

PUTNAM MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES TRUST
Form N-CSRS
December 27, 2018

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number: (811-07626)

Exact name of registrant as specified in charter: Putnam Municipal Opportunities Trust

Address of principal executive offices: 100 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Name and address of agent for service: Robert T. Burns, Vice President
100 Federal Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Copy to: Bryan Chegwidden, Esq.
Ropes & Gray LLP
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (617) 292-1000

Date of fiscal year end: April 30, 2019

Date of reporting period: May 1, 2018 — October 31, 2018

Item 1. Report to Stockholders:

The following is a copy of the report transmitted to stockholders pursuant to Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940:

Putnam Municipal Opportunities Trust

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Consider these risks before investing: Lower-rated bonds may offer higher yields in return for more risk. Bond investments are subject to interest-rate risk (the risk of bond prices falling if interest rates rise) and credit risk (the risk of an issuer defaulting on interest or principal payments). Interest-rate risk is greater for longer-term bonds, and credit risk is greater for below-investment-grade bonds. Unlike bonds, funds that invest in bonds have fees and expenses. Bond prices may fall or fail to rise over time for several reasons, including general financial market conditions, changing market perceptions (including perceptions about the risk of default, and expectations about monetary policy or interest rates), changes in government intervention in the financial markets, and factors related to a specific issuer or industry. These and other factors may lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund's portfolio holdings. You can lose money by investing in the fund. The fund's shares trade on a stock exchange at market prices, which may be lower than the fund's net asset value.

Message from the Trustees

December 11, 2018

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

Global financial markets dealt with some challenges as we entered the final months of 2018. After rising to record highs in the summer, U.S. stocks experienced increased turbulence, including a correction in October, as concerns mounted over rising interest rates and the escalating U.S.–China trade conflict. International stock markets, which had already been lagging, experienced selloffs as well. Fixed-income markets have also encountered headwinds as the Federal Reserve has continued its path of normalizing monetary policy. Against this backdrop, markets may remain choppy, despite a solid economy. Rest assured, navigating changing markets is nothing new to Putnam's experienced investment professionals, who continue to monitor risks and seek opportunities.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Jameson A. Baxter, who retired from her position as Chair of your Board of Trustees on June 30, 2018. It is hard to express in a few words the extent of Jamie's commitment to protecting the interests of Putnam shareholders like you. In addition to her professional and directorship experience, Jamie brought intelligence, insight, and compassion to a board she served for decades. Jamie began as a Trustee in 1994, served as Vice Chair for six years, and became Chair in 2011. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Kenneth R. Leibler as your new Board of Trustees Chair. Ken became a Trustee in 2006, has served as Vice Chair since 2016, and now leads the Board in overseeing your fund and

protecting your interests.

Thank you for investing with Putnam.

Putnam Municipal Opportunities Trust has the flexibility to invest in municipal bonds issued by any state in the country or U.S. territory. As a closed-end fund, it shares some common characteristics with open-end mutual funds, but there are some key differences that investors should understand as they consider their portfolio.

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Looking at a closed-end fund's performance

You will usually see that the NAV and the market price differ. The market price can be influenced by several factors that cause it to vary from the NAV, including fund distributions, changes in supply and demand for the fund's shares, changing market conditions, and investor perceptions of the fund or its investment manager.

A mix of credit qualities

In addition to its flexible geographical focus, Putnam Municipal Opportunities Trust combines bonds of differing credit quality. The fund invests in high-quality bonds, but also includes an allocation to lower-rated bonds, which may offer higher income in return for more risk.

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Data are historical. Past performance does not guarantee future results. More recent returns may be less or more than those shown. Investment return and net asset value will fluctuate, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. Fund returns in the bar chart are at NAV. See below and pages 9–10 for additional performance information, including fund returns at market price. Index and Lipper results should be compared with fund performance at NAV. Fund results reflect the use of leverage, while index results are unleveraged and Lipper results reflect varying use of, and methods for, leverage.

** Returns for the six-month period are not annualized, but cumulative.*

This comparison shows your fund's performance in the context of broad market indexes for the six months ended 10/31/18. See above and pages 9–10 for additional fund performance information. Index descriptions can be found on page 11.

Paul, how was the market for municipal bonds during the reporting period?

In an increasingly challenging market environment, municipal bonds netted slightly positive performance. While the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act enacted in December 2017 retained the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and kept the highest individual tax rate nearly intact, it reduced the corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21%, making municipal bonds a less compelling investment for corporate buyers. Consequently, municipal assets held by banks declined \$26.7 billion on a year-to-date basis through June 30, 2018. [Most recent data available.]

