



# ALACHUA COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INVESTMENT POLICY

Implements Ordinance 17- 10

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[Amendment #6](#)

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## ALACHUA COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Investment Policy (hereafter “policy”) is to set forth the investment objectives and parameters for the management of public funds of Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (hereinafter “County”) cash surplus funds and reserves. This policy is designed to ensure the prudent management of public funds, the availability of operating and capital funds when needed, and an investment return competitive with comparable funds and financial market indices.

### II. SCOPE

In accordance with § 218.415, Florida Statutes, this policy applies to the investment of public funds in excess of the amounts needed to meet current expenses, which includes cash and investment balances of the following funds (hereafter the “portfolio”):

- General Fund
- Special Revenue Funds
- Debt Service Funds
- Capital Project Funds
- Enterprise Funds
- Internal Service Funds
- Trust and Agency Funds

The policy does not apply to the investment of principal, interest, reserve, construction, capitalized interest, redemption or escrow accounts created by ordinance or resolution pursuant to the issuance of bonds where the investments are held by an authorized depository. Also, this policy does not apply to funds not under investment control of the County; such as Employee Pension Plan.

### III. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

The following investment objectives will be applied in the management of the County's funds.

A. Safety of Principal

The primary objective of the Clerk or the Clerk's designee's investment activities is the protection of County funds (preservation of capital). Investment transactions shall seek to keep capital losses to a minimum, whether they are from securities defaults or erosion of market value.

B. Maintenance of Liquidity

The second highest priority is liquidity of funds. The Clerk or the Clerk's designee's investment strategy will provide sufficient liquidity to meet the County's reasonable anticipated cash flow requirements.

C. Return on Investment

The third highest priority is income. The optimization of investment returns shall be secondary to the requirements for safety and liquidity. Return of investment is of least importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above. However, return is attempted through active management where the Investment Advisor utilizes a total return strategy (which includes both realized and unrealized gains and losses in the portfolio). This total return strategy seeks to increase the value of the portfolio through reinvestment of income and capital gains. The core of investments is limited to relatively low risk securities in anticipation of earning a fair return relative to the risk being assumed. Despite this, an Investment Advisor may trade to recognize a loss from time to time to achieve a perceived relative value based on its potential to enhance the total return of the portfolio.

D. Diversification

The Clerk or the Clerk's designee's will seek to control risks and diversify investments regarding specific security types, maturities and financial institutions. Diversification is important to ensure that potential losses on individual securities

E. Investment Decisions

~~do not exceed the income generated from the remainder of the portfolio.~~ The Clerk or the Clerk's designee and the Investment Advisor shall comply with the applicable requirements of Chapter 2023-28, Laws of Florida, including Section 218.415(24). The term "pecuniary factor" as used in this subsection means a factor that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, the Clerk or the Clerk's designee and the Investment Advisor prudently determines is expected to have a material effect on the risk or returns of investment based on appropriate

investment horizons consistent with applicable investment objections and funding policy. The term does not include the consideration of the furtherance of any social, political, or ideological interests.

IV. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

In order to assist in the evaluation of the portfolios' performance, the Clerk or the Clerk's designee's will use performance benchmarks for short-term and long-term portfolios. The use of benchmarks will allow the Clerk to measure its returns against other investors in the same markets.

- A. The short-term investment portfolio shall be designed with the annual objective of exceeding the weighted average return (net book value rate of return) of the S&P Rated GIP Index Government 30-Day Gross of Fees Yield.
- B. The long-term investment portfolio shall be designed with the annual objective of exceeding the return of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year U.S. Treasury/Agency Index compared to the portfolio's total rate of return. The Bank of America Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year U.S. Treasury/Agency Index represents all U.S. Treasury and Agency securities maturing over one year, but less than three years. This maturity range is an appropriate benchmark based on the objectives of the Clerk.

V. PRUDENCE AND ETHICAL STANDARDS

The "prudent person" standard shall be used by investment officials in management of the overall portfolio. The Assistant Clerk/Finance Director, or persons performing the investment functions, acting as a "prudent person" in accordance with these written policies and procedures, and exercising due diligence, shall not be responsible for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes provided that appropriate monitoring efforts are performed. The "prudent person" standard is herewith understood to mean the following:

Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the

management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived from the investment.

