# **Proxy Voting and Class Actions**

# Background

Rule 206(4)-6 under Advisers Act requires each registered investment adviser that exercises proxy voting authority with respect to Client Securities to do the following:

- Adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure that Impact Shares votes Client Securities in the Clients' best interests. Such policies and procedures must address the manner in which Impact Shares will resolve material conflicts of interest that can arise during the proxy voting process.
- Disclose to Clients how they may obtain information from Impact Shares about how Impact Shares voted with respect to their Securities.
- Describe to Clients Impact Shares' proxy voting policies and procedures and, upon request, furnish a copy of the policies and procedures.

# Risks

• Impact Shares would violate its fiduciary duty to clients if it failed to properly develop proxy voting policies and procedures.

# Policy

### General

Impact Shares exercises proxy voting authority on behalf of Clients. It is Impact Shares' policy generally to vote against any management proposals that Impact Shares believes could prevent companies from realizing their maximum market value or would insulate companies and/or management from accountability to shareholders or prudent regulatory compliance.

Impact Shares has retained Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS") to provide proxy voting services. Impact Shares' proxy voting guidelines have been provided to ISS for purposes of rendering those services.

Impact Shares may refrain from voting proxies at its discretion.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

Impact Shares must act as a fiduciary when voting proxies on behalf of its Clients. In that regard, Impact Shares seeks to avoid possible conflicts of interest in connection with proxy voting. Examples of a conflict of interest include:

- Impact Shares provides investment advice to an officer or director of an issuer. Impact Shares receives a proxy solicitation from that issuer or from a competitor of that issuer.
- Impact Shares or an affiliate has a financial interest in the outcome of a proxy vote, such as when Impact Shares is asked to vote on a change in Rule 12b-1 fees paid by a mutual fund to investment advisers, including Impact Shares
- An issuer or some other third party offers Impact Shares or an Employee compensation in exchange for voting a proxy in a particular way.
- An Employee, or a member of an Employee's household, has a personal or business relationship with an issuer. Impact Shares receives a proxy solicitation from that issuer.

## Guidelines

#### **Business Operations**

Impact Shares generally will vote in favor of proposals that are a standard and necessary aspect of business operations and that Impact Shares believes will not typically have a significant negative effect on the value of the investment. Such proposals include, but are not limited to:

- Name changes;
- Election of directors;
- Ratification of auditors;
- Maintaining current levels of directors' indemnification and liability;
- Increase in authorized shares (common stock only) if there is no intention to significantly dilute shareholders' proportionate interest; and
- Employee stock purchase or ownership plans.

#### **Change in Status and Other Matters**

Proposals that change the status of the corporation, its individual securities, or the ownership status of the securities will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Changes in status include proposals regarding:

- Mergers, acquisitions, restructurings;
- Reincorporation; and
- Changes in capitalization.

Impact Shares will typically vote against any proposal that has a negative impact on its investment.

#### **Voting on Social Matters**

Impact Shares mission is to facilitate positive corporate social behavior through alignment of capital with specific desired corporate social outcomes. Impact Shares may, at times, submit shareholder resolutions that further fund specific social outcomes and vote shares in line with those outcomes. In line with that mission Impact Shares believes that well-managed companies are attentive to social impacts, and take appropriate steps to measure, manage, and disclose policies, programs, and performance with respect to social impacts. Impact Shares will generally support proposals that request that companies undertake reasonable efforts to measure, manage, and report on their social impacts, including impacts throughout their supply chains. Corporations have a variety of impacts on society including, but not limited to, the following categories:

**Diversity.** Companies that have strong diversity policies and programs and those that disclose the performance and success of those programs are, we believe, less vulnerable to disruptions as a result of workplace strife, exceptional turnover, costly lawsuits and reputational damage.

• Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request disclosure of a company's workforce diversity data, pay ratios by demographic categories and those that request that

companies expand their equal employment opportunity statement to include sexual orientation and gender identity and/or expression.

**Gender Equality.** Impact Shares believes that companies that take affirmative steps to attract, retain and promote women and to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace and beyond are better-managed companies.

• Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request the adoption of board committee charter language that would require the company to consider female and/or minority candidates in every director search and those that seek increased disclosure of policies and program aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment.

**Human Rights.** Impact Shares believes it is the responsibility of businesses to protect and uphold human rights in their own operations and throughout their supply chain. It is also critical for companies to manage human rights as failing to do so can result in costly legal and reputational risk.

