
Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures Appendix A

Geode Proxy Voting Policies

As an investment adviser, Geode holds voting authority for securities in many of the client accounts that it manages. Geode takes seriously its responsibility to monitor events affecting securities in those client accounts and to exercise its voting authority with respect to those securities in the best interests of its clients (as well as shareholders of mutual funds for which it serves as adviser or sub-adviser). The purposes of these proxy voting policies are to (1) establish a framework for Geode's analysis and decision-making with respect to proxy voting and (2) set forth operational procedures for Geode's exercise of proxy voting authority.

Overview

Geode anticipates that, based on its current business model, it will manage the vast majority of assets under its management using passive investment management techniques, such as indexing. Geode may also manage funds and separate accounts using active investment management techniques, primarily employing quantitative investment strategies.

Geode will engage established commercial proxy advisory firms for comprehensive analysis, research and voting recommendations, particularly for matters that may be controversial or require additional analysis under these Policies.

Geode may determine to follow or reject any recommendation based on the research and analysis provided by proxy advisory firms or on any independent research and analysis obtained or generated by Geode. However, Geode has retained a third-party proxy voting service (the "Agent") to affect votes based on the customized policies established by Geode and maintain records of all of Geode's proxy votes. In limited instances where the Policies do not address the specific matter, the Agent will refer the ballot back to Geode. For ballots related to proxy contests, mergers, acquisitions and other organizational transactions, Geode may determine it is appropriate to conduct a company specific evaluation. In cases of proxies not voted by the Agent, the ultimate voting decision and responsibility rests with Geode Proxy. Geode's Operations Committee oversees the exercise voting authority under these proxy voting policies.

Due to its focused business model and the number of investments that Geode will make for its clients (particularly pursuant to its indexing strategy), Geode does not anticipate that actual or potential conflicts of interest are likely to occur in the ordinary course of its business. However, Geode believes it is essential to avoid having conflicts of interest affect its objective of voting in the best interests of its clients. Therefore, in the event that members of the Operations Committee, the Agent or any other person involved in the analysis or voting of proxies has knowledge of, or has reason to believe there may exist, any potential relationship, business or otherwise, between the portfolio company subject to the proxy vote and Geode (or any affiliate of Geode) or their respective directors, officers, shareholders,

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employees or agents, such person shall notify the other members of the Operations Committee. Geode will analyze and address such potential conflict of interest, consulting with outside counsel, as appropriate. In the case of an actual conflict of interest, on the advice of counsel, Geode expects that the independent directors of Geode will consider the matter and may (1) determine that there is no conflict of interest (or that reasonable measures have been taken to remedy or avoid any conflict of interest) that would prevent Geode from voting the applicable proxy, (2) abstain, (3) cause authority to be delegated to the Agent or a similar special fiduciary to vote the applicable proxy or (4) recommend other methodology for mitigating the conflict of interest, if deemed appropriate (e.g., echo voting).

Geode has established the specific proxy voting policies that are summarized below to maximize the value of investments in its clients' accounts, which it believes will be furthered through (1) accountability of a company's management and directors to its shareholders, (2) alignment of the interests of management with those of shareholders (including through compensation, benefit and equity ownership programs), and (3) increased disclosure of a company's business and operations. Geode reserves the right to override any of its proxy voting policies with respect to a particular shareholder vote when such an override is, in Geode's best judgment, consistent with the overall principle of voting proxies in the best long-term economic interests of Geode's clients.

Policies

All proxy votes shall be considered and made in a manner consistent with the best interests of Geode's clients (as well as shareholders of mutual fund clients) without regard to any other relationship, business or otherwise, between the portfolio company subject to the proxy vote and Geode or its affiliates. As a general matter, (1) proxies will be voted FOR incumbent members of a board of directors and FOR routine management proposals, except as otherwise addressed under these policies; (2) shareholder and non-routine management proposals addressed by these policies will be voted as provided in these policies; and (3) shareholder and non-routine management proposals not addressed by these policies will be evaluated by Geode ESG Stewardship based on fundamental analysis and/or research and recommendations provided by the Agent and other third-party proxy advisory firms.

When voting the securities of non-US issuers, Geode will evaluate proposals in accordance with these policies but will also take local market standards and best practices into consideration. Geode may also limit or modify its voting at certain non-US meetings (e.g., if shares are required to be blocked or reregistered in connection with voting).