The Clerk staff involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Also, employees involved in the investment process shall disclose to the Clerk any material financial interests in financial institutions that conduct business with the County, and they shall further disclose any material personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the County's investment program.

While the standard of prudence to be used by investment officials who are officers or employees is the Prudent Person standard, any person or firm hired or retained to invest, monitor, or advise concerning these assets shall be held to the higher standard of "Prudent Expert". The standard shall be that in investing and reinvesting moneys and in acquiring, retaining, managing, and disposing of investments of these funds, the contractor shall exercise: the judgment, care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence, acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims by diversifying the investments of the funds, so as to minimize the risk, considering the probable income as well as the probable safety of their capital.

#### VI. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Responsibility for the administration of the investment program is hereby delegated to the Assistant Clerk/Finance Director, who shall establish investment procedures based on these policies. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as stated in the Internal Control Section of the policy. The Assistant Clerk/Finance Director shall be responsible for the implementation of internal controls and monitoring the activities of subordinate staff.

In employing an Investment Advisor to manage the Clerk's portfolio, such Investment

Advisor or firm must be registered under the Investment Adviser's Act of 1940.

VII. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

As established by ordinance 17-10, the Clerk or his designee shall purchase or sell investment securities at prevailing market rates. Investment in any derivative products or the use of reverse repurchase agreements is not permitted. A "derivative" is defined as a financial instrument the value of which depends on, or is derived from, the value of one or more underlying assets or indices or asset values.

The following are the investment requirements and allocation limits on security types, issuers, and maturities as established by the Clerk. Diversification strategies within the established guidelines shall be reviewed and revised periodically as necessary by the Clerk or the Clerk's designee. The Clerk or the Clerk's designee, and/or Investment Advisor shall have the option to further restrict investment percentages from time to time based on market conditions, risk and diversification investment strategies. The percentage allocations requirements for investment types and issuers are calculated based on the original cost of each investment, at the time of purchase. Investments not listed in this Policy are prohibited.

The Clerk will maintain a list of companies with a local preference and provide to the Investment Advisor. Securities issued by these companies may be included in the portfolio if all other compliance requirements are met. Investing in these companies is dependent on meeting the credit criteria of the Investment Advisor and the availability of securities in the market. Authorized instruments, as detailed in ordinance 17-10, are as follows:

## Permitted Investments

Sector	Sector Maximum (%)	Per Issuer Maximum (%)	Minimum Ratings Requirement <sup>1</sup>	Maximum Maturity
U.S. Treasury	100%	100%	N/A	5.50 Years (5.50 Years avg. life <sup>4</sup> for GNMA)
GNMA		40%		
Other U.S. Government Guaranteed (e.g. AID, GTC)		10%		
Federal Agency/GSE: FNMA, FHLMC, FHLB, FFCB*	75%	40% <sup>3</sup>	N/A	5.50 Years
Federal Agency/GSE other than those above		10%		
Supranationals where U.S. is a shareholder and voting member	25%	10%	Highest ST or Highest LT Rating Categories (A-1/P-1, AAA/Aaa, or equivalent)	5.50 Years
Corporates	50% <sup>2</sup>	5%	Highest ST or Three Highest LT Rating Categories (A-1/P-1, A-/A3 or equivalent)	5.50 Years
Municipals	25%	5%	Highest ST or Three Highest LT Rating Categories (SP-1/MIG 1, A-/A3, or equivalent)	5.50 Years
Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS)	25%	40% <sup>3</sup>	N/A	5.50 Years Avg. Life <sup>4</sup>
Asset-Backed Securities (ABS)	25% <sup>2</sup>	5%	Highest ST or LT Rating (A-1+/P-1, AAA/Aaa, or equivalent)	5.50 Years Avg. Life <sup>4</sup>
Non-Negotiable Collateralized Bank Deposits or Savings Accounts	50%	None, if fully collateralized	None, if fully collateralized.	2 Years
Commercial Paper (CP)	50% <sup>2</sup>	5%	Highest ST Rating Category (A-1/P-1, or equivalent)	270 Days
Repurchase Agreements (Repo or RP)	40%	20%	Counterparty (or if the counterparty is not rated by an NRSRO, then the counterparty's parent) must be rated in the Highest ST Rating Category (A-1/P-1, or equivalent) If the counterparty is a Federal Reserve Bank, no rating is required	1 Year
Money Market Funds (MMFs)	50%	25%	Highest Fund Rating by all NRSROs who rate the fund (AAAm/Aaa-mf, or equivalent)	N/A
Florida Local Government Investment Trust	25%	N/A	Highest Fund Quality and Volatility Rating Categories by all NRSROs who rate the LGIP, (AAAm/AAAf, S1, or equivalent)	N/A
Intergovernmental Pools (LGIPs)	50%	25%	Highest Fund Quality and Volatility Rating Categories by all NRSROs who rate the LGIP, (AAAm/AAAf, S1, or equivalent)	N/A
Florida Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Funds ("Florida Prime")	50%	N/A	Highest Fund Rating by all NRSROs who rate the fund (AAAm/Aaa-mf, or equivalent)	N/A

