



## Overview of the Taxable Municipal Market

### Background

The taxable municipal bond market began to develop after passage of the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which eliminated the ability for issuers to sell tax-exempt bonds for certain purposes. Taxable issuance grew along with the overall municipal market but remained between 3% to 7% of total issuance from 1986 to 2002. From there the share began to increase, culminating in 21% of the total in 2009 and 35% in 2010 due to the incentives provided under the Build America Bonds (BABs) program. Taxable issuance totaled \$85 billion and \$152 billion in those two years, respectively. In the years that followed taxable bonds represented 7% to 11% of total issuance, then increased again to 17%, 30%, and 25% from 2019-2021. The increases were motivated by issuers using taxable bonds to advance refund tax-exempt securities, a practice no longer permissible when using tax-exempt bonds following passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The rise in interest rates in 2022 has made taxable refunding much less economic, with annualized figures through September pointing to taxable bonds comprising 15% of the total or \$61 billion, down from \$120 billion in 2021 and \$146 billion in 2020. While the market has grown substantially from its early years, it remains quite small in comparison to the investment grade corporate bond market in the United States, where \$1.5 trillion of debt was issued in 2021<sup>1</sup>.

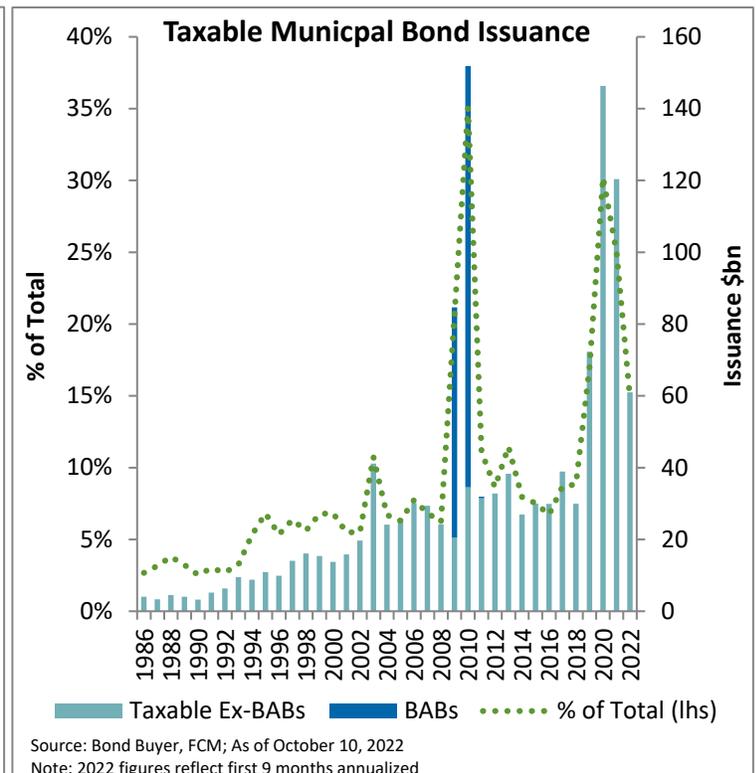
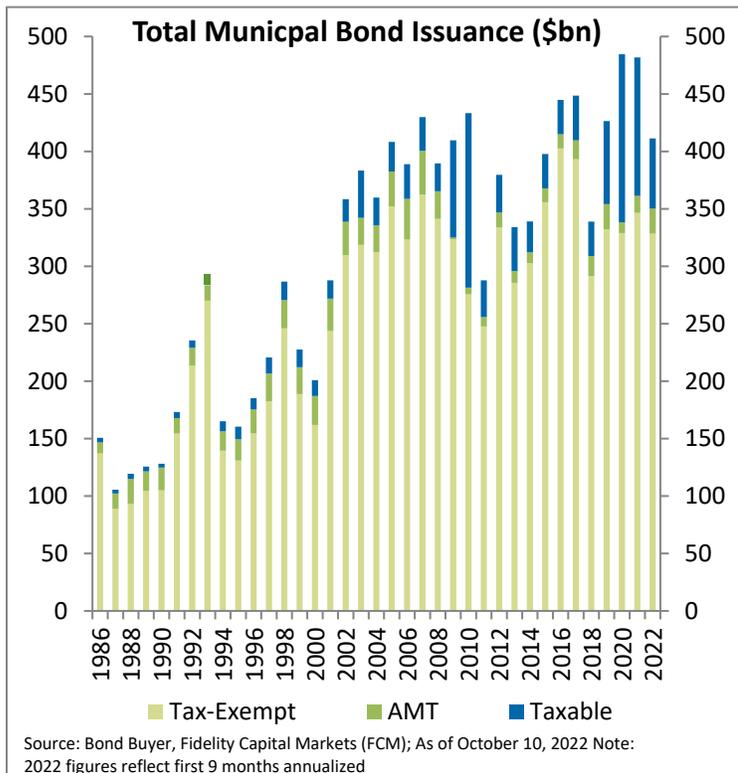
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### Taxability and Federal Programs

Interest on most municipal securities is exempt from federal income taxes, and most states exempt the interest on in-state bonds from state income taxes as well. However, interest on municipal bonds that are issued to finance a project that does not meet certain public purpose or public use tests under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirements to qualify for tax exemption is taxable under federal law<sup>ii</sup>.

For example, taxable municipal bonds may be issued to finance economic or industrial development, raise public pension funding levels, or because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, to advance refund a new issue<sup>iii</sup>. States tend to treat municipal securities that do not meet IRS requirements for tax exemption the same as municipal securities that do meet those requirements<sup>iv</sup>. Increased issuance in recent years and the concurrent retirement and refunding of 2009-era debt, such as BABs, has boosted the share of the taxable municipal market that has no associated federal program to 84% of the market from 68% in 2020 (see Table 3 below).

In the past, there have been federal programs that supported the issuance of taxable bonds by state or local government issuers to promote a policy objective such as infrastructure, school construction, or energy conservation. Under certain federal programs, municipal bond issuers receive cash rebates from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to subsidize a portion of their interest payments. These taxable municipal bonds are sometimes referred to as direct-pay bonds. Such programs include BABs<sup>v</sup> and Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds (RZEDBs)<sup>vi</sup>, which were authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (A.R.R.A.) to encourage state and local government issuers to finance projects that would create jobs and stimulate the economy with the aid of a federal subsidy. Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs)<sup>vii</sup>, Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs), and Qualified Renewable Energy

Bonds (QREBs) were also authorized by A.R.R.A. The program authorizations expired in 2010, and a significant number of BABs and similar bonds have either matured or been refunded in recent years.

Other federal programs that promoted taxable municipal bond issuance include qualified tax credit bonds. These bonds were issued by state or local governments to provide funds for certain eligible projects. Bondholders receive federal income tax credits in lieu of periodic interest payments. Tax credit bond programs include Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs), Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs), QECBs, QREBs<sup>viii</sup>. Authorization for new tax credit bonds under these programs was eliminated with the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

In these federally subsidized programs, issuers were usually given the option to either receive a direct-payment subsidy from Treasury (direct-pay bonds) to offset their interest payments on the bonds, or elect to issue tax credit bonds, where investors receive tax credits directly from Treasury. Due to investor preferences the vast majority of A.R.R.A. program bonds were issued in direct-pay form.

### **Considerations for Investing in the Taxable Municipal Market**

Taxable municipal bonds can be exempt from state and local income taxes for investors who reside in the state of issuance, which may cause the after-tax yield earned on the bond to be higher than the after-tax yield on a corporate bond of similar credit quality and duration, where the interest is taxed at the federal, state, and local level. The official statement for new municipal securities issues generally includes detailed information with respect to the tax status of the issue. Appendix A provides a yield multiplier table comparing in-state taxable municipal bonds versus corporate bonds for each state<sup>ix</sup>.

Taxable municipal bonds may be suitable in tax-deferred accounts such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and pension funds because interest earned in these types of accounts is tax deferred. Taxable municipal bonds may also be advantageous for foreign buyers who do not incur federal income tax liabilities. Other institutional investors, such as insurance companies and taxable mutual funds, are also players in this segment of the municipal bond market.

Taxable municipal bonds are secured with the same revenue streams and/or tax pledges that secure the tax-exempt bonds of the same issuers (whether they be state or local governments, public utilities, transportation enterprises, institutions of higher education, private schools, hospitals, or issuers from other sectors), and may offer credit risk diversification versus other taxable fixed income products such as corporate bonds.

While taxable municipal securities can be advantageous under certain circumstances, an investor should consider the overall impact of, among other things, federal income tax on interest. Investors should consult their tax advisor for personalized guidance on the specifics of tax liabilities related to municipal securities.