Geode's specific policies are as follows:

I. Election of Directors

Geode will generally vote FOR incumbent members of a board of directors except:

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- **Attendance.** The incumbent board member failed to attend at least 75% of meetings in the previous year and does not provide a reasonable explanation.
 - **Independent Directors.** Nominee is not independent and full board comprises less than a majority of independents. Nominee is not independent and sits on the audit, compensation or nominating committee.
 - **Director Responsiveness.** The board failed to act on shareholder proposals that received approval by Geode and a majority of the votes cast in the previous year. The board failed to act on takeover offers where Geode and a majority of shareholders tendered their shares. At the previous board election, directors opposed by Geode received more than 50 percent withhold/against votes of the shares cast, and the company failed to address the issue(s) that caused the high withhold/against vote.
 - **Golden Parachutes.** Incumbent members of the compensation committee adopted or renewed an excessive golden parachute within the past year.
 - **Gender Diversity.** If there are no women on the Board unless the Board has made a firm commitment to return to a gender-diverse status when there was a woman on the Board at the preceding annual meeting
 - **Overboarding.** The Director is a CEO and sits on the Board of more than two public companies besides his or her own; or a non-CEO Director who sits on more than five public company boards
 - **Unequal Voting Rights.** If the Company maintains a common stock structure with unequal voting rights. Exceptions to the policy may include, but aren't limited to: Newly-public companies with a reasonable sunset provision, where the unequal voting rights are considered de minimis; or the company provides sufficient safeguards for minority shareholders
 - In **Other Circumstances** when a member of the board has acted in a manner inconsistent with the interests of shareholders of a company whose securities are held in client accounts.
- II. Majority Election.** Unless a company has a policy achieving a similar result, Geode will generally vote in favor of a proposal calling for directors to be elected by a majority of votes cast in a board election provided that the plurality vote applies when there are more nominees than board seats.
- III. Say on Pay (non-binding).**

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- **Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation.** Geode will generally vote AGAINST advisory vote when: (1) there is a significant misalignment between executive pay and company performance; (2) the company maintains significant problematic pay practices; or (3) the board exhibits a significant level of poor communication and responsiveness to shareholders.
- **Frequency Vote.** Geode will generally vote FOR having an advisory vote on executive compensation every year.
- **Advisory Vote on Golden Parachute.** Geode will vote **AGAINST** excessive change-in-control severance payments.

IV. **Vote AGAINST Anti-Takeover Proposals**, including:

- **Addition of Special Interest Directors** to the board.
- **Authorization of “Blank Check” Preferred Stock.** Geode will vote FOR proposals to require shareholder approval for the distribution of preferred stock except for acquisitions and raising capital in the ordinary course of business.
- **Classification of Boards,** Geode will vote FOR proposals to de-classify boards.
- **Fair Price Amendments,** other than those that consider only a two-year price history and are not accompanied by other anti-takeover measures.
- **Golden Parachutes,** that Geode deems to be excessive in the event of change-in-control.
- **Poison Pills.** Adoption or extension of a Poison Pill without shareholder approval will result in our voting AGAINST the election of incumbents or a management slate in the concurrent or next following vote on the election of directors, provided the matter will be considered if (a) the board has adopted a Poison Pill with a sunset provision; (b) the Pill is linked to a business strategy that will result in greater value for the shareholders; (c) the term is less than three years; (d) the Pill includes a qualifying offer clause; Or (e) shareholder approval is required to reinstate the expired Pill. Geode will vote FOR shareholder proposals requiring or recommending that shareholders be given an opportunity to vote on the adoption of poison pills.

