronically.

Issuers initially send proxy information to the custodians of our client accounts. We instruct these custodian banks to direct proxy related materials to ISS's offices. ISS provides us with research related to

each resolution and pre-populates certain ballots based on the guidelines contained in this Policy. AB's Investment Stewardship Team assesses the proposals via ISS's web platform, Proxy Exchange, and submits all votes electronically. ISS then returns the proxy ballot forms to the designated returnee for tabulation. In addition, AB's proxy votes are double-checked in a two-tiered approach. All votes are reviewed real-time by an offshore proxy review team to verify that the executed votes are aligned with our Policy. Votes for significant holdings, as defined by our stake, are additionally reviewed on a monthly basis by the Investment Stewardship Team to ensure their compliance with our Policy.

If necessary, any paper ballots we receive will be voted electronically or via mail or fax.

Share Blocking and Abstaining from Voting Client Securities

Proxy voting in certain countries requires "share blocking." Shareholders wishing to vote their proxies must deposit their shares shortly before the date of the meeting (usually one week) with a designated depositary. During this blocking period, shares that will be voted at the meeting cannot be sold until the meeting has taken place and the shares are returned to the clients' custodian banks. We may determine that the value of exercising the vote is outweighed by the detriment of not being able to sell the shares during this period. In cases where we want to retain the ability to trade shares, we may determine to not vote those shares.

We seek to vote all proxies for securities held in client accounts for which we have proxy voting authority. However, in some markets administrative issues beyond our control may sometimes prevent us from voting such proxies. For example, we may receive meeting notices after the cut-off date for voting or without enough time to fully consider the proxy. Similarly, proxy materials for some issuers may not contain disclosure sufficient to arrive at a voting decision, in which cases we may abstain from voting. Some markets outside the US require periodic renewals of powers of attorney that local agents must have from our clients prior to implementing our voting instructions.

AB will abstain from voting (which generally requires submission of a proxy voting card) or affirmatively decide not to vote if AB determines that abstaining or not voting would be in the applicable client's best interest. In making such a determination, AB will consider various factors, including, but not limited to: (i) the costs associated with exercising the proxy (e.g., translation or travel costs); (ii) any legal restrictions on trading resulting from the exercise of a proxy (e.g., share-blocking jurisdictions); (iii) whether AB's clients have sold the underlying securities since the record date for the proxy; and (iv) whether casting a vote would not reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the value of the client's investment.

Loaned Securities

Many of our clients have entered into securities lending arrangements with agent lenders to generate additional revenue. We will not be able to vote securities that are on loan under these types of arrangements. However, for AB managed funds, the agent lenders have standing instructions to recall all securities on loan systematically in a timely manner on a best effort basis in order for AB to vote the proxies on those previously loaned shares.

If you have questions or desire additional information about this Policy, please contact ProxyTeam@alliancebernstein.com