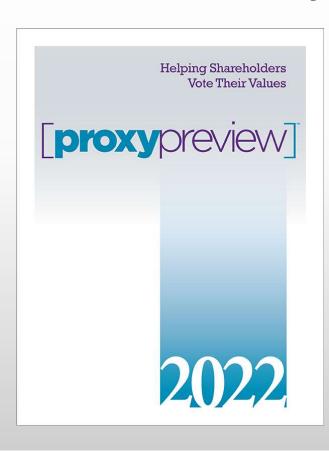


## **Proxy Preview 2022**



Download the full report at <a href="https://www.proxypreview.org">www.proxypreview.org</a>

March 17, 2022



## **Featured Speakers**



Heidi Welsh Sustainable Investments Institute (Si2)



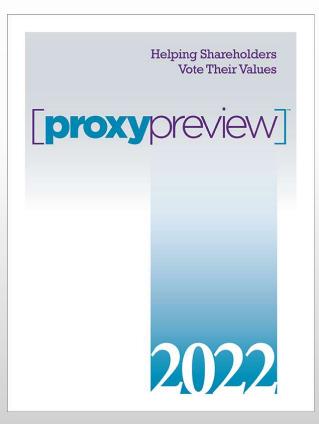
Michael Passoff
Proxy Impact



**Tejal K. Patel**SOC Investment Group



## **Agenda**



- ✓ Introduction (3 min)

  Andrew Behar, As You Sow
- ✓ **2021 Proxy Season Overview** (15 min) *Heidi Welsh, Si2*
- ✓ Climate & Energy (10 min)

  Michael Passoff, Proxy Impact
- √ Racial Justice and Human Rights Proposals (10 min)

Tejal K. Patel, SOC Investment Group

- ✓ **Q&A** (15 min)

  moderated by Andrew Behar
- ✓ Closing Remarks (2 min)

  Heidi Welsh, Michael Passoff, Tejal K.

  Patel
- ✓ **Conclusion** (2 min)

  Andrew Behar

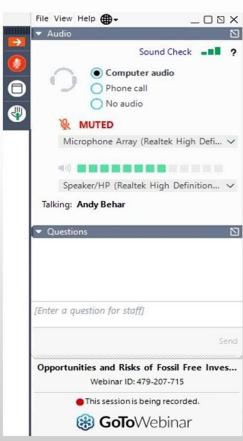


## **General Information**

 Use the Q&A window to send us your questions

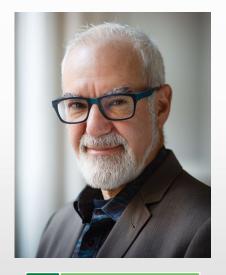
Q&A Window

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## Introduction



Andrew Behar
CEO
As You Sow





## About As You Sow

**Mission:** to promote environmental and social corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy, coalition building, and innovative legal strategies

- Founded in 1992 on the belief that corporations *must* be an active part of the solutions to society's environmental and human rights issues
- 30-year track record of promoting values-aligned investing and securing positive, lasting corporation change
- We communicate directly with corporate executives to collaboratively develop and implement business models that reduce risk, benefit brand reputation, and protect long-term shareholder value while simultaneously bringing about positive change for the environment and human rights



## **2022 Proxy Season Overview**



Heidi Welsh

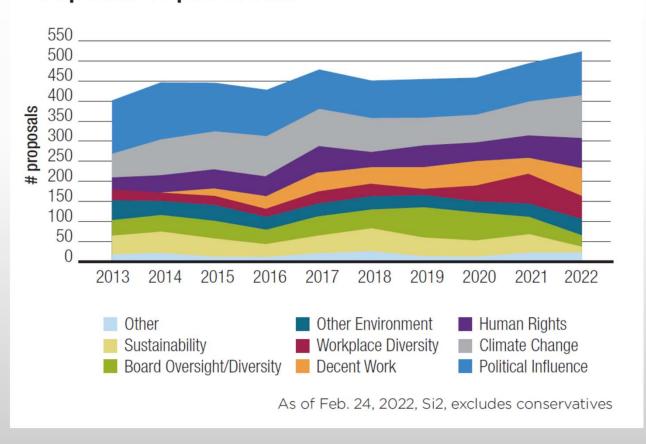
Executive Director

Sustainable Investments Institute (Si2)