### **Early Redemption Features**

Some taxable municipal bonds are issued with an early redemption feature known as a make-whole call. Make-whole call provisions are more common in the corporate bond market than in the traditional tax-exempt municipal market. This type of call provision on a bond allows the issuer to redeem the debt early. The issuer typically must make a lump-sum payment to the investor

derived from a formula based on the net present value (NPV) of future coupon payments that would have been paid periodically over the life of the bond along with the principal payment(s). Issuers typically don't anticipate the need to use this type of call provision as they can be quite costly; therefore, make-whole calls are rarely exercised. However, if the issuer does decide to use this type of call provision, then investors will be compensated, or "made whole," for the remaining coupon and principal payments. While it could be more advantageous for an issuer to exercise a make-whole call after rates have fallen, the discount rate used in the NPV calculation would have likely also declined from the time that the bond was first issued. A lower discount rate can make the make-whole call payment more expensive for the issuer. The discount rate is typically expressed as a spread over an interpolated U.S. Treasury rate that is tied to the stated maturity of the bond. The official statement for new municipal securities issues includes detailed information with respect to all early redemption features, including any make-whole call provisions.

Taxable municipal bonds may also be issued with extraordinary redemption provisions (ERP). An ERP can be either mandatory or optional, meaning the occurrence of an event can either require the issuer to redeem the bonds early or provide the issuer the option to do so. Typically, an optional ERP gives the issuer the right to call a bond due to an unusual one-time event as specified in the official statement. An example would be a catastrophe that destroys the project financed with the bond proceeds. Many direct-pay A.R.R.A. program bonds were issued with optional ERPs that may be exercised by the issuer if the federal government was to reduce or eliminate the subsidy that the issuer receives to offset a portion of the cost of its interest payments<sup>x</sup>. In fact, when the federal government first reduced the subsidy payment in 2013, some issuers that had previously sold bonds with ERPs that could be exercised under such a condition at par value, did call their bonds early. Many of the direct-pay bonds that remain outstanding carry ERPs that could be exercised under current conditions (because the subsidy remains below the original level), but at a premium to par value. A typical premium redemption price for a direct-pay bond (such as a BAB) is expressed as a spread of 100 basis points over an interpolated U.S. Treasury rate that is tied to the stated maturity of the bond. However, many of these bonds remain outstanding despite this feature, suggesting that after the remaining federal subsidy is considered, in addition to the issuance costs associated with new debt, the benefits to the issuer of calling the bonds may not be especially advantageous.

### **Performance**

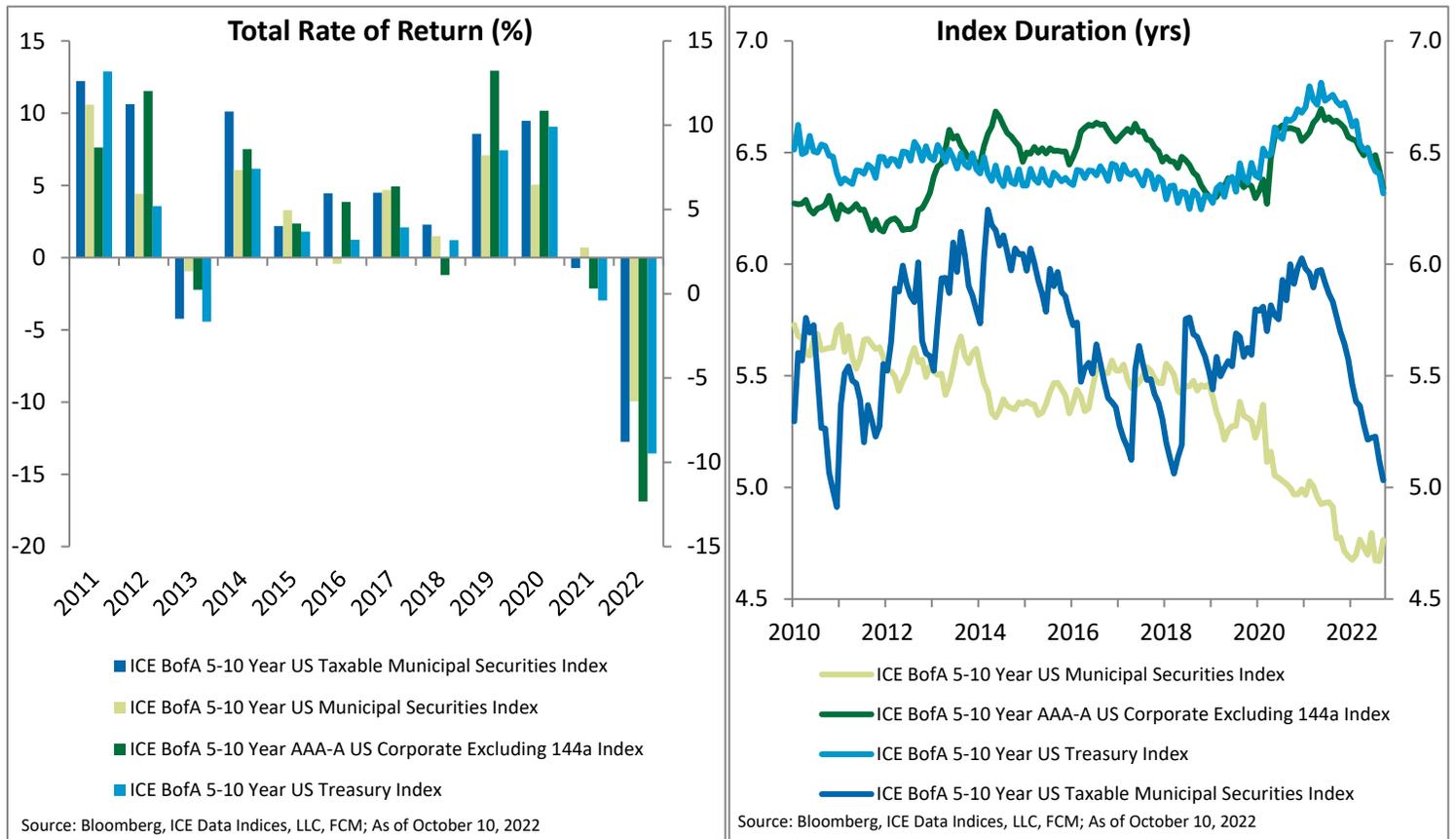
Taxable municipal securities have tended to exhibit return attributes like other investment grade fixed income categories such as tax-exempt municipal bonds, corporate bonds, and U.S. Treasuries. Table 1 compares the historical total return profiles of taxable municipal bonds against these other fixed income categories. The indices were chosen for comparison because they have similar duration profiles (see Appendix B for index definitions). Of the three indices, taxable municipals performed closer to corporate bonds than to tax-exempt bonds or Treasuries. For example, in the near-12-year period ending September 30, 2022, taxable municipal bonds generated an annualized total return of 3.65%, compared with a 2.89% return for corporates, a 2.54% return for tax-exempt bonds, and a 1.81% return for Treasuries. At 0.82, the correlation of monthly total returns with the corporate bond index was the highest. However, the dispersion of those returns (in terms of standard deviation) was narrower for taxable municipals than for corporates and Treasuries. Additionally, at 5.7 years, the average effective duration over the period for the taxable municipal index was shorter than that for the corporate index, which had

an average effective duration of 6.5 years. Furthermore, the taxable municipal index has a higher composite credit rating of “AA2” as compared to a rating of “A2” for the corporate index. As with the tax-exempt index, no tax benefit adjustments were made to the interest component of total returns for the taxable municipal index.