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Rating by at least one SEC-registered Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization ("NRSRO"), unless otherwise noted. ST=Short-term; LT=Long-term.

<sup>2</sup> Maximum allocation to all ~~corporate~~, asset backed securities and bank credit instruments is 50% combined.

<sup>3</sup> Maximum exposure to any one Federal agency, including the combined holdings of Agency debt and Agency MBS, is 40%.

<sup>4</sup> The maturity limit for MBS and ABS is based on the expected average life at time of settlement, measured using Bloomberg or other industry standard methods.

\* Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA); Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC); Federal Home Loan Bank or its District banks (FHLB); Federal Farm Credit Bank (FFCB).



- 1) **U.S. Treasury & Government Guaranteed** - U.S. Treasury obligations, and obligations the principal and interest of which are backed or guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government.
- 2) **Federal Agency/GSE** - Debt obligations, participations or other instruments issued or fully guaranteed by any U.S. Federal agency, instrumentality or government-sponsored enterprise (GSE).
- 3) **Supranationals** – U.S. dollar denominated debt obligations of a multilateral organization of governments where U.S. is a shareholder and voting member.
- ~~4) **Corporates** – U.S. dollar denominated corporate notes, bonds or other debt obligations issued or guaranteed by a domestic corporation, financial institution, non-profit, or other entity.~~
- 5) **Municipals** – Obligations, including both taxable and tax-exempt, issued or guaranteed by any State, territory or possession of the United States, political subdivision, public corporation, authority, agency board, instrumentality or other unit of local government of any State or territory.
- 6) **Agency Mortgage Backed Securities** - Mortgage-backed securities (MBS), backed by residential, multi-family or commercial mortgages, that are issued or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by a U.S. Federal agency or government sponsored enterprise, including but not limited to pass-throughs, collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs) and REMICs.
- 7) **Asset-Backed Securities** - Asset-backed securities (ABS) whose underlying collateral consists of loans, leases or receivables, including but not limited to auto loans/leases, credit card receivables, student loans, equipment loans/leases, or home-equity loans.
- 8) **Non-Negotiable Certificate of Deposit and Savings Accounts** - Non-negotiable interest bearing time certificates of deposit, or savings accounts in banks organized under the laws of this state or in national banks organized under the laws of the United States and doing business in this state, provided that any such deposits are secured by the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act, Chapter 280, Florida Statutes.
- 9) **Commercial Paper** – U.S. dollar denominated commercial paper issued or guaranteed by a domestic corporation, company, financial institution, trust or other entity, only unsecured debt permitted.
- 10) **Repurchase Agreements** - Repurchase agreements (Repo or RP) that meet the following requirements:
  - a. Must be governed by a written Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Master Repurchase Agreement which specifies securities eligible for purchase and resale, and which provides the unconditional right to liquidate the underlying securities should the Counterparty default or fail to provide full timely repayment.

- b. Counterparty must be a Federal Reserve Bank, a Primary Dealer as designated by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, or a nationally chartered commercial bank.
- c. Securities underlying repurchase agreements must be delivered to a third party custodian under a written custodial agreement and may be of deliverable or tri-party form. Securities must be held in the Clerk's custodial account or in a separate account in the name of the Clerk.
- d. Acceptable underlying securities include only securities that are direct obligations of, or that are fully guaranteed by, the United States or any agency of the United States, or U.S. Agency-backed mortgage related securities.
- e. Underlying securities must have an aggregate current market value of at least 102% (or 100% if the counterparty is a Federal Reserve Bank) of the purchase price plus current accrued price differential at the close of each business day.
- f. Final term of the agreement must be 1 year or less.

