

# 2025 Proxy Statement Trends.

November 2024



# Introduction



At Labrador, our mission is to instill trust in business by improving disclosures through a continuous cycle informed by outcomes and feedback. We focus on clear, transparent content and information design to create opportunity and reduce risk.

In this thought piece, our Lead Advisors (each of which have 20+ years of career experience with proxy statements) provide commentary and observations from the 2024 proxy season, as well as what we anticipate being some of the key disclosure trends for the 2025 proxy season.

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Labrador benchmarking data included in this thought piece are based on the companies reviewed for the 2024 Transparency Awards. Findings related to award criteria are based on the S&P 250; other datapoints are based on a subset of 100 companies representing a cross-section of industries.



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## Deborah Koenen

# Lessons from the 2024 Proxy Season and High-Profile Activist Campaigns

The 2024 proxy season saw several high-profile activist campaigns and governance controversies. While the campaigns and controversies are novel, the underlying issues are not. These events provide disclosure insights for companies that underscore the importance of effective and comprehensive disclosure on fundamental and long-established principles of corporate governance.

Labrador offers these four lessons from some of 2024's most noteworthy annual meetings.

**Lesson One:** It is critical that companies fully disclose the Board's role in overseeing strategy and how the directors' qualifications contribute to that oversight.

At The Walt Disney Company's 2024 annual meeting, Trian Fund Management launched a campaign to unseat two of Disney's incumbent directors and replace them with Trian's nominees, Nelson Peltz and former Disney CFO Jay Rasulo, resulting in the most expensive proxy contest in U.S. history<sup>(1)</sup>. Among other perceived shortcomings, Trian criticized Disney for questionable strategic and capital allocation decisions, ineffective leadership succession planning and misaligned pay and performance. Trian specifically targeted two incumbent Disney directors, arguing, in part, that they lacked the requisite experience to advance Disney's strategy. Although Disney ultimately prevailed in having its nominees re-elected, it was a costly, hard-won battle in which several of Trian's operational suggestions were adopted.

As the Disney case illustrates, investors want a clear view into the boardroom to understand how the board oversees the creation of the company's strategy. This includes the frequency and ways in which strategy is reviewed. This narrative should be woven throughout a company's proxy statement – in the board letter as a key oversight topic during the year, in the governance section as a fundamental oversight responsibility, and throughout the CD&A as a consideration in setting and paying executive compensation.

https://corpgov.law.harvard.edu/2024/06/17/shareholder-activism-by-the-numbers/; https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/insights/publications/2024/06/disneys-victory-in-2024-proxy-contest-lessons-for-boards-and-practitioners

The public targeting of Disney's directors highlights the importance of clearly and fully communicating a director's value to the development of a company's strategic direction. Trian placed a spotlight on the credentials and experiences of each nominee. Companies should be reviewing their disclosures to ensure they establish a direct link between the director's area of expertise and a company's strategy. Best practice disclosures include:

- an explanation of the qualifications and skills desired on the board;
- how the qualifications and skills are relevant to the company, i.e., how they tie to the company's strategy and long-term plans;
- the qualifications and skills attributable to each individual director, and
- how each director acquired their skills.

The best disclosures change over time to reflect the evolving needs of the business and modifications to the strategic direction.

Some companies categorize director skills into what skills are important for strategic oversight versus what skills are core competencies of any director. Others designate skill "tiers" based on a director's level or type of experience, and/or identify the skills that were prioritized as part of succession planning. Companies should consider providing a year-over-year comparison; for example, identify which skills in the skills matrix have changed to address different business needs or which skills have increased with new directors.

**Lesson Two:** Board oversight of human capital management, including management succession, remains top of mind for investors.

In 2024, an ESG-focused proxy fight was waged at Starbucks' 2024 annual meeting. A union coalition, Strategic Organizing Center, began the contest in response to Starbucks' alleged resistance to their employees' campaign for unionization<sup>(2)</sup>. SOC argued that the company's flawed human capital management strategy and aggressive anti-union approach were destroying shareholder value. SOC sought to have its three nominees elected to the Starbucks board due to the nominees' experience in managing unionized business, expertise in labor law and policy, and work with unions. The contest was settled when Starbucks agreed to start talks with the union representing its employees.

The Starbucks case underscores the importance of adequately disclosing a company's human capital management programs and strategy. A company's disclosures should address the importance of talent to the company's long-term strategy, including any related risks, and explain the board's role in overseeing talent-related policies and practices. Board engagement on this important topic can be demonstrated by describing the frequency and types of reviews and opportunities for direct employee interactions. Director skills often include human capital management. Consideration should also be given to disclosing:

- · Notable human capital actions taken during the year,
- Establishment of new goals and, for pre-established goals, data points that demonstrate progress, and
- New policies and programs.

https://corpgov.law.harvard.edu/2024/06/17/shareholder-activism-by-the-numbers/; https://corpgov.law.harvard.edu/2024/02/12/the-first-esg-proxy-contest-under-upc/

Current issues facing the broader workforce or the company's industry should be reflected in disclosures. Retention metrics, mental health and wellness programs, employee engagement and culture surveys, and employee safety programs can also be relevant disclosure.

The importance of management succession disclosure was also an area of focus in the Disney contest. As support for its alternative slate, Trian argued that Disney failed to appropriately manage CEO succession. Companies should adequately disclose its leadership succession processes, including, if possible, the Board committee with oversight responsibility, frequency and type of reviews, internal participants involved, role of diversity in the executive search, and whether an independent third party is used. Companies should reference whether they have emergency succession plans in place for the CEO and should take care to layer succession disclosures throughout the proxy in years when there are leadership changes or when it is a focus area for the Board. A discussion of succession can often be found in the Board letter, proxy summary, and Board oversight section, as well as a necessary skill in the Board qualifications matrix.

**Lesson Three:** The lack of adequate disclosure demonstrating strong Board independence and practices to ensure dynamic independent oversight of management can lead to a range of negative consequences.

In January 2024, a Delaware judge voided Tesla's compensation package for Elon Musk. The court found that Tesla's Board breached their fiduciary duty in awarding the package, deciding to invalidate the award partly due to the close personal and business relationships of the compensation committee members with Mr. Musk<sup>(3)</sup>. The court believed that the compensation committee worked alongside Mr. Musk in setting his compensation rather than acting as an independent third party. Even with that ruling, though, Tesla's shareholders voted to reaffirm his pay at the 2024 annual meeting.

Although Tesla ultimately had the backing of many of its shareholders, this case is a reminder that substantiating strong independent oversight is the foundation for broad support of Board decisions. Companies are increasingly employing a variety of techniques to corroborate independent oversight. First, companies are devoting more disclosure pages to their Board refreshment to demonstrate how they actively retain a balance of new and longer-tenured directors. As investors question the independence of directors with 12+ years of tenure, demonstrating how new nominees are continually evaluated and added to bring fresh perspectives, diversity and independence of thought is an essential disclosure imperative. Second, beyond nomination practices, companies explain their ongoing Board processes that ensure continued independent oversight. As an example, some companies are specifically quantifying the number of Board and committee meetings attended by each director to illustrate this active oversight and engagement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.gibsondunn.com/delaware-chancery-court-invalidates-elon-musk-55-8-billion-equity-compensation-package/

Companies are also providing specific measures of engagement outside of regular meetings. They are explaining how directors collaborate with each other, senior leaders, and other employees; the extent of director involvement in stakeholder engagements; and how directors stay regularly informed between meetings. Disclosure on directors' involvement in onboarding and continuing education is also an important disclosure opportunity, e.g., listing key topics covered and external and internal business updates provided (including site visits and interactions with employees below the C-suite), and citing any compliance or governance trainings. This is a best practice that demonstrates directors "going beyond the boardroom" to learn about the company, its people, and their fiduciary obligations. Showing what a company does to provide its directors with current industry, technical, and operations information also helps convey that the Board and its knowledge and skills are continually growing.

**Lesson Four:** Continuous and robust engagement practices across stakeholder groups are a necessary component of any successful corporate campaign.

The recent governance controversy at ExxonMobil illustrates the importance of amicable, responsive, and productive stockholder engagement programs. In 2024, instead of following the usual shareholder proposal process established by the Securities and Exchange Commission, ExxonMobil filed a lawsuit against two proponents of a climate-related shareholder proposal to exclude the proposal from its proxy statement<sup>(4)</sup>. Although the investors withdrew their proposal, ExxonMobil continued with their lawsuit. At the 2024 annual meeting, several institutional investors and a proxy advisory firm voted against ExxonMobil directors for the company's unusual decision to sue its shareholders. Although vote support for most of its directors remained high, vote support for their lead independent director dropped from 91% to 87% support. ExxonMobil's adversarial approach may have longer lasting impacts on their governance reputation with certain investors.

The ExxonMobil case demonstrates the value of cultivating productive and civil relationships with a broad cross-section of company stockholders, large and small. Investors are increasingly demanding transparency and accountability on a variety of issues outside the traditional role of a corporation. As investors' focus areas continue to broaden, engagement programs are expanding to include a larger group of stakeholders. Engagement should lead to responsive actions and disclosures that advance long-term stockholder interests.

Best practice companies are expanding their disclosures to describe these practices in detail, including identifying company participants, the number and types of engagements, topics discussed, feedback received, and actions taken in response. There is an emerging trend towards including engagement calendars or timelines, that detail month-by-month the touchpoints a company has with its investors. Some companies separately quantify the number of engagements undertaken by their investor relations teams, apart from their governance engagements. Even when there are no pressing topics, providing some discussion of responsiveness to stockholder feedback is important. At the very least, a cross-reference to the overview of governance and compensation practices can be an effective way to demonstrate a base level of responsiveness to shareholder interests.

<sup>4</sup> https://cooleypubco.com/2024/05/29/exxon-challenge-arjunaproposal-survives/

## Meredith Shaughnessy

# Revisiting Risk Oversight and Cybersecurity Disclosures in Light of Recent SEC Activity

In the past several years, the SEC, through comment letters and rulemaking, has compelled public companies to provide more detail on their enterprise risk management and cybersecurity programs. Those proxy disclosures, typically found in the Board Oversight section, had become fairly static. But the SEC's actions spurred an evolution, as explored more deeply in this Thought Piece.

## Enhanced Risk Oversight Disclosures in Response to SEC Comment Letters

Last year, our <u>2024 Proxy Trends Thought Piece</u> focused on how companies responded to the items outlined in the SEC's blanket distribution of comment letters on board leadership structure and risk oversight.

**Reminder:** In late 2022, the SEC issued dozens of nearly identical comment letters to companies across industries – some big, well-known companies and some small – asking for more information on how the board exercises its risk oversight function and how board leadership structure supports effective risk oversight. In other words, requiring that public companies go beyond disclosing just (1) what risks the board and its committees oversee and (2) how that oversight is allocated.

This prompted an evolution, particularly among disclosure pioneers, to provide a much more detailed discussion of a company's enterprise risk management (ERM) framework, including its time frames for evaluating risks, use of outside advisors and experts to assess future risks and how often an overall risk assessment is performed.

This year, we are looking at how the following disclosure pioneers, i.e., Labrador's Transparency Award winners, have evolved their risk oversight disclosures over the past several years.

**Overal Transparency** 







**Proxy Statement** 







Most Improved







Of these nine companies, only Lockheed Martin received an SEC comment letter, but all nine either already had information on their ERM program and/or enhanced their risk oversight disclosures over the past two years.

How did our Transparency Award winners enhance their disclosure? On the following pages, we will describe the evolution of disclosure from 2022 to 2024 for all nine companies and show the evolution for select ones. These three Transparency Award recipients had the most significant evolutions:

- Intel devotes a full page to defining risk and outlining its risk oversight framework before discussing board and committee oversight and the role of management.
- Lockheed Martin added a full page on ERM, with an eye-catching graphic, in its 2023 proxy statement
  following its receipt of the comment letter. In its 2024 proxy statement, Lockheed revamped its risk
  oversight section completely, using active, descriptive headings to give a real sense on how the board
  and management evaluate the company's most pressing risks.
- **Ecolab** has been on a transparency journey over the past several years, moving from a text-heavy proxy to the use of tables, headings and other design elements to help the reader understand its approach to risk oversight more easily.

Has the SEC weighed in on these enhanced disclosures? The SEC has not issued any follow-up comment letters to the original recipients, nor provided any other general guidance on expectations for risk oversight disclosures. Comment letters from 2023 and 2024 that request more detail on risk oversight are few and have been limited to companies or funds filing an S-1 or other registration document and/or distressed companies filing a preliminary proxy statement for shareholder approval of a capital raise.

**Still: Be prepared!** Risk oversight remains an area of interest for the SEC and other stakeholders, and companies should be prepared to meet the SEC's expectations, <u>clearly outlined and now adopted by many companies</u>, if and when the SEC comes knocking again.

## Cybersecurity: Stays Put in Proxies But Shortens With New Form 10-K Disclosure

In addition, after reviewing the <u>first year of required cyber disclosure in the Form 10-K</u> to "enhance and standardize disclosures regarding cybersecurity risk management, strategy, governance, and incidents", we've confirmed our prediction that despite this new requirement, companies continue to include a dedicated section on cyber oversight in their proxy statements.

However, companies have taken different approaches to how the existing proxy disclosure and new 10-K disclosure interact. Findings from our nine Transparency Award winners include:



## Length

Not surprisingly, most companies shortened their proxy disclosure, and all nine companies had longer cyber disclosure in the 10-K than the proxy.

- 10-K disclosure ranges from 1-2 pages
- · Proxy disclosure is typically half-page or less



## **Cross-Reference**

Our companies are also split on whether the proxy contains a cross-reference to the 10-K disclosure.

 Five of the nine (Intel, Dow, Freeport-McMoRan, CVS and EcoLab) contain cross-references



## Language

We did not see a consistent approach on whether the 10-K disclosure leverages existing proxy language (usually reorganized and shortened in the proxy) or contains new language.



## **Drafting Tips**

Help your reader locate and absorb these dense disclosures. Several of our Transparency Award winners:

- List Cybersecurity under a "Frequently Requested Information" table in their proxy statements, and
- Include headings in the new Form 10-K section.

For recommendations on what content to include, see Transparency for Your Cyber Disclosures

For some side-by-side comparisons of proxy and Form 10-K cyber disclosures, see the examples starting on page 20.

## Quick Overview of Risk Oversight and Cybersecurity Proxy Disclosures (2022–2024)

## **Overall Transparency Winner: Intel**

Intel's 2022 proxy statement had light discussion of ERM and no discussion of cyber. In 2023, Intel added its full page of defining risk and outlining its risk oversight framework before discussing board and committee oversight and the role of management, and it added a cyber section. For 2024, Intel improved its layout and design. 2

## Proxy cyber items of note:

- Intel's 2023 and 2024 proxy statements list cybersecurity under "Frequently Requested Information" in the table of contents, with an icon to denote that the cyber disclosure was new for 2023.
- Both proxy statements also note that several directors have direct cyber experience.



2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dow

Dow enhanced its ERM disclosure in its 2023 proxy statement. Like Intel, that discussion comes before the board/committee risk allocation graphic. In 2024, Dow added more detail, including which function owns the ERM process, and identifying that the role reports directly to the CEO.

## Proxy cyber items of note:

- Dow discusses cyber in all three proxy statements, adding more detail about its cyber program in 2023, before significantly streamlining it in 2024 and shifting information to its Form 10-K.
- Cybersecurity and Information Security is a line item in Dow's proxy statements' tables of contents, making it easy for a reader to locate that disclosure.



2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## 3rd Place: Mastercard

Mastercard's 2022 proxy statement (which predates the SEC comment letter) had the most extensive ERM disclosure of these nine companies. Most of its changes in the 2023 and 2024 proxy statements relate to structural changes: the elevation of the Risk subcommittee of the Audit Committee to a separate committee and the creation of a new Chief Risk Officer role. Mastercard also provided more detail about its management-level Executive Risk Committee in the 2024 proxy statement.

## Proxy cyber items of note:

 Mastercard discusses cyber in all three proxy statements, placing it on the first page of its 3-page risk oversight section.



2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## **Proxy Statement Winner: Lockheed Martin**

Lockheed Martin has shifted how and where it talks about risk oversight and cyber risk:

- The 2022 proxy statement, under the heading "Enterprise Risk Management" had a light discussion of its ERM process and a detailed cyber section, plus a separate section on enterprise risk and sustainability.
- The 2023 proxy statement changed the title to "Board Oversight of Risk," with a subsection on ERM, adding the eye-catching graphic and descriptions of different management-level teams. Cyber and other topics, such as human capital management, political activity and human rights, moved to a separate ESG section.
  - Also leads its risk oversight discussion with "all of our directors have risk management expertise."
- The 2024 proxy statement brought together all risk-related discussion into the Risk Oversight section, with descriptive headings to give the reader a sense of how the board and committees are overseeing Lockheed's "dynamic and emerging risk areas in 2023." 5

## Proxy cyber items of note:

• Lockheed's proxy statements list cybersecurity under "Frequently Requested Information" in the table of contents.