**TABLE 1: Annual Total Return**

Year	ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Taxable Municipal Securities Index	ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Municipal Securities Index	ICE BofA 5-10 Year AAA-A US Corporate Excluding 144a Index	ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Treasury Index
2011	12.22	10.59	7.62	12.88
2012	10.62	4.42	11.53	3.56
2013	-4.23	-0.94	-2.23	-4.44
2014	10.11	6.06	7.50	6.15
2015	2.18	3.28	2.36	1.80
2016	4.45	-0.43	3.86	1.23
2017	4.49	4.69	4.93	2.09
2018	2.28	1.49	-1.21	1.21
2019	8.57	7.09	12.94	7.43
2020	9.47	5.05	10.17	9.06
2021	-0.72	0.70	-2.14	-2.97
2022	-12.75	-9.96	-16.87	-13.56
Annualized Total Return*	3.65%	2.54%	2.89%	1.81%
Correlation† w/ Taxable Municipal Securities Index	1.00	0.76	0.82	0.74
Annualized Deviation‡ of Monthly Returns **	4.69%	3.97%	5.28%	4.94%
Index Effective Duration§ Average & [Range] (yrs)	5.7 [4.9 - 6.2]	5.3 [4.7 - 5.7]	6.5 [6.1 - 6.7]	6.5 [6.2 - 6.8]
Index Composite Rating†† as of Oct 10, 2020	AA2	AA3	A2	AAA
Source: ICE Data Indices, LLC, FCM; As of October 10, 2022 * Geometric average of annual total returns in USD 2011-2022 (2022 through 9/30) † The correlation reveals the strength of return relationships between investments. A perfect linear relationship is represented by a correlation of 1, while a perfect negative relationship has a correlation of -1. A correlation of 0 indicates no relationship between the investments. Correlation is a critical component to asset allocation and can be a useful way to measure the diversity of a combined plan portfolio. ‡ Standard deviation shows how much variation there is from the average (mean or expected value). Low standard deviation indicates that the data points tend to be very close to the mean, whereas high standard deviation indicates that the data is spread out over a large range of values. A higher standard deviation represents greater relative risk. ** Annualized standard deviation of monthly returns 2011-2022 (2022 through 9/30) § A quantitative measure that indicates the degree to which a bond or bond fund’s price will fluctuate in response to changes in comparable interest rates. If rates rise 1.00%, for example, a bond or fund with a 5-year duration is likely to lose about 5.00% of its value. †† Fidelity Capital Markets provides the composite rating. The rating agencies used are Moody’s, S&P, and Fitch. <b>Past performance is no guarantee of future results.</b> It is not possible to invest directly in an index. All market indices are unmanaged. Index performance is not meant to represent that of any Fidelity mutual fund.				

In the first three quarters of 2022, arguably the worst performance year on record for U.S. investment grade fixed income, the taxable municipal index “beat” (or declined less than) the corporate index and the Treasury index, but not less than the tax-exempt index. A greater fall in index durations for the two municipal indices may have contributed to their “outperformance”. As of September 30, 2022, the duration of the taxable municipal index was shorter by nearly a full year from its 2020 high, the tax-exempt index was shorter by nearly two-thirds of one year, while the corporate and Treasury indices were shorter by about one-third and one-half of one year, respectively.



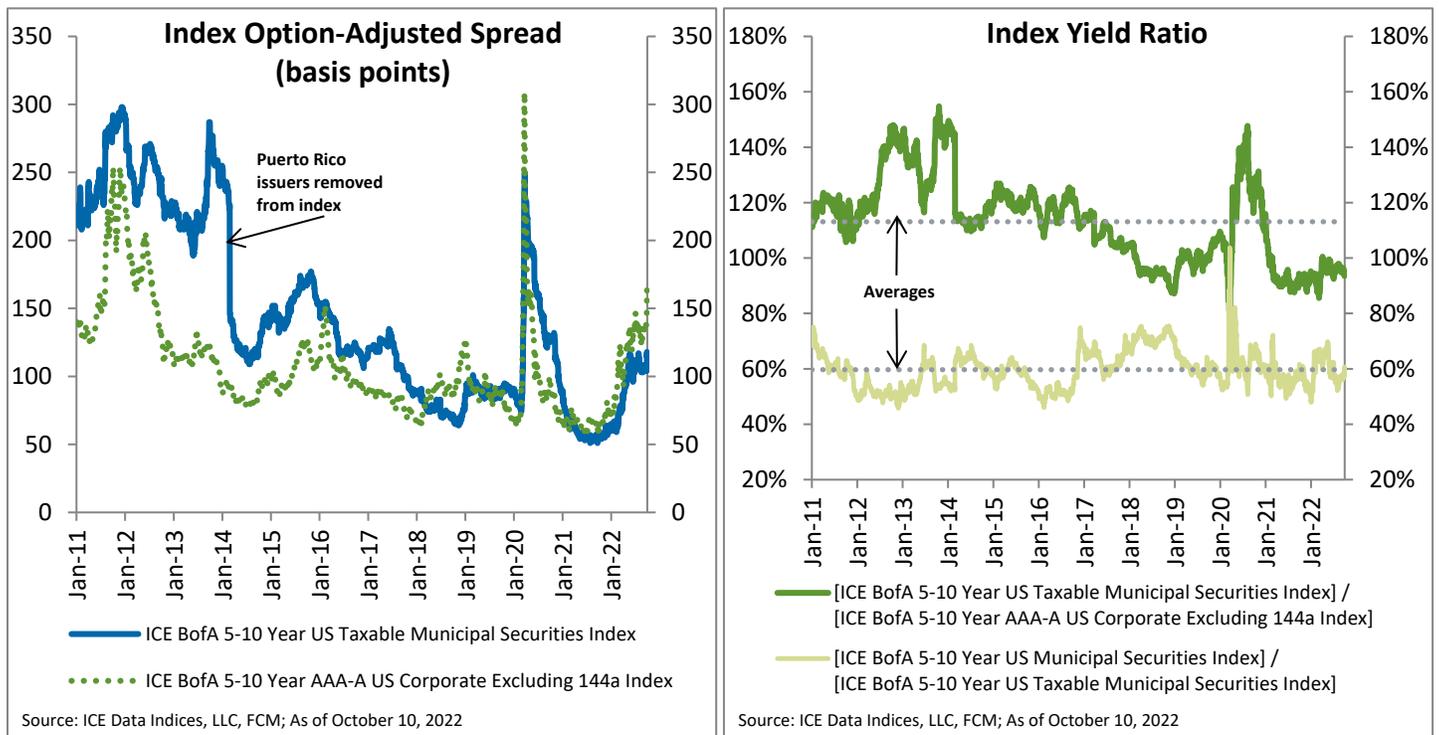
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**Relative Value**

Using the same indices as in the above section on performance, from the start of 2022 through September 30, the option-adjusted spread (OAS)<sup>xi</sup> of the taxable municipal index increased to 116 basis points from 65 basis points. Over the same period the OAS of the corporate index widened to 157 basis points from 71 basis points. The generally tighter OAS of the taxable municipal index is a phenomenon that has developed since 2018 as the taxable municipal market has grown.

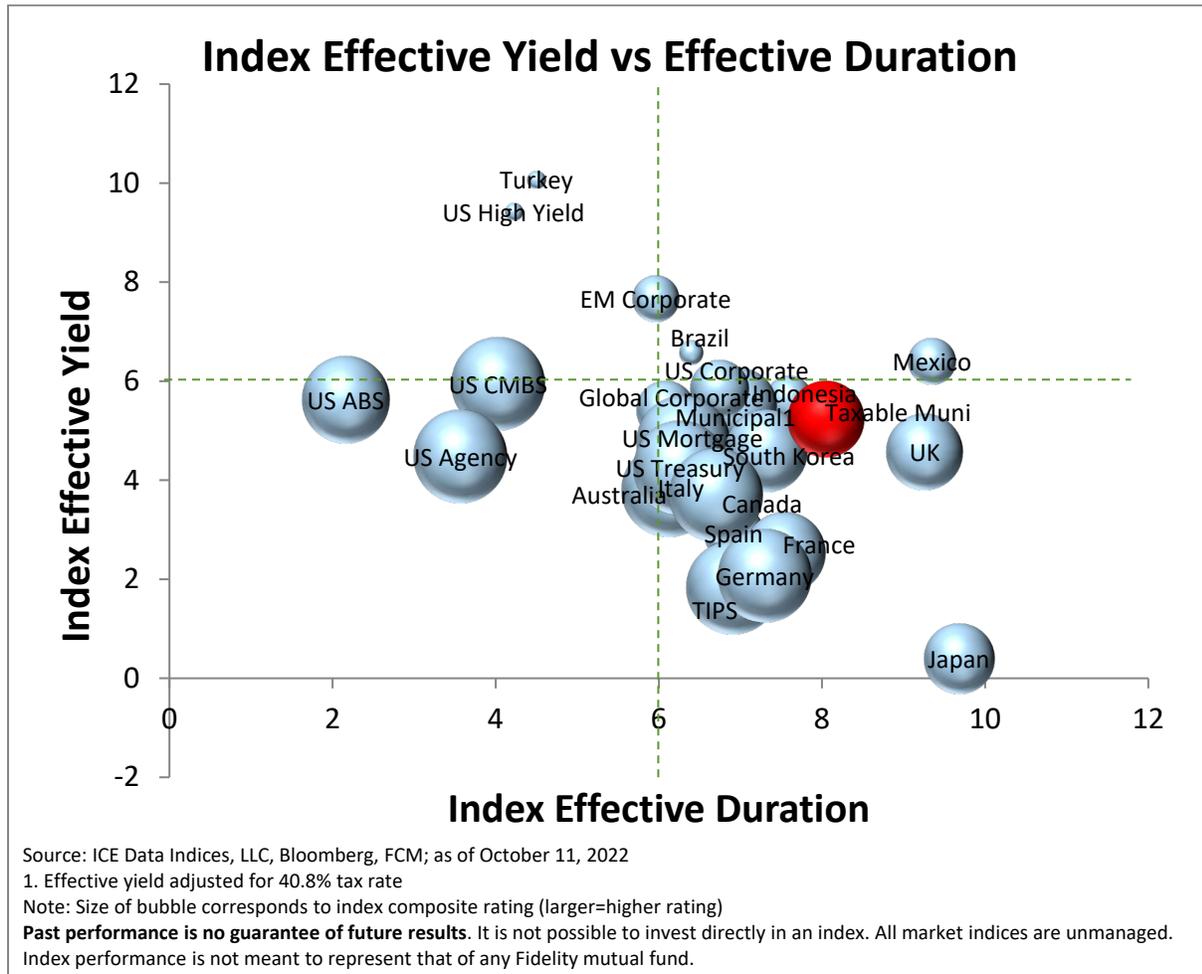
The relative performance between taxable municipals, corporates, and tax-exempt municipals in 2020 offers a unique case study. During the market dislocation in March, taxable municipals initially outperformed both corporates and tax-exempts, as captured by the plunging yield ratio between taxable municipals and corporates and the spiking yield ratio between tax-exempt and taxable municipals. In both cases taxable municipal yields increased less than the yields on the comparative indices. However, once the panic subsided taxable municipals underperformed both corporates and tax-exempts by lagging during the subsequent decline in interest rates. Some plausible reasons for the disparities may relate to the differences in liquidity between the markets. Taxable municipals are a much smaller market and in the initial disorderly selling suffered less than corporates and tax-exempts, which investors could unload more easily to raise cash and reduce risk. In the aftermath, taxable municipals may have underperformed because (i) Federal Reserve support for the corporate bond market was more significant than for the municipal market, (ii) the less liquid nature of taxable municipals led to a slower contraction in risk premiums, and (iii) the significant increase in taxable municipal supply