~~11~~10) **Money Market Funds** - Shares in open-end and no-load money market mutual funds, provided such funds are registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and operate in accordance with Rule 2a-7.

A thorough investigation of any money market fund is required prior to investing, and on an annual basis. Attachment B is a questionnaire that contains a list of questions, to be answered prior to investing, that cover the major aspects of any investment pool/fund. A current prospectus must be obtained.

~~12~~11) **Florida Local Government Investment Trust (FLGIT)** – The Florida Local Government Investment Trust (FLGIT) is a local government investment pool (LGIP) developed through the joint efforts of the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers (FCCC) and the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). It is the longest running member-owned and member-governed local government investment pool in the state of Florida.

A thorough investigation of FLGIT is required prior to investing, and on an annual basis. Attachment B is a questionnaire that contains a list of questions, to be answered prior to investing, that cover the major aspects of any investment pool/fund. A current prospectus must be obtained.

~~13~~12) **Local Government Investment Pools** – State, local government or privately-sponsored investment pools that are authorized pursuant to state law.

A thorough investigation of any intergovernmental investment pool is required prior to investing, and on an annual basis. Attachment B is a questionnaire that contains a list of questions, to be answered prior to investing, that cover the major aspects of any investment pool/fund. A current prospectus must be obtained.

~~14~~13) **The Florida Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Funds (“Florida Prime”)**

A thorough investigation of the Florida Prime is required prior to investing, and on an annual basis. Attachment B is a questionnaire that contains a list of questions, to be answered prior to investing, that cover the major aspects of any investment pool/fund. A current prospectus or portfolio report must be obtained.

## **General Investment and Portfolio Limits**

1. General investment limitations:
  - a. Investments must be denominated in U.S. dollars and issued for legal sale in U.S. markets.
  - b. Minimum ratings are based on the highest rating by any one Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organization (“NRSRO”), unless otherwise specified.
  - c. All limits and rating requirements apply at time of purchase.
  - d. Should a security fall below the minimum credit rating requirement for purchase, the Investment Advisor will notify the Assistant Clerk/Finance Director.
  - e. The maximum maturity (or average life for MBS/ABS) of any investment is 5.50 years. Maturity and average life are measured from settlement date. The final maturity date can be based on any mandatory call, put, pre-refunding date, or other mandatory redemption date.
2. General portfolio limitations:
  - a. The maximum effective duration of the aggregate portfolio is 3 years.
3. Investment in the following are permitted, provided they meet all other policy requirements:
  - a. Callable, step-up callable, called, pre-refunded, putable and extendable securities, as long as the effective final maturity meets the maturity limits for the sector
  - b. Variable-rate and floating-rate securities
  - c. Subordinated, secured and covered debt, if it meets the ratings requirements for the sector
  - d. Zero coupon issues and strips, excluding agency mortgage-backed Interest-only structures (I/Os)
  - e. Treasury TIPS
4. The following are **NOT PERMITTED** investments, unless specifically authorized by statute and with prior approval of the governing body:
  - a. Trading for speculation
  - b. Derivatives (other than callables and traditional floating or variable-rate instruments)
  - c. Mortgage-backed interest-only structures (I/Os)
  - d. Inverse or leveraged floating-rate and variable-rate instruments
  - e. Currency, equity, index and event-linked notes (e.g. range notes), or other structures that could return less than par at maturity
  - f. Private placements and direct loans, except as may be legally permitted by Rule 144A or commercial paper issued under a 4(2) exemption from registration
  - g. Convertible, high yield, and non-U.S. dollar denominated debt
  - h. Short sales
  - i. Use of leverage
  - j. Futures and options
  - k. Mutual funds, other than fixed-income mutual funds and ETFs, and money market funds
  - l. Equities, commodities, currencies and hard assets