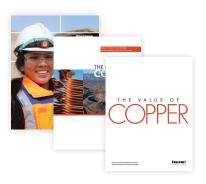
2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Freeport-McMoRan

Freeport-McMoRan discusses strategy and risk oversight together, with a detailed risk oversight graphic. In 2023, Freeport added a section on ERM.

#### Proxy cyber items of note:

• Like Dow, Freeport added more detail about its cyber program in 2023, before streamlining it in 2024. 2



2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Gilead Sciences

Gilead enhanced its 2024 proxy statement by adding a detailed ERM section.



2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## **Most Improved: Ford Motor**

Ford's risk oversight section is a detailed, narrative-heavy section, and has stayed fairly static over the past three years.

## Proxy cyber items of note:

• Cyber is discussed as part of ERM without a separate heading.



2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: CVS Health

CVS's 2022 and 2023 proxy statements were focused mainly on board/committee oversight allocation, with some discussion of the role of management and ERM. In 2024, CVS enhanced its disclosure of those topics, as well added a discussion of how its board leadership structure supports effective risk management.

## Proxy cyber items of note:

 CVS's 2024 proxy statement also revamped its cyber disclosure from prior years, including adding information about directors' education on cyber and Al-related matters.



2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ecolab

Ecolab had fairly detailed ERM-related disclosures in its 2022 risk oversight section, and it added more detail in 2023, but its dense, narrative-heavy format made it difficult to navigate. In 2023, Ecolab incorporated some graphic elements, including a board/committee risk allocation graphic, and its 2024 proxy statement is very graphic-forward. 5

## Proxy cyber items of note:

 Ecolab's 2022 proxy statement also included cybersecurity in its risk oversight heading: "Board's Role in Risk (Including Cybersecurity) and Sustainability Oversight."



2022, 2023, and 2024 Proxy

## Risk Oversight Examples

## Intel 2024 Proxy Statement

Intel defines risk before discussing how the board and its committee oversee its risks.

#### **Enterprise Risk Management Oversight** An important function of the Board is oversight of enterprise risk management at Intel. Risk is inherent in business, and the Board's oversight, assessment, and decisions regarding risks occur in the context of and in conjunction with the other activities of the Board and its committees. The Board and management consider "risk" to be the possibility that an undesired event could occur that might adversely affect the achievement of our objectives. Risks vary in many ways, including the ability of the company to anticipate and understand the risk, the types of adverse impacts that could result if the undesired event occurs, the likelihood that an undesired event and a particular adverse impact would occur, and the ability of the company to control the risk and the potential adverse impacts. Examples of the types of risks Intel could potentially face include: · macro-economic risks, such as inflation, deflation, reductions in economic growth, or recession; • event risks, such as natural disasters, public health crises, or cybersecurity incidents; and business-specific risks related to strategy and competition, product demand, global operations, products and manufacturing, cybersecurity and privacy, intellectual property protection and theft, litigation and regulatory compliance, corporate responsibility and sustainability Not all risks can be dealt with in the same way Risk Assessment Responsibilities and Processes unknown; some risks can be avoided or mitiga In some cases, a decision may be made that a potential for reward. Intel seeks to align its vo The full Board has primary responsibility for enterprise risk management oversight. The Board executes its oversight projects and processes may enhance the con of risk-taking. Assigning specific oversight duties to the Board committees based on their areas of expertise and charter defined roles and responsibilities Periodic briefing and informational sessions by management on: Purpose Approa Monitor risks to Intel's Enterprise risk management, including risk-identification, mitigation, and control Annua strategic objectives over $For most enterprise {\it risk} management is sues, such as {\it cybersecurity risks}, the {\it Board receives regular} and {\it detailed reports} {\it receives regular} and {\it detailed reports} {\it receives regular} {\it receives receives regular} {\it receives receives receives regular} {\it receives receiv$ a three-year time horizon identif from management or the appropriate Board committee regarding its review of the issues. In some cases, such as for Implement key Res risks regarding new technologies and product acceptance, risk oversight is addressed as part of the full Board's regular mitigation plans for oversight of strategic planning. The Board and its committees also assess whether management has an appropriate risk tear identified risks management framework to manage risks and whether that framework is operating effectively. Identify the top 10-15 ann risks annually, from a Miduniverse of >50 risks, and identi **Audit Committee Compensation Committee Governance Committee** develop mitigation plans as appropriate for newly Throu · Oversees issues related to Oversees management of Oversees issues related to risks identified risks accounting and financial risks related to the company's arising from the company's risks a statements; internal control and compensation programs, environment, social, and audit functions; major including our conclusion that governance practices as well as corporate responsibility and sustainability initiatives the ma financial, product security, and our compensation policies and practices do not create risks cybersecurity risk exposures; and Comm that are reasonably likely to management's annual enterprise risk management assessment have a material adverse effect on the company, and Oversees issues related to financial risk management, risks related to human Intel considers fo including the assessment of significant financial risks and capital management Strategic contingent liabilities pertaining to financial markets and the company's financial strategies Management · Identifying risk and risk mitigating controls related to significant business activities, · Mapping the risks to company strategy, and Developing programs and recommendations to determine the sufficiency of risk identification, the balance of potential risk to potential reward, and the appropriate manner in which to manage risk. $With \, respect \, to \, the \, risk \, assessment \, of \, the \, company's \, compensation \, programs, \, management \, is \, primarily \, responsible \, for: \, and \,$

· Reviewing all significant compensation programs, focusing on programs with variable payouts, and

payment periods, clawback provisions, and stock ownership guidelines.

overall strategy, and

Assessing the company's executive and broad-based compensation and benefits programs to determine whether the programs' provisions and operation create undesired or unintentional material risk. The risk assessment process:

Includes a review of compensation program policies and practices, risk identification and control procedures, the balance of risk to reward, and the significance and risks posed by compensation programs on the company's

Takes into account compensation terms and practices that aid in controlling risk, including the compensation mix,

## Mastercard 2024 Proxy Statement

Mastercard includes its cybersecurity discussion on the first page of its risk oversight section.

#### Board risk oversight

Our Board is responsible for understanding the issues and risks that are central to our success, establishing Mastercard's risk appetite and overseeing our risk management program, as well as our risk assessment and management processes. The Board recognizes the importance of effective risk oversight to the success of our business strategy and to the fulfillment of its fiduciary duties to us and our stockholders. The Board believes thoughtful risk toking is a critical component of innovation and effective leadership. It also recognizes that imprudently accepting risk of railing to appropriately identify and mitigate risks could negatively impact our business and stockholder value. The Board seeks to foster a risk-aware culture by encouraging thoughtful risk taking in pursuit of our objectives.

The Board exercises this oversight both directly and indirectly through its standing committees, each of which is delegated responsibility for specific risks and keeps the Board informed of its oversight efforts through regular reports by each committee chairperson. In general, the Audit Committee and Risk Committee coordinate to oversee our guidelines and policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management. The chart on the following page depicts the allocation of risk oversight responsibilities among our Board's committees. Management is accountable for day-to-day risk management efforts, including the creation of appropriate risk management programs and policies. Key risks are escalated up through management to Board-level committees and the full Board as appropriate. In February 2023, we

appointed our first Chief Risk Officer, leading Risk. The Chief Risk Officer serves as the prin Board's Risk Committee and supports the Bo governance, management and culture. The C the chairperson of our internal Executive Risk executives and other risk functions who are c oversight of risks within their business areas, our senior most risk decision-making forum a management framework and risk profile. The oversight and management's ownership of riof our Enterprise Risk Management program comprehensive, integrated oversight and ma facilitate transparent identification and reposenior management, appropriate Board com

## Information security, privacy and data protection oversight

Given the importance of information security and privacy to our stakeholders, our Board receives an annual report from our Chief Security Officier to discuss our program for managing information security risks, including cybersecurity and data security risks. Our Risk Cammittee also receives periodic briefings on data privacy from the Chief Privacy and Data Responsibility Officer. Our Risk Committee receives regular reports on our cyber reachiess, our risk profile status, our cybersecurity programs, material cybersecurity risks and mitigation strategies, third-party assessments of our cybersecurity program and other cybersecurity developments. The Risk Committee Chairperson provides reports to the Board on such topics. In addition, our Board and the Risk Committee also receive information about these topics as part of regular business and legal and regulatory updates. In addition, we engage directors as part of cybersecurity and data breach incident simulations.

#### Environmental, social and governance oversight

The Board views oversight and effective management of ESG-related risks and opportunities as fundamental to our business strategy and directly connected to our continuing success as a business. As such, the full Board oversees our ESG strategy, as well as certain discrete sustainability

#### Board of Directors

Our Board oversees major risks, including strategic, operational (including cybersecurity), legal and regulatory, financial and CEO succession planning risks

The Board's standing committees oversee delegated responsibilities for specific risks and other duties delegated by the Board

#### Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

- Governance Committee
  Governance structure and
- Legal and public policy matter
- Significant ESG activities, policies and programs and othe matters of significance to

## Human Resources and

- Employee compensation policie
- Key diversity initiatives and people and capabilities policies and practices, including those related to organizational engagement and effectiveness and applayed development.
- Non-executive director compensation policies and practices
   Succession planning

#### Audit Committe

- Financial statement integrity
  and reporting
- Major financial and operational risk exposures
- Guidelines and policies with respect to risk assessment and
- Legal and compliance risks
- Internal controls

#### Risk Committe

- Risk management governance, framework and programs, including risk appetite
- Major strategic risk exposures
- Information security, inclusive of cybersecurity, operational and technology, privacy and data protection risks
- Regulatory compliance risks
- Franchise and competition
   (including digital disintermediation) risks

The key processes by which the Board and its committees oversee risk are as follows

- Board. The Board exercises its direct oversight responsibility by meeting, at least annually, with management to discuss risk management processes and to assess the major risks impacting Mastercard. The Board also considers management's risk analyses as it evaluates Mastercard's business strategy. Throughout the year, the Board and designated committees dedicate a portion of their regularly scheduled meetings to review and discuss specific risks in detail, including through the use of hypothetical risk scenarios and incident simulations. Strategic and operational risks are presented to and discussed with the Board and its committees by management, including the Chief Legal Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Risk Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and General Auditor.
- Audit Committee. The Audit Committee oversees risk management policies and processes by periodically meeting with management, the General Auditor and our independent registered public accounting firm for discussions regarding risk. The Audit Committee coordinates with the Risk Committee in its risk management oversight responsibilities. The Audit Committee reviews updates on significant legal and regulatory matters. In addition to the General Auditor, the Chief Compliance Officer has functional reporting to the committee. The Audit Committee reports to the Board on the status of our internal controls and approves internal and external audit plans based on a risk-based methodology and evaluation. The Audit Committee oversees risk relating to the financial statements and financial reporting and controls, including capital and liguidity, internal controls; legal and compliance risks; operational and technology risks; third-party risks; and such other risks that the Board shall from time to time determine.
- Human Resources and Compensation Committee. Throughout the year, when establishing compensation program elements, making awards and determining final payouts for incentive compensation, the HRCC considers the relationship of Mastercard's risk oversight practices to employee compensation policies and practices for all employees (including non-executive officers), including whether our compensation programs create or encourage excessive risk toking that is reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us. We further discuss the HRCC's assessment of risk under "Executive compensation Compensation discussion and analysis Risk assessment" on pg 83.

- Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The NCG oversees risks by meeting periodically throughout the year to proactively consider and address key governance matters, including board refreshment, as well as legal, public policy and ESG matters that could have a significant reputational impact on Mastercard, including corporate responsibility, environmental stewardship and human rights.
- Risk Committee. The Risk Committee, in coordination with the Audit Committee, oversees risk assessment and risk management of Mastercard. It reviews with management matters relating to the policies, practices and outcomes of Mastercard that relate to risk management. In particular, the Risk Committee oversees Mastercard's enterprise risk management program and focuses on major strategic risks facing Mastercard and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures. The Risk Committee reviews Mastercard's risk management framework and programs used by management in its discussions of our risk profile and risk exposures with the Board, including reviewing how effectively management is maintaining an appropriate risk management furtion. The Risk Committee is provided with an information security update and reviews periodic risk reports regarding the regulated activities of Mastercard and our business units and has the right to periodically request that the business units provide relevant risk information to the Risk Committee. The Risk Committee also oversees risks relating to operations and technology, privacy and data protection, regulatory affairs, franchise and competition (including digital disintermediation).

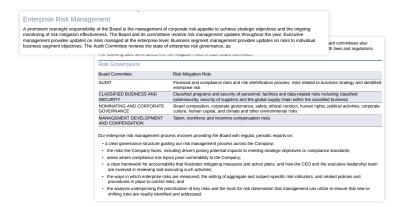
culture and conduct.

the course of doing business anaging risk appetite ad governance processes

## Lockheed Martin 2022 and 2024 Proxy Statements

Lockheed has been on a disclosure journey, reframing how and where it discusses oversight of key risks.

## 2022 Proxy Statement



## 2024 Proxy Statement



## Gilead Sciences 2023 and 2024 Proxy Statements

Gilead added a detailed ERM section in its 2024 proxy statement.

## 2023 Proxy Statement



Our Board exercises its risk oversight responsibility directly and through its committees. Our Board considers specific risk topics directly, including, but not limited to, risks associated with our company's strategic plan, capital allocation and risks relating to pricing strategies of newly approved products. Our Board has delegated responsibility to its committees for oversight of specific risks that fall within the committee's areas of responsibility. Each of the committees periodically reports to the Board on its risk oversight activities. In addition to receiving reports from our Board committees, our Board is periodically briefed by Gilead's management on specific material risks or legal developments. We believe our Board's leadership structure effectively supports the Board's independent evaluation and management of risk.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Oversees risks associated with our financial and accounting systems, accounting policies and investment strategies, in addition to finance-related public reporting, regulatory compliance (other than healthcare compliance) and certain other matters delegated to the Committee, including risks associated with our information systems and technology (including cybersecurity).

## COMPENSATION AND TALENT COMMITTEE

Oversees risks related to our compensation practices to ensure that these practices are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on Gilead or encourage employees to take unnecessary or excessive risks; also oversees risks related to talent management and succession planning of our executive officers.

## NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Oversees risks related to corporate governance matters and certain other non-financial or non-compensation-related risks, including, but not limited to, Gilead's compliance program, clinical trials, manufacturing, human resources, competition law, political contributions (including payments to trade associations) and ESG matters.

## 2024 Proxy Statement

#### **Enterprise Risk Assessment**

The ERM team performs two primary types of enterprise risk assessments: strategic and operational. Strategic risks generally carry a longer development horizon while operational risks are more likely to have short-to-medium term impacts. Because strategic and operational risks can often be closely related, we adopt a dual-approach to risk assessment to ensure a holistic view of the company's overall risk profile.

#### Strategic

- ➤ The strategic risk assessment utilizes a top-down approach, in which we annually discuss with senior executives the most critical risks that could prevent the company from achieving its strategic objectives.
- We then summarize the top risks and present them to our GLT and our Board.
- This update is designed to highlight the risks with the most potential to impact the business from a long-term strategic perspective.

#### Operational

- The operational risk assessment is a bottoms-up process in which we gather feedback twice per year from functional leaders across the entire enterprise to gain an understanding of operational risks and related mitigation strategies across each business unit.
- This provides us with a granular view that complements the findings from the broader strategic risk update.

accounting policies and investment strategies, in addition to finance-related public reporting, regulatory compliance (other than healthcare compliance) and certain other matters delegated to the Committee, including risks associated with our information systems and technology (including cybersecurity).

these practices are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on Gilead or encourage employees to take unnecessary or excessive risks; also oversees risks related to talent management and succession planning of our executive officers.

nittees. Our Board considers specific risk topics ic plan, capital allocation and pricing strategies of ees for oversight of specific risks that fall within the o the Board on its risk oversight activities. In addition by Gilead's management on specific material risks upports the Board's independent evaluation and

## NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Oversees risks related to corporate governance matters and certain other non-financial or non-compensation-related risks, including, but not limited to, Gillead's compliance program, clinical trials, manufacturing, human resources, competition law, political contributions (including payments to trade associations) and corporate responsibility (ESG) matters.

## Enterprise Risk Management

#### **ERM Program and Risk Framework**

We maintain an Enterprise Risk Management ("ERM") program that is intended to align our business strategy and core values with how we view, manage and report risks, and the risk framework that we employ is designed to provide a comprehensive view of internal and external factors that may postatively or negatively impact our business objectives. The framework classifies risks into different categories based on the function where each risk may arise, with each business function being primarily responsible for day-to-day risk management activities. Our ERM team supports the business functions with the identification and prioritization of risks, the development of intigation strategies and the reporting of critical risks through our centralized reporting system. This approach allows direct management of risks to remain with functional experts while ensuring the timely and appropriate escalation of critical risks, including to Silicad's executive leadership team (the "CLT") and the Board as appropriate.