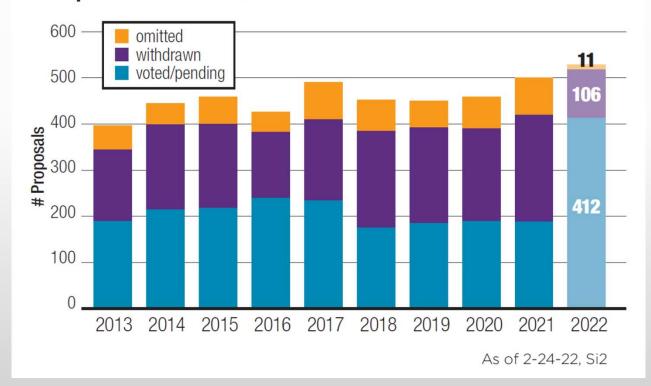


## U.S. Environmental & Social Shareholder Proposal Topic Trend





## Environmental & Social Policy Shareholder Proposal Outcomes

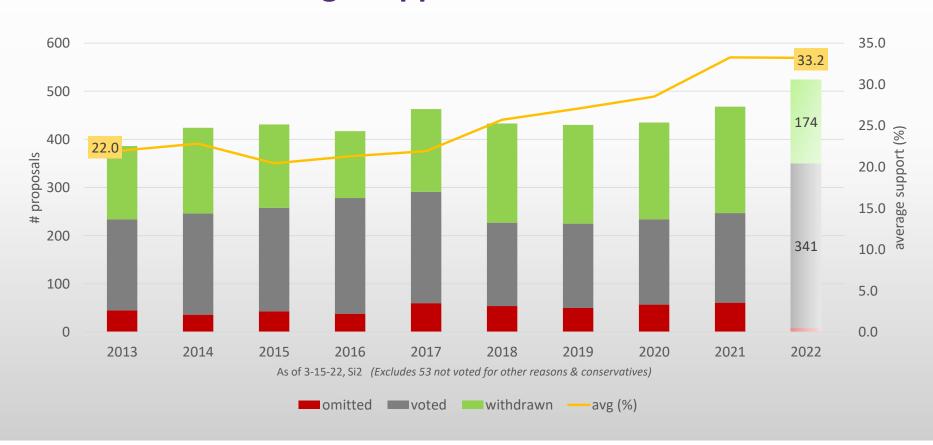


- Many more filings despite new SEC strictures.
- Far fewer omissions given new SEC approach.
- More withdrawals given high 2021 votes?
- Update on pending proposals:
   341 pending as of 3/15, up

from 267 on 3/15/22.

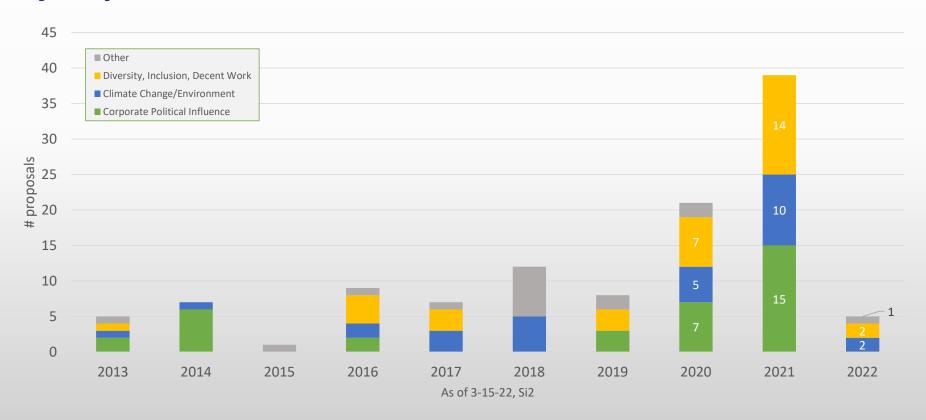


## **Outcomes and Average Support Trend**





## **Majority Votes**





## **Evolving Regulatory Context**

Shareholder Proposal Rule Change, September 2020

Harder to file: Tougher procedures for representation Higher, longer stock ownership periods

Harder to resubmit:

	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd+ Year
Before	3%	6%	10%
Now	5%	15%	25%