(dominated by refunding tax-exempt securities) relative to the size of the market led to a cannibalization of tax-exempt supply at the expense of taxable underperformance. In any case, the higher credit quality of taxable municipals may have contributed to their catching-up to corporates in subsequent quarters, with the yield ratio reaching a low of 86% in 2022, and ending the third quarter at 94%, compared to a long-term average of 113%. In relation to tax-exempts, taxable municipals ended the quarter even with the long-term average ratio of 60%.



The bubble chart below compares the effective yield of 25 broad fixed income indices against their respective effective durations. The size of the bubble indicates the quality of an index’s composite rating (the higher the rating the larger the bubble). On this relative measure, the broad taxable municipal index (red bubble) is situated nearest the Indonesia and South Korea sovereign bond indices. Domestically, the taxable municipal index resides near the tax-exempt and U.S. investment grade corporate indices (the tax-exempt municipal index has been grossed up to reflect the highest marginal tax rate).

In terms of indices with similar credit characteristics, and using ratings as a proxy for that, the taxable municipal index has a yield higher than most comparably rated sovereigns, namely France, the U.K., and South Korea – and has a duration profile near the average of those three. The “AAA” rated U.S. indices covering asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed securities do have higher yields and lower durations but are asset classes that generally cater to institutional investors. The other “AAA” rated U.S. indices covering the Treasury, agency, and mortgage-backed sectors have lower yields and durations. In comparison to the U.S. investment grade corporate index, the taxable municipal index is approximately 1.3 years longer in duration and 60 basis points lower in yield, albeit with a full credit rating category distinction. See Appendix B for index definitions.



### Market Size

The total size of the municipal market is approximately \$4.15 trillion<sup>xii</sup>, 76% of which is tax-exempt. Municipal bonds where the interest is federally taxable as ordinary income comprise approximately \$825 billion, or 20% of the total. The remaining 4%, or \$180 billion, represents private activity bonds where the interest is subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for individuals (see endnote ii). Three states – California, New York, and Texas – account for 34% of the total outstanding taxable municipal market. Table 2 shows the 10 states with the largest amount of taxable municipal bonds outstanding.

Most taxable municipal bonds outstanding were issued with no federal program subsidies, and thus have no ERP associated with reduced subsidy payments. This segment of the taxable municipal market is \$692 billion, representing 84% of the total, and may be further segmented into securities issued with a municipal (67%) or a corporate (17%) CUSIP. A.R.R.A. program bonds, of which BABs represent the vast majority, are 16% of the total taxable market. General obligation bonds and notes represent 25% of outstanding taxable municipals while revenue bonds and notes account for 71%. The remaining 3% of the market is comprised of certificates of participation, special assessment debt, and tax allocation bonds. Table 3 shows outstanding taxable municipal bonds by federal program type and by issue type.

TABLE 2

Top 10 States for Outstanding Taxable Municipal Bonds (billions)		
State	Outstanding	% of Total
CA	\$157.95	16%
NY	\$86.23	9%
TX	\$78.12	9%
IL	\$48.53	4%
OH	\$27.31	3%
MI	\$23.03	3%
PA	\$24.93	3%
MA	\$35.23	3%
FL	\$23.15	2%
NJ	\$21.70	2%
All others	\$298.99	47%

Source: Bloomberg Finance LLP, FCM; As of October 10, 2022

TABLE 3

Outstanding Taxable Municipal Bonds (billions)		
Segment	Outstanding	% of Total
Municipal CUSIP	\$551.71	67%
Corporate CUSIP	\$140.41	17%
A.R.R.A.*	\$133.06	16%
Total Taxable	\$825.17	100%
AMT	\$180.17	n/a

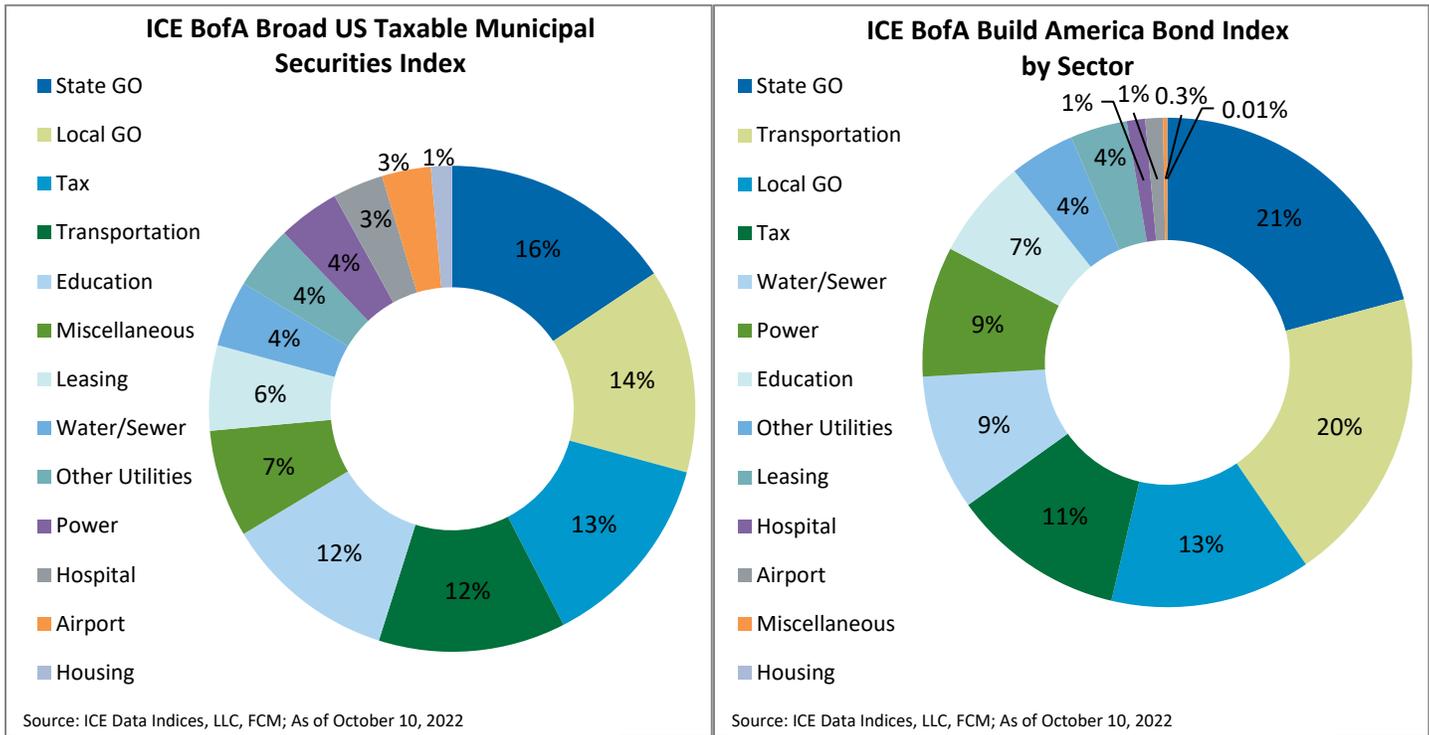
Issue Type	Outstanding	% of Total
General Obligation	\$208.93	25%
Revenue	\$590.00	71%
Other	\$26.25	3%