#### **ERM Roles and Responsibilities**

The ERM program is supported by four primary groups at Gilead: The Board, the GLT, the ERM team and the individual business functions. Each component has its own role:

- The Board is responsible for overall risk governance, overseeing the company's maintenance of an appropriate system of risi management and internal controls. The Board also regularly reviews and discusses the most critical risks facing the company.
- management and meminal controls. The board assistagming reviews and outsubstant and memory's ERM program with our Corporate strategy. The CLT also provides management oversight of the risks with the greatest potential impact on the company's strategic objectives, facilitating the development and adjustment of appropriate mitigation strategies.
- The ERM team sits between the GLT and the individual business functions and ensures the efficient and timely communication between the functional leads and the GLT. The ERM team is responsible for maintaining our centralized risk reporting system, aggregating risks for an enterprise-wide view, identifying risks for escalation to the GLT, conducting detailed risk assessments, an assessing the quality and completeness of risk mitigation plans.
- Each business function is responsible for identifying, assessing, allocating resources, executing specific mitigation strategies and performing other activities to manage its respective functional risks. Each function is also responsible for reporting and escalating emerging risk issues to the ERM team.

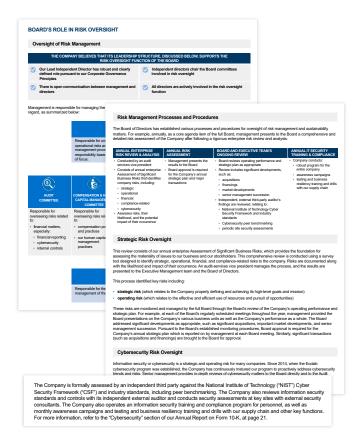
## Ecolab 2022 and 2024 Proxy Statements

Ecolab utilized graphics to more clearly convey risk oversight and its ERM program.

## 2022 Proxy Statement



## 2024 Proxy Statement



## Dow Chemical Cyber Disclosures in Form 10-K and Proxy

1.5 pages of 10-K cyber disclosure - organized by Risk Management & Strategy and Governance, with a subsection on the role of the Board; portions of the 10-K language are the same in the 2024 proxy but in different order, no headings

## 2023 10-K



## 2024 Proxy Statement

#### CYBERSECURITY AND INFORMATION SECURITY

Crosscount and involvation Section 19 Dow's Chief Information and Digital Officer, is responsible for administration of the cybersecurity and information security framework and risk management, with oversight by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee receives information and updates at least quarterly and actively engages with senior leaders, including the Chief Information and Digital Officer and Chief Information Security Officer, with respect to the effectiveness of the Company's cybersecurity and information security framework, data privacy, and respect to the electiveness of the Confirmal sy Cybersecurity and information security intervents, data privaty, and inchination security intervents, data privaty, and inchination security intervents of the privaty and instances and instances and instances are all as timely updates from senior leaders on material incidents relating to information systems security, including cybersecurity incidents. The Audit Committee includes members with significant cybersecurity experience and/or expertise in technology or cybersecurity, including information systems.

The Company has processes in place to identify, assess and monitor material risks from cyberse are part of the Company's overall enterprise risk management process and have been embedded in the Company's operating procedures, internal controls and information systems. Information relating to cybersecurity and information security is contained in the section titled "Cybersecurity" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023.

## Mastercard Cyber Disclosures in Form 10-K and Proxy

2 pages of 10-K cyber disclosure; Very detailed disclosure – first section is overview of cyber program with bulleted "program highlights" (slightly longer than what was in proxy). Then well-organized section describing the roles and responsibilities of the board/committees and management under the heading "Governance and oversight of privacy, data protection and information security"

#### 2023 10-K

#### Item 1C. Cybersecurity

#### Cybersecurity program

As a technology company in the global payments industry entrusted with the safeguardin personal information), obersecurity risk management is an integral part of our overall enter robust program to protect our network from oper and information security threats is critic network and platforms incorporate multiple layers of protection, providing greater resiliency a area assessed by third parties and incorporate benchmarking and other data from peer comp many efforts to mitigate information security challenges, including maintaining an informa resilience program and insurance coverage, as well as regularly testing our systems to addrewith experts across the organization (as well as through other sources such as public-private quickly to a range of cyber and physical threats, including threats and incidents associated with party providers. Our cybersecurity program provides (among other things) a framework for incidents, which includes steps for identifying the nature of a cybersecurity threat (including w third-party provider), assessing the severity of a cybersecurity threat (including availance) appropriate for determination of potential materiality) and implementing cybersecurity procram grounds.

#### Program highlights

- We are committed to the responsible handling of personal information, and we balance our product development activities wi a commitment to transparency and control, fairness and non-discrimination, as well as accountability
- Our multi-layered privacy, data protection and information security programs and practices are designed to ensure the safety, security and responsible use of the information and data our stakeholders entrust to us
- We work with our customers, governments, policymakers and others to help develop and implement standards for safe and secure transactions, as well as privacy-centric data practices
- Our programs are informed by third-party assessments and advice regarding best practices from consultants, peer companie and advisors
- Our programs are designed to align with internationally recognized privacy, data protection and information security standards and undergo regular certifications and attestations
- · We continually test our systems to discover and address any potential vulnerabilities
- We have processes for evaluating (among other things) the privacy, data protection and information security infrastructure of our third-party providers (including examining any relevant records), and we seek to manage third-party risk with procedures to onboard our third-party providers, monitor their activity during our engagement (where possible) and off-board such third-party service providers at the end of our engagement
- We maintain a business continuity program and cyber insurance coverage

#### Governance and oversight of privacy, data protection and information security

#### Board and Committee responsibilities

Our Board and Risk Committee have specific oversight responsibilities with respect to cybersecurity and privacy risks

- Board: Understanding the issues and risks that are central to the company's success, including cybersecurity matters
- Risk Committee: Overseeing risks relating to our policies, procedures and strategic approach to information security (inclusive of cybersecurity), privacy and data protection

In general, the Audit Committee and Risk Committee coordinate to oversee our guidelines and policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management and our Audit Committee discusses our financial and operational risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures. In this context, the Audit Committee would be informed of a material cybersecurity incident that could have a potential impact on our financial statements.

#### Management responsibilities

We have a core group of senior executives who are responsible for assessing and managing risk and implementing policies, procedures and strategies pertaining to security governance and data privacy. These executives include:

#### How management is informed of and monitors incidents

Our management is responsible for identifying, considering and assessing material cybersecurity risks on an ongoing basis, establishing processes to ensure that such potential cybersecurity risks are monitored, implementing appropriate mitigation measures and maintaining our cybersecurity programs. Our cybersecurity programs are under the direction of our CSO (in coordination with our Chief Privacy and Data Responsibility Officer, Chief Data Officer, among others), who receives reports from our cybersecurity teams and monitors the prevention, detection, mitigation and remediation of cybersecurity incidents. Our management, including the CSO and our cybersecurity teams, follow a risk-based escalation process to notify the Risk Committee outside of the regular reporting cycle as appropriate when they identify an emerging risk or material issue.

#### Reporting to our Board

Given the importance of information security and privacy to our stakeholders, our Board receives an annual report from our CSO to discuss our program for managing information security risks, including cyber and data security risks. The Risk Committee and receives periodic briefings on data privacy from the Chief Privacy and Data Responsibility Officer. Our Risk Committee receives regular reports on our cyber readiness, our risk profile status, our cybersecurity programs, material cybersecurity risks armitigation strategies, third-party assessments of our cybersecurity program and other cybersecurity descending the Risk Committee chair provides reports to the Board on such topics. In addition, our Board and the Risk Committee also receive information about these topics as part of regular business and legal and regulatory updates. In addition, we engage directors as part of cybersecurity and data breach incident simulations.

Despite our efforts to identify and respond to cybersecurity threats, we cannot eliminate all risks from cybersecurity threats, or provide assurances that we have not experienced an undetected cybersecurity incident. See "Risk Factors - Information Security and Operational Resilience" in Part I, Item 1A for more information about these and other risks related to information security.

ps and oversees the programs, policies and controls we have implemented across to ical and physical risks, including information security and cyber risks to our peop toperty

nicer, who establishes and oversees the programs, policies, processes and controls we n to ensure compliance with worldwide laws and regulations regarding how we collect, e process data and leverage AJ, while also managing our relevant engagements with

irts to maintain an ethical, responsible enterprise data program that adheres to our hig

he Chief Privacy and Data Responsibility Officer and ensures that we continue to adhere its, including by handling privacy requests from individuals and regulators

described above, we require expertise with cybersecurity or data privacy (as applicable), iersecurity or data privacy experience or possession of a cybersecurity or data privacy ntly serving in these roles each meet the applicable expertise requirements.

## 2024 Proxy Statement

## Information security, privacy and data protection oversight

Given the importance of information security and privacy to our stakeholders, our Board receives an annual report from our Chief Security Officer to discuss our program for managing information security risks, including cybersecurity and data security risks. Our Risk Committee also receives periodic briefings on data privacy from the Chief Privacy and Data Responsibility Officer. Our Risk Committee receives regular reports on our cyber readiness, our risk profile status, our cybersecurity programs, material cybersecurity program and other cybersecurity developments. The Risk Committee Chairperson provides reports to the Board on such topics. In addition, our Board and the Risk Committee also receive information about these topics as part of regular business and legal and regulatory updates. In addition, we engage directors as part of cybersecurity and data breach incident simulations.

## Lockheed Martin Cyber Disclosures in Form 10-K and Proxy

1+ page of 10-K cyber disclosure; extensive, newly drafted disclosure (not a cut and paste from 2023 proxy) – context for why cyber so important to their business, Board oversight, CISO and other departments, governance structure, role of 3rd parties to help manage and assess, integration into ERM and complexities brought on by supply chain/3rd party service providers

#### 2023 10-K

#### ITEM 1C. Cybersecurity

We believe cybersecurity is critical to advancing our 21st Century Security vision and enabling our digital transformation efforts. As an aerospace and defense company, we face a multitude of cybersecurity threats that range from attacks common to most industries, such as ransomware and denial-of-service, to attacks from more advanced and persistent, highly organized adversaries, including nation state actors, that target the defense industrial base and other critical infrastructure sectors. Our customers, suppliers, subcontractors and joint venture partners face similar cybersecurity threats, and a cybersecurity incident impacting us or any of these entities could materially adversely affect our operations, performance and results of operations. These cybersecurity threats and related risks make it imperative that we are a leader in the information security field, and we expend considerable resources on cybersecurity.

The Board of D exposure with our st on our cybersecurity higher business impa as appropriate, on the

cybersecurity of classified programs and the security of our classified business supply chain. Other than oversight of classified business cybersecurity, the full Board retains oversight of cybersecurity because of its importance to Lockheed Martin and the heightened risk in the aerospace and defense industry. In the event of an incident, we intend to follow our detailed incident response playbook, which outlines the steps to be follow for incident detection to mitigation, recovery and notification, including notifying functional areas (e.g. legal), as well as senior leadership and the Board, as appropriate.

Our corporate information security organization, led by our CISO, is responsible for our overall information security strategy, policy, security engineering, operations and cyber threat detection and response. The current CISO has extensive information technology and program management experience, and has served many years in our corporate information security organization. The corporate information security organization manages and continually enhances a robust enterprise security structure with the ultimate goal of preventing eybersecurity incidents to the extent feasible, while simultaneously increasing our system resilience in an effort to minimize the business impact should an incident occur. Cent this organization computer incident response team (CIRT), which is responsible for the protection, detection and response capabilities used in the defense of Lockheed Marin's data and enterprise computing networks. Employees outside of our corporate information security organization also have a role in our cybersecurity defenses and they are immersed in a corporate culture supportive of security, which we believe improves our cybersecurity.

The corporate information security organization has implemented a governance structure and processes to assess, identify, manage and report cybersecurity risks. We also have a corporate-wide counterintelligence and insider threat detection program to proactively identify external and internal threats, and mitigate those threats in a timely manner. As a defense contractor, we must comply with extensive regulations, including requirements imposed by the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) related to adequately safeguarding controlled unclassified information (CUI) and reporting cybersecurity incidents to the DoD. We have implemented cybersecurity policies and frameworks based on industry and governmental standards to align closely with DoD requirements, instructions and guidance. Moreover, we continue to work with the DoD on assessing cybersecurity risk and on policies and practices aimed at mitingating these risks. For example, we have worked in collaboration with the other members defense industrial base to support DoD's development of the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program, DoD's program to ensure members of the defense industrial base meet cybersecurity requirements for handling CUI and federal contract information. We believe we are the positioned to meet the requirements of the CMMC and are preparing for certification once the requirements are effective. In addition to following DoD guidance and implementing pre-existing third party frameworks, we have developed our own practices and frameworks, which we believe enhance or admitty to identify and manage cybersecurity risks. For example, we use a proactive risk management strategy that we developed and implement called the Intelligence Driven Defense\* model that seeks to identify and prevent cybersecurity incidents by understanding the nature of adversaries and using this information to minimize the imigrated or and attack.

Third parties also play a role in our cybersecurity. We engage third-party services to conduct evaluations of our security controls, whether through penetration testing, independent audits or consulting on best practices to address new challenges. These evaluations include testing both the design and operational effectiveness of security controls. We also share and receive threat intelligence with our defense industrial base peers, government agencies, information sharing and analysis centers and cybersecurity associations.

Assessing, identifying and managing cybersecurity related risks are integrated into our overall enterprise risk management (ERM) process. Cybersecurity related risks are included in the risk universe that the ERM function evaluates to assess top risks to the enterprise on an annual basis. To the extent the ERM process identifies a heightened cybersecurity related risk, risk owners are assigned to develop risk mitigation plans, which are then tracked to completion. The ERM process's annual risk assessment is presented to the Board of Directors.

to completion. The ERM process's annual risk assessment is presented to the order of process to an exply chain to deliver our products and services to our customers, and a cybersecurity incident at a supplier, subcontractor or joint venture partner could materially adversely impact us. We assess third party cybersecurity controls through a cybersecurity questionnaire and include security and privacy addendums to our contracts where applicable. We also contractually flow cybersecurity regulatory requirements to our subcontractors as required by the DFARS and other government agency specific requirements. These contractual flow downs include the requirement that our subcontractors implement certain security controls, and that our subcontractors self-report the status of their implementation of these controls to the U.S. Government. These government contracting regulations may create challenges for our supply chain and increase costs. We also require that our subcontractors report cybersecurity incidents to us so that we can assess the impact of the incident on us. For select suppliers, we engage third-party Ve also make

Notwithstanding the extensive approach we take to cybersecurity, we may not be successful in preventing or mitigating a cybersecurity incident that could have a material adverse effect on us. While Lockheed Martin maintains cybersecurity insurance, the costs related to cybersecurity threats or disruptions may not be fully insurance. See Item 1A. "Risk Factors" for a discussion of cybersecurity risk.

## 2024 Proxy Statement

#### We lead the way in applying robust cybersecurity to protect our business

Senior leadership, including our Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), who leads our corporate information security organization, regularly briefs the Board on our cybersecurity and information security posture and apprises the Board of cybersecurity incidents deemed to have a moderate or higher business impact, even if immaterial to us. The CIBS Committee is briefed by senior leadership on the cybersecurity of classified programs and the security of our classified business supply chain. Other than oversight of classified business cybersecurity, the full Board retains oversight of cybersecurity because of its importance to Lockheed Martin and the heightened risk in the aerospace and defense industry. In the event of an incident, we intend to follow our detailed incident response playbook, which outlines the steps to be followed from incident detection to mitigation, recovery and notification, including notifying functional areas (e.g. legall), as well as senior leadership and the Board, as appropriate. In addition, assessing, identifying and managing cybersecurity related risks are integrated into our overall enterprise risk management process and we maintain cybersecurity insurance to further mitigate associated risks.

## Freeport-McMoRan Cyber Disclosures in Form 10-K and Proxy

1.5 pages of detailed 10-K cyber disclosure, organized under the headings of "Risk management and Strategy" and "Governance"

## 2023 10-K

#### Item 1C. Cybersecurity.

#### Risk Management and Strategy

We maintain a cyber risk management program designed to assess, identify, manage, mitigate and respond to cybersecurity threats and incidents. We seek to address material risks from cybersecurity threats through a cross-functional approach, and we utilize various processes to inform our identification, assessment and management of material risks from cybersecurity threats. Our cyber risk management program is integrated into our overall enterprise risk management (ERM) program, which is designed to provide cross-functional executive insight across the business to identify and monitor risks, opportunities and emerging trends that can impact our strategic business objectives. The underlying controls of our cyber risk management program are based on recognized best practices and standards for cybersecurity and information technology, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework.

We utilize dedicated internal and external cybersecurity personnel to focus on assessing, detecting, identifying managing, preventing and responding to cybersecurity threats and incidents. Our approach to cybersecurity incorporates a layered portfolio of technology controls, including strategic partnerships for our cybersecurity

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including processes to assess severity, escalate, contain, investigate and remediate an incident, as well as to comply with potentially applicable legal obligations.

We regularly evaluate and assess the threat landscape and our security controls, including through audits and assessments, regular network and endpoint monitoring, vulnerability testing, penetration testing and tabletop exercises that include senior management. To assess the design and effectiveness of our cybersecurity controls, we engage with assessors, consultants, auditors and other third parties, including through independent third-party reviews of our information technology security program conducted on at least an annual basis. We also have processes to oversee and identify material cybersecurity risks associated with our use of third-party service providers, including performing diligence on certain third parties that have access to our systems, data or facilities that store such systems or data, continually monitoring cybersecurity threat risks identified through such diligence and contracting to manage cybersecurity risks in specified ways such as agreements to be subject to periodic cybersecurity audits.

