

# **Proxy Voting Policy**

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(Last Reviewed: May 2025)

GMO LLC and related entities<sup>1</sup> (collectively, "GMO")

### I. Statement of Policy

Proxy voting is an important right of shareholders and reasonable care and diligence must be undertaken to seek to ensure that such rights are properly and timely exercised. Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC ("GMO") manages a variety of products and GMO's proxy voting authority may vary depending on the type of product or specific client preferences. GMO retains full proxy voting discretion for accounts comprised of comingled client assets. However, GMO's proxy voting authority may vary for accounts that GMO manages on behalf of individual clients. These clients may retain full proxy voting authority for themselves, grant GMO full discretion to vote proxies on their behalf, or provide GMO with proxy voting authority along with specific instructions and/or custom proxy voting guidelines. Where GMO has been granted discretion to vote proxies on behalf of managed account clients this authority must be explicitly defined in the relevant Investment Management Agreement, or other document governing the relationship between GMO and the client.

In exercising its proxy voting authority, GMO is mindful of the fact that the value of proxy voting to a client's investments may vary depending on the nature of an individual voting matter and the strategy in which a client is invested. Some GMO strategies follow a systematic, research-driven investment approach, applying quantitative tools to process fundamental information and manage risk. Some proxy votes may have heightened value for certain clients, such as votes on corporate events (*e.g.*, mergers and acquisitions, dissolutions, conversions, or consolidations) for those clients invested in GMO strategies involving the purchase of securities around corporate events. These differences may result in varying levels of GMO engagement in proxy votes, but in all cases where GMO retains proxy voting authority, it will seek to vote proxies in the best interest of its clients and in accordance with this Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures (the "Policy").

GMO's Stewardship and Corporate Leadership Subcommittee, a sub-committee of the GMO ESG Oversight Committee, is responsible for the implementation of this Policy, including the oversight and use of third-party proxy advisers, the manner in which GMO votes its proxies, and fulfilling GMO's obligation voting proxies in the best interest of its clients.

### II. Use of Third-Party Proxy Advisors

GMO has retained an independent third-party Proxy Advisory firm for a variety of services including, but not limited to, receiving proxy ballots, proxy voting research and recommendations, and executing votes. GMO may also engage other Proxy Advisory firms as appropriate for proxy voting research and other services.

### III. Considerations When Assessing or Considering a Proxy Advisory Firm

<sup>1</sup> Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC, GMO Australia Limited, and GMO Singapore Pte. Ltd.

When considering the engagement of a new, or the performance and retention of an existing, Proxy Advisory firm to provide research, voting recommendations, or other proxy voting related services, GMO will, as part of its assessment, consider:

- The capacity and competency of the Proxy Advisory firm to adequately analyze the matters up for a vote;
- The ability of the Proxy Advisory firm to provide information supporting its recommendations in a timely manner;
- The ability of the Proxy Advisory firm to respond to ad hoc requests from GMO;
- Whether the Proxy Advisory firm has an effective process for obtaining current and accurate information including from issuers and clients (*e.g.*, engagement with issuers, efforts to correct deficiencies, disclosure about sources of information and methodologies, etc.);
- How the Proxy Advisory firm incorporates appropriate input in formulating its methodologies and construction of issuer peer groups, including unique characteristics regarding an issuer;
- Whether the Proxy Advisory firm has adequately disclosed its methodologies and application in formulating specific voting recommendations;
- The nature of third-party information sources used as a basis for voting recommendations;
- When and how the Proxy Advisory firm would expect to engage with issuers and other third parties;
- Whether the Proxy Advisory firm has established adequate policies and procedures on how it
  identifies, discloses and addresses conflicts of interests that arise from providing proxy
  voting recommendations and related services, from activities other than providing proxy
  voting recommendations and services, and from Proxy Advisory firm affiliations;
- Whether the Proxy Advisory firm has established adequate diversity and inclusion practices;
- Information regarding any errors, deficiencies, or weaknesses that may materially affect the Proxy Advisory firm's research or ultimate recommendation;
- Whether the Proxy Advisory firm appropriately and regularly updates methodologies, guidelines, and recommendations, including in response to feedback from issuers and their shareholders;
- Whether the Proxy Advisory firm adequately discloses any material business changes taking into account any potential conflicts of interests that may arise from such changes.

GMO also undertakes periodic sampling of proxy votes as part of its assessment of a Proxy Advisory firm and in order to reasonably determine that proxy votes are being cast on behalf of its clients consistent with this Policy.

### IV. Potential Conflicts of Interest of the Proxy Advisor

GMO requires any Proxy Advisory firm it engages with to identify and provide information regarding any material business changes or conflicts of interest on an ongoing basis. Where a conflict of interest may exist, GMO requires information on how said conflict is being addressed. If GMO determines that a material conflict of interest exists and is not sufficiently mitigated, GMO's Stewardship and Corporate Leadership Subcommittee will determine whether the conflict has an impact on the Proxy Advisory firm's voting recommendations, research, or other services and determine if any action should be taken.

### V. Voting Procedures and Approach

In relation to stocks held in GMO funds and accounts where GMO has proxy voting discretion, GMO will, as a general rule, seek to vote in accordance with this Policy and the applicable

guidelines GMO has developed to govern voting recommendations from its Proxy Advisory firm ("GMO Voting Guidelines"). In instances where a separate account client has provided GMO with specific instructions and/or custom proxy voting guidelines, GMO will seek to vote proxies in line with such instructions or custom guidelines.