\* Includes BABs, QSCBs, RZEDBs, QECBs, QREBs

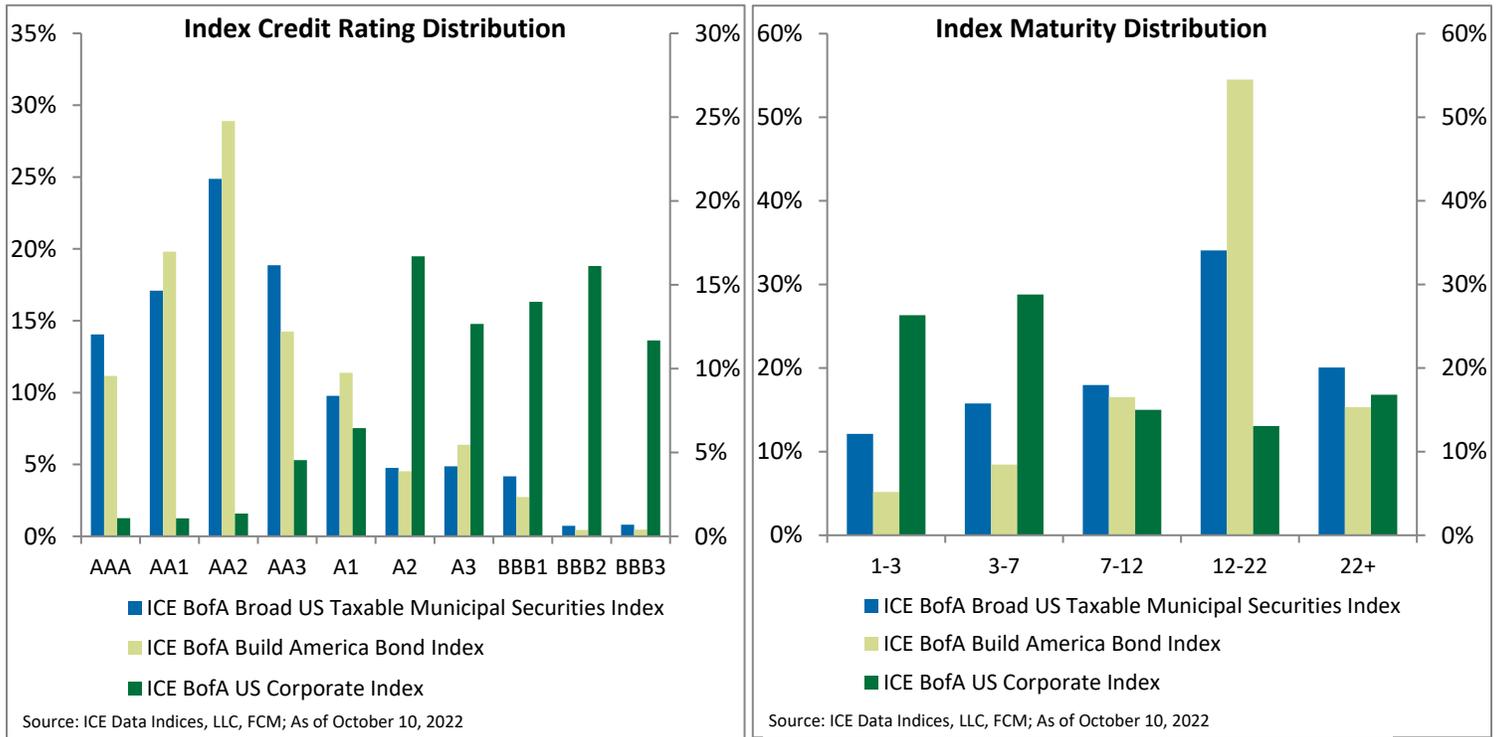
Source: Bloomberg Finance LLP, FCM; As of October 10, 2022

### Sector, Credit Rating, and Maturity

State general obligation (GO) is the largest sector in the broad taxable municipal index at 16%, followed by local GO at 14%, tax-backed at 13%, and transportation and education both at 12% (see Appendix B for index definitions). Given that GO bonds are typically repaid with tax revenues, or tax revenues are pledged in the instance that a primary dedicated revenue source is insufficient, nearly half (42%) of the broad taxable index is composed of tax-supported debt. State GO is also the largest sector in the Build America Bond index at 21%, followed by transportation at 20%, local GO at 13%, and tax-backed at 11%. Like the broad taxable index, 46% of the BAB index is composed of tax-supported debt. The primary sector differences between the two indexes (variance of at least 5 ppts.) is that the BAB index has a larger allocation to the state GO, transportation, power, and water/sewer sectors, and a smaller allocation to the education sector and miscellaneous categories.



Seventy-five percent of the bonds in the broad taxable municipal index are in the top two rating categories, while the Build America Bond index has 74% in the top two categories. Bonds in the triple-B category comprise 6% and 4% of the two indexes, respectively. By comparison, the investment grade corporate index has only 9% of its bonds in the top two rating categories and 49% in the triple-B category. Both taxable municipal indices have a ratings distribution centered around “AA2”, which is almost two full rating categories higher than the corporate index’s distribution, centered around “BBB1”. On the other hand, the corporate index has a shorter maturity profile, with 55% of the bonds having a maturity of 7 years or less. Comparatively, the broad taxable municipal index has 28% of its bonds in this maturity range, and the Build America Bond index has 14%. The taxable municipal indices have a maturity distribution centered around the 12- to 22-year bucket, with 34% of the bonds in the broad taxable municipal index in this maturity range, and 55% of the bonds in the Build America Bond index. Bonds in the longest maturity segment (22+ years) comprise 20% and 15% for the taxable municipal index and the Build America Bond index. The corporate index’s maturity distribution is centered around the 3- to 7-year bucket at 29%, while 17% of the bonds are in the longest maturity segment.



Qualifying securities for the broad taxable municipal index, as well as for the corporate index, have minimum size requirements that vary based on the initial term to final maturity at time of issuance. Taxable municipal securities with an initial term to final maturity of 1–4 years must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$10 million. Securities with an initial term to final maturity of 5–9 years must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$15 million. And securities with an initial term to final maturity of 10 years or more must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$25 million. Qualifying securities for the Build America Bond index must have a minimum amount outstanding of \$1 million. Generally, securities that are part of a larger issue, particularly if the issue is index eligible, tend to trade more frequently in the secondary market, and are more liquid, than securities that are part of a smaller issue that is not index eligible. The average issue size in the overall municipal bond market in 2021 was \$37 million (total bonds issued divided by total number of issues; excludes notes). The average issue size for taxable municipal bonds was \$49 million. By comparison, the average deal size in the U.S. investment grade corporate bond market in 2021 was approximately \$737 million. The broad taxable municipal index has a face value of \$391 billion and represents approximately 47% of total outstanding taxable municipal bonds with either a municipal or corporate CUSIP on Bloomberg. The corporate index has a face value of \$8.2 trillion and represents approximately 34% of total U.S. financial and nonfinancial corporate debt.

