

Is this the Right Board for Me?

Deciding which board of directors to join can be an overwhelming task. Given the significant legal, fiduciary and community responsibility of boards and individual board members, you should take the time to carefully consider any board opportunities to make sure they are the right fit for you. The following are a few of the questions you can ask yourself when considering board service and which board is right for you.

Mission Fit

I have reviewed the mission of the organization and feel that it fits well with my personal belief systems.

Yes/No/Not Sure

I will be able to uphold the purpose of the organization (*duty of obedience*).

Yes/No/Not Sure

I understand how the programs of the non-profit support achievement of the mission.

Yes/No/Not Sure

I can easily see how I will be able to contribute to meeting the mission of the organization. My personal and/or professional experience will add value.

Yes/No/Not Sure

Due Diligence

I have met and feel confident about the skills and abilities of the executive and board leadership. I feel comfortable that I will be able to work with the personalities.

Yes/No/Not Sure

The board or executive leadership has shared the bylaws and major organizational policies/procedures with me. I understand the expectations from a policy (*duty of obedience*) perspective.

Yes/No/Not Sure

The board has clearly articulated expectations for the board of directors and individual board members. I know what is expected of me as a board member. I will be able to meet or exceed all expectations (*duty of care*).

Yes/No/Not Sure

The board has an established system for educating board members on topics of need or interest (*asking for money, planned giving, legal duties of the board*).

Yes/No/Not Sure

The board has a recommended reading list to help me better understand the issues the mission is attempting to address, to learn more about serving on a board or to better understand the nonprofit sector.

Yes/No/Not Sure

I've had a chance to look over the financial statements from the organization including Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, IRS Form 990, and audited financials. I understand the financial position of the organization.

Yes/No/Not Sure

The organization enjoys a good reputation in our community.

Yes/No/Not Sure

Personal Fit

The organization values ways of operating that are comfortable for me, e.g. focus on traditional business metrics, innovation, data-driven decision making, start-up energy or well-established structure.

Yes/No/Not Sure

The board of directors operates in a way and manner that is comfortable for me.

Yes/No/Not Sure

I feel as if I will fit in with this group.

Yes/No/Not Sure

I understand where the organization is in its life cycle and feel confident that I can contribute something of value to a group at this point in its development.

Yes/No/Not Sure

I will be able to make a personally significant financial contribution to this organization annually for each year that I serve on the board.

Yes/No/Not Sure

I am eager to ask others to contribute treasure, time and talent to the group.

Yes/No/Not Sure

Scoring:

I answered "Yes" to ____ statements

I answered "Not Sure" to ____ statements

I answered "No" to ____ statements

- If you answered **Yes to 14 or more statements** this is probably a good board for you, move forward.
- If you answered **Yes to 9 or more statements**, continue exploring. Ask more questions, look at additional documents, and talk to people in the community to get feedback about this non-profit.
- If you answered **Yes to 8 or less statements**, you should either do a lot more homework or move on to the next possible organization.

Any statements where you have a Not Sure, try to gather more information that will help you make a solid decision.