Additionally, with U.S. economic growth continuing to surprise to the upside, municipal bond yields moved higher in tandem with rising Treasury rates and expectations for higher interest rates. [Bond prices generally fall as rates rise.] During the course of the six-month reporting period, the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark rate two times, in June and September 2018, to help temper potential inflationary pressure. At period-end, the federal funds rate stood at a target range of 2.00% to 2.25%.

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Credit qualities are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets (common and preferred shares) as of 10/31/18. A bond rated BBB or higher (SP-3 or higher, for short-term debt) is considered investment grade. This chart reflects the highest security rating provided by one or more of Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch. Ratings may vary over time.

Cash and net other assets, if any, represent the market value weights of cash, derivatives, and short-term securities in the portfolio. The fund itself has not been rated by an independent rating agency.

Top ten state allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets (common and preferred shares) as of 10/31/18. As of 10/31/18, the fund did not have any investments in Puerto Rico. Summary information may differ from the portfolio schedule included in the financial statements due to the differing treatment of interest accruals, the floating rate portion of tender option bonds, derivative securities, if any, the use of different classifications of securities for presentation purposes, and rounding. Holdings and allocations may vary over time.

One positive factor counteracting these demand dynamics was the tax law's elimination of a number of deductions traditionally taken by high-income earners, which made the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds more attractive to retail buyers, especially in high-tax states such as California and New York.

The municipal bond market also continued to adjust to fluctuating supply dynamics created by the tax law. With the legislation's elimination of advanced refundings, new-issue supply fell. A refunding occurs when an issuer refinances a bond by issuing a second bond at a lower interest rate to pay off the original, older higher-yielding bond, thereby reducing interest cost. "Advanced" is a type of refunding that occurs before the call date. On a

year-to-date basis through October 31, 2018, new municipal bond issuance totaled \$247 billion, representing a 15% drop from the same period a year earlier, according to the *Bond Buyer*. A decline in available supply helps to support prices and provided a counterweight to weaker demand from banks.

Despite higher rates and the mixed supply/ demand technicals, municipal bonds outperformed the broader U.S. fixed-income markets for the period. The Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index [the benchmark] returned 0.46% for the reporting period, outperforming the broader fixed-income markets, which returned -0.19%, as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. The ICE BofAML U.S. 3-Month Treasury Bill Index outperformed both these benchmarks with a return of 0.99% for the same period.

How did the fund perform during the reporting period?

For the six months ended October 31, 2018, the fund underperformed its benchmark but outperformed the average return for its Lipper peer group, General & Insured Municipal Debt Funds (leveraged closed-end).

What was your investment strategy in this environment?

With the flattening of the yield curve, we saw better relative value in bonds with maturities of 15 to 20 years. As such, we favored an overweight position in bonds with longer intermediate maturities while underweighting shorter intermediate and long maturity holdings.

Consequently, the fund's yield-curve positioning had more of a bulleted portfolio structure focused on the middle of the curve at period-end. This positioning resulted in an average maturity of approximately 15 years. Duration positioning, which affects the portfolio's sensitivity to interest rates, moved from a generally neutral stance to being slightly short relative to the benchmark by the end of the period.

From a credit-quality standpoint, the fund held an overweight exposure to higher-quality bonds rated A and BBB. We continue to look for opportunities to move higher up the credit quality spectrum. While municipal credit fundamentals remain stable, credit spreads remain at or near post-crisis lows. From a sector-positioning perspective, we continue to favor essential service utility, health-care, and state-backed bonds relative to the fund's Lipper group.

Geographically speaking, the fund held a modest overweight in Illinois general obligation [G.O.] bonds, which performed well for the year. Illinois G.O. bonds outperformed the broader municipal bond market due to ample spreads and steady demand, which helped to cushion the bonds against modestly higher interest rates. Illinois G.O. bonds remain an attractive opportunity, in our view, as we believe

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the state's financial profile stabilized during the past year and is not currently reflected by market spreads.

What is your near-term outlook for the municipal bond market?

In its policy statement at its September 2018 meeting, the Fed cited strong economic growth and forecasted that the U.S. economy would see at least three more years of growth. As part of that communication, the Fed also eliminated the word "accommodative" from its comments about monetary policy and implied that three rate hikes were likely in 2019.

Just after the close of the reporting period, the Fed held interest rates steady at its November 2018 meeting. In its statement, the Fed's outlook was little changed from its commentary in September aside from observing that "business investment had moderated from its rapid pace earlier in the year." With regard to our near-term outlook for interest rates over the next three to six months, we believe the Fed will introduce its fourth and final rate hike of 2018 in December. While we expect interest rates to follow a gradual path higher over the balance of the Fed's

hiking cycle, there may be short-term periods that feel more abrupt. It is our view that interest rates have reached levels where income return is sufficient to more than offset our outlook for potential capital depreciation over the course of the Fed's rate-hiking cycle. In other words, we still see value in the asset class, even in a rising-rate environment.

