SARASIN & PARTNERS

# **VOTING REPORT**

Q2 2025

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### **KEY VOTES**

Shareholders have an important responsibility in holding directors to account for responsible oversight of businesses. Good governance underpins the delivery of enduring returns. The voting responsibilities we have on behalf of our clients are, therefore, of the utmost importance to Sarasin & Partners.

Our approach to voting can be found in our <u>Corporate Governance and Voting Guidelines</u>. This is a core part of our stewardship approach.<sup>1</sup> The table below shows how we voted on company resolutions during the period under review. It also explains why we voted the way we did, and whether the resolution was approved by shareholders.

Date:

17 Jun 2025

Resolution:

Elect Director Marcos Galperin

How we vote for you:

**Against** 

Result:

Pass (93.1%)

#### MercadoLibre

Marcos Galperin is both the CEO and Chair at MercadoLibre. We view a combined CEO and Chair as ineffective because it centralises too much authority to one individual, limiting the board's ability to act as an independent check on management and weakening overall governance, particularly when there is no lead independent director oversight. We therefore voted against his election.

Date:

21 May 2025

Resolution:

Advisory Vote to Ratify Named Executive Officers' Compensation

How we vote for you:

Abstain

Result:

Pass (90.5%)

#### Zoetis

At Zoetis, the current remuneration policy includes a "golden parachute" provision under which all named executive officers may receive more than two years' compensation upon termination. We believe this misaligns pay with performance by potentially rewarding failure. Such arrangements can create perverse incentives for example, encouraging support for mergers or acquisitions that may not serve the company's long-term interests simply to trigger a pay-out.

In addition, the performance-based component of the LTIP represents less than 50% of the total award, which we consider insufficient to establish a strong and fair link between pay and performance.

<sup>1</sup>For further information on our stewardship philosophy, please refer to our annual <u>Stewardship Report</u>, available on our website.

### **KEY VOTES** – CONTINUED

Date:

21 May 2025

Resolution:

Commission Third Party Assessment of Board Oversight of Human Rights Risks of Al

How we vote for you:

For (Shareholder resolution)

Result:

Fail (11.1%)

#### Amazon

We appreciate that the company has provided disclosure around its Al technologies, including commitment to responsible Al and guidelines on the use of Al and machine learning. We still believe that independent assessment of the governance structure and oversight over development and employment of Al technologies in all the lines of business, especially oversight over human rights risk mapping and management, would provide additional assurance. Therefore, we have voted FOR this shareholder resolution.

Date:

5 May 2025

Resolution:

1.Declassify the Board of Directors

How we vote for you:

For

Result:

Fail (69.5%)

Supermajority voting requirement at 75%

#### **Eli Lilly**

In our 2024 post-proxy letter, we reiterated concerns regarding Eli Lilly's staggered board structure, which we believe falls short of governance best practices. We view annual elections as essential for ensuring accountability. With only four of twelve directors up for election, it is not always possible to address specific concerns to the directors who should be accountable. While we voted against various directors for that reason previously, we abstained on Lead Independent Director and chair of the Nomination and Governance Committee. This year we were pleased to see Eli Lilly introduce a declassification resolution, along with a proposal to eliminate the supermajority voting requirement. This aims to enhance board accountability and improve governance responsiveness, therefore we voted FOR.

# > VOTING SUMMARY

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025
Total number of company meeting:	S	1,165	1,072	1, 228	771	615	622	553	552	70	285
Total number of proposals		13,244	13,433	13,373	9,168	7,855	7,972	7,746	7,437	930	4,824
Votes cast	For	8,570	11,152	8,732	6,378	5,886	5,913	5,556	5,449	732	3,169
	Against	2,354	2,611	2,678	1,646	1,330	1,416	1,201	1,393	143	960
	Abstain	101	181	129	95	62	83	62	91	12	72
	Withhold	83	79	100	77	83	113	52	60	13	43
	Did not vote <sup>1</sup>	2,136	1,420	1,641	972	489	336	466	427	30	276

Source: Sarasin & Partners, 30.06.25

 $^1\! ext{We do not currently vote in jurisdictions in which share blocking and power of attorney requirements apply.}$ 

Further details are available upon request.

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