Becoming a CII member is easy! Please contact Melissa Fader at Melissa@cii.org or call 202.822.0800 for an application.
About CII

Who We Are

The Council of Institutional Investors is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association of U.S. public, foundation, endowment, corporate and union employee benefit funds, other employee benefit plans, state and local entities charged with investing public assets, and foundations and endowments with combined assets under management of approximately $5 trillion. CII promotes policies that enhance long-term value for U.S. institutional asset owners and their beneficiaries. Read more on CII’s website.

Why We Began

CII was founded in 1985, a time of corporate takeovers, imperial CEOs and insulated boards of directors. Shareowners had little say in most corporate decisions and did not appreciate the potential power of their proxy votes. The founders were a group of 21 visionaries, most public pension fund officials, who believed that the companies in which they were investing their members’ retirement assets needed more oversight by shareholders. Read more on CII’s website.

What We Do

CII educates members, and the public, about best corporate governance practices and provides opportunities for members to interact with peers, investment executives and policymakers. CII is a diverse community of professionals who come together to learn, share perspectives and advocate. CII’s member-approved governance policies are the backbone of the advocacy work we do and they represent the melding of a diverse range of interests.

CII advocates on behalf of its members with companies, legislators, regulators and other key market participants. CII enjoys a reputation for honesty, leadership, thoughtful analysis and creative consensus-building. Investors, lawmakers, regulators, corporate officials and leaders of other public interest groups look to CII for expertise and ideas.

CII engages with key market participants across the investor spectrum, including public pension systems, corporate retirement funds, foundations, endowments, labor union funds, asset managers, exchanges, credit rating agencies, legislators and regulators and other service providers. Its network is one of the largest in the U.S. and illustrates the unique cross-pollination of ideas and consensus-building that goes on at the organization.

CII has developed a comprehensive body of corporate governance best practices on matters including executive compensation, CEO succession planning and board diversity. They are best-practice guidelines but are not binding on CII members. Learn more on CII’s website.
What is an Associate Member?

By joining CII, Associate Members gain access to professionals who manage employee benefit plans, state or local agencies officially charged with investing public fund assets (such as state investment boards) and charitable tax-exempt foundations and endowments. They are eligible to serve on CII’s two Advisory Councils, which gives input to CII’s board of directors and staff and may serve in a leadership role on various working groups and committees.

Associate Members Include:

- Law Firms
- Money Managers
- Service Providers
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Non-U.S. Pension Funds

Why Join CII?

Since 1985, CII has been recognized by U.S. policy makers as the the most comprehensive voice for good corporate governance and shareholder rights in the United States. With more than half of the 50 largest pension funds and more than 300 member organizations, CII’s extensive network of members, representing the key players in the financial markets, is one of the largest in the United States.

Its members include public pension systems with more than 15 million participants – true “Main Street” investors through their pension funds.

CII has long-standing relationships with the SEC, Senate Banking Committee, House Committee on Financial Services, and U.S. stock exchanges.

“As the premier U.S.-based corporate governance advocacy organization for long-term asset owners and institutional investors, CII and its diverse constituency offer a range of perspectives and resources we simply can’t find anywhere else.”

- Karla Bos, Associate Partner, Corporate Governance Consulting, Aon
CII membership includes a plethora of programs and services designed to allow organizations to roll up their sleeves, get involved and showcase their work.
Join CII Working Groups or Advisory Councils

The Council of Institutional Investors’ committees provide members with opportunities to get involved and engage with other members on a variety of issues.

International Governance Committee
The International Governance Committee is open to all CII members and informed by input from a smaller steering committee. The committee educates members on topical global governance issues and identifies and recommends potential areas for CII involvement in the non-U.S. corporate governance arena. It also works to expand coordination and communication between CII and various international governance organizations.

Proxy Voter Working Group
The Proxy Voter Working Group is an invitation-only working group for corporate governance professionals at institutional investor organizations who vote proxies and engage portfolio companies. The group allows them to share their perspectives on voting issues, engagement, shareholder rights and specific company situations, and to discuss potential changes to voting policies or practices.

Advisory Councils
The CII Corporate Governance Advisory Council provides input to the board and staff about CII activities that promote effective corporate governance and ways to enhance the value of membership. The CII board appoints the members annually. All members are representatives of non-U.S. asset owner Associate Members or asset manager Associate Members.

The CII Markets Advisory Council provides input on legal, financial reporting and investment market trends, suggest topics/speakers for upcoming CII meetings and teleconferences, and recommend current and future CII activities that promote and enhance the value of CII membership. The CII board appoints the members annually. All are representatives of Associate Member-service provider organizations.
Member Resources

Member Tools & Web Site Perks

Member Portal
CII member organizations have exclusive access to a client portal, housing a member directory, job board, and member discussion forum for sharing information, ideas, comments and questions.

Member Listserv
CII maintains an email-sharing platform that allows current members in good standing to share non-marketing, free content. Members may share items and correspond with each other through email.

Member Directory
The member directory provides approved contact information for individuals from current member organizations.

Member Job Board
CII’s job board hosts dozens of open, exciting positions within the investment industry, ranging from junior and mid-level to executive roles. Open positions are also advertised in the weekly Governance Alert newsletter to members.

Comment Opportunity Tracker
Organizations seeking to elevate their engagement with regulators and other important market actors use the comment opportunity tracker as a resource for near-term opportunities to comment on proposed rules and consultations affecting investors’ interests, with particular focus on investor protection, transparency and corporate governance.

Proxy Voting Guidelines & Stewardship Resources
CII research staff collects and maintains member proxy-voting guidelines and other stewardship resources to keep members up-to-date on funds proxy voting activity throughout the year.

