WHAT DIRECTORS THINK

SHIFTING GEARS IN 2017

Last November, *Corporate Board Member*, in partnership with Spencer Stuart, surveyed 600 directors of publicly traded companies to check their pulse on the challenges and best practices of corporate directorship in the United States. The survey reveals guarded optimism as directors choose to stay the course amid a shifting political landscape. Here are some key findings ahead of publication next month.

ON ECONOMIC POLICIES…

⇒ While a full third of board members agreed Dodd-Frank should be completely repealed, the majority (58%) argued in favor of tweaking only certain provisions.

⇒ Half of the respondents believe a one-time deemed repatriation of 10% on offshore profits would support their company's domestic growth.

⇒ Six out of 10 directors anticipate the new administration will bear no effect whatsoever on SEC enforcement efforts, and 41% predicted a chilling effect.

⇒ Two-thirds of directors said it is unlikely they'll adjust their global strategy over the near term, though 46% speculated about the likeliness of doing so domestically.

ON RISK OVERSIGHT…

⇒ Thirty-nine percent of directors said they discuss cybersecurity at every meeting, a slight uptick from the 35% reported six months earlier.

⇒ Four out of 10 respondents reported their board has at least one director with cyber expertise, with an additional 7% who are in the process of recruiting one.

⇒ Almost two-thirds said their company has a contingency plan in place in the event of a disruptive innovation, and an additional 35% remarked that they evaluate such risks regularly.

⇒ Strategy, regulatory compliance, and capital allocation remain the most discussed topics at board meetings.

ON BOARD OPERATIONS…

46%
Directors who believe tenure does not affect board autonomy.

8%
Directors in favor of federal regulations for overboarding.

78%
Directors who want more time for strategic planning.