

Hey! What's New? 2026-7

Navigating Uncertainty and Seizing Opportunities for Transformation in the Year Ahead

A report from the EY Center for Board Matters, *2026 Audit Committee Priorities: Navigating the Complexity and Change*, can serve as a reference guide for audit committees, laying out four areas of focus for 2026 (risk management, financial reporting, tax and other policy-related developments, regulatory developments) and detailing questions that committees should ask themselves in their efforts to manage each area.

As organizations approach 2026, the EY report says, “audit committees are facing a mixed and nuanced economic backdrop coupled with a rapidly evolving landscape shaped by legislative, regulatory and geopolitical shifts. These changes are influencing critical areas such as tax, trade, supply chains, technology, climate and workforce strategy.”

As a result, the report adds, “audit committees are expected to move beyond static risk updates, adopting portfolio-driven views and scenario analysis to address interconnected and nonlinear risks.”

Audit committees are proactively adapting to these developments, the report continues, “working closely with management to confirm that their organizations are resilient and prepared for both anticipated and unexpected challenges.”

Not surprisingly, says EY, risk management and regulatory oversight remain central to the audit committee agenda. “The convergence of cyber risk, artificial intelligence disruption and economic volatility is driving boards to rethink legacy approaches and integrate risk and strategy more deeply.”

It also points out that “audit committees are expected to move beyond static risk updates, adopting portfolio-driven views and scenario analysis to address interconnected and nonlinear risks. This includes reassessing cyber incident response plans, monitoring regulatory changes, and making sure robust controls and processes are in place to manage emerging threats and compliance requirements.”

In addition, audit committees are closely tracking developments in financial reporting, tax policy and sustainability disclosures. “The evolving regulatory environment — marked by new Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) leadership and rulemaking and shifting global tax regimes — demands heightened vigilance and agility.”

According to the EY report, “audit committees also continue to prioritize audit committee effectiveness and seek ways to enhance their own practices. This includes investing in ongoing education (including in topics such as cybersecurity, AI and regulatory changes). By promoting strong governance and continuous learning, audit committees can help their organizations navigate uncertainty and seize opportunities for transformation in the year ahead.”

Get the report at [ey-cbm-2026-audit-committee-priorities.pdf](#).