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- **Reduction or Limitation of Shareholder Rights** (e.g., action by written consent, ability to call meetings, or remove directors).
 - **Reincorporation** in another state (when accompanied by Anti-Takeover Provisions, including increased statutory anti-takeover provisions). Geode will vote FOR reincorporation in another state when not accompanied by such anti-takeover provisions.
 - **Requirements that the Board Consider Non-Financial Effects** of merger and acquisition proposals.
 - **Requirements regarding Size, Selection and Removal of the Board** that are likely to have an anti-takeover effect (although changes with legitimate business purposes will be evaluated).
 - **Supermajority Voting Requirements** (i.e., typically 2/3 or greater) for boards and shareholders. Geode will vote FOR proposals to eliminate supermajority voting requirements.
 - **Transfer of Authority from Shareholders to Directors.**
- V. **Vote FOR** proposed amendments to a company's certificate of incorporation or by-laws that enable the company to Opt Out of the Control Shares Acquisition Statutes.
- VI. **Vote AGAINST** the introduction of new classes of Stock with Differential Voting Rights.
- VII. **Vote AGAINST** introduction and FOR elimination of Cumulative Voting Rights, except in certain instances where it is determined not to enhance shareholders' interests.
- VIII. **Vote FOR** elimination of Preemptive Rights.
- IX. **Vote FOR Anti-Greenmail** proposals so long as they are not part of anti-takeover provisions (in which case the vote will be AGAINST).
- X. **Vote FOR** charter and by-law amendments expanding the Indemnification of Directors to the maximum extent permitted under Delaware law (regardless of the state of incorporation) and vote **AGAINST** charter and by-law amendments completely Eliminating Directors' Liability for Breaches of Care.
- XI. **Vote FOR** proposals to adopt Confidential Voting and Independent Vote Tabulation practices.

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XII. Vote FOR Open-Market **Stock Repurchase Programs**, unless there is clear evidence of past abuse of the authority; the plan contains no safeguards against selective buybacks, or the authority can be used as an anti-takeover mechanism.

XIII. Vote FOR management proposals to implement a **Reverse Stock Split** when the number of authorized shares will be proportionately reduced or the Reverse Stock Split is necessary to avoid delisting.

XIV. Vote FOR management proposals to **Reduce the Par Value** of common stock unless the proposal may facilitate an anti-takeover device or other negative corporate governance action.

XV. Vote FOR the **Issuance of Large Blocks of Stock** if such proposals have a legitimate business purpose and do not result in dilution of greater than 20%. However, a company's specific circumstances and market practices may be considered in determining whether the proposal is consistent with shareholders' interests.

XVI. Vote AGAINST Excessive Increases in Common Stock. Vote AGAINST increases in authorized common stock that would result in authorized capital in excess of three times the company's shares outstanding and reserved for legitimate purposes. For non-U.S. securities with conditional capital requests, vote AGAINST issuances of shares with preemptive rights in excess of 100% of the company's current shares outstanding. Special requests will be evaluated, taking company-specific circumstances into account.

XVII. Vote AGAINST the adoption of or amendment to authorize additional shares under a **Stock Option Plan** if:

- The **stock option plan** includes **evergreen provisions**, which provides for an automatic allotment of equity compensation every year.
- The **dilution effect** of the shares authorized under the plan (including by virtue of any "evergreen" or replenishment provision), plus the shares reserved for issuance pursuant to all other option or restricted stock plans is greater than 10%. However, dilution may be increased to 15% for small capitalization companies, and 20% for micro capitalization companies, respectively. If the plan fails this test, the dilution effect may be evaluated relative to any unusual factor involving the company.
- The **offering price of options is less than 100% of fair market value** on the date of grant, except that the offering price may be as low as 85% of fair market value if the discount is expressly granted in lieu of salary or cash bonus, except that a modest number of shares

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(limited to 5% for a large capitalization company and 10% for a small and micro capitalization companies) may be available for grant to employees and directors under the plan if the grant is made by a compensation committee composed entirely of independent directors (the “De Minimis Exception”).

- The **plan is administered by** (1) a **compensation committee not comprised entirely of independent directors** or (2) a **board of directors not comprised of a majority of independent directors**, provided that a plan is acceptable if it satisfies the De Minimis Exception.

- The **plan’s terms allow repricing of underwater options, or the board/committee has repriced options outstanding under the plan in the past two years without shareholder approval**, unless by the express terms of the plan or a board resolution such repricing is rarely used (and then only to maintain option value due to extreme circumstances beyond management’s control) and is within the limits of the De Minimis Exception.

- **Liberal Definition of Change in Control:** the plan provides that the vesting of equity awards may accelerate even though an actual change in control may not occur.

XVIII. Vote AGAINST the election of incumbent members of the compensation committee or a management slate in the concurrent or next following vote on the election of directors if, within the last year and without shareholder approval, the company’s board of directors or compensation committee has repriced outstanding options.

