#### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The Proxy Voting Policies and Guidelines contained in this document summarize The Mexico Equity and Income Fund, Inc.'s (the "Fund") positions on various issues of concern to the Fund's shareholders. These Guidelines give general indication as to how the Fund's Advisor will vote Fund shares on each issue listed. However, this listing does not address all potential voting issues or the intricacies that may surround individual proxy votes. For that reason there may be instances in which votes may vary from the guidelines presented here. The Fund endeavors to vote Fund shares in accordance with the Fund's investment objectives and strategies.

#### I. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

#### A. Board and Governance Issues

## 1. Board of Director/Trustee Composition

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance of the corporation.

The Fund advisor will **oppose** slates without at least a majority of independent directors (1/3 of directors who are outsiders to the corporation).

The Fund advisor will vote **for** shareholder proposals that request that the board audit, compensation and/or nominating committees include independent directors exclusively.

#### 2. Increase Authorized Common Stock

The Fund advisor will generally **<u>support</u>** the authorization of additional common stock necessary to facilitate a stock split.

The Fund advisor will generally <u>support</u> the authorization of additional common stock, if the company already has a large amount of stock authorized but not issued or reserved for its stock option plans. In this latter instance, there is a concern that the authorized but unissued shares will be used as a poison pill or other takeover defense, which will be <u>opposed</u>. In addition, we will require the company to provide a specific purpose for any request to increase shares by more than 100 percent of the current authorization.

## 3. Blank Check Preferred Stock

Blank check preferred is stock with a fixed dividend and a preferential claim on company assets relative to common shares. The terms of the stock (voting dividend and conversion rights) are set by the Board at a future date without further shareholder action. While such an issue can in theory have legitimate corporate purposes, most often it has been used as a takeover defense since the stock has terms that make the entire company less attractive.

The Fund advisor will generally **oppose** the creation of blank check preferred stock.

# 4. Classified or "Staggered" Board

On a classified (or staggered) board, directors are divided into separate classes (usually three) with directors in each class elected to overlapping three-year terms. Companies argue that such Boards offer continuity in direction which promotes long-term planning. However, in some instances they may serve to deter unwanted takeovers since a potential buyer would have to wait at least two years to gain a majority of Board seats.

The Fund advisor will vote on a case-by-case basis on issues involving classified boards.

## 5. Supermajority Vote Requirements

Supermajority vote requirements in a company's charter or bylaws require a level of voting approval in excess of a simple majority. Generally, supermajority provisions require at least 2/3 affirmative vote for passage of issues.

The Fund advisor will vote on a case-by-case issues involving supermajority voting.

# 6. Restrictions on Shareholders to Act by Written Consent

Written consent allows shareholders to initiate and carry out a shareholder action without waiting until the annual meeting or by calling a special meeting. It permits action to be taken by the written consent of the same percentage of outstanding shares that would be required to effect the proposed action at a shareholder meeting.

The Fund advisor will generally **oppose** proposals to limit or eliminate the right of shareholders to act by written consent.

#### 7. Restrictions on Shareholders to Call Meetings

The Fund advisor will generally **oppose** such a restriction as it limits the right of the shareholder.

#### 8. Limitations, Director Liability and Indemnification

Because of increased litigation brought against directors of corporations and the increased costs of director's liability insurance, many states have passed laws limiting director liability for those acting in good faith. Shareholders however must opt into such statutes. In addition, many companies are seeking to add indemnification of directors to corporate bylaws.

The Fund advisor will generally <u>support</u> director liability and indemnification resolutions because it is important for companies to be able to attract the most qualified individuals to their Boards. Note: Those directors acting fraudulently would remain liable for their actions irrespective of this resolution.

## 9. Reincorporation

Corporations are in general bound by the laws of the state in which they are incorporated. Companies reincorporate for a variety of reasons including shifting incorporation to a state where the company has its most active operations or corporate headquarters, or shifting incorporation to take advantage of state corporate takeover laws.

