



SEC Floats Semiannual Reporting Option for Public Firms

The Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday proposed allowing public companies to file disclosures every six months instead of every three.

By **Sean Teehan** | May 6, 2026

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The **Securities and Exchange Commission** on Tuesday proposed a rule change that would allow public companies to report financial results every six months, half the frequency of current quarterly reporting requirements.

The move would give public companies more flexibility while reducing compliance burdens, the SEC and **Investment Company Institute** separately said Tuesday. But at least one regulatory attorney said the shift to semiannual reporting could increase opacity, benefiting institutional investors at the expense of retail investors.

"We're essentially creating a two-tiered system: institutional players will always find a way to get the data, but everyday investors will be stuck trading on stale information," **Alejandro Soto**, a partner at law firm **Fridman Fels & Soto**, wrote in an email.

Under the proposal, public companies would no longer have to file a Form 10-Q, in which they disclose financial statements and updates on a company's operations and risks, the SEC said in a statement. Instead, they would have the choice to file a Form 10-S every six months. The new form would contain comparable financial and disclosure information, but on a semiannual basis.

Firms that decide to report on a six-month basis would file one semiannual report – the 10-S -- and one annual report – the 10-K -- each fiscal year, according to the SEC. The public companies would be free to choose quarterly or semiannual reporting based on what's best for the firms and investors.

"The rigidity of the SEC's rules has prevented companies and their investors from determining for themselves the interim reporting frequency that best serves their business needs and investors," the SEC said in a statement.

In a statement, the ICI backed a review of reporting requirements but added that any changes to the quarterly disclosure requirements should preserve investor confidence and the quality of information that investors receive.

For fund managers, the proposal could affect the timeliness and consistency of the information they rely on to evaluate portfolio companies, according to the **Managed Funds Association**. Any effort to reduce reporting burdens should be balanced against investors' need for up-to-date data, MFA President **Bryan Corbett** said in a Tuesday statement.

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"We urge the SEC to review changes to the cadence and content of disclosures holistically to avoid creating information gaps that harm investors and market efficiency," Corbett wrote in the statement.

If the rule is approved, it's likely that some public companies will opt for semiannual reporting, while others continue to file quarterly reports, said **Jeff Ziesman**, partner at law firm **Norton Rose Fulbright**. For

firms with consistent results and a long track record, semiannual reporting could reduce the time and resources spent preparing quarterly filings while still providing investors with meaningful updates, he said.

Investor groups will probably say the current system of quarterly reporting provides more up-to-date information than semiannual reports, Ziesman said. Many public companies will continue quarterly reports, he predicted, because investors expect frequent updates.

Additionally, Ziesman said, whether public companies report results quarterly or semiannually, they're required to file Form 8-K to disclose any material changes in real time.

While it's true that public firms must file 8-Ks to report any major changes, this type of disclosure is no substitute for "the rigor of a 10-Q," Soto said.

"Extending to a six-month cycle gives struggling firms a bigger window to hide accounting tricks or window-dress a failing business," Soto wrote in an email.

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