VIII. MATURITY AND LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. To the extent possible, an attempt will be made to match investment maturities with known cash needs and anticipated cash flow requirements. Investments of current operating funds shall have maturities of no longer than thirty-six (36) months. Investments of bond reserves, construction funds, and other non-operating funds shall have a term appropriate to the need for funds and in accordance with debt covenants, but in no event shall exceed five and one-half (5.50) years. The maturities of the underlying securities of a repurchase agreement will follow the requirements of the SIFMA Master Repurchase Agreement.
- B. The Clerk's investment policy is to "buy and hold" but the maturity composition of the portfolio and the general economic conditions will be evaluated to determine if a replacement investment would be advantageous. Accounting losses may be incurred in this situation if an economic gain is achieved. The portfolio maturity may be shortened or extended dependent on interest rate projections or the portfolio quality may be improved by reducing the maturity or risk of security.
- C. Investments do not necessarily have to be made for the same length of time that the funds are available. The basic criteria for consideration for investments are listed below:
  - 1. Keep maturities short in a period of constantly rising interest rates based on treasury bill auctions or the daily Federal Funds rate and also keep maturities short in a period of an inverted treasury yield curve (short-term rates are higher than the long-term rates).
  - 2. Maturities should be lengthened when the treasury yield curve is normal and is expected to remain that way based on economic reports taken as a whole. The yield curve is normal when short-term rates are lower than long-term rates.

3. Maturities should be lengthened when interest rates are expected to fall based on economic reports taken as a whole.
4. The yield curves of the market should be analyzed for significant breaks in yields over various maturity dates. The points at which the yield curve breaks are the points at which there are significant marginal declines in yields for incremental changes in the maturity dates. Investments should be made at these breaks in the yield curve so that yields will be maximized.

IX. RISK AND DIVERSIFICATION

Assets held shall be diversified to control the risk of loss resulting from over-concentration of assets in a specific maturity, issuer, instrument, dealer, or bank through which these instruments are bought and sold. Diversification strategies within the established guidelines shall be reviewed and revised periodically as necessary by the appropriate management staff and by the Clerk.

X. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENT INSTITUTIONS AND DEALERS

The Clerk or the Clerk's Designee's shall only purchase securities from financial institutions which are qualified as public depositories by the Treasurer of the State of Florida or primary dealers as designated by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Repurchase agreements shall only be entered into with primary dealers and financial institutions which are state qualified public depositories. The Clerk or Clerk's designee's will require the SIFMA Master Repurchase Agreement to be executed prior to any repurchase transactions.

The Clerk's Investment Advisor shall utilize and maintain its own list of approved primary and non-primary dealers.

XI. THIRD-PARTY CUSTODIAL AGREEMENTS

All securities, with the exception of certificates of deposits, shall be held with a third party custodian; and all securities purchased by the County should be properly designated as an asset of the County. The Clerk or the Clerk's designee's will execute a Third-Party Custodial Safekeeping Agreement with a commercial bank or the commercial bank's trust department. A third party custodian is defined as any bank depository chartered by the Federal

Government, the State of Florida, or any other state or territory of the United States which has a branch or principal place of business in the State of Florida as defined in § 658.12 Florida Statutes, or by a national association organized and existing under the laws of the United States which is authorized to accept and execute trusts and which is doing business in the State of Florida. Certificates of deposits maintained by book-entry at the issuing bank shall clearly identify the County as the owner. All securities purchased and/or collateral obtained by Finance and Accounting shall be properly designated as an asset of the County and held in safekeeping by the custodian and no withdrawal of such securities, in whole or in part, shall be made from safekeeping except by an authorized Clerk staff member. The Third-Party Custodial Safekeeping Agreement shall include letters of authority from the Clerk or the Clerk's Designee's, details as to responsibilities of each party, notification of security purchases, sales, delivery, repurchase agreements, wire transfers, safekeeping and transactions costs, procedures in case of wire failure or other unforeseen mishaps including liability of each party.

XII. MASTER REPURCHASE AGREEMENT

The Clerk will require all approved institutions and dealers transacting repurchase agreements to execute and perform as stated in the SIFMA Master Repurchase Agreement. All repurchase agreement transactions will adhere to requirements of the SIFMA Master Repurchase Agreement.

XIII. BID POLICY

After the Assistant Clerk/Finance Director and/or Investment Advisor has determined the approximate maturity date based on cash flow needs and market conditions and has analyzed and selected one or more optimal types of investment, a minimum of three (3) banks and/or dealers must be contacted and asked to provide bids on the securities in question. Bids will be held in confidence until the highest bid is determined and awarded.