We have experienced targeted and non-targeted cybersecurity incidents in the past, including an incident in August 2023 that affected certain of our information systems and resulted in temporary disruptions to parts of our operations. However, prior cybersecurity incidents, including the August 2023 incident, have not materially affected us. Notwithstanding our cyber risk management program, we may not be successful in preventing or mitigating a cybersecurity incident that could materially affect us, including our business strategy, results of operations or financial condition. Refer to Item 1A. "Risk Factors" for further information on the risks we face from cybersecurity threats.

## 2024 Proxy Statement

## Management and Board Oversight of Cybersecurity

We maintain a cyber risk management program designed to assess, identify, manage, mitigate and respond to cybersecurity threats and incidents. We seek to address material risks from cybersecurity threats through a cross-functional approach, and we utilize various processes to inform our identification, assessment and management of material risks from cybersecurity threats. Our cyber risk management program is integrated into our overall ERM program. Our cybersecurity risk management and strategy processes are led by our chief information officer and our chief information security officer. While our management is responsible for the day-to-day management of cybersecurity risks, our board and its audit committee have ongoing oversight roles. In particular, the audit committee has responsibility for oversight of our information technology and cybersecurity processes and procedures, including oversight of risks from cybersecurity threats. The audit committee receives reports from management and meets with management at least annually to discuss our cyber risk management program.

We have experienced targeted and non-targeted cybersecurity incidents in the past, including an incident in August 2023 that affected certain of our information systems and resulted in temporary disruptions to parts of our operations. However, prior cybersecurity incidents, including the August 2023 incident, have not materially affected us. Upon discovery of the August 2023 incident, the board was informed and engaged in oversight of our response efforts. Management provided regular updates to the board and met regularly with the chair of our audit committee regarding the incident. A special meeting of the audit committee was convened to review the cybersecurity incident, our findings and response, and the audit committee briefed the full board on these matters. The board has continued to exercise its oversight to understand the lessons learned from the incident for continuous improvement. Additional information regarding our cybersecurity governance, risk management and strategy is available in our 2023 Form 10-K.

## CVS Cyber Disclosures in Form 10-K and Proxy

1 page of 10-K cyber disclosure; some overlap with proxy disclosure (1st paragraph of proxy disclosure the same as the 1st paragraph of the "Governance" section of 10-K) but otherwise different than 2024 proxy disclosure, though some prior year disclosure moved to 10-K

## 2023 10-K

#### Item 1C. Cybersecurity.

#### Cybersecurity Risk Management

Securing the Company's business information, intellectual property, customer, patient and employee data and technology systems is essential for the continuity of its businesses, meeting applicable regulatory requirements and maintaining the trust of its stakeholders. Cybersecurity is an important and integrated part of the Company's enterprise risk management function that identifies, monitors and mitigates business, operational and legal risk.

To help protect the Company from a major cybersecurity incident that could have a material impact on operations or the Company's financial results, the

To help protect the Company from a major cybersecurity incident that could have a material impact on operations or the Company's financial results, the Company has implemented policies, programs and controls, including technology investments that focus on cybersecurity incident prevention, identification and mitigation. The steps the Company takes to reduce its vulnerability to cyberattacks and to mitigate impacts from cybersecurity incidents include, but are not limited to: establishing information protection processes and technologies, monitoring its information technology systems for cybersecurity threats, assessing cybersecurity risk profiles of key third-parties, implementing cybersecurity training and collaborating with public and privacy and cybersecurity in tenderal results in the company is currently in material compliance with applicable information privacy and cybersecurity incident Response Plan (the "Plan"), which is integrated into its overall crisis management program. The Plan provides a framework for responding to cybersecurity incidents. The Plan identifies applicable requirements for incident disclosure and reporting as well as provides motoropics for incident evaluation incidual results in the removides and material results in consideration and internal resultation of the provides and provi

The Company has implemented a Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan (the "Plan"), which is integrated into its overall crisis management program. The Plan provides a framework for responding to cybersecurity incidents. The Plan identifies applicable requirements for incident disclosure and reporting as well as provides protocols for incident evaluation, including the use of third-party service providers and partners, processes for notification and internal escalation of information to the Company's senior management, the disclosure committee, the Board and appropriate Board committees. The Plan also addresses requirements for the Company's external reporting obligations. The Plan is reviewed and updated, as necessary, under the leadership of the Company's Chief Information Security Officer ("CISO") and Chief Privacy Officer ("CPO").

compliance with the for Industry Data Security policy that would help

Although the Company

#### Governance

Management has responsibility to manage risk and bring to the Board's attention the most material near-term and long-term risks to the Company. The Company's CISO leads management's assessment and management of eybersecurity risk. The CISO reports to the Company's Chief Digital, Data, Analytics & Technology Officer (the "CDDATO"), who reports directly to the Company's Chief Executive Officer. The CDDATO, CISO and the CPO, regularly review eybersecurity matters with management. The current CDDATO, CISO and CPO each has more than 10 years of experience managing risks or advising on eybersecurity issues.

The Board is actively engaged in overseeing and reviewing the Company's strategic direction and objectives, taking into account, among other considerations, the Company's risk profile and related exposures, as part of this oversight the Board has delegated certain of these responsibilities to committees of the Board. The Board has delegated the responsibility for the oversight of the Company's cyberceuticy risks program to the Nomination Geoprate Covernance Committee, As part of this oversight, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee profits and Company's cyberceuticy program periodically, and at least annually. The Company's ChDATO and ClSD update the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee profits and at least annually, and the full Board as needed, on the Company's cyberceutivy program, including with respect to particular cybersecutivy threats, incidents or new developments in the full Board as needed, on the Company's cybersecutivy program, including with respect to particular cybersecutive functions, incidents or new developments in the full Board as needed, on the Company's cybersecutive program including with respect to particular cybersecutive program including with respect to particular cybersecutive functions of the Company's cybersecutive program including with respect to particular cybersecutive functions of the Company's cybersecutive and the CPD advises the disclosure committee on cybersecutive native committee on cybersecutive native program to the Audit Committee cell the Company's cybersecutive risks program to the Audit Committee effective March 2024.

## 2024 Proxy Statement

## The Board's Role in Oversight of Cybersecurity and Information Governance

Management has responsibility to manage risk and bring to the Board's attention the most material near-term and long-term risks to the Company. The Company's CISO and its CPO lead management's assessment and management of cybersecurity and information security risk. The CISO reports to the Company's Chief Digital, Data, Analytics and Technology Officer (the "CDDATO"), who reports directly to the Company's CEO. The CDDATO, CISO and CPO also regularly review cybersecurity matters with management.

Until March 2024, the Board had delegated the responsibility for oversight of the Company's cybersecurity and information security risk programs to the N&CG Committee. As part of this oversight, the N&CG Committee reviewed the Company's cybersecurity and information governance programs periodically, and at least annually. The Company's CDDATO, CISO and CPO updated the N&CG Committee periodically, and at least annually, and the full Board as needed, on the Company's cybersecurity programs, including with respect to particular threats, incidents or new developments in the Company's risk profile.

In March 2024, the Audit Committee was formally delegated with primary responsibility with oversight of the Company's cybersecurity and information security risk management and governance and privacy programs. The responsibility was transitioned from the N&CG Committee in connection with the Board's review of the structure, membership and responsibilities of its standing committees. It is expected that the Audit Committee will now receive similar updates on the cybersecurity and information security programs from management as described above.

For more information on the Company's cybersecurity risk management and governance, see "Part 1. Item 1C. Cybersecurity" of CVS Health's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, as filed with the SEC on February 7, 2024.

In order to increase board fluency in cybersecurity and information governance matters, the directors participate in both internal and external programs on these subjects. During 2023, our directors attended several educational sessions on information technology matters, artificial intelligence ("Al") and cybersecurity, including presentations by management and external experts.

# The Need for AI Governance Disclosures

It is unlikely that any public company (or private) has not considered the implications of artificial intelligence on its industry, its operations and its business model. The use of a relatively new and rapidly-developing technology like Al involves implications for corporate governance on many levels. Consider the following:

- According to a <u>Deloitte survey</u> of over 2,800 executives across six industries and 16 countries in late 2023, while
  the vast majority of respondents (79%) expected generative AI to drive substantial transformation within their
  organization and industry over the next three years, only 25% said they were highly prepared to address governance
  and risk concerns (with 41% reporting that their companies were only slightly or not at all prepared). The speed of AI
  evolution and adoption (or pressure to adopt) may outpace more methodical governance decisions.
- SEC Chair Gary Gensler and former SEC Division of Enforcement Director Gurbir S. Grewal separately expressed concerns earlier this year that the surge in investor interest in AI may lead companies to "AI-washing," making claims to eager investors regarding AI capabilities and impacts without adequate factual diligence. Their comments indicate that the SEC expects companies to understand how AI impacts their operations and strategies and to assess and manage their AI risks.¹
- In its 2025 proxy voting policy survey<sup>2</sup>, Glass Lewis sought input on investor expectations regarding AI oversight safeguards that boards should have in place to assess impact and mitigate risks, as well as expectations regarding disclosure of details of AI risk assessment. Topics raised in the survey included:
  - The level of board AI expertise and oversight, including whether at least one board member should possess AI expertise.
  - Disclosure of the board's oversight of Al issues.
  - Details about AI risk assessment, including assessment of social and ethical implications.
- 60% of S&P 500 companies included an AI-related risk factor in their 2024 Form 10-K (almost quadruple from 2023), while only 9% disclosed Board-level oversight of AI-related risks – up from only 1% in 2023.<sup>3</sup>

While it is not necessary to discuss board oversight of every risk, given the ubiquity and breakneck pace of development of AI – and the apparent imperative of every company to consider its role in their operations and strategy – it may be worth assuring stakeholders that the Board is on it and equipped to understand its potential impacts on the company. Thorough discussion of a board's oversight of AI may be particularly prudent if AI is mission critical (or becoming so) rather than merely one of many tools being considered, AI is a key risk or business driver, or if the company's industry has faced AI problems.

- https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/speeches-statements/gensler-ai-021324; https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/speeches-statements/gurbir-remarks-pcce-041524
- See https://www.cooley.com/news/insight/2024/2024-08-14-iss-opens-survey-for-2025-policy-changes-glass-lewis-seeks-informal-feedback
- https://www.thecorporatecounsel.net/blog/2024/06/ai-related-disclosures-in-sec-filings-trends-from-the-sp-500-part-2.html; https://www.thecorporatecounsel.net/blog/2024/06/ai-related-disclosures-in-sec-filings-trends-from-the-sp-500-part-3.html

Investors and other stakeholders will likely be expecting informative disclosure in proxy statements addressing how boards are overseeing AI risks and opportunities. Companies should be prepared to demonstrate how their boards are competent to oversee this emerging but almost ubiquitous topic, whether through director experience and expertise, continuing education or use of advisors.

Details that companies may want to consider and address in Al governance include:

- 1. Board Oversight:
  - a. How does the Board oversee AI?
  - b. What corporate governance structures are in place around how AI is evaluated, used and monitored in the company's operations, products and services?
  - c. How are AI risks integrated into the company's risk management system?4
  - d. What is the frequency and type of AI information that the Board receives from management?

United Health Group provides details about how Board committees oversee and receive information about specific AI matters, and describes management's governance of AI.

#### Artificial Intelligence Risk Oversight

The use of artificial intelligence and machine learning continues to evolve within the health care industry. Our approach to the responsible use of Al is centered around a comprehensive governance structure to help ensure solutions are designed and used fairly, ethically and safely.

Our Board plays a critical role in overseeing our use of artificial intelligence. In 2023, the Board amended the charters of our Audit and Finance Committee and the Health and Clinical Practice Policies Committee to expressly bring the oversight of Al governance and use under their respective purviews. The Audit and Finance Committee has oversight of our Al framework, including oversight of our governance mechanisms to monitor, identify and mitigate potential risks associated with the deployment of Al. The Audit and Finance Committee also reviews reports on privacy and data security matters (including, as appropriate, those relating to Al systems or products). These reports include updates on our privacy program, risk management, and relevant legislative, regulatory, and technical developments. The Health and Clinical Practice Policies Committee oversees the responsible and ethical application of Al in support of modernizing and improving the health care system.

The complementary roles of these Board Committees help to ensure that the Board has oversight over all critical aspects of our development, governance, deployment and use of Al solutions.

At an operational level, the Company's Responsible Use of Al program is governed by the following:

- The Machine Review Learning Board performs a risk-based review, confirms that appropriate and acceptable bias
  testing has been performed and that any identified issues are addressed appropriately. It is also the forum in
  which the Company evaluates the potential consequences of an AI model on key stakeholders, such as patients,
  members, providers, and employees.
- The Internal Executive Advisory Council supports the overall alignment of the Responsible Use of Al Program with our mission and enables cross-functional perspectives and expertise from across the enterprise to be represented.
- The External Executive Advisory Board contributes AI expertise and healthcare community perspectives to ensure
  our policies and practices with respect to AI align with industry standards.

For more information on the Company's Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence Program, see the upcoming 2023 Sustainability Report.

- 2. Ethics: Does the company have AI principles governing the ethical use of AI?5
- 3. Director Skills/Bios: Should AI be a separate board skill? Should there be board proficiency, fluency or expertise?
- 4. Board Education: How does the board stay informed about the rapid pace of AI developments?
- The US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) issued an Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework in January 2023.
- In a study of 80 Fortune 100 companies' 2024 proxy statement, 11% disclosed that they use AI frameworks, principles or guidelines aimed at promoting responsible AI. <a href="https://www.corporatecomplianceinsights.com/lessons-from-2024-proxy-season/">https://www.corporatecomplianceinsights.com/lessons-from-2024-proxy-season/</a>. See for example Google, <a href="https://www.ai.google/responsibility/principles">https://www.ai.google/responsibility/principles</a>

In its "Outside the Boardroom" disclosure, Boeing noted that some directors received continuing education in AI.

## Outside the Boardroom

Our Board is deeply engaged in overseeing our business strategy and takes an active role in risk oversight. In order to provide robust and effective oversight across all aspects of Boeing, each director must possess a thorough understanding of our business, industry, strategy, values and culture, as well as the evolving risks and challenges facing the Company. Our Board continuously seeks ways, outside Board and committee meetings, to ensure that each director gains and maintains such an understanding, including through the means described below. For a description of actions the Board has taken during 2024 in response to Alaska Airlines Flight 1282, see page 1.

#### **Director Orientation**

Each new director participates in a comprehensive orientation program that includes:

- Business orientation meetings with leadership from each of the three business units, often including site visits
- Sessions with senior management covering topics such as long-term strategy, risk management, compliance priorities, significant financial, legal and accounting matters, corporate governance, sustainability matters, our ethics program and key policies and practices
- Briefings on the responsibilities and activities of each of the committees on which the director serves

New directors who serve on the Audit Committee also meet with representatives of our independent auditor

**2023 Update:** Sabrina Soussan, who joined the Board in April 2023, completed her orientation during 2023.

#### **Continuing Education**

- The Board is briefed by an outside advisor at least annually on developments relating to corporate governance and the roles and responsibilities of directors
- Each committee also conducts continuing education sessions on topics relevant to that committee's responsibilities
- Such topics may be briefed by outside advisors or experts or by internal subject matter experts
- All directors are required to complete the annual enterprise-wide product safety training and all directors with security clearances are required to complete additional clearance-related training
- Directors are encouraged to attend outside director continuing education programs at the Company's expense to assist them in staying abreast of developments in corporate governance and other topics relevant to their service on the Board

2023 Update: Directors were briefed by outside experts on topics including governance and ESG developments and certain directors participated in outside continuing education topics including governance, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. All directors completed fraud controls training and the 2023 enterprise safety training, Product Safety: Every Decision Matters.

#### **Deep Dives**

Directors participate in deep dives with subject matter experts on a variety of matters to ensure they have the deep knowledge necessary to provide robust oversight and fulfill their responsibilities

2023 Update: Deep dives included our competencybased training initiative, design practices system, enterprise cybersecurity framework and advanced persistent threats, sustainability and certain defense business programs.

#### **Site Visits**

The Board conducts periodic site visits in conjunction with its regular Board meetings to facilitate first hand insight into our operations and provide opportunities to engage with employees on various programs. Directors may also visit sites outside regular Board meetings

2023 Update: Visits in conjunction with Board meetings consisted of the satellite factory in El Segundo, the vertical lift factory in Philadelphia, and the Seattle Delivery Center for tours of the 777-9 and 737 MAX and engagements with leaders of Commercial Airplanes including the SVP of Global Supply Chain & Fabrication. In addition, five directors visited and participated in briefings at Wisk, where we are developing a self-flying, all-electric four-passenger vertical takeoff and landing air taxi

#### Engagements

Directors also periodically participate in employee engagements, as well as external conferences and meetings such as those with customers, suppliers and other industry participants in order to gain insight into Company culture, to interact one-on-one with employees at all levels of the Company and to better understand the concerns and focus areas of key stakeholders

2023 Update: Employee engagements included a fireside chat and Q&A at an engineering leadership meeting, a Safety Exchange broadcast by three members of the Aerospace Safety Committee and meetings with participants of our Executive Leader Acceleration Initiative. The Chair of the Aerospace Safety Committee participated in a panel discussion at the Boeing Aviation Safety Conference and supplier quality calls with global partners to discuss actions to improve first time quality. Two directors also participated in Seek, Speak & Listen sessions with the Organization Designation Authorization's ombudsperson and unit members.