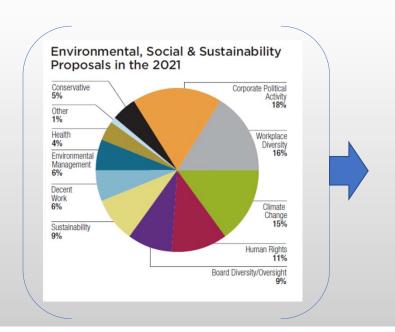
- Lawsuit
  - Late May D.C. Circuit Court hearing may decide <u>case seeking to overturn</u> 2020 rule change.
- SEC Staff Bulletin 14L, November 2021

  Rescinded 3 previous SLBs; "ordinary business" change = more proposals in 2022
- New Proxy Advisor Rule <u>Proposed</u>, November 2021: Follows earlier failed attempts at restrictions.

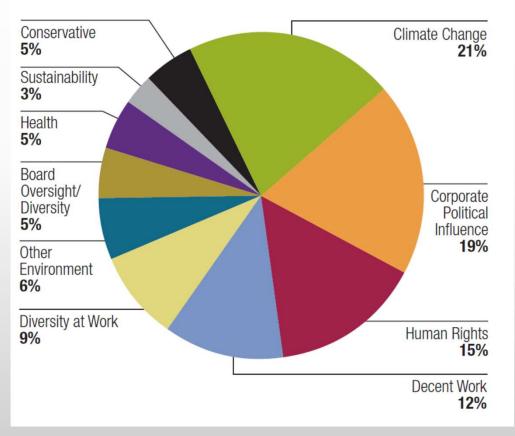


## The 2022 Season

- ↑ climate change, DEI + human rights
- ◆ board, sustainability

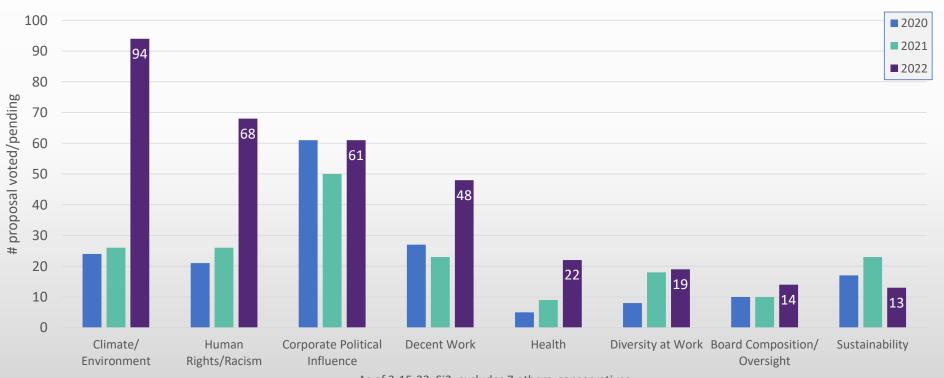


## 2022 Shareholder Proposals





## **Past and Projected Votes**



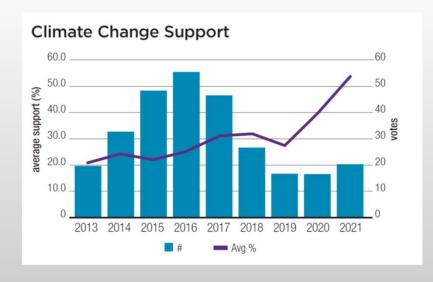
As of 3-15-22, Si2, excludes 7 others, conservatives

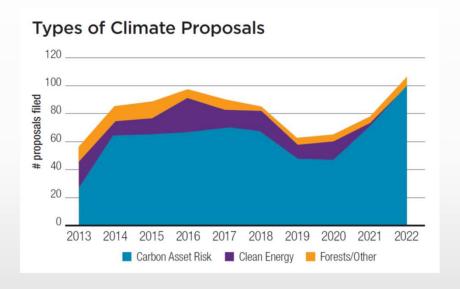


## New Issues, Key Themes in 2022

#### **Environment**

- ✓ Climate Change (110 proposals, up from 79 last year)
  - Main focus: Set/report on net-zero GHG goals
  - Will unprecedented 50% average support in 2021 continue, prompt more agreements?





