

# Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

February 2025

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- A. Certain investment adviser subsidiaries of Neuberger Berman Group LLC have been delegated the authority and responsibility to vote the proxies of their respective investment advisory clients and exercise such responsibility according to these policies and procedures.
- B. Neuberger understands that proxy voting is an integral aspect of investment management. Accordingly, proxy voting must be conducted with the same degree of prudence and loyalty accorded any fiduciary or other obligation of an investment manager.
- C. Neuberger believes that the following policies and procedures are reasonably expected to ensure that proxy matters are conducted in the best interest of clients, in accordance with Neuberger's fiduciary duties, applicable rules under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, fiduciary standards and responsibilities for ERISA clients set out in Department of Labor interpretations, the UK Stewardship Code, the Japan Stewardship Code and other applicable laws and regulations.
- D. In instances where Neuberger does not have authority to vote client proxies, it is the responsibility of the client to instruct the relevant custody bank or banks to mail proxy material directly to such client.
- E. In all circumstances, Neuberger will comply with specific client directions to vote proxies, whether or not such client directions specify voting proxies in a manner that is different from Neuberger's proxy votes for other client accounts.
- F. Neuberger will seek to vote all shares under its authority so long as that action is not in conflict with client instructions. There may be circumstances under which Neuberger may abstain from voting a client proxy, such as when Neuberger believes voting would not be in clients' best interests (e.g., not voting in countries with share blocking or meetings in which voting would entail additional costs). Neuberger understands that it must weigh the costs and benefits of voting proxy proposals relating to foreign securities and make an informed decision with respect to whether voting a given proxy proposal is prudent and solely in the interests of the clients and, in the case of an ERISA client and other accounts and clients subject to similar local laws, a plan's participants and beneficiaries. Neuberger's decision in such circumstances will take into account the effect that the proxy vote, either by itself or together with other votes, is expected to have on the value of the client's investment and whether this expected effect would outweigh the cost of voting.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITY AND OVERSIGHT

- A. Neuberger has designated a Governance & Proxy Committee ("Proxy Committee") with the responsibility for:
  - (i) developing, authorizing, implementing and updating Neuberger's policies and procedures;
  - (ii) administering and overseeing the governance and proxy voting processes; and
  - (iii) engaging and overseeing any third-party vendors as voting delegates to review, monitor and/or vote proxies.
 Neuberger, at the recommendation of the Proxy Committee, has retained Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC ("Glass Lewis") as its proxy voting service provider.
- B. The Proxy Committee will meet as frequently and in such manner as necessary or appropriate to fulfill its responsibilities.
- C. The members of the Proxy Committee will be appointed from time to time and will include the Chief Investment Officer (Equities), the Director of Global Equity Research, the Global Head of Stewardship and Sustainable Investing, and certain portfolio managers. A senior member of the Legal and Compliance Department will advise the Proxy Committee and may vote as a full member of the Committee if a vote is needed to establish a quorum or in the event that a vote is needed to break a tie. The Head of Investment Stewardship serves in an advisory role to the Proxy Committee but may also vote as a full member of the Committee if a vote is needed to establish a quorum or in the event that a vote is needed to break a tie. The Proxy Committee may also appoint substitute or additional members if needed to establish quorum in the absence of one or more members.
- D. In the event that one or more members of the Proxy Committee are not independent with respect to a particular matter, the remaining members of the Proxy Committee shall constitute an ad hoc independent subcommittee of the Proxy Committee, which will have full authority to act upon such matter.

## 3. PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES

- A. The Proxy Committee developed the Governance and Proxy Voting Guidelines ("Voting Guidelines") based on our Governance and Engagement Principles. These Guidelines are updated as appropriate and generally at least on an annual basis. With input from certain of our investment professionals, the modifications are intended to reflect emerging corporate governance issues and themes. The Proxy Committee recognizes that in certain circumstances it may be in the interests of our clients to deviate from our Voting Guidelines.
- B. Our views regarding corporate governance and engagement, and the related stewardship actions, are informed by our Stewardship and Sustainable Investing Group, in consultation with professionals in the Legal & Compliance and Global Equity Research groups, among others. These insightful, experienced and dedicated groups enable us to think strategically about engagement and stewardship priorities.