## Laura Ann Smith

# Increasing Transparency in Incentive-Based Compensation Disclosures

Investors continue to scrutinize executive pay and hold compensation committee members accountable when compensation programs fall short, with performance-based incentives serving as the lynchpin of both compensation structure and effective disclosure. Companies should strive to provide clear disclosure of the components and mix of short and long-term incentives and demonstrate that the compensation program is thoughtfully structured with rigorous goals that appropriately align executive and shareholder interests and support corporate strategy and performance.

## Best practice companies:

- include a comprehensive snapshot of the metrics, weighting, rationale for the metrics, and high-level description of how they are calculated early in the proxy summary or CD&A,
- pair this disclosure with how the goals are established and set it alongside actual results to demonstrate goal rigor,
- provide detailed information in the discussion of incentive compensation later in the CD&A,
- clearly link each pay element to components of the company's strategy and business performance throughout the discussion, and
- highlight recent changes to the compensation program, emphasizing responsiveness to shareholder concerns or where changes were designed to better align compensation with strategic initiatives.

In addition, infographics are increasingly being used throughout CD&A to articulate the executive compensation program to readers. The effort required to distill a complex and multi-faceted short- or long-term incentive program into a simplified, but comprehensive and accurate, visual representation will pay dividends for company disclosures. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a well-designed visual that can help investors understand the complexities and results of incentive compensation may just be worth a thousand votes in favor of say-on-pay.

## CD&A Summary

Companies should think strategically about the use of the CD&A summary to set the tone and convey key information about the company's executive compensation program.

The CD&A summary provides the opportunity to:

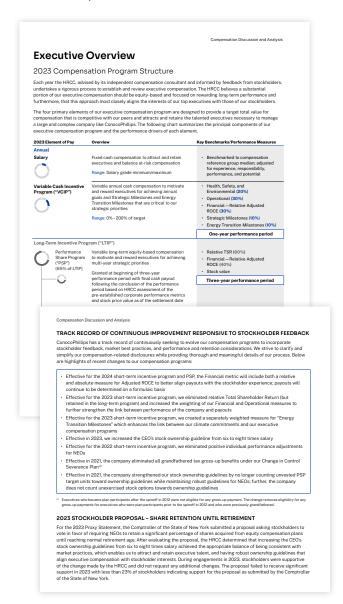
- highlight the metrics used across the incentive program and explain how and why the performance metrics were chosen and how these metrics support the company's strategic priorities,
- give an overview of company performance and the resulting incentive program achievements and payouts during the covered year as well as provide a muti-year performance overview to help demonstrate the effectiveness of the company's pay-for-performance framework design,
- explain changes to the program for the reporting year or other notable pay decisions (such as transition pay, guaranteed bonuses, special equity grants, or other one-time payments), and
- discuss shareholder outreach efforts, including feedback received and actions taken, particularly after disappointing say on pay results in the previous year(s).

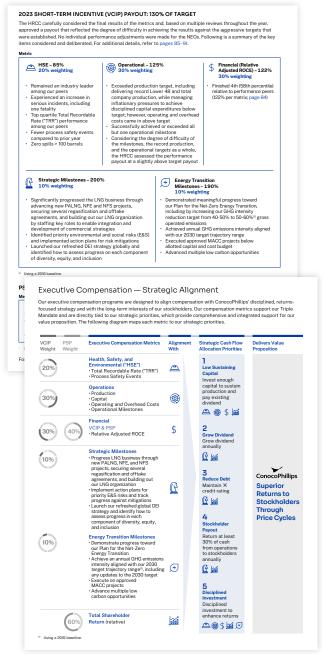
The following examples highlight current trends in CD&A executive summaries, including (i) increasing use of infographics, (ii) providing an overview of actual performance on incentive metrics at the outset of CD&A, and (iii) strengthening the messaging around how incentive compensation metrics support company strategy and pay for performance.

2024 Proxy Statement Trends 29

## ConocoPhillips 2024 Proxy Statement

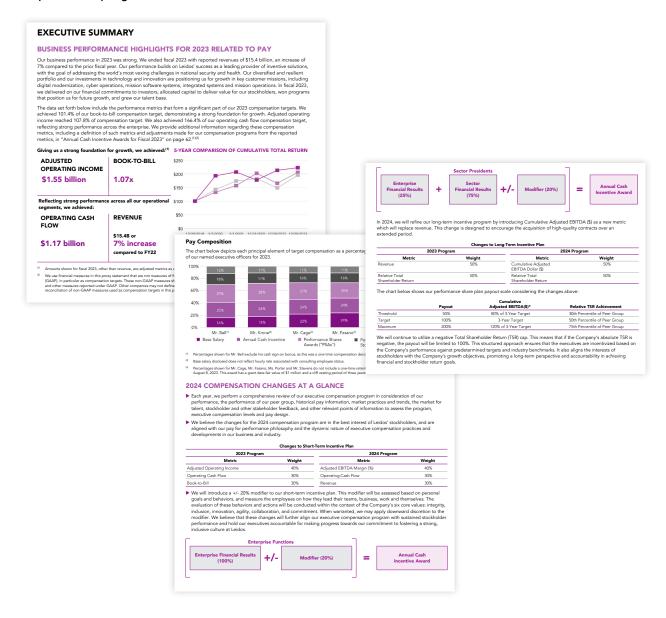
ConocoPhillips uses both narrative and key infographics throughout its Executive Overview to describe its compensation program structure, payouts under its short- and long-term incentive programs, responsiveness to shareholder feedback, and highlight how performance metrics align with the company's strategic priorities to deliver superior returns to stockholders.





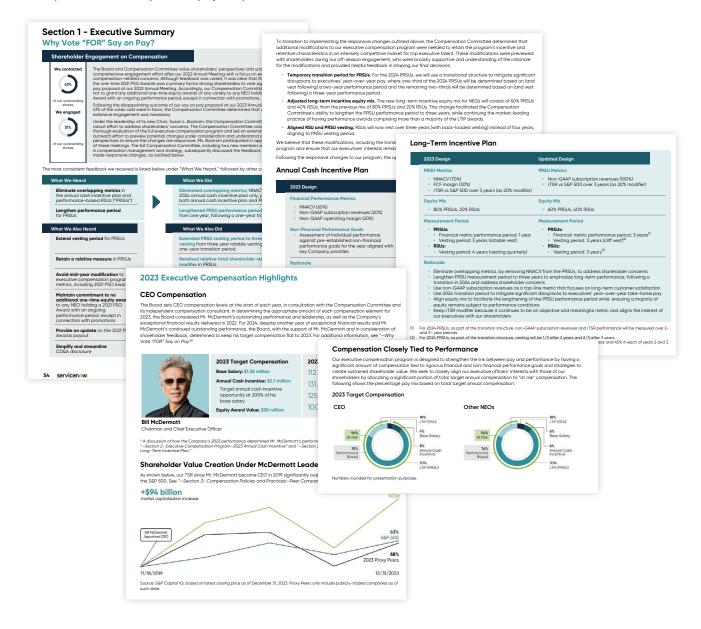
## Leidos 2024 Proxy Statement

**Leidos** uses strong infographics throughout its Executive Summary to highlight business performance that influenced pay decisions and concludes with a highly visual overview of changes made to its compensation program.



## ServiceNow 2024 Proxy Statement

**ServiceNow** frames its Executive Summary in terms of why shareholders should vote in favor of say-on-pay, using infographics to emphasize shareholder engagement on compensation and its incentive programs (including highlighting updated design for the current year), then concludes with an overview of CEO compensation to emphasize pay for performance.



## **Short-Term Incentives**

Disclosures for short-term incentives should be detailed and nuanced to help investors understand the unique characteristics of a company's annual bonus program and the metrics used to determine payouts. Companies should explain the rationale for the selection of performance metrics used in the annual incentive program for the applicable year (including how goals are set and how they relate to the annual operating plan, guidance/forecast, or prior year performance) and how they incentivize different components of a company's strategy and business performance.

Infographics should be used to aid investors' understanding of the performance measures, relative weighting, actual achievement of each metric versus target/range, and formulas used for calculation of final award payouts. Best practices in transparency include using graphics to:

- demonstrate how the annual incentive award is calculated mathematically, and
- present the performance goals, typically showing the relative weighting, range (threshold, target, maximum), and the actual results for the applicable year.

For companies incorporating ESG metrics into their short-term incentive compensation programs, special consideration should be given to the explanation of the rationale for their ESG metric(s), how it can be achieved, and how it ties into and advances the company's strategy and business performance. As with all non-financial metrics, companies should consider how to best support reported levels of achievement, particularly when individualized to each named executive officer, as demonstrating rigor in what is often a more discretionary evaluation will be important to investors when they are evaluating overall compensation committee performance.

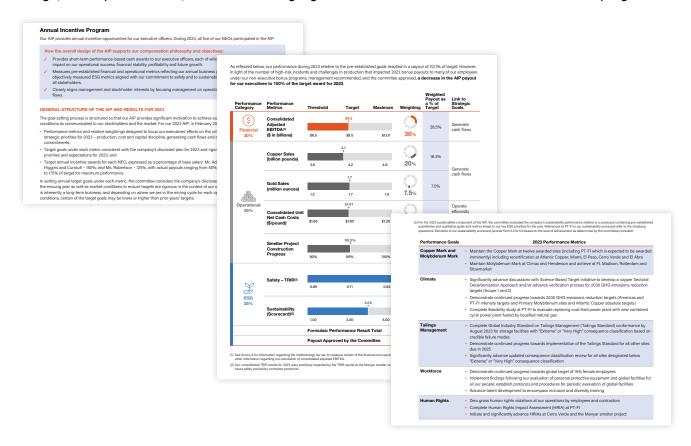
The following examples show a variety of approaches for (i) the increasing use of visuals to demonstrate the underlying calculation of an award and the possible range of payouts overlayed with actual performance and (ii) how companies are increasing the transparency of the outcomes related to non-financial and individual performance measures.

2024 Proxy Statement Trends

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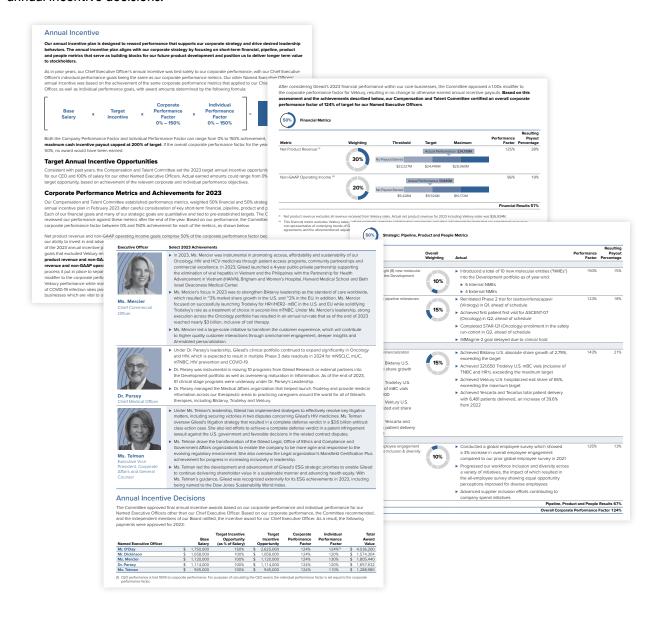
## Freeport McMoRan 2024 Proxy Statement

Through the use of a very tight infographic, **Freeport** is able to link performance metrics, relative weighting, range, actual performance, and link to strategic goals in its discussion of its short-term incentive program.



## Gilead Sciences 2024 Proxy Statement

Gilead Sciences aids its readers' understanding of its annual incentive program through the use of infographics to demonstrate the calculation of the award, the weighting, range and actual performance of both its financial and non-financial metrics as well as highlights individual achievements during the year used to reach the annual incentive decisions.



## Southern Company 2024 Proxy Statement

**Southern Company** focuses on the goal rigor, process used to set its goals, and why each goal is important in addition to discussing actual performance and individual assessments in its discussion of annual incentive compensation.



### **Long-Term Incentives**

Just as with short-term incentives, disclosures for long-term incentives should help investors understand the company's unique approach to equity-based compensation. Disclosures should help investors understand the mix of equity-based vehicles utilized by the company and why. In addition, the rationale for the selection of the metrics used to determine payouts should be explained along with how each incentivizes executives to support the company's strategy and business performance.

### Infographics should be used to:

- aid investors' understanding of the mix of equity components (i.e., stock options, RSUs, performance-based equity, or other equity-based awards),
- demonstrate how the annual incentive award is calculated mathematically,
- describe the performance measures, relative weighting, final results for each metric for the periods completed in the applicable year (versus target/range), and
- show the overlap and flow of all outstanding equity awards, including the projected pay outs for
  performance-based awards and potential vesting periods post-achievement to help investors (and
  compensation committees) see the interplay of these awards and to highlight the pay-for-performance
  linkage of a company's long-term incentive program as time progresses.

When compensation committees choose to certify vesting of long-term compensation absent goal attainment or to provide one-time equity awards, companies should provide as much detail as possible regarding the rationale and the criteria considered to support the rigor of the award process.

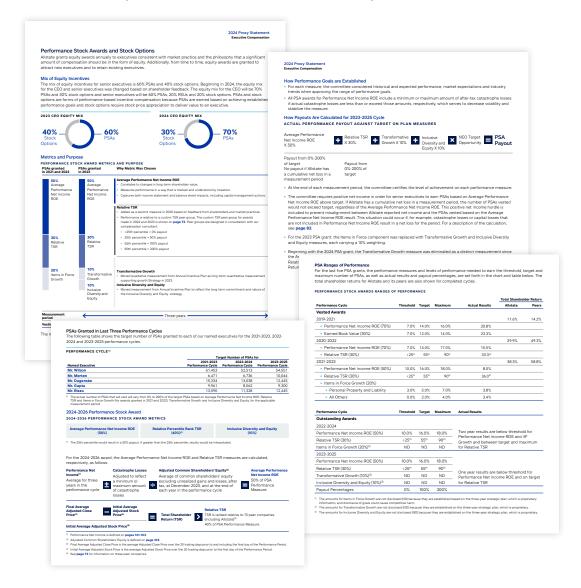
The examples below provide a sampling of how companies continue to augment their long-term incentive discussions to make clear why metrics are appropriate, how awards are calculated, and how actual performance compares to the range of potential payouts. In addition, more and more companies are including equity cascades to show current trending on outstanding equity awards to support the pay-for-performance aspects of their long-term incentive programs.

2024 Proxy Statement Trends

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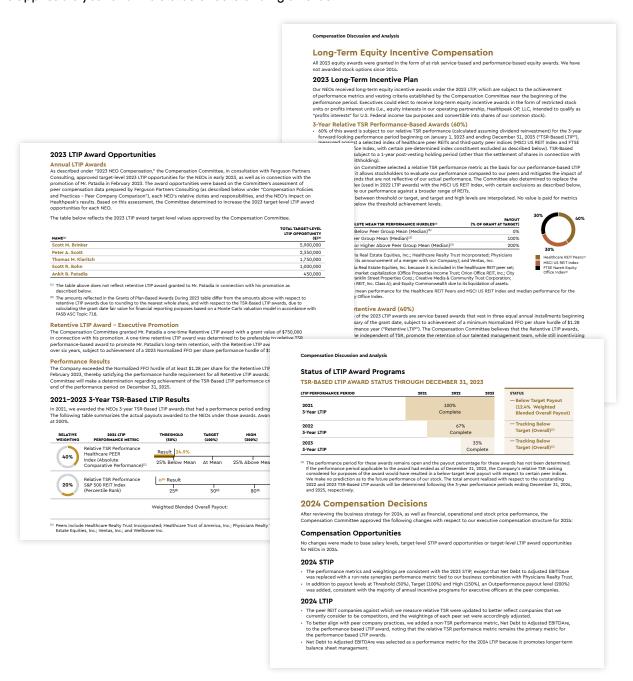
### Allstate 2024 Proxy Statement

Allstate's LTI discussion addresses multiple years of historic performance stock awards, including rationale for chosen metrics, calculation of awards, and provides a current overview of performance to date, as well as provides detail on changes made for stock performance awards granted in 2024.



