

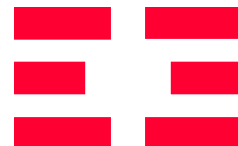


Fifth Third Bank (5/3 Bank)

Locations: Ohio (HQ)

Industries: Banks

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

DESCRIPTION:

Fifth Third Bank has closed accounts and refused financing to groups based on ideological characteristics. The bank has also committed to advocacy for LGBTQ causes and supports critical race theory training for its employees while failing to protect those employees' viewpoints in its nondiscrimination policy. Fifth Third bank is committed to carbon neutrality by 2040. However, the bank does not use corporate funds to support ideological groups hostile to freedom of expression or discriminate against religious organizations. For these reasons, Fifth Third Bank receives a "High Risk" rating.

Corporate Weaponization

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

Fifth Third Bank canceled its corporate sponsorship of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, a program that enabled underprivileged children a chance to attend a local parochial school, due to concerns regarding the schools' LGBTQ-related policies. However, the bank later reversed its decision [\(1\)](#). The bank also decided to quit financing GEO Group, a private detention company, after social pressure resulting from then-President Trump's immigration policy. The bank has since ceased providing financing to all private prisons [\(2\)](#). Fifth Third received a score of 100 on the Corporate Equality Index from the Human Rights Campaign. Among other requirements, this means Fifth Third has pledged to vet vendors based on LGBTQ policies [\(3\)](#).

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

Fifth Third will donate to religious organizations that engage in nonsectarian community work under a separate 501(c)(3) status [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#).

Employment policies fail to protect against discrimination based on political affiliation/views and/or religion. **High Risk**

Fifth Third Bank's discrimination policy does not protect against viewpoint discrimination [\(1\)](#).

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

Uses corporate reputation to support ideological causes and/or organizations hostile to freedom of expression. High Risk

(1). The toolkit suggests reading critical race theorists Ibram Kendi, Robin DiAngelo, and Ta-Nehisi Coates, as well as donating to the American Civil Liberties Union and a host of progressive advocacy organizations (2). The bank has also committed to multiple acts of advocacy for the LGBTQ community (3). Fifth Third has signed the CEO Action for Diversity and Inclusion pledge (4). The company is a Ceres Network Member and a PCAF member, committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2040 (5)(6)(7).

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

Fifth Third Bank has pledged over \$2 billion to the Black Lives Matter movement and related causes, including various Urban League chapters (1)(2). Fifth Third's medical benefits cover abortion-related travel and gender reassignment surgery (3).

Uses corporate political contributions for ideological, non-business purposes. Lower Risk

Fifth Third Bancorp has used its political contributions in a business-focused and non-ideological manner (1) (2).

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