## Appendix A – Yield Multipliers

**In-State Taxable Municipal Bond vs. Corporate Bond Yield Multiplier Table<sup>1</sup>**

State	Interest on In-				State	Interest on In-			
	Interest on Corporate Bonds Taxable	State Municipals Taxable	Highest State Marginal Tax Rate <sup>2</sup>	Equivalent Yield Multiplier <sup>3</sup>		Interest on Corporate Bonds Taxable	State Municipals Taxable	Highest State Marginal Tax Rate <sup>2</sup>	Equivalent Yield Multiplier <sup>3</sup>
Alabama	Y	N	5.00%	1.053	Montana	Y	N	6.90%	1.074
Alaska	N	N	0.00%	1.000	Nebraska	Y	N	6.84%	1.073
Arizona	Y	N	4.50%	1.047	Nevada	N	N	0.00%	1.000
Arkansas	Y	N	5.90%	1.063	New Hampshire	Y	N	5.00%	1.053
California	Y	N	13.30%	1.153	New Jersey	Y	N	10.75%	1.120
Colorado	Y	N	4.50%	1.047	New Mexico	Y	N	5.90%	1.063
Connecticut	Y	N	6.99%	1.075	New York	Y	N	10.90%	1.122
Delaware	Y	N	6.60%	1.071	New York City	Y	N	14.78%	1.173
District of Columbia	Y	N	8.95%	1.098	North Carolina	Y	N	5.25%	1.055
Florida	N	N	0.00%	1.000	North Dakota	Y	N	2.90%	1.030
Georgia	Y	N	5.75%	1.061	Ohio	Y	N	3.99%	1.042
Hawaii	Y	N	11.00%	1.124	Oklahoma	Y	N	5.00%	1.053
Idaho	Y	N	6.50%	1.070	Oregon	Y	N	9.90%	1.110
Illinois	Y	Y	4.95%	1.000	Pennsylvania	Y	N	3.07%	1.032
Indiana	Y	N	6.08%	1.069	Rhode Island	Y	N	5.99%	1.064
Iowa	Y	Y	8.53%	1.000	South Carolina	Y	N	7.00%	1.075
Kansas	Y	N	5.70%	1.060	South Dakota	N	N	0.00%	1.000
Kentucky	Y	N	5.00%	1.053	Tennessee	N	N	0.00%	1.000
Louisiana	Y	N	6.00%	1.064	Texas	N	N	0.00%	1.000
Maine	Y	N	7.15%	1.077	Utah	Y	N	4.95%	1.052
Maryland	Y	N	8.95%	1.098	Vermont	Y	N	8.75%	1.096
Massachusetts	Y	N	5.00%	1.053	Virginia	Y	N	5.75%	1.061
Michigan	Y	N	6.65%	1.071	Washington	N	N	0.00%	1.000
Minnesota	Y	N	9.85%	1.109	West Virginia	Y	N	6.50%	1.070
Mississippi	Y	N	5.00%	1.053	Wisconsin	Y	Y	7.65%	1.000
Missouri	Y	N	5.40%	1.057	Wyoming	N	N	0.00%	1.000

1. Multipliers reflect the highest state marginal tax rates.
2. The highest state marginal tax rate assumes no deduction of state taxes from federal returns.
3. Equals "1.000" if interest on in-state municipals taxable or no state income tax. Otherwise equals 1 / (1 - state marginal rate). Source: State sources, IRS, FCM As of 9/30/22

## Appendix B – Index Definitions

**ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Taxable Municipal Securities Index:** ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Taxable Municipal Securities Index is a subset of ICE BofA US Taxable Municipal Securities Index including all securities with a remaining term to final maturity greater than or equal to 5 years and less than 10 years. Inception date: December 31, 2009.

**ICE BofA US Taxable Municipal Securities Index:** ICE BofA US Taxable Municipal Securities Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated investment grade taxable municipal securities publicly issued in the US domestic market. Qualifying securities must have an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch). In addition, qualifying securities must have at least one year remaining term to final maturity, at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$250 million. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Original issue zero coupon bonds and "global" securities (debt issued simultaneously in the eurobond and US domestic markets) qualify for inclusion in the Index. Tax-exempt U.S. municipal, 144a and securities in legal default are excluded from the Index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 2009.

**ICE BofA Broad US Taxable Municipal Securities Index:** ICE BofA Broad US Taxable Municipal Securities Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated debt publicly issued by U.S. states and territories, and their political subdivisions, in the U.S. domestic market. Qualifying securities must be subject to U.S. federal taxes and must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity to enter the index and one month remaining term to final maturity to remain in the index, a fixed coupon schedule (including zero coupon bonds) and an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch). The call date on which a pre-refunded bond will be redeemed is used for purposes of determining qualification with respect to final maturity requirements. Minimum size requirements vary based on the initial term to final maturity at time of issuance. Securities with an initial term to final maturity greater than or equal to one year and less than five years must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$10 million. Securities with an initial term to final maturity greater than or equal to five years and less than ten years must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$15 million. Securities with an initial term to final maturity of ten years or more must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$25 million. "Direct pay" Build America Bonds (i.e., a direct federal subsidy is paid to the issuer) qualify for inclusion in the index, but "tax-credit" Build America Bonds (i.e., where the investor receives a tax credit on the interest payments) do not. Local bonds issued by U.S. territories within their jurisdictions that are tax exempt within the U.S. territory but not elsewhere are excluded from the Index. All 144a securities, both with and without registration rights, and securities in legal default are excluded from the Index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 2009.

**ICE BofA Build America Bond Index:** ICE BofA Build America Bond Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated investment grade taxable municipal debt publicly issued under the Build America Bond program by U.S. states and territories, and their political subdivisions, in the U.S. domestic market. Qualifying securities must have a minimum amount outstanding of \$1 million, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch). In addition, qualifying securities must be "direct pay" (i.e., a direct federal subsidy is paid to the issuer). Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance. The call date on which a pre-refunded bond will be redeemed is used for purposes of determining qualification with respect to final maturity requirements. Original issue zero coupon bonds qualify for inclusion in the Index. All 144a securities, both with and without registration rights, and securities in legal default are excluded from the Index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: April 30, 2009.

**ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Municipal Securities Index:** ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Municipal Securities Index is a subset of ICE BofA US Municipal Securities Index including all securities with a remaining term to final maturity greater than or equal to 5 years and less than 10 years. Inception date: December 31, 1996.

**ICE BofA US Municipal Securities Index:** ICE BofA US Municipal Securities Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated investment grade tax exempt debt publicly issued by US states and territories, and their political subdivisions, in the US domestic market. Qualifying securities must have at least one year remaining term to final maturity, at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance, a fixed coupon schedule and an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch). Minimum size requirements vary based on the initial term to final maturity at time of issuance. Securities with an initial term to final maturity greater than or equal to one year and less than five years must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$10 million. Securities with an initial term to final maturity greater than or equal to five years and less than ten years must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$15 million. Securities with an initial term to final maturity of ten years or more must have a current amount outstanding of at least \$25 million. The call date on which a pre-refunded bond will be redeemed is used for purposes of determining qualification with respect to final maturity requirements. Original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the Index. Taxable municipal securities, 144a securities and securities in legal default are excluded from the Index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1988.

**ICE BofA 5-10 Year AAA-A US Corporate Excluding 144a Index:** ICE BofA 5-10 Year AAA-A US Corporate Excluding 144a Index is a subset of ICE BofA US Corporate Index including all securities with a remaining term to final maturity greater than or equal to 5 years and less than 10 years and rated AAA through A3, inclusive, excluding 144a securities. Inception date: December 31, 1996.

**ICE BofA US Corporate Index:** ICE BofA US Corporate Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the US domestic market. Qualifying securities must have an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch), at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity as of the rebalancing date, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$250 million. Original issue zero coupon bonds, 144a securities (with and without registration rights), and pay-in-kind securities (including toggle notes) are included in the index. Callable perpetual securities are included provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities are included provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Contingent capital securities ("cocos") are excluded, but capital securities where conversion can be mandated by a regulatory authority, but which have no specified trigger, are included. Other hybrid capital securities, such as those issues that potentially convert into preference shares, those with both cumulative and non-cumulative coupon deferral provisions, and those with alternative coupon satisfaction mechanisms, are also included in the index. Equity-linked securities, securities in legal default, hybrid securitized corporates, eurodollar bonds (USD securities not issued in the US domestic market), taxable and tax-exempt US municipal securities and DRD-eligible securities are excluded from the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1972.

**ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Treasury Index:** ICE BofA 5-10 Year US Treasury Index is a subset of ICE BofA US Treasury Index including all securities with a remaining term to final maturity greater than or equal to 5 years and less than 10 years. Inception date: June 30, 1986.

**ICE BofA US Treasury Index:** ICE BofA US Treasury Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the US government in its domestic market. Qualifying securities must have at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$1 billion. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index.

Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1977.