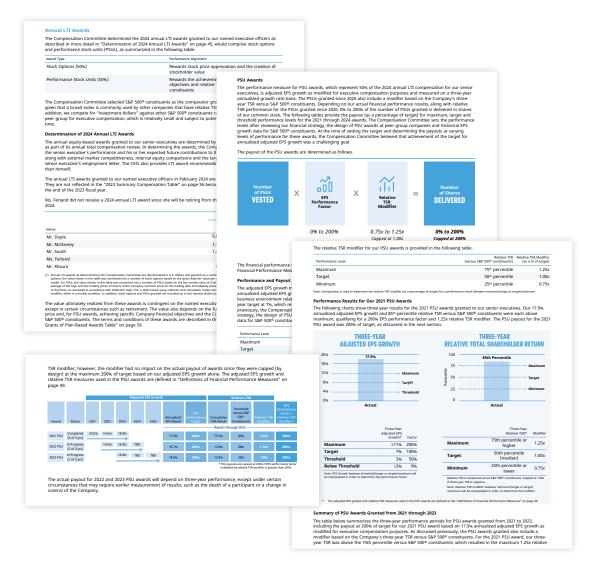
### Healthpeak 2024 Proxy Statement

Healthpeak's disclosure includes discussion of both performance-based and retentive long-term incentive awards, including a discussion of why the compensation committee believes such awards and the chosen metric are appropriate. In addition, Healthpeak provides a visual overview of the results of awards vesting in the applicable year and the status of outstanding awards.



### Marsh & McLennan 2024 Proxy Statement

Marsh & McLennan uses a succinct, highly visual presentation to describe its long-term incentive program. The presentation of the performance results varies from the frequently used slider and provides an alternative for consideration. The cascade of outstanding equity awards and progress to date in achievement is highly effective in conveying a substantial amount of information in a very digestible format.



### **NEO Scorecards**

Finally, companies are increasingly using "individual scorecards" to illustrate the compensation decisions and individual performance factors considered for each named executive officer. In addition to providing additional transparency, scorecards are particularly effective when incentive plans are non-formulaic, performance metrics differ by NEO, or discretion is used in determining the achievement of one or more performance metrics to (1) help investors understand the factors used by the compensation committee to determine accomplishments and (2) demonstrate the rigor of the evaluation process. Scorecards also provide an opportunity to explain changes made to a particular NEO's compensation or a one-time award given that is unique to one or more NEOs, whether in light of shareholder feedback, job changes, or other corporate events.

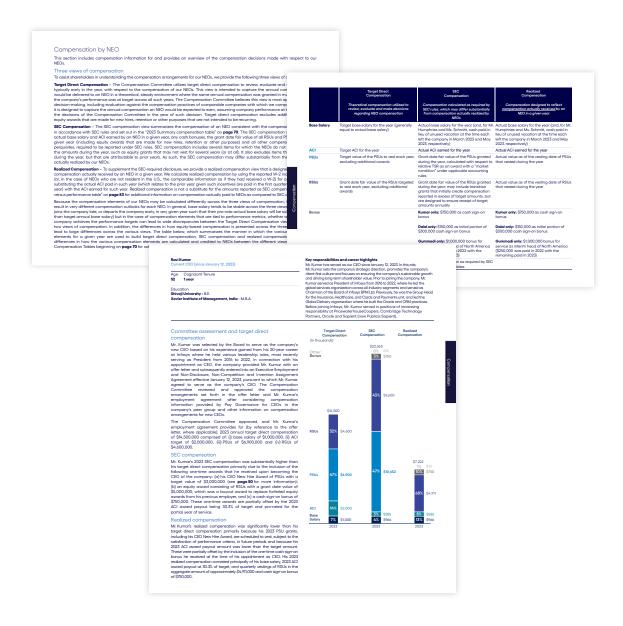
Overall presentation of scorecards varies from simple to elaborate. Some are short overviews of individual elements of compensation, while others are comprehensive disclosures of pay and individual performance accomplishments during the year. Presentations can range from tables of accomplishments by individual to highly visual overviews that include pictures of the NEOs and primary responsibilities in addition to the compensation information.

Ultimately, the chosen approach should support the overall goal for including – to better share the information with investors to ensure their understanding of the company's overall compensation program.

With the increasing prevalence of NEO scorecards, the following examples include a variety of potential approaches used by companies throughout CD&A.

### Cognizant 2024 Proxy Statement

**Cognizant** includes biographical information for each NEO, including key responsibilities and career highlights. In addition, three views of compensation are included: target compensation, SEC compensation, and realized compensation – each of which are defined at the outset of the section.



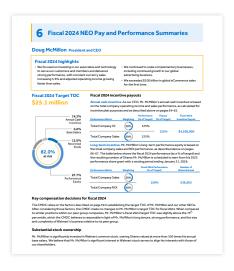
### Dow 2024 Proxy Statement

Dow includes individual NEO performance summaries in its CD&A Executive Summary, which sets out individual performance achievements (and self-reported diversity characteristics). The lead-in indicates that "in determining compensation decisions, the [Compensation] Committee assesses each NEO's individual performance for achievements linked to the Company's performance, as well as how each NEO demonstrated leadership commitment to the Company's ambition to be the most innovative, customercentric, inclusive, and sustainable materials science company in the world."



### Walmart 2024 Proxy Statement

Walmart includes a one-page pay and performance summary for each of its NEOs, following the discussion of its performance goals and performance, that provides in year highlights and key compensation decisions for the year as well as pay mix and actual performance and payouts for annual cash and long-term incentives.



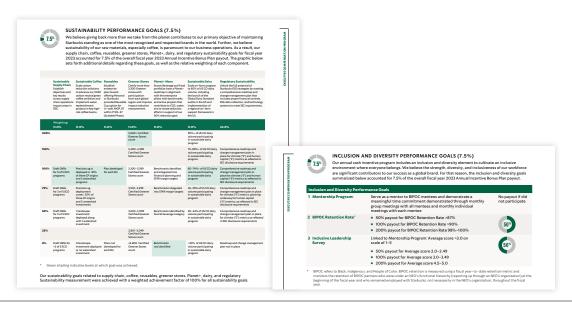
# Showing Progress on ESG-related Incentive Plan Metrics

In the past few years, companies have increasingly added one or more ESG metrics to their incentive compensation plans. A recent Semler Brossy study of proxies filed between May 2023 and April 2024 by companies in the S&P 500 found that 74% had adopted some kind of ESG metric in their incentive plans. Virtually all of those companies incorporated the metrics into their annual incentive plans; only 1.1% had ESG metrics only in their long-term plans, and 12.5% had ESG metrics in both their long- and short-term plans. The most prevalent category of ESG metrics was human capital management (71%), with the top three topics being DEI (54%), talent development (32%), and employee satisfaction (29%). Environmental and "other" metrics (such as customer satisfaction and cybersecurity) were both adopted by 42% of the companies that had ESG metrics. Possibly in response to the concern that ESG metrics can be subjective, 87% of the companies that used such metrics implemented a formal weighted structure to assess performance rather than a discretionary one.

Surprisingly, only 34% of the companies that used ESG metrics offered detail about their performance goals. The authors of the Semler Brossy study attribute this lack of transparency to liability concerns and the desire to maintain flexibility. At a minimum, disclosure should explain why particular metrics and goals were chosen, including why they are relevant to the company and its strategy. Companies also should endeavor to indicate how performance was evaluated.

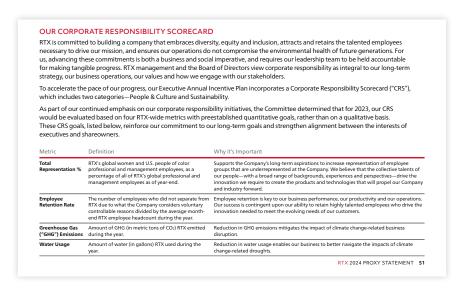
### Starbucks 2024 Proxy Statement

**Starbucks** disclosed very specific ESG goals for the NEO team as a group. The matrix presented in their CD&A makes it easy to see what the goals were and the extent to which they were achieved. This disclosure was followed by a discussion of the company's DEI goals and achievements, which varied by individual NEO.



### Raytheon 2024 Proxy Statement

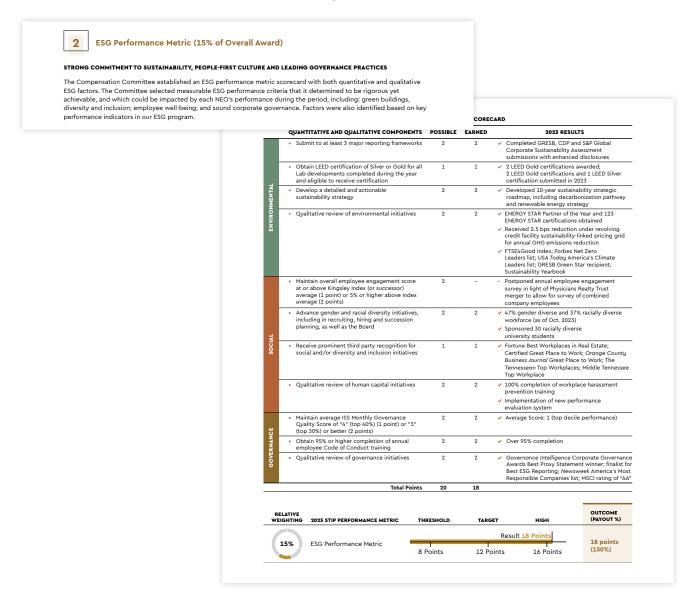
Raytheon's annual incentive plan included four specific ESG goals that applied to all the NEOs. The proxy statement explains why those goals were chosen and shows the extent to which they were achieved.



The 2023 Corporate Responsibi	lity Scoreca	ard goals, results a	and performance	factors are shown	below:	
		2023 Goals				
CRS Metric <sup>(1)</sup>	Weight	Threshold (50% funding)	Target (100% funding)	Maximum (200% funding)	2023 Results	CR! Performance Factor
Total Representation %	5%	42.6%	43.3%	44.6%	42.9%	71%
Employee Retention Rate (%)	5%	92.0%	93.3%	95.5%	95.0%	177%
People & Culture						124%
GHG Emissions (metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	5%	1,694,499	1,472,665	1,275,242	1,452,220	110%
Water Usage (gallons)	5%	1,743,109,069	1,586,117,140	1,439,015,871	1,613,500,499	91%
Sustainability						101%

### Healthpeak 2024 Proxy Statement

**Healthpeak's** incentive plan included ESG goals that were both quantitative and qualitative, so the company provided a narrative explanation to support the assigned scores.



### Honeywell 2024 Proxy Statement

**Honeywell** lists the ESG-related goals in its incentive plan, and explains the strategic rationale for each. Results are shared as "exceeded," "achieved," or "not achieved," without additional detail.

### **ICP ESG PORTION (5% OF TARGET AWARD)**

Honeywell takes seriously its commitment to corporate social responsibility, protection of the environment, and maintenance of sound and effective governance practices. This commitment starts at the top with our executive officers, and is demonstrated through collective progress toward achieving our publicly disclosed sustainability goals, visible contributions to society, and overall progress in our internal goals related to good governance.

In order to emphasize the Company's commitment and need for the leadership team to work collectively to achieve business-critical ESG objectives, beginning in 2023, 5% of the ICP awards for the NEOs was based on the MDCC's assessment of performance against certain pre-established ESG goals, the results of which were applied collectively to all the NEOs.

Performance against the 2023 environmental and social goals was tracked and reported as either (i) Exceeded, (ii) Achieved, or (iii) Not Achieved. Performance on the governance goal was reported as (i) Achieved, or (ii) Not Achieved.

ESG Goal Pillar	2023 ESG Goal Description <sup>(1)</sup>	Strategic Rationale	Result
Environmental #1	Reduce greenhouse gas emission intensity by an additional 10% from 2018 levels	Leadership in the energy transition is an important enabler of Honeywell's long-term growth.	Exceeded
Environmental #2	Deploy 10 renewable energy projects	Since 2004, Honeywell has been a leader in establishing and exceeding ambitious sustainability targets.	Exceeded
Environmental #3 Achieve certification to ISO's 50001 Ener Management Standard at 10 sites		Continuing to do so is a critical growth enabler.	Exceeded
Social	Maintain or increase the percentage of candidate slates that have diverse candidates at the interview stage	<ul> <li>A diverse and inclusive workforce enables better decision-making and innovation, helps build competitive advantage, and furthers our long-term success.</li> </ul>	Achieved
Governance	Ensure 100% of eligible employees complete Code of Business Conduct certification and related training	<ul> <li>The Code of Business Conduct establishes the Foundational Principles and ethical conduct expectations for our global workforce.</li> </ul>	Achieved
		<ul> <li>Achieving 100% certification throughout the organization helps mitigate the risk of reputational and financial harm and encourages employees to report their concerns.</li> </ul>	

<sup>(1)</sup> The three environmental goals are directly aligned with the Company's 10-10-10 public sustainability goals.

Following a comprehensive review and discussion of CEO staff performance against the 2023 ESG goals, and broadly considering the success that leadership has had in advancing the Company's sustainability commitments, the MDCC approved an overall attainment percentage of 150% of target for the ESG Portion (5%) of the 2023 ICP awards to the NEOs.

### **Etsy 2024 Proxy Statement**

**Etsy's** individual performance objectives for each NEO's 2023 annual cash incentive award included ESG goals tailored to the NEO's particular responsibilities. These items were flagged in the individual performance scorecards.

### 2023 Individual Performance

Early in the second quarter of 2023, our Compensation Committee reviewed and approved the CEO's goals and objectives for 2023 and reviewed and approved the 2023 goals and objectives recommended by Mr. Silverman for each other Executive Team member. In early March 2024, our Compensation Committee also reviewed each NEO's individual 2023 performance against those goals and objectives. However, in light of the decision to cap 2023 annual incentive awards payouts for the NEOs, the Committee did not award annual cash incentive payouts based on the individual performance factors for each NEO.

The following table summarizes select 2023 accomplishments for each NEO.

Named Executive Officer	Select 2023 Achievements
Josh Silverman	<ul> <li>Under Mr. Silverman's guidance, Etsy.com continued our product development and return on investment focused marketing efforts to bring new buyers to Etsy, improve buyer retention, and improve the Etsy seller experience, while maintaining a healthy adjusted EBITDA margin.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mr. Silverman also guided efforts to power our marketplaces' growth and spearheaded revenue growth projects, particularly enhancements to Etsy Ads and our payments platform.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mr. Silverman remained focused on improving risk management and oversight at Etsy, prioritizing efforts to enhance our risk management program to more clearly define ownership, prioritization, and risk appetites of our key risks.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mr. Silverman also oversaw our progress towards our sustainability goals, including reducing our Scope 3 emissions.</li> </ul>
Rachel Glaser	<ul> <li>Ms. Glaser continued to guide Etsy's annual operating plan and forecast processes, which establish financial targets and identify and prioritize investments that deliver strong return on invested capital and maximize free cash flow.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Ms. Glaser led efforts to optimize operating margins through operational improvements, restructurings, and other cost optimization initiatives.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Ms. Glaser continued to manage Etsy's capital allocation strategy, which in 2023 returned over 80% of free cash flow to shareholders through share repurchases.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Ms. Glaser led finance teams that continued to deliver on our integrated ESG reporting and implemented a new environmental data management platform to enhance our reporting capacity.</li> </ul>

## Human Capital Management: Staying Focused on Strategy

Pursuant to the SEC's principles-based rule, human capital management disclosure is required in a company's Form 10-K if material to the business. Most companies also provide an overview of the company's human capital management strategies—including the board's oversight role—in the proxy.

Despite recent legal and political turmoil surrounding DEI and other human capital-related issues, **investors remain focused** on how a company manages its vital resource of employees and workers in the company's value chain. In February 2024, EY reported that a company's talent agenda was named as a top-three priority by 63% of investors interviewed (representing institutional investors with US\$50 trillion in assets under management), more than any other topic<sup>(1)</sup>. In particular, investors wanted to understand how companies acquire, develop and retain employees, including ensuring employee skills match company plans for technological transformation.

As an important resource and strategic asset, human capital is commonly discussed in proxy statements either in the form of HCM highlights (62% of S&P 250 companies) or as part of the board's oversight responsibilities (35% of S&P 250 companies have a dedicated HCM oversight section or callout). **HCM disclosures acknowledge the link between an engaged, productive workforce and strategic execution.** What and how much to disclose depends on several factors, including the importance of HCM to the company's strategy and risk management and the information needs of its investors. Consider the voting guidelines of major institutional investors, who want to see disclosures addressing how HCM (and often diversity in particular) aligns with the company's strategy and business model.

In the absence of mandatory reporting requirements, HCM proxy disclosure should remain grounded in basic reporting principles of materiality, accuracy, completeness, accessibility, precision, comparability, and clarity. Adherence to these principles may also help guard against activists who seek detailed reports about the effectiveness and impact of DEI programs and other workplace social practices<sup>(2)</sup>. There is no one-size-fits-all location or length of HCM proxy disclosure. Consider the goal of the messaging – a highlights section can be used to provide an overview of company efforts with links for readers to learn more, while more detailed disclosure in the board oversight section is appropriate to provide a view into the boardroom, showing what the board is doing to guide human capital efforts and communicating its importance to overall company strategy.

