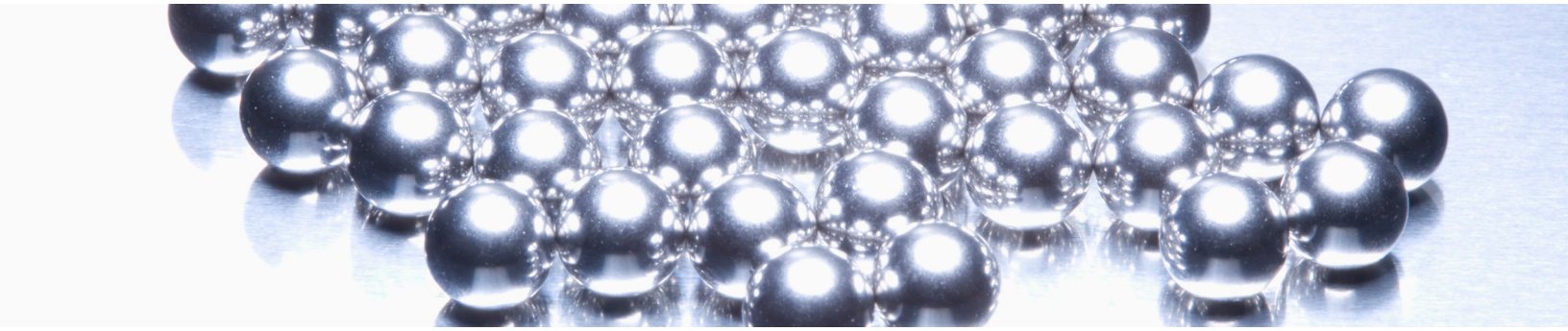
Chart of the Week



THE CONFERENCE BOARD GOVERNANCE CENTER®

Shareholder Proposal Subjects by Index

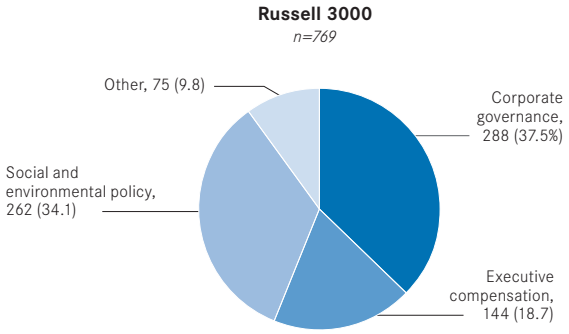
FROM *PROXY VOTING ANALYTICS (2009-2013)*

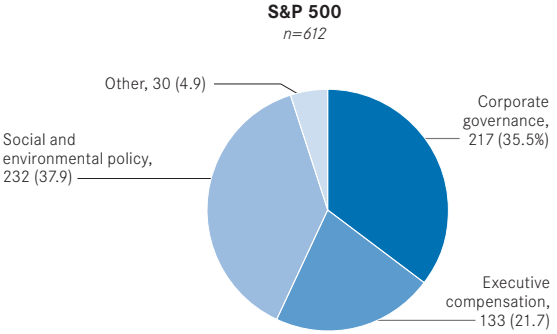
During the first half of 2013, larger companies were far more likely than their smaller counterparts to receive proposals, particularly on executive compensation and social and environmental policy issues. Companies in the S&P 500 index that held meetings during this period received 133 executive compensation-related proposals, representing more than 90 percent of the 144 proposals on the same subject received by Russell 3000 companies. S&P companies received 232 proposals on social and environmental policy (88.5 percent of the 262 submitted at Russell 3000 companies). The proportion decreased to 75.3 percent for governance-related proposals (217 versus 288), presumably due to the large number of those proposals introduced by public pension funds, which often diversify their investment portfolios across a wide range of market capitalizations.

Executive compensation proposals were filed in similar proportions by single investors and labor unions, while the highest concentration of proposals related to social and environmental policy issues came from investment advisers, public pension funds, individuals, and religious groups.

Shareholder Proposal Subject–by Index (2013)

Number of shareholder proposals (percentage of total)





Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: The Conference Board/FactSet, 2013.

Why it matters…

- While interest in the topic was expected to fade following the presidential election, proposals related to political spending and lobbying made up nearly 40 percent of the social and environmental policy proposals submitted in 2013.
- Following the introduction of mandatory say on pay, shareholders are focusing proposals on specific pay practices such as the elimination of tax gross-ups and golden coffins and the introduction of equity retention periods.

For more information on this and other proxy voting data and analysis for companies in the Russell 3000 and S&P 500, download *Proxy Voting Analytics (2009-2013)* at: www.conference-board.org/proxy2013 or contact Matteo Tonello at matteo.tonello@conference-board.org

CW-035 | November 2013

© 2013 The Conference Board, Inc. All rights reserved.