GMO may refrain from voting in certain situations unless otherwise agreed to with a client. These situations include, but are not limited to, when:

- 1. The cost of voting a proxy outweighs the benefit of voting;
- 2. GMO does not have enough time to process and submit a vote due to the timing of proxy information transfer or other related logistical or administrative issues;
- 3. GMO has an outstanding sell order or intends to sell the applicable security prior to the voting date;
- 4. There are restrictions on trading resulting from the exercise of a proxy;
- 5. Voting would cause an undue burden to GMO (*e.g.*, votes occurring in jurisdictions with beneficial ownership disclosure and/or Power of Attorney requirements); or
- 6. GMO has agreed with the client in advance of the vote not to vote in certain situations or on specific issues.

GMO generally does not notify clients of non-voted proxy ballots.

Some of GMO's strategies primarily focus on portfolio management and research related to macro trading strategies which are implemented through the use of derivatives. These strategies typically do not hold equity securities with voting rights.

### VI. Voting Guidelines

GMO seeks to vote proxies in a manner that encourages and rewards behavior that supports the creation of sustainable long-term growth, and in a way consistent with the investment mandate of the assets we manage for our clients. Accordingly, GMO's Voting Guidelines aim to promote sustainable best practices in portfolio companies, which includes advocating for environmental protection, human rights, fair labor, and anti-discrimination practices. When evaluating and adopting these guidelines and to encourage best sustainability practices, we take into account generally accepted frameworks such as those defined by the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment and United Nations Global Compact.

### VII. Issuer Specific Ballot Evaluations

GMO may review individual ballots (for example, in relation to specific corporate events such as mergers and acquisitions) using a more detailed analysis than is generally applied through the GMO Voting Guidelines. This analysis may, but does not always, result in deviation from the voting recommendation that would result from the GMO Voting Guidelines assigned to a given GMO fund or managed account. When determining whether to conduct an issuer-specific analysis, GMO will consider the potential effect of the vote on the value of the investment. To the extent that issuer-specific analysis results in a voting recommendation that deviates from a recommendation produced by the GMO Voting Guidelines, GMO will be required to vote proxies in a way that, in GMO's reasonable judgment, is in the best interest of GMO's clients.

### VIII. Potential Conflicts of Interest of the Advisor

GMO mitigates potential conflicts of interest by generally voting in accordance with the GMO Voting Guidelines and/or specific voting guidelines provided by clients. However, from time to time, GMO may determine to vote contrary to GMO Voting Guidelines with respect to GMO funds or accounts for which GMO has voting discretion, which itself could give rise to potential conflicts of interest.

In addition, if GMO is aware that one of the following conditions exists with respect to a proxy, GMO shall consider such event a potential material conflict of interest:

- 1. GMO has a material business relationship or potential relationship with the issuer;
- 2. GMO has a material business relationship with the proponent of the proxy proposal; or
- 3. GMO members, employees or consultants have a personal or other material business relationship with the participants in the proxy contest, such as corporate directors or director candidates.

In the event of a potential material conflict of interest, GMO will (i) vote such proxy according to the GMO Voting Guidelines; (ii) seek instructions from the client or request that the client votes such proxy, or (iii) abstain. All such instances shall be reported to GMO's Compliance Department at least quarterly.

### IX. Ballot Materials and Processing

The Proxy Advisory firm is responsible for coordinating with GMO's clients' custodians to seek to ensure that proxy materials received by custodians relating to a client's securities are processed in a timely fashion. Proxies relating to securities held in client accounts will typically be sent directly to the Proxy Advisory firm. In the event that proxy materials are sent to GMO directly instead of the Proxy Advisory firm, GMO will use reasonable efforts to coordinate with the Proxy Advisory firm for processing.

### X. Disclosure

Upon request, GMO will provide clients with a copy of this Policy and how the relevant client's proxies have been voted. In relation to the latter, GMO will prepare a written response that lists, with respect to each voted proxy:

- 1. The name of the issuer;
- 2. The proposal voted upon; and
- 3. The election made for the proposal.

### XI. GMO Mutual Funds

GMO's responsibility and authority to vote proxies on behalf of its clients for shares of GMO Trust, a family of registered mutual funds for which GMO serves as the investment adviser, may give rise to conflicts of interest. Accordingly, GMO will (i) vote such proxies in the best interests of its clients with respect to routine matters, including proxies relating to the election of Trustees; and (ii) with respect to matters where a conflict of interest exists between GMO and GMO Trust, such as proxies relating to a new or amended investment management contract between GMO Trust and GMO, or a re-organization of a series of GMO Trust, GMO will either (a) vote such proxies in the same proportion as the votes cast with respect to that proxy, (b) seek instructions from its clients and vote on accordance with those instructions, or (c) take such

other action as GMO deems appropriate in consultation with the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer.

On an annual basis, GMO will provide, or cause the Proxy Advisory firm to provide, to the GMO Trust administrator or other designee on a timely basis, any and all reports and information necessary to prepare and file Form N-PX, which is required by Rule 30b1-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

### XII. Proxy Recordkeeping

GMO and its Proxy Advisory firm (where applicable) will maintain records with respect to this Policy for a period of no less than five (5) years as required by SEC Rule 204-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, including the following:

- 1. A copy of the Policy, and any amendments thereto;
- 2. A copy of any document that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies, or that memorializes that decision; and
- 3. A record of each vote cast by GMO or the Proxy Advisory firm on behalf of GMO clients.

## XIII. Review of Policy and Procedures

As a general principle, the Stewardship and Corporate Leadership Subcommittee, with the involvement from the Compliance Department, reviews, on an annual basis, the adequacy of this Policy to reasonably ensure it has been implemented effectively, including whether it continues to be reasonably designed to ensure that GMO's approach to voting proxies is in the best interests of its clients.