

Family enterprise governance

Transitioning your board for the next generation

Increasingly family enterprises are challenged with finding board members with the appropriate skill sets to meet the increasing demands and responsibilities of the board.

The responsibilities of directors are complex, demanding and time-consuming. The agendas they must address are evolving as a result of the rapidly changing business environment and increased stakeholder expectations of boards. Today's family businesses are faced with many challenges that, if not managed effectively, can threaten their long-term success and viability (e.g., the global pandemic, ESG challenges, data privacy, supply chain issues). As companies' strategies change and their business environments evolve, it is imperative that the composition of their boards reflect diversity, including skills, experience and backgrounds necessary to support the company's current and future strategies.



Board composition considerations

Highly effective boards include a mix of directors with the experience and experience to fulfill their essential oversight roles. Director candidates should have the right skills and experience to add to that mix, as well as other attributes that the board may want to consider. These attributes can change over time—what is important today may not be important tomorrow.



Skills and experience

Future skills and experience needed for effective oversight of the company's strategy



Diversity

Diverse board membership to provide better insight into how important constituencies think



Family

Director candidates that have a connection to the family to preserve the principles and values that play an essential role in the success of the family business



Independence and tenure

Directors who have no significant or long-standing tie to the company or the family can exercise independent judgement

Evolving your family enterprise board

1

Board of directors made up of family members only



2

Board of directors made up of family and management



3

Board of directors that adds an independent director(s)







4

Board of directors that has majority independent directors






Our approach

Evaluating and refreshing your board composition as needed is critical to the board's ability to stay current, effective and focused on enhancing long-term stakeholder value. PwC can help your board review its makeup in light of the company's strategic direction, identify the capabilities valuable to the business with the goal of supporting the company's strategy and transition of generational leadership, and support targeted recruitment of new directors—rather than focusing solely on 'who you know'—to infuse the board with fresh perspectives relevant to the company's future.

- **Assess current board composition**
 - Survey collective skills and experience of current directors, including the recency of skills, to determine strengths and weaknesses of the current board
 - Maintain board profiles so director skills are up-to-date
- **Consider optimal board composition**
 - Consider board size
 - Identify future skills and experience needed for effective oversight of the company's longer-term strategy
 - Consider other attributes such as diversity, geography or professional designations to complement the current and future management team
 - Incorporate board and management feedback to confirm to confirm your defined optimal board composition
- **Finalize recruitment priorities**
 - Assess skills that may be lost through known director transitions
 - Compare ideal and current board composition, as well as known transitions, to identify gaps and opportunities
 - Leverage gaps and opportunities to help target new directors
 - Prioritize desired capabilities to inform director search
- **Support director search to fill key spots**
 - Create director profiles based on confirmed recruiting goals and priorities
 - Develop board nomination and recruitment processes and materials
 - Provide slate of board candidates to address gaps and opportunities
 - Conduct initial screenings
 - Support new director orientation for newly elected directors

How we have helped others

 Challenge	 Approach	 Result
A client was looking to assess their board member skills and competencies to fulfill its duties to carry out the family business strategy and growth plans. Upon reviewing the results of its board self-assessment, the client questioned whether its board possessed the competencies and skills necessary to support the company's current and future strategies.	PwC conducted stakeholder interviews and facilitated director self-assessments to gain a clear understanding of current board competencies and skills, as well as what the board and management felt they needed in the future. We provided a comparative analysis of board composition against similar organizations and identified gaps and opportunities with the goal of supporting the client's growth and evolution.	The client obtained a good understanding of its board skills and competencies, to include areas of enhancement to help drive them closer to leading practices and support of their strategy and growth plans. This work resulted in clear recruiting priorities for three to five-year strategic plans, and further clarified the roles and responsibilities of the board to were properly focused on the right areas (e.g., risk management, financials) in addition to overseeing strategy and policy.



Learn more at:
pwc.com/us/familyenterprises/governance

For detailed resources on professionalizing your family business board, assessing your board composition and the role of independent directors, board matching, perpetuating the family business through good governance and more.

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