

**Starbucks Shareholder Meeting – Proposal #4 Statement**  
**Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director**  
**National Center for Public Policy Research, March 20, 2019**

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research and I move proposal four, which seeks to increase ideological diversity within the company's board of directors.

Across corporate America, company after company is adopting board diversity policies based on race and gender. These procedures have the stated goal of reducing corporate groupthink and require companies to interview an underrepresented minority and a woman for each open board spot. This isn't diversity. It's racism and sexism. Not all women think alike based on the fact that they are women. Similarly, not all Asian or Latino or black Americans think the same based on their respective skin color.

Rather than promote racism and sexism, we urge the company to consider viewpoint diversity when it makes its board selections. Through the years, especially under its former CEO Howard Schultz, Starbucks has earned a well-worn reputation for being a left-of-center corporation. Under Schultz, the company staked leftist positions on immigration, religious liberty, climate change and marriage, and had a dicey relationship with racial issues. Interestingly, now that he is considering a presidential run, Schultz has been met with scorn by the leftists whom he supported and promoted for years, since he is a billionaire who made his money from that scary "C" word – capitalism. Many of today's liberals prefer socialism, in which government takes control of industry and regulates capitalism out of existence.

Yet Starbucks' liberal convictions remain intact. And even if the company disagrees with that assertion, in business perception is reality. Our proposal offers the company a concrete way to change its left-leaning public persona. When the company takes overtly political positions on legal and policy issues, it would benefit from having voices from both sides of the aisle in the room. That's what our proposal would ensure.

My organization has filed this proposal with many different companies across a broad spectrum of industries. Many companies have adopted the proposal and many more have engaged in substantive dialogue with us on the issue. Starbucks has done neither.

All of this points to the necessity of implementing our proposal. We believe that boards that incorporate diverse perspectives can think more critically and oversee corporate managers more effectively. Appointing a few conservatives may help the company avoid groupthink. That's a win for investors and a win for true diversity.

Please join me in voting yes on proposal four. Thank you.

*Contact: Jenny Kefauver at (703) 842-7405 or cell (703) 850-3533  
or [Jenny@JKPublicRelationsdc.com](mailto:Jenny@JKPublicRelationsdc.com)  
and David W. Almasi at (703) 568-4727 or [DAlmasi@nationalcenter.org](mailto:DAlmasi@nationalcenter.org)*

*National Center for Public Policy Research*  
*20 F Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001*  
*www.nationalcenter.org • @NationalCenter • @FreeEntProject*