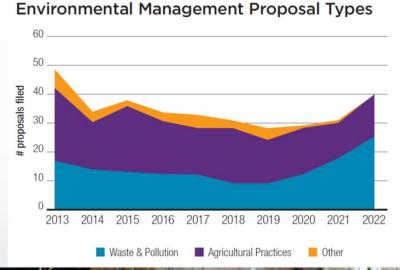
#### **NEW/EXPANDED:**

- ✓ Renewed focus on climate finance: insurers and banks
- ✓ More audited climate plan requests (SEC rule coming soon)
- ✓ "Just transition" for hardest hit communities
- ✓ Climate risk time frame: **S&P Global** <u>agreed</u> to extend for ratings.



# New Issues, Key Themes in 2022 Environment

- ✓ **Environmental Management** (35, up 10 from last year)
  - Plastics make/use less, rethink single-use. Notable Coke commitment last year to cut virgin plastic -> "refillables"
  - **NEW:** Chemical footprint reporting (3 retailers)
    - —"Right to repair" at Alphabet (MSFT, AAPL adopted)
  - Agriculture—pesticides, antibiotics, eggs, pigs (MCD board)







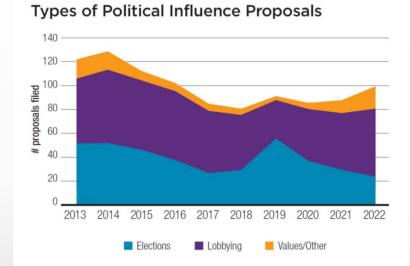




## New Issues, Key Themes in 2022

#### **Social Issues**

- ✓ **Political Activity** (100, up from 89 in 2021
  - Oversight/disclosure model: Center for Political Accountability (elections) & AFSCME/Boston Trust Walden (lobbying)
    - -37 lobbying, 24 elections
    - —Will new **Exxon Mobil** lobbying report prompt others?





**SURGE/SHIFT:** Corporate values and spending consistency

Myth of bipartisanship in statehouse politics provides context, challenge for company stakeholder relations.

- 20 climate change (new ICCR initiative)
- 17 more on civil rights, <u>access to abortion</u> & health care, environmental risks, global influence

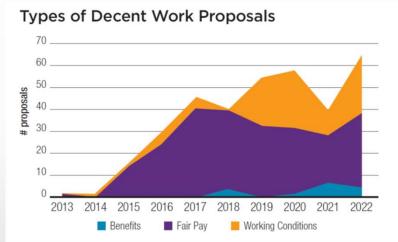




## New Issues, Key Themes in 2022

#### **Social Issues**

- ✓ Decent Work (65 proposals, up sharply from 2021)
  - Fair pay (34): executive, gender/racial pay gaps
  - Working conditions (26): fair treatment and pandemic impacts
  - Benefits (5): Paid sick leave "ordinary business" last year, but now?
  - **NEW**: Concealment clauses, worker misclassification, replacement worker injury rates, differential injury rates by EEO-1 group











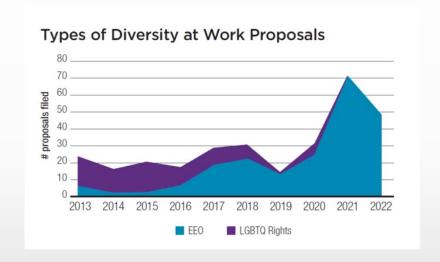


## New Issues, Key Themes in 2022

#### **Social Issues**

- ✓ **Diversity at Work** (48 proposals, down from 2021 but still high)
  - EEO-1 becoming norm for biggest companies (NYC funds)
  - Diversity program reporting push for more detail continues (24)
  - Executive diversity as on-ramp to board, better implementation





**NEW:** — Report pay by EEO-1 category (NYCRF)

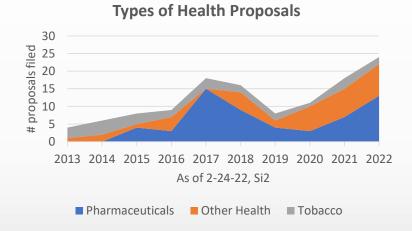
— Pandemic impact on diversity (AMZN) (AFL-CIO)



## New Issues, Key Themes in 2022

#### **Social Issues**

- √ Health (24 proposals, up from 18 in 2021)
  - Pharmaceuticals (12): Covid-19 vaccines & treatments, drug prices
  - **EXPANDED:** Reproductive/maternal health & business risks from growing restrictions (Rhia Ventures) (4, plus political \$ )
  - NEW: Sustainable food and financial priorities (4)
    - Baby power sales ban (JNJ)
  - Tobacco (2)







## New Issues, Key Themes in 2022

#### **Social Issues**

- ✓ Human Rights (78, up from 54 last year)
  - <u>Racial justice</u> focus <u>much expanded</u> beyond banks (49 proposals) to retailers, food, healthcare, industrials, materials, tech, utilities
    - 54% at **Apple** for civil rights audit (SOC Investment Group).