Thank you, Paul, for your time and insights today.

The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of Putnam Management and are subject to change. They are not meant as investment advice.

Please note that the holdings discussed in this report may not have been held by the fund for the entire period. Portfolio composition is subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk. Statements in the Q&A concerning the fund's performance or portfolio composition relative to those of the fund's Lipper peer group may reference information produced by Lipper Inc. or through a third party.

This chart shows how the fund's top weightings have changed over the past six months. Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets (common and preferred shares). Current period summary information may differ from the information in the portfolio schedule notes included in the financial statements due to the inclusion of derivative securities, any interest accruals, the use of different classifications of securities for presentation purposes, and rounding. Holdings and allocations may vary over time.

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Your fund's performance

This section shows your fund's performance, price, and distribution information for periods ended October 31, 2018, the end of the first half of its current fiscal year. In accordance with regulatory requirements for mutual funds, we also include performance information as of the most recent calendar quarter-end. Performance should always be considered in light of a fund's investment strategy. Data represent past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. More recent returns may be less or more than those shown. Investment return, net asset value, and market price will fluctuate, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares.

Fund performance Total return and comparative index results for periods ended 10/31/18

		Annual		Annual		Annual		Annual	
		10 years	average	3 years	average	3 years	average	6 months	6 months
NAV	5.95%	121.97%	8.30%	35.52%	6.27%	10.37%	3.34%	-0.30%	0.38%
Market price	5.29	114.75	7.94	32.36	5.77	5.16	1.69	-7.75	-3.27
Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index	4.97	59.76	4.80	17.34	3.25	5.79	1.90	-0.51	0.46
Lipper General & Insured Municipal Debt Funds (leveraged closed-end) category average*	5.84	124.90	8.39	33.86	5.97	8.54	2.75	-1.26	-0.13

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Performance assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes.

Index and Lipper results should be compared with fund performance at net asset value. Fund results reflect the use of leverage, while index results are unleveraged and Lipper results reflect varying use of, and methods for, leverage.

* Over the 6-month, 1-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year, and life-of-fund periods ended 10/31/18 there were 62, 61, 61, 61, 53, and 26 funds, respectively, in this Lipper category.

Performance includes the deduction of management fees and administrative expenses.

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Fund price and distribution information For the six-month period ended 10/31/18

Distributions			
Number		6	
Income ¹		\$0.2618	
Capital gains ²		—	
Total		\$0.2618	
Distributions — Preferred shares			
Income ¹	\$291.10		\$290.92
Capital gains ²	—		—
Total	\$291.10		\$290.92
Share value	NAV		Market price
4/30/18	\$12.92		\$11.57
10/31/18	12.71		10.94
Current dividend rate (end of period)			
Current dividend rate ³	4.00%		4.65%
Taxable equivalent ⁴	6.76		7.85

The classification of distributions, if any, is an estimate. Final distribution information will appear on your year-end tax forms.

¹ For some investors, investment income may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax. Income from federally exempt funds may be subject to state and local taxes.

² Capital gains, if any, are taxable for federal and, in most cases, state purposes.

³ Most recent distribution, including any return of capital and excluding capital gains, annualized and divided by NAV or market price at end of period.

⁴ Assumes maximum 40.80% federal tax rate for 2018. Results for investors subject to lower tax rates would not be as advantageous.

Fund performance as of most recent calendar quarter Total return for periods ended 9/30/18

		10 years	Annual			Annual average		6 months	
NAV	6.01%	108.27%	7.61%	38.02%	6.66%	12.66%	4.05%	1.10%	0.97%
Market price	5.48	102.59	7.32	38.00	6.65	11.63	3.74	-5.11	0.21

See the discussion following the fund performance table on page 9 for information about the calculation of fund performance.

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Terms and definitions

Important terms

Total return shows how the value of the fund's shares changed over time, assuming you held the shares through the entire period and reinvested all distributions in the fund.

Net asset value (NAV) is the value of all your fund's assets, minus any liabilities, divided by the number of outstanding shares.

Market price is the current trading price of one share of the fund. Market prices are set by transactions between buyers and sellers on exchanges such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Fixed-income terms

Current rate is the annual rate of return earned from dividends or interest of an investment. Current rate is expressed as a percentage of the price of a security, fund share, or principal investment.

Yield curve is a graph that plots the yields of bonds with equal credit quality against their differing maturity dates, ranging from shortest to longest. It is used as a benchmark for other debt, such as mortgage or bank lending rates.

Comparative indexes

Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index is an unmanaged index of long-term fixed-rate investment-grade tax-exempt bonds.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index of U.S. investment-grade fixed-income securities.

