



E-Bulletin on Advancement

The Advancement Mode of Governance

In their classic nonprofit book, "[Governance as Leadership](#)," Dick Chait, Bill Ryan, and Barbara Taylor identify 3 modes of effective board governance. When taken together, these 3 modes are designed to ensure that board members have meaningful experiences and that the corporate body of the board fulfills its important governance role for the nonprofit.



These governance modes are:

1. Fiduciary – in this mode, the board oversees operations and ensures efficient and appropriate use of resources, legal compliance, and fiscal accountability.
2. Strategic – in this mode, the board sets organizational priorities, reviews and modifies strategic plans, and monitors performance against those plans.
3. Generative – in this mode, the board is the "sense maker" for the nonprofit. It decides what to decide, discerns challenges and opportunities, and probes the assumptions, logic and values behind the strategies.

All governing boards should spend time in each of these modes.

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Giving News and Notes

A selection of recent news stories and opinion pieces on philanthropy and giving:

- [Mackenzie Scott gives \\$640 million to nonprofits](#)
 - [A Plea to Philanthropy](#)
 - [The Top 50 Philanthropists](#)
 - [Balancing Numbers with Stories in Philanthropy](#)
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