



# Applied Materials

Locations: California (HQ)

Industries: Semiconductors and Semiconductor Equipment

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

## DESCRIPTION:

Applied Materials is High Risk. The company yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. The company implements race and identity-based policies that replace merit, excellence, and integrity with preferential treatment and outcomes. Applied Materials embraces corporate initiatives that redirect its central focus from business goals to partisan policies and divisive issues. This approach fails to safeguard free exercise, free speech, and free enterprise.

## Corporate Weaponization

**Has canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries. Medium Risk**

*Applied Materials received a score of 100 on the 2025 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. The company recruits employees based on sexual identity. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (1)(2). However, Applied Materials has not canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs (3).*

**Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs. High Risk**

*Applied Materials' HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (1)(2). Applied Materials does not discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or beliefs (3).*

**Employment policies fail to protect against viewpoint or other discrimination and/or are ideological in nature. High Risk**

*Applied Materials' HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). Applied Materials President and CEO signed Catalyst's Champions for Change pledge, indicating its support of DEI in its leadership composition through the establishment of gender and racial targets (3)(4). The company provides unconscious bias and micro-inequities training for its employees (5). Applied Materials does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (6).*

## Corporate Governance and Public Policy

**Uses corporate reputation to support causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression.**

**High Risk**

*Applied Materials' HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy. By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). Applied Materials signed an open letter endorsing the Equality Act, a contentious proposal to amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act by adding sexual orientation and so-called gender identity as protected categories. The legislation would, among other implications, grant biological men access to women-only spaces such as sports teams and public restrooms, and compel healthcare providers to deliver sex-denying healthcare and opposed anti-LGBTQ legislation (3)(4). The company opposed the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, which would prohibit teaching gender identity and sexual orientation to kids in K-3rd grade (5). Applied Materials opposed various state and local legislation intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (6). The company opposed legislation in Iowa intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (7)(8). Applied Materials CEO, Gary E. Dickerson, signed the CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion pledge, which includes a commitment to promote DEI through bias education training in the workplace, strategize on DEI programs/initiatives with other signatories, and engage boards of directors when developing and evaluating DEI strategies (9)(10).*

**Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression.**

**High Risk**

*Applied Materials' HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. Additionally, the company has pledged philanthropic support of at least one organization or event that promotes sex and gender ideology. By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). Applied Materials has donated to Planned Parenthood (3). The company is a silver sponsor of the HRC and has pledged \$100,000 to the Black Lives Matter movement and related causes (4)(5). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of the company using corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies (6).*

**Uses corporate political actions and/or financial contributions for ideological, non-business purposes.**

**High Risk**

*Applied Materials' HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives. By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). The company has not used its PAC donations or lobbying for ideological purposes (3)(4)(5).*

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