

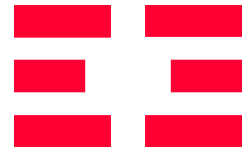
*William Blair*

# William Blair & Company

Locations: Illinois (HQ)

Industries: Diversified Financials

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

## DESCRIPTION:

William Blair & Co scored a 100 out of 100 on the 2023-2024 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. By complying with the HRC's controversial demands, William Blair & Co (William Blair), increases the risk of dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. The company provides a benefits package for employees which covers transgender medical procedures for covered employees and dependents, including children. It also uses sex and gender ideology criteria in employee recruitment, vendor selection, marketing, and philanthropic support. William Blair forces employees to undergo multiple ideological trainings and uses its reputation, corporate funds, and political influence to support controversial sex and gender ideologies, organizations, and legislation. William Blair frequently uses its reputation to promote LGBT issues. For these reasons, William Blair receives a High Risk rating.

## 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**

*William Blair's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates 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). William Blair is a signatory of the Principles for Responsible Investment, incorporating ESG issues into investment analysis, decision-making, and other business practices (3)(4). However, the company has not publicly canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs.*

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

*William Blair's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (1)(2).*

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

*William Blair's 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 specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). William Blair does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (3).*

## Corporate Governance and Public Policy

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

*William Blair advocates for LGBTQ+ issues and “commits to continue [its] legacy of support for the LGBTQ+ community across our firm, Chicago, and the world” (1)(2). The company is on a list of Oklahoma state-banned companies for its ESG policies which boycott fuel companies (3). William Blair’s 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 (4)(5). By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders.*

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

*William Blair’s 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 (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders.*

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

*William Blair’s HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. William Blair does not operate a PAC or engage in lobbying at this time (3)(4)(5).*

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