<sup>5</sup> Smith, Jamie. What Directors Need To Know About The 2024 Proxy Season. Ernst & Young. February 6, 2024. https://www.ey.com/en\_us/board-matters/a-preview-of-the-2024-proxy-season-for-board-directors

<sup>(2)</sup> In 2024, proposals submitted to vote that focused on human rights and workplace social issues averaged 17% support, excluding proposals that questioned the rationale and impact of social programs (also called "anti-ESG") which garnered average support of less than 2%. See Gibson Dunn, Shareholder Proposal Developments During The 2024 Proxy Season, July 29, 2024 <a href="https://www.gibsondunn.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/shareholder-proposal-developments-during-the-2024-proxy-season.pdf?v3">https://www.gibsondunn.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/shareholder-proposal-developments-during-the-2024-proxy-season.pdf?v3</a>

### **HCM Highlights**

Two-thirds of S&P 250 companies included an ESG highlights section in their 2024 proxy statements, typically divided by environmental, social (including HCM) and governance highlights. Slightly fewer (62%) included **discrete HCM highlights**, and of those, almost all discussed DEI. Other topics discussed in approximately half of the HCM highlights section were training and development, values and culture, health and well-being, and employee engagement. We have noticed that some companies have reduced the quantity or depth of DEI disclosure in their highlights from 2023.

A little over one-third of S&P 250 companies disclosed qualitative and/or quantitative progress on their broader ESG goals. Our analysis of a subset of 100 S&P 250 companies (representing a cross-section of industries) revealed that about a third disclosed DEI goals. The nature of DEI and other HCM goals vary, and whether or not to have or to change DEI goals depends on how important the goals are to workforce strategies and long-term business performance. However, **transparency about progress and impact even in the absence of goals can send a valuable message about company commitment.** For example, a study shows that the "sunshine effect" of transparency led customers to view companies sharing workforce diversity numbers, even when they are not ideal, as more committed to diversity<sup>(3)</sup>.

### **Board HCM Oversight**

Investors have made clear that they need to understand **how the board assesses and manages significant risks and opportunities**, including human capital risks and opportunities. It is therefore imperative that companies effectively communicate the board's processes for HCM oversight.

Beyond the basic description of which committee oversees HCM, robust disclosure could address:

- How, when and from whom the board receives HCM-related information
- How it stays current on HCM topics
- How HCM risk is managed at the company level
- More detail on particularly significant matters such as management succession planning and labor relations. These can take the form of evergreen disclosures or, alternatively, "spotlights" that change annually based on particular company circumstances.

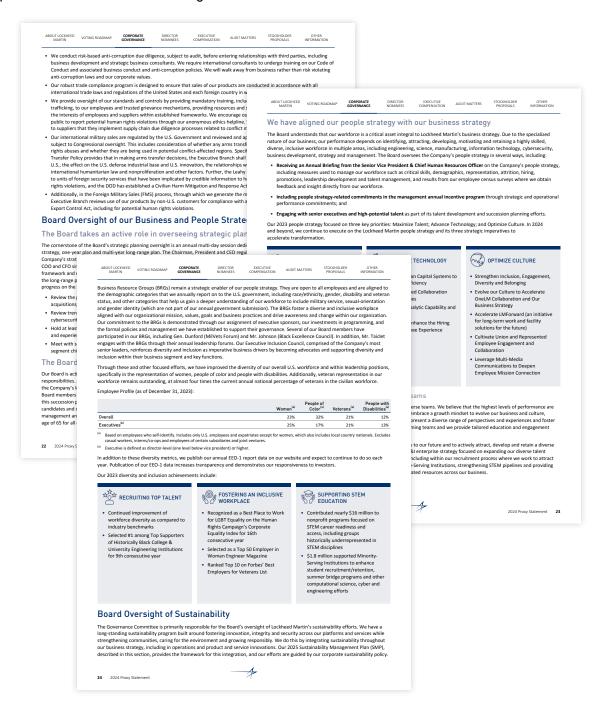
HCM disclosure should not be a check-the-box exercise. Every company's HCM strategy and risk profile is different, and the proxy statement is an **opportunity to tell the company's unique story**. Discussing HCM strategies, goals and progress in the proxy statement is part of providing investors insight into company culture, strategy and risk management. This disclosure should be used to communicate that the HCM program is based on and assessed with data, tied to overall company strategy, and authentic.

Gupta, Shalene. Why Companies Should Share Their DEI Data (Even When It's Unflattering). Harvard Business School. February 27, 2024. <a href="https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/why-companies-should-share-dei-data-even-when-its-unflattering#:~:text=US%20law%20">https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/why-companies-should-share-dei-data-even-when-its-unflattering#:~:text=US%20law%20 requires%20companies%20with,the%20Equal%20Employment%20Opportunity%20Commission</a>

### **Examples**

### Lockheed Martin 2024 Proxy Statement

**Lockheed Martin** provides detailed information about the board's engagement around HCM as part of Corporate Governance/board oversight disclosure.



### Intel 2024 Proxy Statement

Intel provides HCM KPIs in a highlights section, and provides insight into board oversight of HCM and director HCM expertise as part of its corporate governance/board oversight discussion.

Introduction to Our Business

### **Human Capital Management**

 $Intel's approximately 125,000\ employees\ are\ shaping\ the\ future\ with\ computing\ and\ connectivity\ technologies.\ Our\ people$ and culture are critically important to Intel's success. We strive to attract, develop, and retain the world's best talent who seek to build transformative products and services that help our customers succeed in an increasingly data-driven world. We are committed to creating an inclusive workplace where the world's best engineers, technologists, and technicians can fulfill their dreams and create technology that improves the life of every person on the planet. We believe that Intel can be more innovative, agile, and competitive when every employee has a voice and a sense of belonging.

 $Intel\ is\ innovating\ how\ we\ work\ by\ fostering\ a\ disciplined\ and\ efficient,\ yet\ flexible,\ workplace\ where\ people\ are\ motivated\ to\ people\ and\ people\ are\ motivated\ to\ people\ are\ motivated\ to\ people\ peo$ execute to create world-changing technology. All employees are responsible for upholding our values (see page 6), the Intel Code of Conduct, and Intel's Global Human Rights Principles, which form the foundation of our policies and practices and ethical business culture. For additional human capital related information, see our Corporate Responsibility Report.



28 1% Inclusion is one of Intel's core values and is at Women global employees 17.0%

the heart of our culture. We cont support the inclusion, developm progression of all our talent. We provide a workplace where ever cess and opportunity to achie



#### Compensation and Bene

We strive to provide market-con benefits, and services that help r varying needs of our employees, that our holistic approach towar representation, and creating an i culture enables us to cultivate a that helps employees develop ar in their careers at all levels.



#### **Growth and Developmen**

We invest significant resources the talent needed to remain at the of innovation and make Intel an e choice. We offer extensive traini provide rotational assignment of and continue updating our job a help employees create custom I programs for building skills and of their careers.



#### Health, Safety, and Welli

We provide access to a variety o flexible, and convenient health a programs, including on-site heal and we aim to increase awarenes support for mental and behavior continue to build our strong safe and drive global expansion of ou wellness program through emple

All tabular data is as of December 31, 2023 or du (e.g., senior leadership, underrepresented minori website and will be available in our 2023-2024 Co information to be reported in our 2023-2024 Co

### **Human Capital Management**

The Board is actively engaged in overseeing Intel's human capital management strategies, results, initiatives, and programs through the Compensation Committee, including assessing whether Intel's culture reflects its longstanding commitment to the compensation of the compensation ofresponsibility, inclusivity, and sustainability; talent training, recruitment, development, and retention; employee engagement; emplo

#### 11 Intel directors have Human Capital experience

Our Board, including our Compensation Committee, has extensive human capital experience gathered over the action of the compensation of the compprofessional careers of its members, such as Dr. Ishrak, who as CEO of Medtronic oversaw over 90,000 employees; Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey, who was a senior leader at, and oversaw for over 15 years, the nation's largest healthcare-focused philanthropic organization, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Ms. Novick, who was one of BlackRock's co-founders and helped grow the institution into one of the world's largest asset managers; and Mr. Weisler, who as HP CEO oversaw a worldwide employee base in excess of 50,000.



#### **Management Succession**

As reflected in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, one of the Board's primary responsibilities include planning for CEO succession and monitoring management's succession planning for other senior executives. The Board's goal is to have long-term program for effective senior leadership development and succession, as well as short-term contingency plans for gency and ordinary course contingencies. The program plays an important role in the company's success. The Board, s well as the current senior leadership team, understand the importance of and are keenly focused on the development of internal talent and succession planning.

The Compensation Committee reviews succession planning and management development tonics with the Board at least annually. The Board and the Compensation Committee work with our CEO and our Chief People Officer to plan for succession. The Board has an opportunity to meet regularly with executives at many levels across the company through  $formal\ presentations\ at\ Board\ meetings\ and\ informal\ events\ throughout\ the\ year.\ Board\ members\ also\ engage\ with\ senior\ leaders\ through\ the\ company's\ advisory\ committees,\ and\ consequently\ attain\ greater\ and\ deeper\ familiarity\ with\ senior\ through\ the\ company's\ advisory\ committees,\ and\ consequently\ attain\ greater\ and\ deeper\ familiarity\ with\ senior\ through\ the\ company's\ advisory\ committees,\ and\ consequently\ attain\ greater\ and\ deeper\ familiarity\ with\ senior\ through\ through$ leadership. Board members are also partnered with key senior leaders based on their backgrounds to assist with mentorship and oversight. The topic of succession planning and management development is discussed regularly in executive sessions of the Board and/or Compensation Committee.



#### **Our Culture**

Our culture is defined by our values. Our values - Customer First, Fearless Innovation, Results Driven, One Intel, Inclusion, Quality, and Integrity—guide how we make decisions, treat each other, serve our customers to achieve their goals, an shape technology as a force for good. Intel is focused on how we recruit, retain, and develop our talent. Organizational culture is monitored and measured by management and overseen by the Compensation Committee.



### Compensation

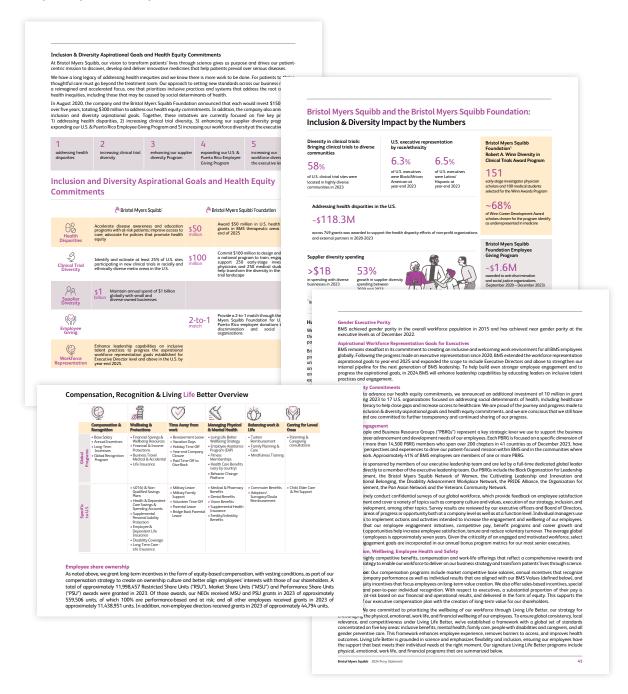
The Compensation Committee determines the compensation for our executive officers, including our CEO. The  $Compensation\ Committee\ reviews\ the\ executive\ compensation\ program\ throughout\ the\ year\ with\ the\ assistance\ of\ an analysis of\ the\ program\ throughout\ throughout\ the\ program\ throughout\ throu$ independent compensation consultant. For additional information with respect to the Compensation Committee, s "4. Board Structure and Engagement; Board and Committee Engagement; Board Committees; Talent and Compensation Committee" on page 34

2024 PROXY STATEMENT

Corporate Governance Matters

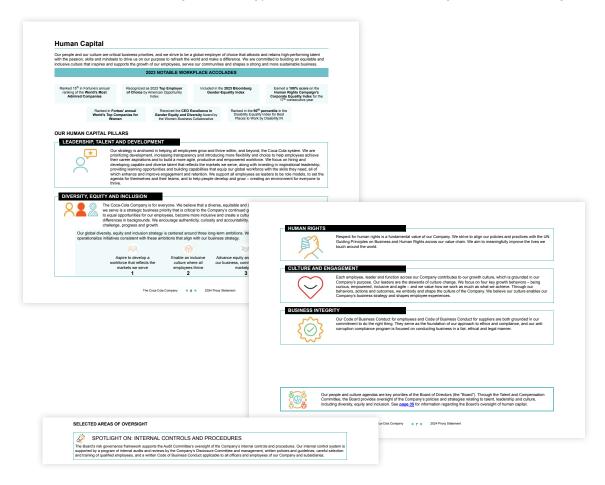
### Bristol Myers Squibb 2024 Proxy Statement

**Bristol Myers Squibb** presented its 2024 business performance in its Executive Compensation section, including 4 pages detailing its human capital efforts.



### Coca Cola 2024 Proxy Statement

**Coca Cola** includes a highlight section on human capital, and in its Corporate Governance/board oversight disclosure describes board oversight of strategy and risk and provides a spotlight on HCM oversight.



## Lightning Round: Ten Proxy Disclosures That Have Evolved in Recent Years

Sometimes it is challenging to define what constitutes a "trend" in corporate disclosures. Most proxy statement developments are the result of incremental changes year over year that eventually accumulate into a noticeable shift in approach. The following are ten examples of proxy disclosures that - whether by regulation, stakeholder influence, self-prioritized governance enhancements, or a mix of the three - continue to evolve in content and presentation.

56 Board Skills Matrix	61 Beyond the Boardroom
57 Director Biographies	<b>62</b> Sustainability Governance
58 Re-nomination Process	63 Rationale for Incentive Metrics
59 Director Time Commitments	64 Equity Grant Timing
60 Shareholder Engagement Cycle	65 Clawback/Recoupment Policy

2024 Proxy Statement Trends

55

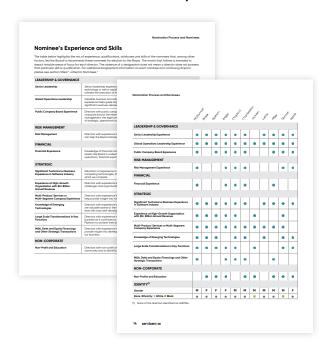
### 1. Board Skills Matrix

The board skills matrix, which presents the qualifications and experience of each individual director, is key to demonstrating that the proposed slate of nominees has the expertise needed to guide the company's long-term strategy and create shareholder value. The initial iteration of the matrix included a list of skills with checkmarks or similar indicator for each of the applicable directors possessing the requisite experience. Later versions of the matrix include, or are supplemented with, a description of each desired skill and (ideally) how the skill is relevant to board effectiveness for that specific company. To emphasize the connection to strategy, some skill matrices now visually present qualifications related to strategy separate from other necessary competencies of its board members.

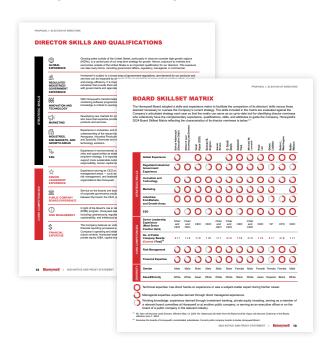
### Lumen 2024 Proxy Statement



### ServiceNow 2024 Proxy Statement



### Honeywell 2024 Proxy Statement



### 2. Director Biographies

As companies enhance their board skillset disclosures, nominee biographies also have been reimagined. To some extent, it seems that disclosure around director experience has come full circle and perhaps the newest presentation of board qualifications and skills in bios most closely aligns with the intent of the rule promulgated 15 years ago requiring "specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led to the conclusion that the person should serve as a director . . . in light of the registrant's business and structure." Bios that once laid out a director's career path, together with a narrative discussion, moved to a bulleted format with career highlights and skills lists or icons. While easy-to-digest, readers needed to make the connection between the director's professional background and the acquired skill. More recently, however, biographies directly and succinctly link qualifications with experience. Some companies even distinguish between type or level of experience.

### Coca Cola 2024 Proxy Statement



### CSX 2024 Proxy Statement



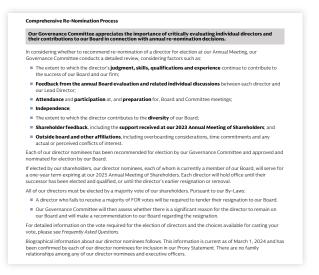
### 3. Re-nomination Process

Director nomination disclosures historically have focused on the nomination and corporate governance committee's recommendation of the slate of nominees for election. Often this section includes a statement that the committee annually considers the current composition of the board, as well as ongoing consideration of the board's collective skills and needs in light of the company's near and long-term strategic ambitions. Many proxies then move directly into disclosure about the process for identifying new director candidates. More recently, however, companies are sharing more detail about how they consider the renomination of incumbent directors, with some companies emphasizing that re-nomination is not automatic.

### JPMorgan Chase 2024 Proxy Statement



### Goldman Sachs 2024 Proxy Statement



### Mondelez 2024 Proxy Statement

### INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR SELF-ASSESSMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR RENOMINATION OF INCUMBENT DIRECTORS

The Board does not believe that directors should expect to be automatically renominated. Therefore, annual Board and director self-assessments are important determinants in a director's renomination and tenure.

