BoardEffect
a Diligent brand

How to get your board on the same page

Here's what board admins have to say

How prepared are your board members?

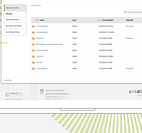
Only a quarter of board administrators' say that most or all of their board members actively prepare for meetings.

What percentage of your board members **actively prepare for board meetings?**

9%	29%	38%	24%
Up to 25%	26 - 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 100%

"Remind them during meetings that their material is prepared ahead of time for them to review at their leisure."

Shannon Oliver
Administration Support Manager
Florida State College at Jacksonville



Engagement makes a difference

"A truly engaged board of directors is essential to the health and well-being of your mission-driven organization. When truly engaged, board members will become your nonprofit's best ambassadors, advocates, strategists and all-around supporters."

National Council of Nonprofits[2]

"Continuously communicating our strategic priorities and inviting board members to actively participate in the implementation of our strategies [is key]."

Doreen Trombley
Executive Assistant / CEO & Board Liaison
AbleLight

Making the time commitment

Approximately how many hours per month does your organization spend on activities aimed at aligning board members (meetings, training, communication)?

34%	34%	19%	12%
Less than 5 hours	5 - 10 hours	11 - 20 hours	More than 20 hours

"We involve our board in our strategic planning process, kicking it off every year at the board retreat where we obtain their ideas and input on what our focus should be on for the upcoming year. We then also involve them in reviewing the goals that we have chosen and ultimately obtain board approval of our strategic plan every year. We oftentimes hold board education sessions around select goals / priorities so that they understand our position."

Elizabeth Thompson
Executive Assistant to the President & Corporate Secretary and Corporate Compliance Officer, Presbyterian SeniorCare Network

Building connection and consistent communication with the board

"Connection to each other is important, not only because board members are more engaged if they feel connected to their fellow board members, but also because that connection makes open conversations easier. Build some time to socialize into meetings. Have a board retreat that includes team building. Schedule a few social events — like family day during the summer or board dinner after a meeting. Board members will be more engaged and look forward to seeing their friends at board meetings."

Barbara Paxton
Director, BoardStrong[3]

"Initiating communication as far in advance as possible. Leading the discussion vs leaving it open ended. Constantly reminding governors of our mission and values."

Bing Goldsworth
Executive Assistant to the CEO
Organically Grown Company

Are boards getting opportunities to align?

Almost half of boards conduct training or workshops once a year; **nearly one fifth** do not create these opportunities currently.

1/2 → 1/5

How often does your board conduct training or workshops?

"Involve them in setting strategic priorities / strategic planning; bring up the topic often in board meetings. Leave space for discussion and questions."

Ian Olson
Board Coordinator
Minnesota Historical Society

"Use the committee structure to communicate and align on issues prior to full board meetings."

Gina Hebert
Director of Operations & Board Relations
Woodwell Climate Research Center

Next steps

- Set expectations around board members' roles and behaviors.
- Look for outside-the-box events to build connection between board members.
- Ensure board members experience the community you serve.
- Find training opportunities to fill in the gaps.
- Measure current board engagement.

"For me, the measurable outcome (of using BoardEffect) is that you know that the board members have really engaged in the materials now. It's evident through their logins beforehand, it's evident in the discussions, in the boardroom and their questions around the material. All of those things mean they have put some thought into it and have engaged."

SuEllen Holmes
COO
International Network of Churches

"Being able to use BoardEffect to track RSVPs and to send messages to those who have not responded. It helps us with our final numbers, and gets the members more engaged with using BoardEffect (checking out the library, meeting packages, and other things)."

Manpreet Banga
Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers

See how BoardEffect, a Diligent brand, can help you and your board get on the same page to meet your mission.

boardeffect.com | **sales@boardeffect.com**

Learn more

[1] Diligent survey of nonprofit board administrators, December 2024.
[2] National Council of Nonprofits. Board Engagement. https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/running-nonprofit/governance-leadership/board-engagement
[3] Transforming board engagement: Expert insights for mission-driven success. https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/experts-share-tips-board-engagement/

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