ICE BofAML (Intercontinental Exchange Bank of America Merrill Lynch) U.S. 3-Month Treasury Bill Index is an unmanaged index that seeks to measure the performance of U.S. Treasury bills available in the marketplace.

S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance.

Indexes assume reinvestment of all distributions and do not account for fees. Securities and performance of a fund and an index will differ. You cannot invest directly in an index.

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Lipper is a third-party industry-ranking entity that ranks mutual funds. Its rankings do not reflect sales charges. Lipper rankings are based on total return at net asset value relative to other funds that have similar current investment styles or objectives as determined by Lipper. Lipper may change a fund's category assignment at its discretion. Lipper category averages reflect performance trends for funds within a category.

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Other information for shareholders

Important notice regarding share repurchase program

In September 2017, the Trustees of your fund approved the renewal of a share repurchase program that had been in effect since 2005. This renewal allows your fund to repurchase, in the 12 months beginning October 10, 2017, up to 10% of the fund's common shares outstanding as of October 9, 2017.

Important notice regarding delivery of shareholder documents

In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulations, Putnam sends a single copy of annual and semiannual shareholder reports, prospectuses, and proxy statements to Putnam shareholders who share the same address, unless a shareholder requests otherwise. If you prefer to receive your own copy of these documents, please call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581, and Putnam will begin sending individual copies within 30 days.

Proxy voting

Putnam is committed to managing our mutual funds in the best interests of our shareholders. The Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures, as well as information regarding how your fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the 12-month period ended June 30, 2018, are available in the Individual Investors section of putnam.com and on the SEC's website, www.sec.gov. If you have questions about finding forms on the SEC's website, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain the Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures at no charge by calling Putnam's Shareholder Services at 1-800-225-1581.

Fund portfolio holdings

The fund will file a complete schedule of its portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. Shareholders may obtain the fund's Form N-Q on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

Trustee and employee fund ownership

Putnam employees and members of the Board of Trustees place their faith, confidence, and, most importantly, investment dollars in Putnam mutual funds. As of October 31, 2018, Putnam employees had approximately \$475,000,000 and the Trustees had approximately \$66,000,000 invested in Putnam mutual funds. These amounts include investments by the Trustees' and employees' immediate family members as well as investments through retirement and deferred compensation plans.

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Summary of Putnam Closed-End Funds' Amended and Restated Dividend Reinvestment Plans

Putnam High Income Securities Fund, Putnam Managed Municipal Income Trust, Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust, Putnam Municipal Opportunities Trust and Putnam Premier Income Trust (each, a "Fund" and collectively, the "Funds") each offer **dividend reinvestment plan** (each, a "Plan" and collectively, the "Plans"). If you participate in a Plan, all income dividends and capital gain distributions are **automatically reinvested** in Fund shares by the Fund's agent, Putnam Investor Services, Inc. (the "Agent"). If you are not participating in a Plan, every month you will receive all dividends and other distributions in cash, paid by check and mailed directly to you.

Upon a purchase (or, where applicable, upon registration of transfer on the shareholder records of a Fund) of shares of a Fund by a registered shareholder, each such shareholder **will be deemed to have elected to participate** in that Fund's Plan. Each such shareholder will have all distributions by a Fund automatically reinvested in additional shares, unless such shareholder elects to terminate participation in a Plan by instructing the Agent to pay future distributions in cash. Shareholders who were not participants in a Plan as of January 31, 2010, will continue to receive distributions in cash but may enroll in a Plan at any time by contacting the Agent.

If you participate in a Fund's Plan, the Agent will automatically reinvest subsequent distributions, and the Agent will send you a confirmation in the mail telling you how many additional shares were issued to your account.

To change your enrollment status or to request additional information about the Plans, you may contact the Agent either in writing, at P.O. Box 8383, Boston, MA 02266-8383, or by telephone at 1-800-225-1581 during normal East Coast business hours.

How you acquire additional shares through a Plan If the market price per share for your Fund's shares (plus estimated brokerage commissions) is greater than or equal to their net asset value per share on the payment date for a distribution, you will be issued shares of the Fund at a value equal to the higher of the net asset value per share on that date or 95% of the market price per share on that date.

If the market price per share for your Fund's shares (plus estimated brokerage commissions) is less than their net asset value per share on the payment date for a distribution, the Agent will buy Fund shares for participating accounts in the open market. The Agent will aggregate open-market purchases on behalf of all participants, and the average price (including brokerage commissions) of all shares purchased by the Agent will be the price per share allocable to each participant. The Agent will generally complete these open-market purchases within five business days following the payment date. If, before the Agent has completed open-market purchases, the market price per share (plus estimated brokerage commissions) rises to exceed the net asset value per share on the payment date, then the purchase price may exceed the net asset value per share, potentially resulting in the acquisition of fewer shares than if the distribution had been paid in newly issued shares.