The Governance Committee coordinates annual Board, committee and director self-assessments. The assessment process includes one-on-one discussions between each director and the independent Lead Director. All incumbent director nominees complete questionnaires annually to update and confirm their background, qualifications and skills, and to identify any potential conflicts of interest. The Governance Committee assesses the experience, qualifications, attributes, skills, diversity and contributions of each director. In coordination with the independent Lead Director, the Governance Committee also considers each individual in the context of the Board's composition as a whole, with the objective of recruiting and recommending a slate of director nominees who can best sustain the Company's success and represent shareholders' interests by exercising sound judgment and informed decision-making.

The Board expects that a director's other commitments will not interfere with his or her duties as a Company director.

The Governance Committee and the Board take into account the nature and extent of a director's other commitments when determining whether to nominate that individual for election or re-election. Under the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, directors should not serve on more than three public company boards in addition to the Company's Board (for a total of four public company boards), and a Board member who also serves as CEO (or equivalent position) at another public company should not serve on more than two public company boards in addition to the Company's Board (for a total of three public company boards).

### 4. Director Time Commitments

Most director policies limiting service on other boards reflect the stated guidelines of the company's most influential investors and proxy advisors. Disclosure of company-specific board service policies is common to show alignment. While shareholders still show interest in these policies, there is increased interest in understanding the board's analysis of each director's ability to devote the time necessary for effective service rather than only a bright-line test. Accordingly, proxies are including more information about the board's process for considering director time commitments.

### Bank of America 2024 Proxy Statement

**Director time commitment.** Our Board understands the time commitment involved in serving on the Board and its committees. Through the Committee, the Board evaluates whether candidates and serving directors are able to devote the time necessary to discharge their duties as directors, taking into account their primary occupations, memberships on other boards, and other responsibilities.

In 2022, at the Committee's recommendation, our Board amended its policy on outside board service set forth in the Corporate Governance Guidelines. The revised policy limits the maximum number of public company boards on which a director on our Board may serve to four public companies (including our Board) and specifies that any public company chief executive officer who serves as a director on our Board may not serve on the boards of more than two public companies (including our Board).

The Committee assesses directors' time commitment to the Board throughout the year, including through the annual formal self-evaluation process and prior to the annual renomination of currently serving directors. Under our Corporate Governance Guidelines, directors are expected to seek Committee approval prior to joining the board of another public company, and directors who change principal occupations must offer to resign from the Board, subject to further evaluation by the Committee and the Lead Independent Director.

The Committee regularly reviews and closely monitors external perspectives and trends on the appropriate number of public company boards on which directors may serve, including the proxy voting guidelines of our major shareholders and input from shareholder engagement discussions, voting policies of the major proxy advisory firms, corporate governance guidelines adopted by other public companies, board trends at peers and other significant public companies, and advice from outside advisors.

Outside board service policy

All directors

CEO directors

4 total public company boards (including our Board)

2 total public company boards (including our Board)

Aligns with majority of institutional shareholders' policies. All directors and nominees comply with our outside board service policy.

### Cardinal Health 2024 Proxy Statement

#### **Additional Board Service**

Directors are expected to commit sufficient time and attention to the activities of the Board. In accordance with our Corporate Governance Guidelines, except as approved by the Board:

- directors who serve as executive officers of a public company, including Cardinal Health, should not serve on more than one public company board in addition to our Board; and
- other directors should not serve on more than three public company boards in addition to our Board.

In addition, no director who is a member of our Audit Committee may, at the same time, serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies, unless the Governance and Sustainability Committee determines that such simultaneous service would not impair such director's ability to effectively serve on our Audit Committee.

Directors must advise the Chairman of the Board, the Chair of the Governance and Sustainability Committee, and the Corporate Secretary in advance of accepting an invitation to serve on another board or any appointment to an audit committee, a committee chair position, a lead director position, or a board chair position on any other public company board.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines include a formalized process in which the Governance and Sustainability Committee conducts an annual review of director capacity and outside public

company board commitments. During this annual review, the Governance and Sustainability Committee may consider all factors it deems to be relevant, including the following:

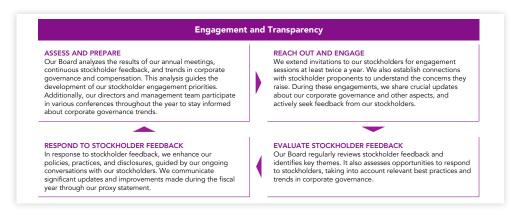
- meeting attendance;
- whether the director is currently employed or retired from fulltime employment;
- the number of other boards on which the director sits and the commitment levels and time demands of such other boards;
- the role of a director on other boards (with consideration given to public company board leadership positions);
- any industry or other commonalities between outside boards that aid in the director's efficiencies serving on such boards;
- any other outside commitments;
- individual contributions at our Board and committee meetings;
- peer review feedback from directors throughout the year (if any) and the results of the annual Board evaluation; and
- the director's general engagement, effectiveness, and preparedness.

The Governance and Sustainability Committee conducted a review of director capacity for our 2024 director nominees and affirms that they are compliant with our outside board commitments policy.

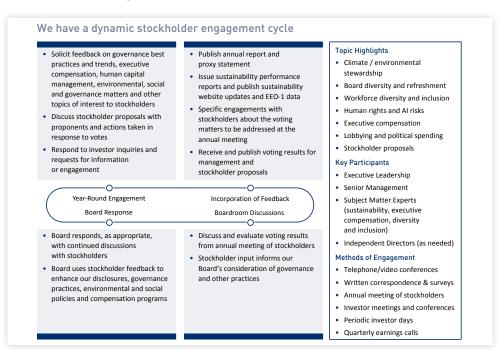
### 5. Shareholder Engagement Cycle

Companies generally want to show that they are actively engaging with their shareholders year-round. While quarterly earnings calls, investor conferences, and conversations with investor relations and management are ongoing, the primary focus of proxy statement disclosure has been around documenting the who/what/ when of the governance outreach program (although some companies also include an overview of their investor relations calendar). The "when" component of the disclosure led to a common graphic showing governance engagement efforts during each of spring, summer, fall, and winter. Recently, this graphic has moved away from emphasizing the seasonality of engagement to instead focus more on how each outreach campaign aligns with the board's calendar and its consideration of feedback.

### Leidos 2024 Proxy Statement



### Lockheed Martin 2024 Proxy Statement



### 6. Beyond the Boardroom

Expectations of directors continue to increase with more topics directly falling under the umbrella of strategy and risk oversight. To demonstrate that the board understands the business and is more engaged than a limited quarterly schedule of meetings might suggest, proxy disclosures often show ongoing director involvement. The "beyond the boardroom" presentation in proxies began six or seven years ago, but decreased during the covid period. Recently, there has been an emergence of this practice, which brings together director orientation, continuing education, and meeting attendance disclosure with other director touchpoints such as briefings and updates between meetings, board interaction with management and employees, and onsite visits.

### Portillos 2024 Proxy Statement



The commitment of our Directors extends well beyond preparation for, and participation at, regularly scheduled Board meetings. Engagement outside of Board meetings provides our Directors with additional insight into our business and our industry, and gives them valuable perspectives on the performance of our Company, the Board, our CEO and other members of senior management, and on the Company's strategic direction.

#### Director Orientation

Following feedback from the most recent selfevaluations, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is rolling out a new Director onboarding program, which will include an immersive introduction to the Company, meetings with fellow Directors (including an "onboarding buddy"), and a detailed reference guide.

#### Periodic Briefings from Management

Our management team provides our Board with regular business updates and periodic updates on major business developments, milestones, and important internal initiatives to keep the Board informed between regularly scheduled meetings on matters that are significant to our Company and industry.

#### **Access to Management**

All Directors have full and free access to management during and outside of regularly scheduled meetings. In response to feedback from the most recent self-evaluations, additional steps have been taken to ensure the our Directors and management team continue to build strong relationships and maintain an

#### Continuing Education

open dialogue

Directors are encouraged to attend Director development programs and conferences that relate to Director duties, corporate governance topics or to other issues relevant to the work of the Board. We periodically bring in outside experts to speak to the Board on timely topics, such as ovbersecurity.

#### Shareholder Engagement

In addition to receiving regular updates on shareholder engagement, our Board and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee takes an active role in reviewing and overseeing our shareholder engagement strategy.

#### Site Visits

We conduct at least one off-site meeting each year so that Directors are able to visit new site and restaurants and can better evaluate the Company's strategic initiatives. In 2023, the Board visited restaurants and sites in our Dallas market, which was at the forefront of our strategic growth last year.

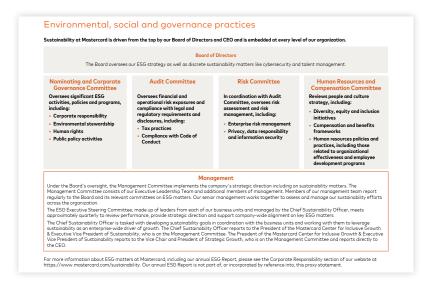
### Walgreens 2024 Proxy Statement



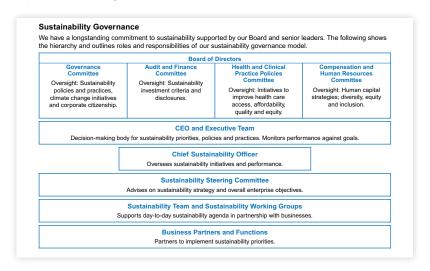
### 7. Sustainability Governance

Remember when most proxies discussed board oversight only in the context of risk? Although not required, it is now common practice to discuss the board's responsibilities more broadly, including at a minimum the board's role with respect to strategy and CEO succession planning. Insight into the board's approach to oversight of specific topics are also frequent disclosures. According to Labrador's recent benchmarking, approximately three-quarters of companies include a section, subsection or callout discussing the board's role in ESG oversight in the proxy statement. This disclosure is often accompanied by a visual element depicting the distribution of specific sustainability-related topics among the board and board committees. Inclusion of the governance framework supporting key initiatives can also be helpful – for example, the board oversight graphic may also include cross-functional management and operating committees tasked with day-to-day ESG responsibility.

### Mastercard 2024 Proxy Statement



### UnitedHealth Group 2024 Proxy Statement



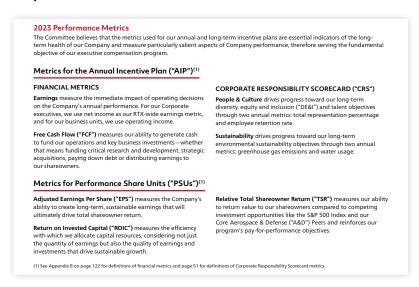
### 8. Selection of Incentive Metrics

Most shareholders cast their executive compensation advisory vote based on an assessment of pay and performance alignment. Accordingly, in addition to required CD&A disclosures about program objectives and elements, including if material, "specific items of corporate performance<sup>(1)</sup>" considered by the compensation committee, it is also necessary to explain the rationale for selecting certain metrics for the company's incentive plans and why they are important performance indicators given the company's unique business and its strategic goals. See <u>Increasing Transparency in Incentive Compensation Disclosure</u> above. Given the importance of metric selection, we have noticed recent efforts to make this disclosure more prominent, including use of headers or even dedicated sections.

### Intel 2024 Proxy Statement

A summary of the metrics and how they align to our long-term strategy is presented below.					
Metric	CEO Weight	Other NEO Weight	Why Included in our Annual Cash Bonus Plan		
Revenue	25%	20%	<ul> <li>Aligns to our growth strategy and gives us the ability to measure our progress against our financial plans set early in the year</li> </ul>		
Gross Margin Percentage	25%	20%	Ensures that growth is additive to the bottom line and gives us the ability to measure our progress against our financial plans set early in the year		
Spend Reduction	25%	20%	Metric reflects our commitment on company cost savings in 2023		
One Intel Operational Goals	25%	20%	Goals represent key deliverables or milestones that position the company to successfully execute our long-term strategic objectives		
			<ul> <li>Includes six operational goal categories that apply across all business groups to promote a "One Intel" mindset</li> </ul>		
			<ul> <li>The six categories include: financial stability, product leadership, scale growth engines, process leadership, culture, and RISE 2030 related goals. These goals are highly specific and extremely strategic. They cascade throughout our organization and are a core aspect of how we manage the company.</li> </ul>		
Individual Performance Goals	-	20%	Provides ability to further promote strong execution of our strategy and drive differentiation in the plan results based on our NEOs' individual contributions to Intel during the performance period		
			Each executive's performance is assessed against the individual's 2023 pre-established objectives		
			Our CEO does not have an individual performance element to his Annual Cash Bonus Plan as he is ultimately accountable for the financial and operational performance of the company		

### Raytheon 2024 Proxy Statement



<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation S-K, Item 401(b).

### 9. Equity Grant Practices

The SEC's 2023 insider trading rules require not only disclosure about Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangements and grants of option awards within four days of reporting material nonpublic information, but also annual disclosure about policies and practices related to the timing of option award grants and release of material nonpublic information. While the latter is not a new requirement in principle, CD&A discussion usually focused on the timing and pricing of specific grants or was embedded in the compensation committee's decision-making timeline. With the new Item 402(x) of Regulation S-K now in effect, we expect more companies will choose to include a separate section dedicated to its equity grant timing practices (irrespective of whether options are currently part of the equity mix).

### Freeport McMoRan 2024 Proxy Statement

#### **Equity Grant Timing Practices**

The committee's policy is to make annual equity awards under our LTIP at its first meeting of the year, which is usually held in early February following our fourth quarter earnings release. This meeting is scheduled approximately 24 months in advance and targeted to fall within the window period following the release of the company's earnings for the fourth quarter of the previous year. To the extent the committee approves any out-of-cycle awards at other times during the year, such awards will be made during an open window period during which our executive officers and directors are generally permitted to trade company securities as long as they are not in possession of material nonpublic information regarding the company.

The terms of our stock incentive plan provide that the exercise price of each stock option cannot be less than the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the grant date. Pursuant to the committee's policies, for purposes of our stock incentive plan, the fair market value of our common stock is determined by reference to the closing quoted per share sale price of our common stock on the grant date. In addition, our stock incentive plan permits the committee to delegate to appropriate personnel its authority to make awards to employees other than those subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

Our current equity grant policy provides that each of our CEO, president and chief administrative officer has authority to make or modify grants to such employees, subject to the following conditions:

- no grant may relate to more than 20,000 shares of our common stock if the award is a full-value award and not more than 40,000 shares if the award is an appreciation award;
- such grants must be approved during an open window period and must be approved in writing by such officer, the grant date being
  the date of such written approval or such later date set forth in the grant instrument;
- the exercise price of any options granted may not be less than the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant; and
- any such grants must be reported to the committee at its next meeting.

### PVH Corp 2024 Proxy Statement

#### **Timing of Equity Awards**

Our equity award policy provides that the annual grant of stock options and restricted stock units to our senior executives, including our NEOs, generally will be approved by the Compensation Committee at a meeting held during the period commencing two days after the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the most recently completed fiscal year and ending on April 14 of the current year.

PSU awards have historically been made around the end of the first quarter to provide time to finalize financial goals and, because certain of the goals include stock price performance, so that the end of the performance cycle occurs shortly (and not immediately) after we report our year-end earnings.

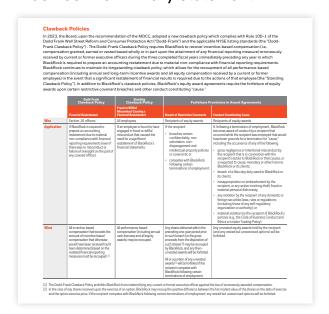
Equity awards may be made to our NEOs outside of the annual grant process in connection with a promotion or assumption of new or additional duties, or for another appropriate reason. All such grants to our NEOs must be approved by the Compensation Committee and generally will be made on the first business day of the month following the effective date of the precipitating event (or on the effective date if it is the first business day of a month).

The Committee retains the discretion not to make grants at the times provided in the equity award policy if the members determine the timing is not appropriate, such as if they are in possession of material non-public information. Additionally, the Committee retains the discretion to make grants, including an annual equity grant, at times other than as provided in the policy if the members determine circumstances, such as changes in accounting and tax regulations, warrant taking such an action.

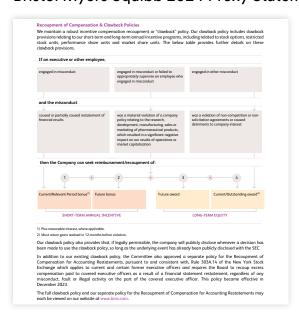
### 10. Compensation Recoupment Policies

Disclosure around companies' recoupment policies slowly have evolved from a high-level bullet in the "what we do" list of compensation best practices to a summary of key terms, mostly to satisfy investor inquiries into whether the policy covers <u>any</u> unearned compensation (e.g., due to an accounting restatement) and/or whether forfeiture is required in situations arising from employee actions. With requirements stemming from Dodd-Frank and related exchanges for compliant recovery policies by December 2023, more robust disclosures were found in the wave of 2024 proxies. Many companies adopted a second policy to comply with the new rules, but also maintained their existing policy, requiring an explanation of the overlap and differences.

### Blackrock 2024 Proxy Statement



### Bristol Myers Squibb 2024 Proxy Statement





## About Labrador

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