- C. We believe Neuberger's Voting Guidelines generally represent the voting positions most likely to support our clients' best economic interests across a range of sectors and contexts. These guidelines are not intended to constrain our consideration of the specific issues facing a particular company on a particular vote, and so there will be times when we deviate from the Voting Guidelines.
- D. In the event that a portfolio manager or other investment professional at Neuberger believes that it is in the best interest of a client or clients to vote proxies other than as provided in Neuberger's Voting Guidelines, the portfolio manager or other investment professional will submit in writing to the Proxy Committee the basis for his or her recommendation. The Proxy Committee will review this recommendation in the context of the specific circumstances of the proxy vote being considered and with the intention of voting in the best interest of our clients.

#### 4. PROXY VOTING PROCEDURES

- A. Neuberger will vote client proxies in accordance with a client's specific request even if it is in a manner inconsistent with Neuberger's proxy votes for other client accounts. Such specific requests should be made in writing by the individual client or by an authorized officer, representative or named fiduciary of a client.
- B. Neuberger has engaged Glass Lewis as its proxy voting service provider to:
  - (i) provide research on proxy matters;
  - (ii) in a timely manner, notify Neuberger of and provide additional solicitation materials made available reasonably in advance of a vote deadline;
  - (iii) vote proxies in accordance with Neuberger's Voting Guidelines or as otherwise instructed and submit such proxies in a timely manner;
  - (iv) handle other administrative functions of proxy voting;
  - (v) maintain records of proxy statements and additional solicitation materials received in connection with proxy votes and provide copies of such proxy statements promptly upon request; and
  - (vi) maintain records of votes cast.
- C. Except in instances where clients have retained voting authority, Neuberger will instruct custodians of client accounts to forward all proxy statements and materials received in respect of client accounts to Glass Lewis.
- D. Neuberger retains final authority and fiduciary responsibility, consistent with applicable law, for proxy voting for clients that have delegated it authority and discretion to vote proxies.

#### 5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- A. Neuberger shall direct Glass Lewis to vote proxies in accordance with the Voting Guidelines described in Section III or, in instances where a material conflict has been determined to exist, Neuberger will generally instruct that such shares be voted in the same proportion as other shares are voted with respect to a proposal, subject to applicable legal, regulatory and operational requirements. Neuberger believes that this process is reasonably designed to address material conflicts of interest that may arise in conjunction with proxy voting decisions. Potential conflicts considered by the Proxy Committee when it is determining whether to deviate from Neuberger's Voting Guidelines include, among others: a material client relationship with the corporate issuer being considered; personal or business relationships between the portfolio managers and an executive officer; director, or director nominee of the issuer; joint business ventures; or a direct transactional relationship between the issuer and senior executives of Neuberger.
- B. In the event that an Neuberger Investment Professional believes that it is in the best interest of a client or clients to vote proxies in a manner inconsistent with the Voting Guidelines described in Section III, such Neuberger Investment Professional will contact a member of the Legal & Compliance Department advising the Proxy Committee and complete and sign a questionnaire in the form adopted from time to time. Such questionnaires will require specific information, including the reasons the Neuberger Investment Professional believes a proxy vote in this manner is in the best interest of a client or clients and disclosure of specific ownership, business or personal relationship, or other matters that may raise a potential material conflict of interest with respect to the voting of the proxy. The Proxy Committee will meet with the Neuberger Investment Professional to review the completed questionnaire and consider such other matters as it deems appropriate to determine that there is no material conflict of interest with respect to the voting of the proxy in the requested manner. The Proxy Committee shall document its consideration of such other matters. In the event that the Proxy Committee determines that such vote will not present a material conflict, the Proxy Committee will make a determination whether to vote such proxy as recommended by the Neuberger Investment Professional. In the event of a determination to vote the proxy as recommended by the Neuberger Investment Professional, an authorized member of the Proxy Committee will instruct Glass Lewis to vote in such manner with respect to the client or clients. In the event that the Proxy Committee determines that the voting of a proxy as recommended by the Neuberger Investment Professional would not be appropriate, the Proxy Committee will:
  - (i) take no further action, in which case the Committee shall vote such proxy in accordance with the Voting Guidelines;
  - (ii) disclose such conflict to the client or clients and obtain written direction from the client with respect to voting the proxy;
  - (iii) suggest that the client or clients engage another party to determine how to vote the proxy;
  - (iv) instruct that such shares be voted in the same proportion as other shares are voted with respect to a proposal, subject to applicable legal, regulatory and operational requirements; or
  - (v) engage another independent third party to determine how to vote the proxy if voting in the manner described in (iv) is not feasible.