How to withdraw from a Plan Participants may withdraw from a Fund's Plan at any time by notifying the Agent, either in writing or by telephone. Such withdrawal will be effective immediately if notice is received by the Agent with sufficient time prior to any distribution record date; otherwise, such withdrawal will be effective with respect to any subsequent distribution following notice of withdrawal. There is no penalty for withdrawing from or not participating in a Plan.

Plan administration The Agent will credit all shares acquired for a participant under a Plan to the account in which the participant's common shares are held. Each participant will

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be sent reasonably promptly a confirmation by the Agent of each acquisition made for his or her account.

About brokerage fees Each participant pays a proportionate share of any brokerage commissions incurred if the Agent purchases additional shares on the open market, in accordance with the Plans. There are no brokerage charges applied to shares issued directly by the Funds under the Plans.

About taxes and Plan amendments

Reinvesting dividend and capital gain distributions in shares of the Funds does not relieve you of tax obligations, which are the same as if you had received cash distributions. The Agent supplies tax information to you and to the IRS annually. Each Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate its Plan upon 30 days' written notice. However, the Agent may assign its rights, and delegate its duties, to a successor agent with the prior consent of a Fund and without prior notice to Plan participants.

If your shares are held in a broker or nominee name If your shares are held in the name of a broker or nominee offering a dividend reinvestment service, consult your broker or nominee to ensure that an appropriate election is made on your behalf. If the broker or nominee holding your shares does not provide a reinvestment service, you may need to register your shares in your own name in order to participate in a Plan.

In the case of record shareholders such as banks, brokers or nominees that hold shares for others who are the beneficial owners of such shares, the Agent will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of shares certified by the record shareholder as representing the total amount registered in such shareholder's name and held for the account of beneficial owners who are to participate in the Plan.

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Trustee approval of management contract

General conclusions

The Board of Trustees of The Putnam Funds oversees the management of each fund and, as required by law, determines annually whether to approve the continuance of your fund's management contract with Putnam Investment Management, LLC ("Putnam Management") and the sub-management contract with respect to your fund between Putnam Management and its affiliate, Putnam Investments Limited ("PIL"). The Board, with the assistance of its Contract Committee, requests and evaluates all information it deems reasonably necessary under the circumstances in connection with its annual contract review. The Contract Committee consists solely of Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as this term is defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) of The Putnam Funds ("Independent Trustees").

At the outset of the review process, members of the Board's independent staff and independent legal counsel discussed with representatives of Putnam Management the annual contract review materials furnished to the Contract Committee during the course of the previous year's review, identifying possible changes in these materials that might be necessary or desirable for the coming year. Following these discussions and in consultation with the Contract Committee, the Independent Trustees' independent legal counsel requested that Putnam Management and its affiliates furnish specified information, together with any additional information that Putnam Management considered relevant, to the Contract Committee. Over the course of several months ending in June 2018, the Contract Committee met on a number of occasions with representatives of Putnam Management, and separately in executive session, to consider the information that Putnam Management provided. Throughout this process, the Contract Committee was assisted by the members of the Board's independent staff and by independent legal counsel for The Putnam Funds and the Independent Trustees.

In May 2018, the Contract Committee met in executive session to discuss and consider its recommendations with respect to the continuance of the contracts. At the Trustees' June 2018 meeting, the Contract Committee met in executive session with the other Independent Trustees to review a summary of the key financial, performance and other data that the Contract Committee considered in the course of its review. The Contract Committee then presented its written report, which summarized the key factors that the Committee had considered and set forth its recommendations. The Contract Committee recommended, and the Independent Trustees approved, the continuance of your fund's management and sub-management contracts, effective July 1, 2018. (Because PIL is an affiliate of Putnam Management and Putnam Management remains fully responsible for all services provided by PIL, the Trustees have not attempted to evaluate PIL as a separate entity, and all subsequent references to Putnam Management below should be deemed to include reference to PIL as necessary or appropriate in the context.)

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The Independent Trustees' approval was based on the following conclusions:

- That the fee schedule in effect for your fund represented reasonable compensation in light of the nature and quality of the services being provided to the fund, the fees paid by competitive funds, and the costs incurred by Putnam Management in providing services to the fund; and
- That the fee schedule in effect for your fund represented an appropriate sharing between fund shareholders and Putnam Management of such economies of scale as may exist in the management of the fund at current asset levels.

These conclusions were based on a comprehensive consideration of all information provided to the Trustees and were not the result of any single factor. Some of the factors that figured particularly in the Trustees' deliberations and how the Trustees considered these factors are described below, although individual Trustees may have evaluated the information presented differently, giving different weights to various factors. It is also important to recognize that the management arrangements for your fund and the other Putnam funds are the result of many years of review and discussion between the Independent Trustees and Putnam Management, that some aspects of the arrangements may receive greater scrutiny in some years than others, and that the Trustees' conclusions may be based, in part, on their consideration of fee arrangements in previous years.