XIX. Evaluate proposals to Reprice Outstanding Stock Options, taking into account such factors as: (1) whether the repricing proposal excludes senior management and directors; (2) whether the options proposed to be repriced exceeded the dilution thresholds described in these current proxy voting policies when initially granted; (3) whether the repricing proposal is value neutral to shareholders based upon an acceptable options pricing model; (4) the company’s relative performance compared to other companies within the relevant industry or industries; (5) economic and other conditions affecting the relevant industry or industries in which the company competes; and (6) other facts or circumstances relevant to determining whether a repricing proposal is consistent with the interests of shareholders.

XX. Vote AGAINST adoption of or amendments to authorize additional shares for **Restricted Stock Awards (“RSA”)** if:

- The **dilution effect** of the shares authorized under the plan, plus the shares reserved for issuance pursuant to all other option or restricted stock plans, is **greater than 10%**. However, dilution may be increased to 15% for small capitalization companies, and 20% for

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micro capitalization companies, respectively. If the plan fails this test, the dilution effect may be evaluated relative to any unusual factor involving the company.

XXI. Vote AGAINST Omnibus Stock Plans if one or more component violates any of the criteria applicable to Stock Option Plans or RSAs under these proxy voting policies, unless such component is de minimis. In the case of an omnibus stock plan, the dilution limits applicable to Stock Option Plans or RSAs under these proxy voting policies will be measured against the total number of shares under all components of such plan.

XXII. Vote AGAINST Employee Stock Purchase Plans if the plan violates any of the relevant criteria applicable to Stock Option Plans or RSAs under these proxy voting policies, except that (1) the minimum stock purchase price may be equal to or greater than 85% of the stock's fair market value if the plan constitutes a reasonable effort to encourage broad based participation in the company's equity, and (2) in the case of non-U.S. company stock purchase plans, the minimum stock purchase price may be equal to the prevailing "best practices," as articulated by the Agent, provided that the minimum stock purchase price must be at least 75% of the stock's fair market value.

XXIII. Vote AGAINST Stock Awards (other than stock options and RSAs) unless it is determined they are identified as being granted to officers/directors in lieu of salary or cash bonus, subject to number of shares being reasonable.

XXIV. Vote AGAINST equity vesting acceleration programs or amendments to authorize additional shares under such programs if the program provides for the acceleration of vesting of equity awards even though an actual change in control may not occur.

XXV. Vote FOR Employee Stock Ownership Plans ("ESOPs") of non-leveraged ESOPs, and in the case of leveraged ESOPs, giving consideration to the company's state of incorporation, existence of supermajority vote rules in the charter, number of shares authorized for the ESOP, and number of shares held by insiders. Geode may also examine where the ESOP shares are purchased and the dilution effect of the purchase. Geode will vote AGAINST a leveraged ESOP if all outstanding loans are due immediately upon a change in control.

XXVI. Vote AGAINST management or shareholder proposals on other **Compensation Plans or Practices** if such plans or practices are **Inconsistent with the Interests of Shareholders**. In addition, Geode may vote AGAINST the election of incumbents or a management slate in the concurrent or next following vote on the election of directors if Geode believes a board has approved executive compensation arrangements inconsistent with the interests of shareholders.

XXVII. Environmental and Social Proposals

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Evaluate each proposal related to environmental and social issues (including political contributions). Generally, Geode expects to vote with management's recommendation on shareholder proposals concerning environmental or social issues, as Geode believes management and the board are ordinarily in the best position to address these matters. Geode may support certain shareholder environmental and social proposals that request additional disclosures from companies which may provide material information to the investment management process, or where Geode otherwise believes support will help maximize shareholder value. Geode may take action against the re-election of board members if there are serious concerns over ESG practices or the board failed to act on related shareholder proposals that received approval by Geode and a majority of the votes cast in the previous year.

XXVIII. Geode will generally vote **FOR** proposals seeking to establish or amend proxy access which allow a shareholder (or shareholder group) holding at least 3% of the voting power of the company's outstanding shares continuously for a minimum of 3 years the ability to nominate no more than 25% of the board of directors.

Geode will generally vote **AGAINST** proposals that do not meet the aforementioned criteria

XXIX. Shares of Investment Companies

- For institutional accounts, Geode will generally vote in favor of proposals recommended by the underlying funds' Board of Trustees, unless voting is not permitted under applicable laws and regulations.

- For retail managed accounts, Geode will employ echo voting when voting shares. To avoid certain potential conflicts of interest, if an investment company has a shareholder meeting, Geode would vote their shares in the investment company in the same proportion as the votes of the other shareholders of the investment company.