

Board Strategy Checkup

Is your board governing strategy - or simply receiving updates about it?

Strong boards do more than understand the mission and review organizational performance. They help protect direction, ask the questions that matter, maintain appropriate oversight, and recognize when changing conditions require strategic attention.

RATE EACH STATEMENT 1-5

1 = Not true of us | 3 = Sometimes true | 5 = Consistently true

DIRECTION

1. Our board can clearly articulate the organization's strategic priorities and the outcomes we are trying to achieve. ____ / 5
2. Board conversations regularly look ahead - not only at what the organization has already done. ____ / 5

ROLE CLARITY

3. Board members understand the distinction between governing strategic outcomes and managing operational activity. ____ / 5
4. The board and executive leadership have clear, shared expectations about their respective roles in advancing strategy. ____ / 5

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

5. Board meetings create meaningful space for discussion, questions, and decisions - not simply reports and updates. ____ / 5
6. Board members are comfortable raising difficult questions, challenging assumptions, and exploring different perspectives in service of the mission. ____ / 5

OVERSIGHT

7. The board receives a focused set of information that helps it understand whether strategic priorities are progressing. ____ / 5
8. When performance is off track, board conversations focus on implications, risks, and needed decisions - not operational problem-solving. ____ / 5

ADAPTABILITY

9. The board considers changes in the organization's environment when discussing strategy, rather than treating the strategic plan as fixed. ____ / 5
10. Our board knows when to stay the course, when to ask for more information, and when changing conditions warrant reconsidering direction. ____ / 5

Board Strategy Checkup

Scoring + reflection

YOUR SCORE

SCORE	WHAT IT MAY BE TELLING YOU
41-50 Governing Strategically	Your board demonstrates many of the practices associated with meaningful strategic governance. Protect the quality of dialogue and continue adapting as the organization evolves.
31-40 Strong Foundation, Uneven Practice	Your board understands its strategic role, but one or two areas may be limiting its effectiveness. Look closely at the lowest-scoring dimension.
21-30 Strategy May Be Taking a Back Seat	Governance may be leaning toward information-sharing, operational discussion, or episodic strategic engagement. Identify where board time and attention need to shift.
10-20 Time to Reconnect Governance and Strategy	Start with role clarity and board dialogue before adding more reports, committees, or governance processes.

YOUR FIVE DIMENSIONS

Direction ____ /10	Role Clarity ____ /10	Dialogue ____ /10	Oversight ____ /10	Adaptability ____ /10
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DON'T JUST LOOK AT THE SCORE

Circle your two lowest-rated statements.

If we changed these two things, how would the way we govern be different six months from now?

NOTES

"An engaged board doesn't need more to do. It needs greater clarity about where its contribution matters most."

- Dr. Ursula L. Mullins