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Management fee schedules and total expenses

The Trustees reviewed the management fee schedules in effect for all Putnam funds, including fee levels and breakpoints. The Trustees also reviewed the total expenses of each Putnam fund, recognizing that in most cases management fees represented the major, but not the sole, determinant of total costs to fund shareholders. (In a few instances, funds have implemented so-called "all-in" management fees covering substantially all routine fund operating costs.)

In reviewing fees and expenses, the Trustees generally focus their attention on material changes in circumstances — for example, changes in assets under management, changes in a fund's investment strategy, changes in Putnam Management's operating costs or profitability, or changes in competitive practices in the mutual fund industry — that suggest that consideration of fee changes might be warranted. The Trustees concluded that the circumstances did not indicate that changes to the management fee structure for your fund would be appropriate at this time.

Under its management contract, your fund has the benefit of breakpoints in its management fee schedule that provide shareholders with economies of scale in the form of reduced fee rates as the fund's assets under management increase. The Trustees noted, however, that because your fund is a closed-end management investment company, it has relatively stable levels of assets under management and is not expected to be affected significantly by breakpoints in its management fee schedule. The Trustees concluded that the fee schedule in effect for your fund represented an appropriate sharing of economies of scale between fund shareholders and Putnam Management.

The Trustees reviewed comparative fee and expense information for a custom group of competitive funds selected by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge"). This comparative information included your fund's percentile ranking for effective management fees and total expenses, which provides a general indication of your fund's relative standing. In the custom peer group, your fund ranked in the second quintile in effective management fees (determined for your fund and the other funds in the custom peer group based on fund asset size and the applicable contractual management fee schedule) and in the fifth quintile in total expenses as of December 31, 2017. The first quintile represents the least expensive funds and the fifth quintile the most expensive funds. The fee and expense data reported by Broadridge as of December 31, 2017 reflected the most recent fiscal year-end data available in Broadridge's database at that time.

In connection with their review of fund management fees and total expenses, the Trustees also reviewed the costs of the services provided and the profits realized by Putnam Management and its affiliates from their contractual relationships with the funds. This information included trends in revenues, expenses and profitability of Putnam Management and its affiliates relating to the investment management, investor servicing and distribution services provided to the funds. In this regard, the Trustees also reviewed an analysis of Putnam Management's revenues, expenses and profitability, allocated on a fund-by-fund basis, with respect to the funds' management, distribution, and investor servicing contracts. For each fund, the analysis presented information about revenues, expenses and profitability for each of the agreements separately and for the agreements taken together on a combined basis. The Trustees concluded that, at current asset levels, the fee schedules in place represented reasonable compensation for the services being provided and represented an appropriate sharing between fund shareholders and Putnam Management of such economies of scale as may exist in the management of the Putnam funds at that time.

The information examined by the Trustees in connection with their annual contract review for the Putnam funds included information regarding fees charged by Putnam Management and its affiliates to institutional clients, including defined benefit

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pension and profit-sharing plans and sub-advised mutual funds. This information included, in cases where an institutional product's investment strategy corresponds with a fund's strategy, comparisons of those fees with fees charged to the Putnam funds, as well as an assessment of the differences in the services provided to these different types of clients as compared to the services provided to the Putnam Funds. The Trustees observed that the differences in fee rates between these clients and the Putnam funds are by no means uniform when examined by individual asset sectors, suggesting that differences in the pricing of investment management services to these types of clients may reflect, among other things, historical competitive

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forces operating in separate markets. The Trustees considered the fact that in many cases fee rates across different asset classes are higher on average for mutual funds than for institutional clients, as well as the differences between the services that Putnam Management provides to the Putnam funds and those that it provides to its other clients. The Trustees did not rely on these comparisons to any significant extent in concluding that the management fees paid by your fund are reasonable.

Investment performance

The quality of the investment process provided by Putnam Management represented a major factor in the Trustees' evaluation of the quality of services provided by Putnam Management under your fund's management contract. The Trustees were assisted in their review of the Putnam funds' investment process and performance by the work of the investment oversight committees of the Trustees and the full Board of Trustees, which meet on a regular basis with the funds' portfolio teams and with the Chief Investment Officers and other senior members of Putnam Management's Investment Division throughout the year. The Trustees concluded that Putnam Management generally provides a high-quality investment process — based on the experience and skills of the individuals assigned to the management of fund portfolios, the resources made available to them, and in general Putnam Management's ability to attract and retain high-quality personnel — but also recognized that this does not guarantee favorable investment results for every fund in every time period.