CII Membership is Like Having a Second Staff
“CII’s team gives our organization great support. They are like a second staff. They are knowledgeable, responsive and thorough; and all this at an excellent value.” - CII member
Research and Publications

CII publishes a weekly member newsletter and an array of educational guides and reports. All, except for special reports, are a benefit just for members.

Guides to Governance Basics
An online library of introductory guides to the nuts and bolts of corporate governance, including how-tos on proxy voting, annual meetings and monitoring delegated proxy voting.

Special Reports
White papers and other reports, written by staff or outside experts, on a range of topical investment issues.

Research Tools
CII research staff also creates and maintains spreadsheets tracking members' ESG and investment policy statements; comment opportunities and members shareowner proposals; and other initiatives.

Governance Alert Newsletters
Arriving in your inbox each week, CII’s member-exclusive newsletter keeps members updated on news and trends in corporate governance and financial regulation, as well as CII events and activities, and other member initiatives to advance corporate governance and shareholder rights.

In the newsletter’s “Membership Corner,” learn about job openings, company updates and events. New members will also receive special recognition and be featured in the publication.

Each quarter, the information in the alerts is compiled and summarized in a wrap-up edition, which many members use toward their own internal reporting.

CII’s Podcast: The Voice of Corporate Governance

CII’s The Voice of Corporate Governance podcast offers access to timely information and perspectives to increase public attention to critical issues and developments in corporate governance and capital markets. The podcast is rated one of the top two best corporate governance podcasts by FeedSpot. CII often features members as speakers on this platform to highlight their important work in industry.
Associate Members may attend and host their own sessions at CII conferences.
Member-Exclusive Conferences

CII hosts two exclusive conferences each year, welcoming more than 500+ members, policy makers, regulators and special guests. Its conferences offer unprecedented opportunities to interact, share best practices and learn from representatives from major institutional investors, regulators, legislators and other corporate governance professionals. These events bring together CII members from across the globe.

Event Demographics (Attendees by Member Type):

“Congratulations to your team on a great conference. It was the best I’ve attended. The content was topical, educational, and deep.”
- Katy Hoffman, Chief of Staff, Investment Management Division, Teacher Retirement System of Texas

Engagement Exchange

The Engagement Exchange is an opportunity for CII investor and public company members to engage in one-on-one or small group meetings ahead of the start of CII’s fall conference. Members may participate in up to four 30-minute meetings at tables scattered throughout the room.

Only available to current organizational members of CII, the Engagement Exchange is provided as part of the benefits covered by annual CII membership dues.
Member-Hosted Meeting Program

A unique benefit to CII member organizations is the opportunity to host their own meeting or event during specific times in its spring and fall conferences.

How does it work?

The hosting organization typically arranges and moderates a panel, with one of the panelists being a host representative. The host can also give a presentation, organize networking events, survey their attendees, or arrange meet and greets during their member-hosted meeting times. Member-hosted meetings must cover current topics of importance to all institutional investors and include a range of speakers and opinions.

“At a time of so many unnecessary events and conferences, CII still represents the one forum to hear the right perspectives, organize real action, and engage in meaningful dialogue - absolutely required attendance.”
- Jake Walko, Director of ESG Investing & Global Investment Stewardship, Thornburg Investment Management
Additional Educational Event Offerings

Educational Webinars

CII hosts educational webinars each month for members. These free briefings provide opportunities for members to learn from experts and share their knowledge with fellow members. CII members are strongly encouraged to offer ideas for topics and speakers for these events.

CII and NYU School of Law’s “Corporate Governance Bootcamp”

CII is proud to co-host Corporate Governance Bootcamp, a premium executive education program developed in partnership with New York University School of Law’s Institute for Corporate Governance and Finance. This three-day intensive training course for governance professionals is offered once per year in varying locations including the NYU campus in New York.

Meetings with Congress and Regulators

CII’s General Counsel coordinates meetings for U.S. Asset Owner members to meet with legislators on Capitol Hill and various regulatory agencies to address its member’s top governance and financial regulatory issues.
Associate members may maximize their visibility by becoming an event sponsor.
Sponsorship Program

Exclusive to members, CII offers opportunities for sponsoring select events at its spring and fall conferences, giving enhanced visibility, brand awareness, networking opportunities and access to key business and policy decision-makers.

As the premier U.S. shareowner rights organization, CII attracts an influential and diverse audience to its conferences. Typically, we welcome 500 attendees, including executive directors, CIOs and other senior investment professionals of most of the major U.S. institutional investors.

Unlike other organizations, only CII members may take advantage of sponsorships, effectively making its sponsors a “big fish in a small pond.” Below are some of the benefits CII members enjoy as a conference sponsor:

- Greater visibility with institutional investors via signage in the sponsored event space
- Recognition during the conference
- Enhanced brand recognition through logo placement and links on conference marketing materials, the mobile app and on CII’s website
- Increased networking power with additional conference registrations for your organization
- Opportunities to attend invitation-only events with CII directors and special guests
- Seating at CII VIP tables

For more information or to request a sponsorship brochure, please contact Melissa Fader.
Associate Member - Non-U.S. Asset Owners Membership

Membership is open to non-U.S. based public employee benefit plans, state or local agencies officially charged with investing public fund assets. Associate Members may not vote, but can attend CII semiannual conferences other CII events, serve on advisory councils and in other leadership positions and have access to all of CII’s private research, publications and other resources.

Annual dues for CII members are for the calendar year. Associate Member dues are calculated based on the size of the organization as follows:

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<th>AUM Ranges (in $billions)</th>
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Ready to join?

Contact Melissa Fader, Director of Operations and Membership at 202.261.7096
Join CII Today!

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