**ICE BofA Global Corporate Index:** ICE BofA Global Corporate Index tracks the performance of investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the major domestic and eurobond markets. Qualifying securities must have an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch), at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity as of the rebalancing date and a fixed coupon schedule. Qualifying currencies and their respective minimum size requirements (in local currency terms) are: AUD 100 million; CAD 100 million; EUR 250 million; JPY 20 billion; GBP 100 million; and USD 250 million. Original issue zero coupon bonds and pay-in-kind securities, including toggle notes, also qualify for inclusion. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Contingent capital securities ("cocos") are excluded, but capital securities where conversion can be mandated by a regulatory authority, but which have no specified trigger, are included. Other hybrid capital securities, such as those issues that potentially convert into preference shares, those with both cumulative and non-cumulative coupon deferral provisions, and those with alternative coupon satisfaction mechanisms, are also included in the index. Equity-linked securities, securities in legal default, hybrid securitized corporates, taxable and tax-exempt US municipal securities and DRD-eligible securities are excluded from the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1996.

**ICE BofA US High Yield Index:** ICE BofA US High Yield Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the US domestic market. Qualifying securities must have a below investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch), at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity as of the rebalancing date, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$250 million. In addition, qualifying securities must have risk exposure to countries that are members of the FX-G10, Western Europe or territories of the US and Western Europe. The FX-G10 includes all Euro members, the US, Japan, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden. Original issue zero coupon bonds, 144a securities (both with and without registration rights), and pay-in-kind securities (including toggle notes) are included in the index. Callable perpetual securities are included provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities are included provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Contingent capital securities ("cocos") are excluded, but capital securities where conversion can be mandated by a regulatory authority, but which have no specified trigger, are included. Other hybrid capital securities, such as those issues that potentially convert into preference shares, those with both cumulative and non-cumulative coupon deferral provisions, and those with alternative coupon satisfaction mechanisms, are also included in the index. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors, equity-linked securities, securities in legal default, hybrid securitized corporates, eurodollar bonds (USD securities not issued in the US domestic market), taxable and tax-exempt US municipal securities and DRD-eligible securities are excluded from the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: August 31, 1986.

**ICE BofA US Fixed Rate CMBS Index:** ICE BofA US Fixed Rate CMBS Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated investment grade fixed rate commercial mortgage backed securities publicly issued in the US domestic market. Qualifying securities must have an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch), a fixed coupon schedule, at least one year remaining term to final maturity and at least one month to the last expected cash flow. In addition, qualifying securities must have an original deal size for the collateral group of at least \$250 million, a current outstanding deal size for the collateral group that is greater than or equal to 10% of the original deal size and at least \$50 million current amount outstanding for senior tranches and \$10 million current amount outstanding for mezzanine and subordinated tranches. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Floating rate, inverse floating rate, interest only and principal only tranches of qualifying deals are excluded from the Index as are all tranches of re-securitized and agency deals. U.S. agency and 144a securities qualify for inclusion in the Index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming same-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are

retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1997.

**ICE BofA US Fixed Rate Asset Backed Securities Index:** ICE BofA US Fixed Rate Asset Backed Securities Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated investment grade fixed rate asset backed securities publicly issued in the US domestic market. Qualifying securities must have an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch). In addition, qualifying securities must have a fixed rate coupon (including callable fixed-to-floating rate securities), at least one year remaining term to final stated maturity, at least one month to the last expected cash flow, an original deal size for the collateral group of at least \$250 million, a current outstanding deal size for the collateral group greater than or equal to 10% of the original deal size and a minimum outstanding tranche size of \$50 million for senior tranches and \$10 million for mezzanine and subordinated tranches. Floating rate, inverse floating rate, interest only and principal only tranches of qualifying deals are excluded from the Index as are all tranches of re-securitized and agency deals. 144a securities qualify for inclusion in the Index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming same-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1990.

**ICE BofA US Mortgage Backed Securities Index:** ICE BofA US Mortgage Backed Securities Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated fixed rate and hybrid residential mortgage pass-through securities publicly issued by US agencies in the US domestic market. 30-year, 20-year and 15-year fixed rate mortgage pools are included in the Index provided they have at least one year remaining term to final maturity and a minimum amount outstanding of at least \$5 billion per generic coupon and \$250 million per production year within each generic coupon. Hybrid, interest-only, balloon, mobile home, graduated payment and quarter coupon fixed rate mortgages are excluded from the index, as are all collateralized mortgage obligations. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming same-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1975.

**ICE BofA US Inflation-Linked Treasury Index:** ICE BofA US Inflation-Linked Treasury Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated inflation-linked sovereign debt publicly issued by the US government in its domestic market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, interest and principal payments tied to inflation and a minimum amount outstanding of \$1 billion. Strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the Index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: February 28, 1997.

**ICE BofA US Agency Index:** ICE BofA US Agency Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated US agency senior debt issued in the US domestic market. Qualifying securities must have an investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch). In addition, qualifying securities must be unsubordinated, must have at least one year remaining term to final maturity, at least 18 months to final maturity at point of issuance, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$250 million. "Global" securities (debt issued simultaneously in the eurobond and US domestic markets) qualify for inclusion in the Index. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Securities in legal default are excluded from the Index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments

that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1977.

**ICE BofA Japan Government Index:** ICE BofA Japan Government Index tracks the performance of JPY denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the Japanese government in its domestic market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of JPY 200 billion. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1985.

**ICE BofA Australia Government Index:** ICE BofA Australia Government Index tracks the performance of AUD denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the Australian government in its domestic market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of AUD 1 billion. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1985.

**ICE BofA French Government Index:** ICE BofA French Government Index tracks the performance of EUR denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the French government in the French domestic or eurobond market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of EUR 1 billion. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1985.

**ICE BofA German Government Index:** ICE BofA German Government Index tracks the performance of EUR denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the German government in the German domestic or eurobond market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of EUR 1 billion.

Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1985.

ICE BofA Italian Government Index: ICE BofA Italian Government Index tracks the performance of EUR denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the Italian government in the Italian domestic or eurobond market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of EUR 1 billion. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: November 30, 1987.

ICE BofA Spanish Government Index: ICE BofA Spanish Government Index tracks the performance of EUR denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the Spanish government in the Spanish domestic or eurobond market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of EUR 1 billion. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: May 31, 1992.

ICE BofA UK Gilt Index: ICE BofA UK Gilt Index tracks the performance of GBP denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the UK government in its domestic market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of GBP 500 million. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing

date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1985.

**ICE BofA Canada Government Index:** ICE BofA Canada Government Index tracks the performance of CAD denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the Canadian government in its domestic market. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to maturity at point of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of CAD 1 billion. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Bills, inflation-linked debt and strips are excluded from the Index; however, original issue zero coupon bonds are included in the index and the amounts outstanding of qualifying coupon securities are not reduced by any portions that have been stripped. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1985.

**ICE BofA US Dollar South Korea Sovereign Index:** ICE BofA US Dollar South Korea Sovereign Index is a subset of ICE BofA US Emerging Markets External Sovereign Index including all securities with South Korea as the country of risk. Inception date: April 30, 1998.

**ICE BofA US Dollar Indonesia Sovereign Index:** ICE BofA US Dollar Indonesia Sovereign Index is a subset of ICE BofA US Emerging Markets External Sovereign Index including all securities with an Indonesia country of risk. Inception date: December 31, 1996.

**ICE BofA US Dollar Brazil Sovereign Index:** ICE BofA US Dollar Brazil Sovereign Index is a subset of ICE BofA US Emerging Markets External Sovereign Index including all securities with a Brazil country of risk. Inception date: December 31, 1991.

**ICE BofA US Dollar Turkey Sovereign Index:** ICE BofA US Dollar Turkey Sovereign Index is a subset of ICE BofA US Emerging Markets External Sovereign Index including all securities with a Turkey country of risk. Inception date: August 31, 1997.

**ICE BofA US Emerging Markets External Sovereign Index:** ICE BofA US Emerging Markets External Sovereign Index tracks the performance of US dollar emerging markets sovereign debt publicly issued in the US and eurobond markets. In order to qualify for inclusion in the Index an issuer must have risk exposure to countries other than members of the FX-G10, all Western European countries, and territories of the US and Western European countries. The FX-G10 includes all Euro members, the US, Japan, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity as of the rebalancing date, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$250 million. Original issue zero coupon bonds, 144a securities (both with and without registration rights), and eurobonds are included in the index. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors, or those in legal default are excluded from the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 1991.