**NEW:** Environmental justice: 5 ask about unequal risks, impacts



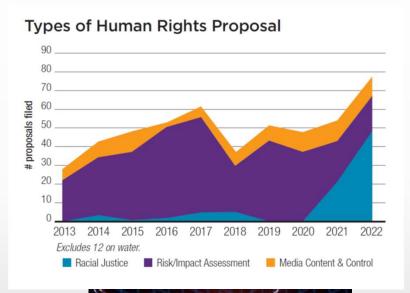
- Risk/impact assessments (20)
  - Rare agreement on Uyghurs, China:
    - Apple 34% government influence(SumOfUs)
    - Disney 37% on Mulan credits (NLPC)

**NEW:** "Ghost guns": **Mastercard** use for purchases

Media content and control (10)

**NEW:** — How do algorithms affect tech?

— Whither the Metaverse?





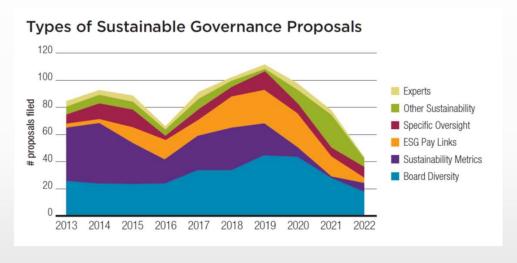


## New Issues, Key Themes in 2022

#### **Sustainable Governance**

- √ Board composition (19, steep downward curve continues)
  - Much diversity progress with broad support from proxy advisors, big mutual funds, new California law, new Nasdaq standards, matrix reporting acceptance.
- √ Board oversight (8, including 2 on climate change)





#### √ Sustainability approaches (14)

**NEW:** <u>The Shareholder Commons</u> shift from public benefit corporation to issue-specific systemic risks of externalized costs. (*Moving Beyond MPT* article).



## About Si2

- ✓ Funded by colleges, universities, pension funds, asset owners with AUM > \$4 trillion
- √ Careful, impartial tracking and analysis of corporate reform campaigns and issues

#### **Briefing Papers**

In-depth topic analyses

#### **Action Reports**

Company-specific analysis 3-4 weeks before annual meetings

#### **Engagement Monitor**

Interactive online database Prospectively identifies issues Tracks outcomes

#### **Proxy Season Analysis**

Pre- and post-season assessments Weekly email updates in season

#### **Special Projects**

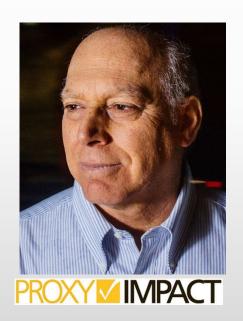
Reports for the public on Si2 website on corporate political activity, climate change, integrated reporting and more.

#### Contact

Heidi Welsh, Executive Director heidi @ siinstitute.org +1-301-432-4721 www.siinstitute.org



## **Climate and Energy**



Michael Passoff
CEO
Proxy Impact

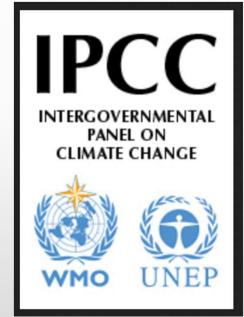


Paris Agreement: limit global temperature

increases to 1.5 degrees C

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
Change (IPCC)

- 2022 Report: 270 scientists from 67 countries
- On path to exceed 1.5C in a decade
- Must halve GHG by 2030