• Repressive Regimes: Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request that companies adopt policies regarding, or increase reporting around any involvement with, repressive regimes or conflict zones. • Human Trafficking: Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request that companies adopt policies to prohibit human (labor and sex) trafficking or programs to educate employees and consumers about related risks. • Negative Images & Stereotyping: Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request that companies develop policies governing the use of images of indigenous peoples, women or other identifiable groups in their advertising, brand, or mascots.

**Indigenous Peoples' Welfare**. Impact Shares believes a company's effectiveness in managing indigenous relations is an indicator of management quality. Failing to address indigenous relations issues when they arise can pose reputational, regulatory and financial risks to corporations.

• Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals requesting that companies develop policies or programs to prevent or mitigate harm to indigenous peoples, or that request that companies report on their impacts to indigenous peoples.

Labor Relations. Impact Shares believes that constructive labor management relations are an indicator of sound management and a sustainable business model.

• Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request that companies adopt policies or codes of conduct that address employees' rights to collective bargaining or other labor relations issues that protect employees' rights.

**Product Safety and Integrity.** Impact Shares believes that a company's failure to comply with regulatory requirements and problems associated with product safety or product promotion can have farreaching, negative consequences for consumers and therefore can result in reputational and financial damage to the company. Product recalls, often as a result of product safety issues, in particular, can cause considerable harm to a company's revenues, reputation, profitability, publicity and brand integrity. • Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request that companies take steps to improve product-related safety performance or report on product safety and integrity issues. These issues may include, but are not limited to, privacy & data security, toxicity, animal welfare, nanomaterials, and product recalls.

**Workplace Health and Safety**. Impact Shares believes a company's commitment to workplace and employee safety is a key component of its overall sustainability profile. The costs of workplace accidents can grow quickly when factoring in workers' compensation payments, legal expenses associated with litigation, regulatory penalties and compliance costs.

• Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request that companies adopt policies to address workplace health and safety and increase disclosure of workplace safety practices and performance.

**Community.** Impact Shares believes that companies that are committed to having a positive impact on the communities in which they operate tend to be better-managed companies. Not only are these companies better able to avoid reputational and legal risks that can result from negative community relations – positive community relations are often an indication of superior management.

• Impact Shares will generally vote in favor of proposals that request that companies adopt policies or report on practices that govern community engagement.

#### **Other Issues**

Impact Shares will vote on issues that are not covered in these Guidelines in accordance with the Principles outlined above.

#### **Proxy Admin Procedures**

In general, because Impact Shares will vote proxies according to the Proxy Administrator's Proxy Voting Guidelines.

Impact Shares may determine that it is in the best interests of its Clients to depart from Proxy Administrator's Proxy Voting Guidelines when voting a particular proxy. In this case, the CIO or Portfolio Manager will decide how to vote the proxy, providing the CCO with the reason for deviating from Proxy Administrator's Proxy Voting Guidelines and identifying any known conflicts of interest. The CCO will also conduct a review to determine if there are any conflicts of interest related to the issuer. If no material conflicts of interest are identified, the CCO will direct the Proxy Administrator to vote the proxy as recommended by the CIO or Portfolio Manager. If a material conflict of interest is identified, deviation from the Proxy Administrator's recommendation will not be permitted.

## **Class** Actions

Impact Shares' standard advisory contract authorizes Impact Shares to direct Client participation in class actions. Impact Shares shall determine appropriate participation in any class action.

Impact Shares generally does not file class actions for accounts or funds which have been closed. Additionally, [Impact Shares] usually does not serve as the lead plaintiff in class actions because the costs of such participation typically exceed any extra benefits that accrue to lead plaintiffs.

#### **Proxy Admin**

- The Chief Compliance Officer directs the Proxy Administrator to vote Client proxies according to their Proxy Voting Guidelines. Any deviations from these recommendations must be approved in writing by the CCO.
- Any proxy that potentially involves other conflicts of interest must be escalated to the Chief Compliance Officer for review and determination of any further actions that may be appropriate.
- Where the Chief Compliance Officer determines there is a potential for a material conflict of interest regarding a proxy, the Chief Compliance Officer will consult with the portfolio manager and a determination will be made as to whether one or more of the following steps will be taken: (i) inform Clients of the material conflict and Impact Shares' voting decision; (ii) discuss the proxy vote with Clients; (iii) fully disclose the material facts regarding the conflict and seek the Clients' consent to vote the proxy as intended; and/or (iv) seek the recommendations of an independent third party.
- The Chief Compliance Officer will document the steps taken to evidence that the proxy vote was in the best interest of Clients and not the product of any material conflict. Such documentation will be maintained in accordance with required recordkeeping procedures.