While each reincorporation proposal will be evaluated based on its own merits, the Fund advisor will generally **support** reincorporation resolutions for valid business reasons (such as reincorporating in the same state as the corporate headquarters).

#### 10. Cumulative Voting

Cumulative voting allows shareholders to "stack" their votes behind one or a few directors running for the board, thereby helping a minority of shareholders to win board representation. Cumulative voting gives minority shareholders a voice in corporate affairs proportionate to their actual strength in voting shares.

The Fund advisor will generally <u>support</u> proposals calling for cumulative voting in the election of directors.

#### 11. Dual Classes of Stock

In order to maintain corporate control in the hands of a certain group of shareholders, companies may seek to create multiple classes of stock with differing rights pertaining to voting and dividends.

The Fund advisor will generally <u>oppose</u> dual classes of stock. However, the advisor will <u>support</u> classes of stock offering different dividend rights (such as one class which pays cash dividends and a second which pays stock dividends) depending on the circumstances.

## 12. Limit Directors' Tenure

In general corporate directors may stand for re-election indefinitely. Opponents of this practice suggest that limited tenure would inject new perspectives into the boardroom as well as possibly creating room for directors from diverse backgrounds; however, continuity is important to corporate leadership and in some instances alternative means may be explored for injecting new ideas or members from diverse backgrounds into corporate boardrooms.

Accordingly, the Fund advisor will vote on a case-by-case basis attempts to limit director tenure.

#### 13. Minimum Director Stock Ownership

The director share ownership proposal requires that all corporate directors own a minimum number of shares in the corporation. The purpose of this resolution is to encourage directors to have the same interest as other shareholders.

The Fund advisor will **support** resolutions that require corporate directors to own shares in the company.

#### 14. Selection of Auditor

Annual election of the outside accountants is standard practice. While it is recognized that the company is in the best position to evaluate the competence of the outside accountants, we believe that outside accountants must ultimately be accountable to shareholders. Furthermore, audit committees have been the subject of a report released by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Improving the Effectiveness of Corporate Audit Committees in conjunction with the NYSE and the National Association of Securities Dealers. The Blue Ribbon Commission concluded that audit committees must improve their current level of oversight of independent accountants.

Given the rash of accounting irregularities that were not detected by audit panels or auditors, shareholder ratification is an essential step in restoring investor confidence.

The Fund advisor will **oppose** the resolutions seeking ratification of the auditor when fees for financial systems design and implementation exceed audit and all other fees, as this can compromise the independence of the auditor.

The Fund advisor will **oppose** the election of the audit committee chair if the audit committee recommends an auditors whose fees for financial systems design and implementation exceed audit and all other fees, as this can compromise the independence of the auditor.

# B. Executive Compensation

## 1. Disclosure of CEO, Executive, Board and Management Compensation

On a case-by-case basis, the Fund advisor will **<u>support</u>** shareholder resolutions requesting companies to disclose the salaries of top management and the Board of Directors.

## 2. Compensation for CEO, Executive, Board and Management

The Fund advisor will <u>oppose</u> an executive compensation proposal if we believe the compensation does not reflect the economic and social circumstances of the company (i.e. at times of layoffs, downsizing, employee wage freezes, etc.).

## 3. Formation and Independence of Compensation Review Committee

The Fund advisor will **<u>support</u>** shareholder resolutions requesting the formation of a committee of independent directors to review and examine executive compensation.

## 4. Stock Options for Board and Executives

The Fund advisor will generally **oppose** stock option plans that in total offer greater than 15% of shares outstanding because of voting and earnings dilution.

The Fund advisor will generally <u>oppose</u> option programs that allow the repricing of underwater options. (Repricing divides shareholder and employee interests. Shareholders cannot "reprice" their stock and, therefore, optionees should not be treated differently).

The Fund advisor will generally **oppose** stock option plans that have option exercise prices below the marketplace on the day of the grant.

The Fund advisor will generally **support** options programs for outside directors subject to the same constraints previously described.

# 5. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOPs)

The Fund advisor will **support** ESOPs created to promote active employee ownership. However, they will **oppose** any ESOP whose purpose is to prevent a corporate takeover.