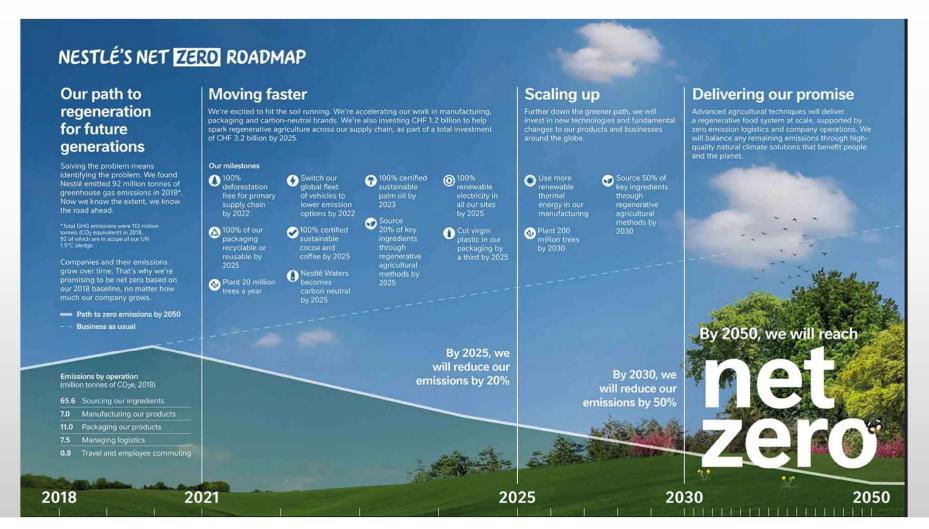
## Net Zero by 2050

## 1500+ companies have pledged adopt some form of net-zero targets

- Timelines vary greatly
- Need short- medium- long-term goals
- 50% by 2030
- 4.2% GHG annual reduction
- 7% GHG annual reduction utilities
- To pledge or not to pledge
- Goals will inform decision making









# Companies Get It – But Don't Know How To Get There

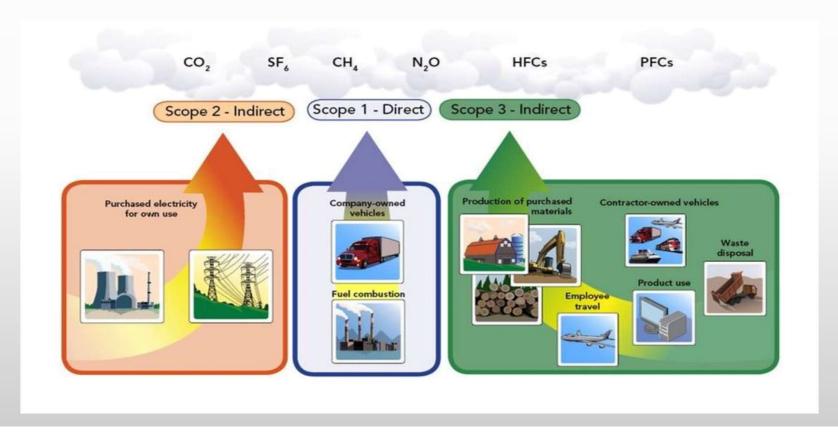
- Science Based Target initiative (SBTi)
  - Scientific consensus
  - Guides for different industry sectors
- Climate Action 100+
  - Investor Led / Expectations
  - 615 investor groups
  - \$65 Trillion AUM







## The Scoop on Scopes





## **Climate Risk = Financial Risk**

#### **SEC Rules**

- Reporting
- Scope 1-2-?

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

#### Business

# SEC plans to force public companies to disclose greenhouse gas emissions

From Coca-Cola to Tesla, companies report emissions in widely different ways. A new federal rule is expected to standardize climate disclosures, putting the U.S. on closer footing with other countries.

#### **Extreme Weather**

- Storms, Floods, Sea Rise
- Heat, Drought, Fire



## **Supply Chain**

- Shortages
- Materials, Workers





## **Carbon Offsets and Greenwashing**

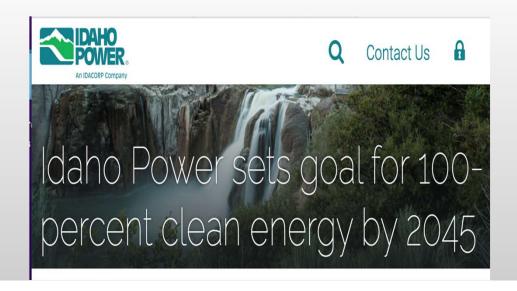
#### **Williams Sonoma**

- New: "use of carbon offsets"
- 50% carbon neutral by 2030 using offsets
- No offsets in lieu of reductions