The Trustees considered that 2017 was a strong year for the performance of the Putnam funds, with generally favorable results for most asset classes, including U.S. equity, international and global equity, taxable and tax exempt fixed income and global asset allocation Funds. In this regard, the Trustees considered that, for the one-year period ended December 31, 2017, the Putnam open-end Funds' performance, on an asset-weighted basis, ranked in the 32nd percentile of their Lipper peers (excluding those Putnam funds that are evaluated based on their total returns and/or comparisons of those returns versus selected investment benchmarks or targeted annual returns). The Trustees observed that this strong performance has continued a positive trend that began in mid-year 2016 across most Putnam funds. They noted that the longer-term performance of the Putnam funds continued to be strong, exemplified by the fact that the Putnam funds were ranked by the Barron's/Lipper Fund Families survey as the 7th-best performing mutual fund complex out of 55 complexes for the five-year period ended December 31, 2017 and the 9th-best performing mutual fund complex out of 50 complexes for the ten-year period ended 2017. In addition, the survey ranked the Putnam funds 7th out of 59 mutual fund complexes for the one-year period ended 2017; the Putnam funds have ranked 1st or 2nd in the survey for the one-year period three times since 2009 (most recently in 2013). They also noted, however, the disappointing investment performance of some funds for periods ended December 31, 2017 and considered information provided by Putnam Management regarding the factors contributing to the underperformance and actions being taken to improve the performance of these particular funds. The Trustees indicated their intention to continue to monitor closely the performance of those funds, including the effectiveness of any efforts Putnam Management has undertaken to address underperformance and whether additional actions to address areas of underperformance are warranted.

For purposes of the Trustees' evaluation of the Putnam Funds' investment performance, the Trustees generally focus on a competitive industry ranking of each fund's total net return over a one-year, three-year and five-year period. For a number of Putnam funds with relatively unique investment mandates for which Putnam Management informed the Trustees that meaningful competitive performance rankings are not considered to be available, the Trustees evaluated performance based on their total gross and net returns and, in most cases, comparisons of those returns with the returns of selected investment benchmarks. In the case of your fund, the Trustees considered that its common share cumulative total return performance at net asset value was in the following quartiles of its Lipper Inc. ("Lipper") peer group (Lipper General & Insured Muni Debt Funds (Leveraged) (closed-end)) for the one-year, three-year and five-year periods ended December 31, 2017 (the first quartile representing the best-performing funds and the fourth quartile the worst-performing funds):

One-year period	1st
Three-year period	1st
Five-year period	1st

Over the one-year, three-year and five-year periods ended December 31, 2017, there were 61, 61 and 59 funds, respectively, in your fund's Lipper peer group. (When considering performance information, shareholders should be mindful that past performance is not a guarantee of future results.)

The Trustees considered Putnam Management's continued efforts to support fund performance through initiatives including structuring compensation for portfolio managers and research analysts to enhance accountability for fund performance, emphasizing accountability in the portfolio management process, and affirming its commitment to a fundamental-driven approach to investing. The Trustees noted further that Putnam Management continued to strengthen its fundamental research capabilities by adding new investment personnel.

Brokerage and soft-dollar allocations; investor servicing

The Trustees considered various potential benefits that Putnam Management may receive in connection with the services it provides under the management contract with your fund. These include benefits related to brokerage allocation and the use of soft dollars, whereby a portion of the commissions paid by a fund for brokerage may be used to acquire research services that are expected to be useful to Putnam Management in managing the assets of the fund and of other clients. Subject to policies established by the Trustees, soft dollars generated by these means are used predominantly to acquire brokerage and research services (including third-party research and market data) that enhance Putnam Management's investment capabilities and supplement Putnam Management's internal research efforts. However, the Trustees noted that a portion of available soft dollars continues to be used to pay fund expenses. The Trustees indicated their continued intent to monitor regulatory and industry developments in this area with the assistance of their Brokerage Committee. The Trustees also indicated their continued intent to monitor the allocation of the Putnam funds' brokerage in order to ensure that the principle of seeking best price and execution remains paramount in the portfolio trading process.

Putnam Management may also receive benefits from payments that the funds make to Putnam Management's affiliates for investor services. In conjunction with the annual review of your fund's management and sub-management contracts, the Trustees reviewed your fund's investor servicing agreement with Putnam Investor Services, Inc. ("PSERV"), which is an affiliate of Putnam Management. The Trustees concluded that the fees payable by the funds to PSERV for such services are fair and reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of such services, the fees paid by competitive funds, and the costs incurred by PSERV in providing such services. Furthermore, the Trustees were of the view that the services provided were required for the operation of the funds, and that they were of a quality at least equal to those provided by other providers.