# 6. Pay Equity

The Fund advisor will **<u>support</u>** shareholder resolutions that request that management provide a race and/or gender pay equity report.

# 7. Ratio Between CEO and Worker Pay

The Fund advisor will generally **support** shareholder resolutions requesting that management report on the ratio between CEO and employee compensation.

# 8. Maximum Ratio Between CEO and Worker Compensation and/or Cap on CEO Compensation

The Fund advisor will vote on a case-by-case basis shareholder resolutions requesting management to set a maximum ratio between CEO and employee compensation and/or a cap on CEO compensation.

## 9. Changes to Charter or By-Laws

The Fund advisor will conduct a case-by-case review of the proposed changes with the voting decision resting on whether the proposed changes are in shareholder's best interests.

## 10. Confidential Voting

Typically, proxy voting differs from voting in political elections in that the company is made aware of shareholder votes as they are cast. This enables management to contact dissenting shareholders in an attempt to get them to change their votes.

The Fund advisor will **<u>support</u>** confidential voting because the voting process should be free of coercion.

## 11. Equal Access to Proxy

Equal access proposals ask companies to give shareholders access to proxy materials to state their views on contested issues, including director nominations. In some cases, they would actually allow shareholders to nominate directors. Companies suggest that such proposals would make an increasingly complex process even more burdensome.

In general, the Fund advisor will **oppose** resolutions for equal access proposals.

#### 12. Golden Parachutes

Golden parachutes are severance payments to top executives who are terminated or demoted pursuant to a takeover. Companies argue that such provisions are necessary to keep executives from "jumping ship" during potential takeover attempts.

The Fund advisor will **support** the right of shareholders to vote on golden parachutes because they go above and beyond ordinary compensation practices. In evaluating a particular golden parachute, we will examine total management compensation, the employees covered by the plan, and the quality of management.

## C. Mergers and Acquisitions

## 1. Considering the Non-Financial Effects of a Merger Proposal

Such a proposal allows or requires the Board to consider the impact of merger decisions on various "stakeholders," such as employees, communities, customers and business partners. This proposal gives the Board the right to reject a tender offer on the grounds that it would adversely affect the company's stakeholders.

The Fund advisor will **support** shareholder resolutions that consider non-financial impacts of mergers.

# 2. Mergers, Restructuring and Spin-offs

A merger, restructuring, or spin-off in some way affects a change in control of the company's assets. In evaluating the merit of each issue, we will consider the terms of each proposal. This will include an analysis of the potential long-term value of the investment.

The Fund advisor will **support** management proposals for merger or restructuring if the transaction appears to offer fair value and other proxy voting policies stated are not violated. For example, the advisor may oppose restructuring resolution which include in it significant takeover defenses and may again oppose the merger of a non-nuclear and a nuclear utility if it poses potential liabilities.

#### 3. Poison Pills

Poison pills (or shareholder rights plans) are triggered by an unwanted takeover attempt and cause a variety of events to occur which may make the company financially less attractive to the suitor. Typically, directors have enacted these plans without shareholder approval. Most poison pill resolutions deal with putting poison pills up for a vote or repealing them altogether.

The Fund advisor will **support** proposals to put rights plans up for a shareholder vote. In general, poison pills will be **opposed** unless management is able to present a convincing case fur such a plan.

#### 4. Anti-Greenmail Proposals

Greenmail is the payment a corporate raider receives in exchange for his/her shares. This payment is usually at a premium to the market price, so while greenmail can ensure the continued independence of the company, it discriminates against other shareholders.

The Fund advisor will generally **support** greenmail provisions.

## 5. Opt-Out of State Anti-Takeover Law

A strategy for dealing with anti-takeover issues has been a shareholder resolution asking for a company to opt-out of a particular state's anti-takeover laws.

The Fund advisor will generally <u>support</u> bylaws changes requiring a company to opt-out of state anti-takeover laws. However, resolutions requiring companies to opt-into state anti-takeover statutes will be <u>opposed</u>.

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