**ICE BofA Emerging Markets Diversified Corporate Index:** ICE BofA Emerging Markets Diversified Corporate Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated emerging markets corporate senior and secured debt publicly issued in the US domestic and eurobond markets. In order to qualify for inclusion in the Index an issuer must have primary risk exposure to a country other than a member of the FX G10, a Western European country, or a territory of the US or a Western European country. The FX-G10 includes all Euro members, the US, Japan, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden. Individual securities of qualifying issuers must be denominated in US dollars, must be senior or secured debt, must have at least one year remaining term to final maturity a fixed coupon and at least \$500 million in outstanding face value. Qualifying securities must have at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance. The index includes corporate debt of qualifying countries, but excludes sovereign, quasi-government, securitized and collateralized debt. Original issue zero coupon bonds 144a securities, both with and without registration rights, and pay-in-kind securities, including toggle notes, qualify for inclusion in the Index. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Securities rated Ca/CC or lower by any of the three rating agencies do not qualify for inclusion. Contingent capital securities ("cocos") are excluded, but capital securities



where conversion can be mandated by a regulatory authority, but which have no specified trigger, are included. Other hybrid capital securities, such as those issues that potentially convert into preference shares, those with both cumulative and non-cumulative coupon deferral provisions, and those with alternative coupon satisfaction mechanisms, are also included in the index. Securities issued or marketed primarily to retail investors do not qualify for inclusion in the index. Equity-linked securities, securities in legal default and hybrid securitized corporates are excluded from the index. Index constituents are market capitalization weighted, subject to a 5% issuer cap. Issuers that exceed the limits are reduced to 5%, and the face value of each of their bonds is adjusted on a pro-rata basis. Similarly, the face values of bonds of all other issuers that fall below the cap are increased on a pro-rata basis. In the event there are fewer than 20 issuers, each is equally weighted and the face values of their respective bonds are increased or decreased on a pro-rata basis. Accrued interest is calculated assuming next-day settlement. Cash flows from bond payments that are received during the month are retained in the index until the end of the month and then are removed as part of the rebalancing. Cash does not earn any reinvestment income while it is held in the index. Information concerning constituent bond prices, timing and conventions is provided in the ICE BofA Bond Index Guide, which can be accessed on our public website ([www.mlindex.ml.com](http://www.mlindex.ml.com)), or by sending a request to [iceindices@theice.com](mailto:iceindices@theice.com). The index is rebalanced on the last calendar day of the month, based on information available up to and including the third business day before the last business day of the month. New issues must settle on or before the calendar month end rebalancing date in order to qualify for the coming month. No changes are made to constituent holdings other than on month end rebalancing dates. Inception date: December 31, 2004.

## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> Source for municipal issuance is the Bond Buyer. Source for U.S. investment grade corporate issuance is Bloomberg.

<sup>ii</sup> Some municipal bonds may be deemed to be private activity bonds (PABs). Interest from PABs generally is not taxable, however interest from specified PABs issued after August 7, 1986, must be added to income for the purposes of calculating an individual's Alternative minimum Tax (AMT). A discussion of municipal bonds where the interest may be subject to the AMT is beyond the scope of this paper.

<sup>iii</sup> The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 eliminated advance refundings as a qualified use of proceeds for tax-exempt bonds.

<sup>iv</sup> State and local government taxation of interest income on municipal securities is determined by individual state laws. The specific provisions and conditions of such exemption vary from state to state. Many states provide residents with a state income tax exemption for municipal securities issued by in-state borrowers, but not for municipal securities issued by out-of-state borrowers. However, not all states provide an exemption for interest income on municipal securities.

<sup>v</sup> The structure of the federal subsidy for most BABs is in the form of a direct payment subsidy paid by the U.S. Department of the Treasury directly to the issuer. The original subsidy to state or local governmental issuers was equal to 35% of the total coupon interest payable to investors. BABs may also have been issued as qualified tax credit bonds.

<sup>vi</sup> The structure of the federal subsidy for RZEDBs is in the form of a direct payment subsidy paid by the U.S. Department of the Treasury directly to the issuer. The original subsidy to state or local governmental issuers was equal to 45% of the total coupon interest payable to investors. RZEDBs may also have been issued as qualified tax credit bonds.

<sup>vii</sup> The structure of the federal subsidy for QSCBs is in the form of a direct payment subsidy paid by the U.S. Department of the Treasury directly to the issuer. The original subsidy to state or local governmental issuers was equal to 100% of the total coupon interest payable to investors. QSCBs may also have been issued as qualified tax credit bonds.

<sup>viii</sup> The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 ended federal fund allocations for all tax credit bond programs effective January 1, 2018. Bondholders receive federal income tax credits in lieu of periodic interest payments. These credits compensate bondholders for lending money to the issuer and function as payments of interest on the bond. Bondholders that receive tax credits on bonds issued on or before December 31, 2017, continue to receive tax credits.

<sup>ix</sup> The yield multiplier that equates the yield on a taxable municipal bond to the yield on a corporate bond is calculated as  $1 / (1 - \text{state effective marginal rate})$ . The difference between the after-tax yields on the two securities stems from the fact that while both are taxed at the federal level, only the corporate bond is taxed at the state and local level. The calculation is the same when comparing tax-exempt yields on in-state versus out-of-state bonds. However, not all states provide an exemption for interest income on municipal securities and some states do not tax out-of-state municipal bond interest but do tax corporate bond interest. States do not tax the interest on U.S. Treasury securities, and thus it is unnecessary calculate a multiplier to compare taxable municipal bonds with U.S. Treasuries.

<sup>x</sup> In 2012, automatic federal spending cuts known as "sequestration" were triggered by the failure of Congress to meet deficit reduction targets mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA). These cuts began to take effect on March 1, 2013. The 35% subsidy was reduced by 7.2% in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014, 7.3% in FFY 2015, 6.8% in FFY 2016, 6.9% in FFY 2017, 6.6% in FFY 2018, 6.2% in FFY 2019, 5.9% in FFY 2020, and 5.7% in FFYs 2021-2030 (these reductions were effective for the individual years specified and are noncumulative). In implementing sequestration, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) concluded that tax credit payments to individuals were exempt from sequestration, but credit payments to other entities—including to issuers of BABs and other taxable municipal bonds that receive a direct subsidy—were not. There have been repeated extensions of sequestration's expiration date as it applies to interest subsidies, which currently ends in 2030. BAB credit payments could face still deeper cuts through sequestration because the Statutory Pay-as-You-Go Act of 2010 requires that revenue or mandatory spending laws must not increase federal budget deficits. This "Pay-as-You-Go" requirement is enforced through sequestration—in this case, solely of mandatory spending items (including BAB credit payments), unless specific legislation is passed that prevents sequestration from being triggered, like it was in 2017 following passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Passage of the Act on its own would have required sequestration to offset the revenue loss through an outright elimination of BAB payments to issuers. Thus, BAB credit payments to issuers remain at risk of being cut in future years when the federal government runs large budget deficits and does not prevent sequestration from being triggered.

<sup>xi</sup> Option-adjusted spread (OAS) is a methodology using option-pricing techniques to value the embedded options risk component of a bond's total spread. Embedded options are call, put, or sink features of bonds. The total spread of the security is adjusted by removing all options to arrive at an OAS. The spread represents the interpolated yield spread to a selected "risk-free" yield curve. In this case the U.S. Treasury yield curve.

<sup>xii</sup> Data for size of market comes from Bloomberg and includes all outstanding municipal securities issued with either a municipal or corporate CUSIP as of October 10, 2022.

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Investment decisions should be based on an individual's own goals, time horizon and tolerance for risk. The contents of this communication do not constitute a research report or a research recommendation.

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Although bonds generally present less short-term risk and volatility than stocks, bonds do entail interest rate risk (as interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall, and vice versa) and the risk of default, or the risk that an issuer will be unable to make upcoming or principal payments. Additionally, bonds and short-term investments may entail greater inflation risk, or the risk that the return of an investment will not keep up with increases in the prices of goods and services, than stocks. Any fixed-income security sold or redeemed prior to maturity may be subject to a substantial gain or loss.

Interest income generated by municipal bonds is generally expected to be exempt from federal income taxes and, if the bonds are held by an investor resident in the state of issuance, from state and local income taxes. Such interest income may be subject to federal and/or state alternative minimum taxes. Investing in municipal bonds for the purpose of generating tax-exempt income may not be appropriate for investors in all tax brackets. Generally, tax-exempt municipal securities are not appropriate holdings for tax-advantaged accounts such as IRAs and 401(k)s.

Interest income generated by Treasury bonds and certain securities issued by U.S. territories, possessions, agencies, and instrumentalities is generally exempt from state income tax but is generally subject to federal income and alternative minimum taxes, and may be subject to state alternative minimum taxes. Short- and long-term capital gains and gains characterized as market discount, recognized when bonds are sold or mature, are generally taxable at both the state and federal levels. Short- and long-term losses recognized when bonds are sold or mature may generally offset capital gains and/or ordinary income at both the state and federal levels.

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