#### **IDACORP**

- "aligned with 1.5C"
- Baselines: 2005 vs 2015+
- 41% by 2040; no projections for 59% reduction in 5 years





## **Keep An Eye On These Resolutions**

#### **Boeing**

- 90%+?, GE 98% in 2021; April meetings

#### **IDACORP**

1<sup>st</sup> majority vote 2009; Greenwashing – SEC

#### **Insurance companies**

- # companies. The risk of insuring climate risk



#### **Crypto Currency**

- New: Tesla

#### **Climate Audits**

9 companies; XOM 49%, CVX 48% in 2021

#### **Climate Lobbying**

- 20 companies; XOM 64% in 2021







## A proxy voting and shareholder engagement service for sustainable, responsible and impact investors

- ✓ ESG vote guidelines
- ✓ Electronic proxy voting and reporting
- ✓ Shareholder engagement on social & environmental issues

**Contact** Michael Passoff, michael@proxyimpact.com www.proxyimpact.com



## **Racial Justice and Human Rights Proposals**



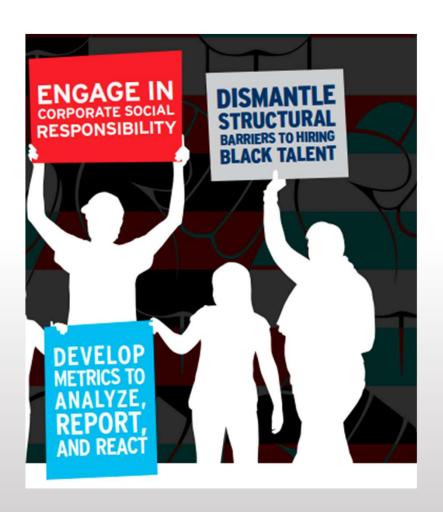
SOC INVESTMENT GROUP

**Tejal K. Patel**Corporate Governance Director **SOC Investment Group** 



## **Human Rights Proposals**

- Bulk of human rights related proposals focus on racial justice and equity issues
- 75 human rights related proposals filed, with civil rights audits at well over 30+ and notable settlements





## **2022 Equity Audit Proposals**



- Finance
- Communications
- Pharmaceuticals
- Fast food
- Technology
- Energy

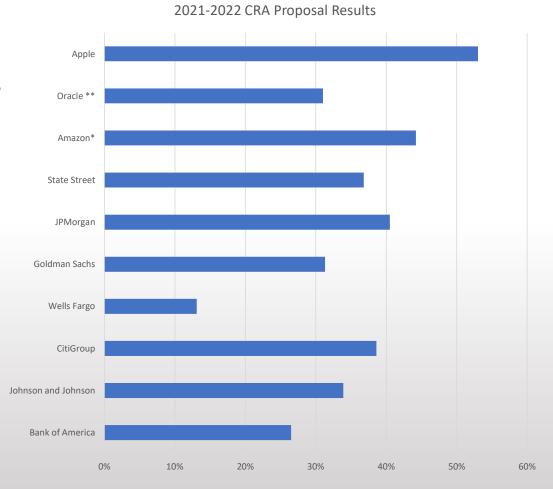


- Racial equity audit
- Civil rights audit
- Environmental justice audits



### **CRA:** Criteria and vote results

- Auditor should be independent and have civil rights experience.
- Stakeholder consultation on topics.
- Assigned board oversight.
- Public report with annual updates.





# Settlements



Morgan Stanley

**BLACKROCK** 









## **SEC No Actions**

## **McDonalds**

Ongoing litigation (pending)

### 1&1

Duplication by NCPPR proposal (both will go to vote)

## **Travelers**

Ordinary business, vague, and false and misleading (pending)



### **Environmental Justice**

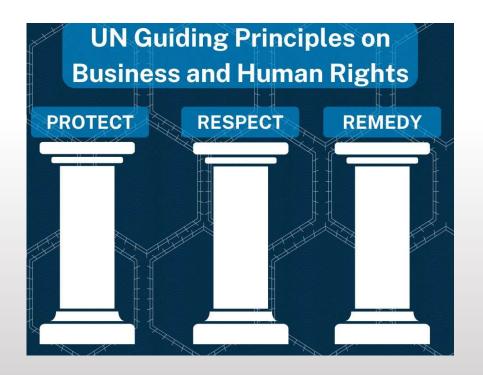
- Proposals look at environmental impact on communities of color and low-income communities.
- NYSCRF proposals request an annual report identifying and reducing heightened environmental and health impacts from operations on communities of color and lowincome communities.





