

# **A Dozen Questions About Board Oversight**

*A “Quiz” for the Board of Directors*



## Is your board a governing board? Use this quiz at a board meeting or board retreat to learn where you may have work to do!

Answer these questions with **Y (Yes)**, **N (No)** or **DK (Don't Know)**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Can you recite the mission of the nonprofit?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did the board review the IRS Form 990 before it was submitted?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a strategic plan with an action plan to monitor progress?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are there job descriptions for board officers and committees?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the board or a board committee reviewed the bylaws in the last two years?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the board regularly assess its performance?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the CEO/ED have an annual performance review?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the board chair meet “one on one” with the CEO/ED monthly?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a succession plan for executive leadership?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a succession plan for board leadership?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a formal orientation for new board members?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are materials sent out several days in advance of board meetings?

*If you have answered “Yes” to all or most of these questions, congratulations! Your board of directors is operating at a high level and you are governing using some best practices!*

*Wherever you have a “Don't Know” answer, this is an opportunity for board education. Board members should be aware of these important elements of their role in governing a nonprofit.*

*Wherever you have a “No” answer, this item should be added to the board's “to do” list.*

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