A record of the Proxy Committee's determinations shall be prepared and maintained in accordance with applicable policies.
- C. In the event that the Voting Guidelines described in Section III do not address how a proxy should be voted the Proxy Committee will make a determination as to how the proxy should be voted. The Proxy Committee will consider such matters as it deems appropriate to determine how such proxy should be voted, including whether there is a material conflict of interest with respect to the voting of the proxy in accordance with its decision. The Proxy Committee shall document its consideration of such matters, and an authorized member of the Proxy Committee will instruct Glass Lewis to vote in such manner with respect to such client or clients.
- D. Material conflicts cannot be resolved by simply abstaining from voting.

## 6. RECORDKEEPING

Neuberger will maintain records relating to the implementation of the Voting Guidelines and these procedures, including:

- (i) a copy of the Voting Guidelines and these procedures, which shall be made available to clients upon request;
- (ii) proxy statements received regarding client securities (which will be satisfied by relying on EDGAR or Glass Lewis);
- (iii) a record of each vote cast (which Glass Lewis maintains on Neuberger's behalf);
- (iv) a copy of each questionnaire completed by any Neuberger Investment Professional under Section V above; and
- (v) any other document created by Neuberger that was material to a determination regarding the voting of proxies on behalf of clients or that memorializes the basis for that decision.

Such proxy voting books and records shall be maintained in an easily accessible place, which may include electronic means, for a period of five years, the first two by the Legal & Compliance Department. Material conflicts cannot be resolved by simply abstaining from voting.

## 7. ENGAGEMENT AND MONITORING

Consistent with the firm's active management strategies, Neuberger portfolio managers and members of the Global Equity Research team continuously monitor material investment factors at portfolio companies. Neuberger professionals remain informed of trends and best practices related to the effective fiduciary administration of proxy voting. Neuberger will make revisions to its Voting Guidelines and related procedures document when it determines it is appropriate or when we observe the opportunity to materially improve outcomes for our clients. Additionally, we will regularly undertake a review of selected voting and engagement cases to better learn how to improve the monitoring of our portfolio companies and the effectiveness of our stewardship activities.

## 8. SECURITIES LENDING

Some Neuberger products or client accounts where Neuberger has authority and responsibility to vote the proxies may participate in a securities lending program administered by Neuberger. Where a security is currently on loan ahead of a shareholder meeting, Neuberger will generally attempt to terminate the loan in time to vote those shares. Where a security that is potentially subject to being loaned is eligible to be voted in a stockholder meeting a portfolio manager may restrict the security from lending. Neuberger maintains the list of securities restricted from lending and receives daily updates on upcoming proxy events from the custodian.

## 9. DISCLOSURE

Neuberger will publicly disclose all voting records of its co-mingled funds (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities [UCITS] and mutual funds), which can be found at <https://www.nb.com/en/us/stewardship/nbvotes> -- Neuberger cannot publicly disclose vote level records for separate accounts without express permission of the client. Neuberger will publicly disclose aggregate reporting on at least an annual basis for all votes cast across co-mingled and separate accounts. Neuberger welcomes the opportunity to discuss the rationale for a given vote with investee companies as part of our ongoing engagement activities. Neuberger may also choose to provide broad explanations for certain voting positions on important or topical issues in advance of the vote. Additionally, our proxy voting guidelines can be found on our website: <https://www.nb.com/en/us/stewardship/nb-votes>.

### PROXY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JANUARY 2025:

Joseph Amato, President and Chief Investment Officer (Equities)

Jonathan Bailey, Global Head of Stewardship and Sustainable Investing

Elias Cohen, Portfolio Manager

Timothy Creedon, Director of Global Equity Research

Richard Glasebrook, Portfolio Manager

Brett Reiner, Portfolio Manager

Amit Solomon, Portfolio Manager

Corey Issing\*, Co-General Counsel – Asset Management

Caitlin McSherry\*, Head of Investment Stewardship

\*Corey Issing and Caitlin McSherry serve in advisory roles to the Committee. They are ex officio members of the Committee. They will only vote as full members of the Committee if their votes are needed to establish a quorum or in the event that a vote is needed to break a tie vote.