# Human rights risks and impacts

- Human rights due diligence reports focused on defense companies
- Supply chain concerns, domestic and abroad
- Stakeholder and labor rights





## Fair work

### Pay

- Median gender and racial pay gap
- Pay disparities in CEO compensation

### Working conditions

- Concealment clauses
- Harassment and discrimination report
- Worker misclassification
- Safety audit
- Paid sick leave



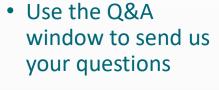
# **Questions and Answers**



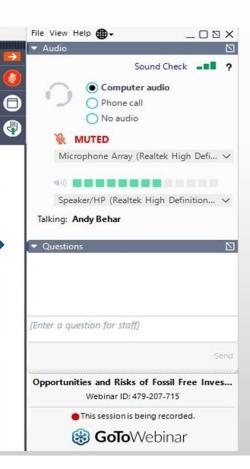
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Michael Passoff Proxy Impact









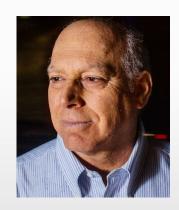
**Tejal K. Patel** SOC Investment Group



# **Closing Remarks**



Heidi Welsh Sustainable Investments Institute (Si2)



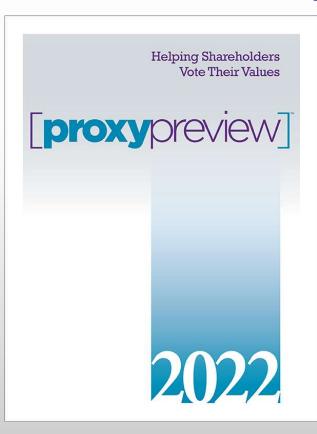
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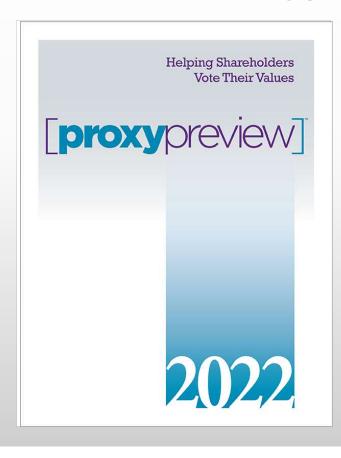
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### **Media/Press Contact**

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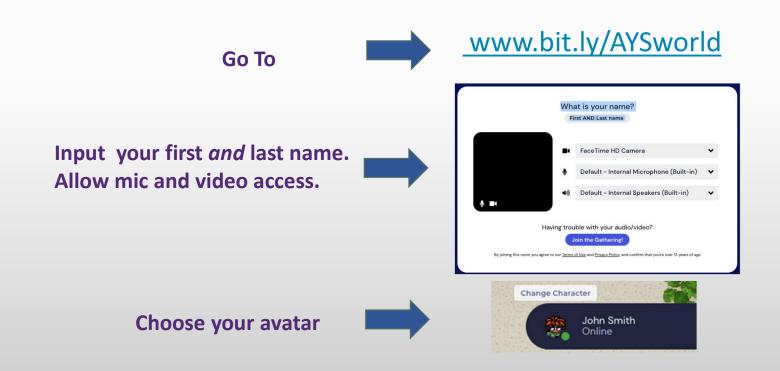
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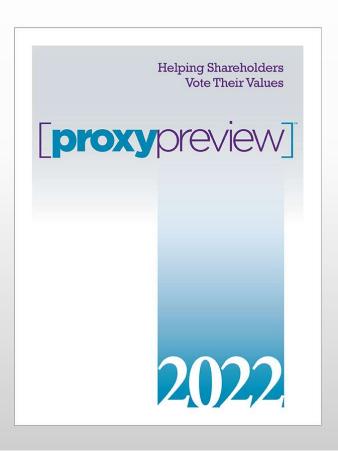
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