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Financial statements

These sections of the report, as well as the accompanying Notes, constitute the fund's financial statements.

The fund's portfolio lists all the fund's investments and their values as of the last day of the reporting period. Holdings are organized by asset type and industry sector, country, or state to show areas of concentration and diversification.

Statement of assets and liabilities shows how the fund's net assets and share price are determined. All investment and non-investment assets are added together. Any unpaid expenses and other liabilities are subtracted from this total. The result is divided by the number of shares to determine the net asset value per share. (For funds with preferred shares, the amount subtracted from total assets includes the liquidation preference of preferred shares.)

Statement of operations shows the fund's net investment gain or loss. This is done by first adding up all the fund's earnings — from dividends and interest income — and subtracting its operating expenses to determine net investment income (or loss). Then, any net gain or loss the fund realized on the sales of its holdings — as well as any unrealized gains or losses over the period — is added to or subtracted from the net investment result to determine the fund's net gain or loss for the fiscal period.

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Statement of changes in net assets shows how the fund's net assets were affected by the fund's net investment gain or loss, by distributions to shareholders, and by changes in the number of the fund's shares. It lists distributions and their sources (net investment income or realized capital gains) over the current reporting period and the most recent fiscal year-end. The distributions listed here may not match the sources listed in the Statement of operations because the distributions are determined on a tax basis and may be paid in a different period from the one in which they were earned. Dividend sources are estimated at the time of declaration. Actual results may vary. Any non-taxable return of capital cannot be determined until final tax calculations are completed after the end of the fund's fiscal year.

Financial highlights provide an overview of the fund's investment results, per-share distributions, expense ratios, net investment income ratios, and portfolio turnover in one summary table, reflecting the five most recent reporting periods. In a semiannual report, the highlights table also includes the current reporting period.

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The fund's portfolio 10/31/18 (Unaudited)

Key to holding's abbreviations

ABAG Association Of Bay Area Governments

AGC Assured Guaranty Corp.

AGM Assured Guaranty Municipal Corporation

AMBAC AMBAC Indemnity Corporation

BAM Build America Mutual

COP Certificates of Participation

FGIC Financial Guaranty Insurance Company

FHL Banks Coll. Federal Home Loan Banks System Collateralized

FRB Floating Rate Bonds: the rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period. Rates may be subject to a cap or floor. For certain securities, the rate may represent a fixed rate currently in place at the close of the reporting period.

FRN Floating Rate Notes: the rate shown is the current interest rate or yield at the close of the reporting period. Rates may be subject to a cap or floor. For certain securities, the rate may represent a fixed rate currently in place at the close of the reporting period.

G.O. Bonds General Obligation Bonds

NATL National Public Finance Guarantee Corp.

PSFG Permanent School Fund Guaranteed

U.S. Govt. Coll. U.S. Government Collateralized

MUNICIPAL BONDS AND NOTES (142.7%)*	Rating**	Principal amount	Value
Alabama (1.7%)			
Black Belt Energy Gas Dist. Mandatory Put Bonds (12/1/23), Ser. A, 4.00%, 12/1/48	A3	\$1,700,000	\$1,771,383
Jefferson Cnty., Swr. Rev. Bonds, Ser. D,			

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6.50%, 10/1/53 Jefferson, Cnty. Rev. Bonds, (Warrants)	BBB-	2,000,000	2,318,060
5.00%, 9/15/34	AA	2,075,000	2,286,380
5.00%, 9/15/33 Selma, Indl. Dev. Board Rev. Bonds, (Gulf Opportunity Zone Intl. Paper Co.), Ser. A, 5.80%, 5/1/34	AA Baa2	275,000 750,000	303,853 788,303
			7,467,979
Arizona (2.9%)			
AZ State Indl. Dev. Auth. Ed. 144A Rev. Bonds, (BASIS Schools, Inc.), Ser. D, 5.00%, 7/1/51	BB	510,000	501,101
Casa Grande, Indl. Dev. Auth. Rev. Bonds, (Casa Grande Regl. Med. Ctr.), Ser. A, 7.625%, 12/1/29 (escrow) F	D/P	3,025,000	9,042
Glendale, Indl. Dev. Auth. Rev. Bonds, (Midwestern U.), 5.125%, 5/15/40	A	2,125,000	2,203,306
Maricopa Cnty., Indl. Dev. Auth. Ed. Rev. Bonds (Reid Traditional Schools Painted Rock Academy), 5.00%, 7/1/36	Baa3	350,000	360,759
(Horizon Cmnty. Learning Ctr.), 5.00%, 7/1/35	BB+	500,000	507,920
Maricopa Cnty., Poll. Control Rev. Bonds, (El Paso Elec. Co.), Ser. A, 7.25%, 2/1/40	Baa1	2,400,000	2,430,648