

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Membership Balance Plan of the Consumer Advisory Board

1. Name.

Consumer Advisory Board (“the committee” or “the CAB”).

2. Authority.

This statutory committee is renewed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB” or “the Bureau”) pursuant to Section 1014(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”), and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C. 10.

3. Mission/Function.

The purpose of the CAB is outlined in Section 1014(a) of the Dodd-Frank Act, which states that the CAB shall “advise and consult with the Bureau in the exercise of its functions under the Federal consumer financial laws” and “provide information on emerging practices in the consumer financial products or services industry, including regional trends, concerns, and other relevant information.”

To carry out the CAB’s purpose, the scope of its activities shall include providing information, analysis, and recommendations to the CFPB. The CAB will generally serve as a vehicle for trends and themes in the consumer finance marketplace for the CFPB. Its objectives will include identifying and assessing the impact on consumers and other market participants of new, emerging, and changing products, practices, or services.

4. Points of View.

In accordance with the Act, “in appointing the members of the Consumer Advisory Board, the Director shall seek to assemble experts in:

- consumer protection,
- financial services,
- community development,
- fair lending and civil rights,
- and consumer financial products or services,
- representatives of depository institutions that primarily serve underserved communities,
- and representatives of communities that have been significantly impacted by higher-priced mortgage loans,
- and seek representation of the interests of covered persons and consumers, without regard to party affiliation.”

The CAB shall consist of at least ten members. To ensure regional diversity and to meet the requirements set forth in the Dodd-Frank Act, membership in the CAB will be drawn from a pool of candidates recommended by Presidents of the Federal Reserve Banks. The Director may also appoint additional members, as appropriate. Selection of CAB members shall not constitute an endorsement by the Bureau of the member’s organization or other affiliation. All members appointed by the Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Director. The CAB will be composed of Representative members.

5. Other Balance Factors.

In addition to the factors outlined in the statute, the CFPB will look to the Bureau's regulatory agenda to determine where specific expertise would be appropriate.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with CFPB policies shall be followed in all appointments to the committee. The CFPB has a special interest in ensuring that the perspectives of women and men, all racial and ethnic groups, and individuals with disabilities are adequately represented on the committee, and therefore, encourages applications from qualified candidates from these groups. The CFPB also has a special interest in establishing a committee that is represented by a diversity of viewpoints and constituencies, and therefore encourages applications from qualified candidates who: 1) Represent the United States' geographic diversity; and 2) Represent the interests of special populations identified in the Dodd-Frank Act, including service members, older Americans, students, and traditionally underserved consumers and communities.

6. Candidate Identification Process.

The Section for Advisory Board and Councils will be involved in determining balance on the CAB and recommending qualified individuals. The Director of the CFPB will make the final selection. In seeking to achieve an appropriate balance on the CAB, the CFPB may seek recommendations for membership on the CAB from external stakeholders. Per Dodd-Frank Act §1014(b), "not fewer than 6 members shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the regional Federal Reserve Bank Presidents, on a rotating basis."

7. Subcommittee Balance.

The process for assuring appropriate balance on any subcommittees shall be the same process as for the full committee outlined above.

8. Other.

Appointments will be made without discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

9. Date Prepared/Updated.

Updated on March 15, 2023.