On an exception basis, securities may be purchased utilizing the comparison to current market price method. Acceptable current market price providers include, but are not limited to:

1. The Wall Street Journal or a comparable nationally recognized financial publication providing daily market pricing.

2. Daily market pricing provided by the County's custody agents.

The Finance and Accounting Department shall utilize the competitive bid process to select the securities to be purchased or sold. Selection by comparison to a current market price, as indicated above, shall only be utilized when, in the judgment of the Assistant Clerk/Finance Director, competitive bidding would inhibit the selection process. Examples of when this method may be used include:

1. When time constraints due to unusual circumstances preclude the use of the competitive bidding process.
2. When no active market exists for the issue being traded due to the age or depth of the issue.
3. When a security is unique to a single dealer, for example, a private placement.
4. When the transaction involved new issues or issues in the "when issued" market.

If the maturing investment is a certificate of deposit, then of the contacts made, one shall be the present holder of the funds subject to the portfolio diversification requirements in this policy. Due to the cost of safekeeping, one business day repurchase agreements less than \$1,000,000 and overnight sweep repurchase agreements will not be bid, but may be placed with the depository bank relating to the demand account for which the repurchase agreement was purchased.

Notwithstanding the above, in order to afford local banks within the County opportunities to enhance the economics of the local area, an aggregate face value of up to \$1,000,000 in certificates of deposit may be purchased from a bank as described in Section VII.E. provided the following additional conditions have been satisfied:

1. The bank is located within the boundaries of Alachua County or has a branch office located within the boundaries of Alachua County.
2. The bank matches the highest bid of three or more bids from other banks as described in Section XIV.

XIV. INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Assistant Clerk/Finance Director shall establish and monitor a set of written internal controls designed to protect the County's funds and ensure proper accounting and reporting of securities transactions. The internal controls should be designed to prevent losses of funds, which might arise from fraud, employee error, and misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent actions by employees. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as authorized under the terms of this policy. Such internal controls shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. All securities purchased or sold will be transferred only under the "delivery versus payment" (D.V.P.) method to insure that funds or securities are not released until all criteria relating to the specific transaction are met.
- B. The Assistant Clerk/Finance Director is authorized to accept, on behalf of and in the name of Alachua County, bank trust receipts or confirmations as evidence of actual delivery of the obligations or securities in return for investments of funds.
- C. Trust receipts or confirmations shall fully describe the various obligations or securities held. The receipt or confirmation shall state that the investment is held in the name of Alachua County.
- D. The actual obligations or securities, whether in book-entry or physical form, on which trust receipts or confirmations are issued may be held by a third-party custodial bank and/or institution or a designated correspondent bank which has a correspondent relationship to the Clerk's third-party custodian.
- E. Other internal controls such as:
  - i. Written documentation of telephone transactions
  - ii. Adequate separation of duties
  - iii. Custodial safekeeping
  - iv. Supervisory control of employee actions and operations review
  - v. Interim and annual performance evaluations and reporting.
- F. All daily investment activity is coordinated by the Investment Accountant and reviewed by the Division Manager, Investments & Cash Management, as well as the Assistant Clerk/Finance Director. The Division Manager oversees day-to-day operations, however the whole investment function is under direct control of the Assistant Clerk/Finance Director.



XV. CONTINUING EDUCATION

Governmental officials responsible for making investment decisions or the chief financial officer shall complete 8 hours of continuing education annually in subjects or courses of study related to investment practices and products.

XVI. REPORTING

A portfolio report shall be provided each month to the Clerk and appropriate management staff. The report shall include a breakdown of the portfolio showing market and book values as well as its overall performance during that period. Annually, a recapitulation report will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

XVII. AUDITS

As part of the County's annual audit, the County's independent CPA's, pursuant to F.S. 11.45, shall report the County's compliance with F.S. 218.415.

XVIII. POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

- A. The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk/Finance Director shall review these policies in their entirety on an annual basis.
- B. This policy may be amended in writing from time to time by the Clerk.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
J.K. "Jess" Irby, Alachua County Clerk of Court

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Hutchison, Assistant Clerk/Finance Director

**Alachua County Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Signature Card for Alachua County Investment Program**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June July 11, 2020417

**TO:** Financial and Investment Institutions

**FROM:** J.K. "Jess" Irby, Clerk of the Circuit Court

**SUBJECT:** Signature Authorizations for the Alachua County Investment Program

Pursuant to County Ordinance 17-10 and for the purpose of accounting internal controls, I J.K. "Jess" Irby, Clerk of the Court, have signed my name below as the official authorized signature for all Alachua County Investment transactions. I have also delegated signatory authority, as permitted by ordinance 17- 10, to the Assistant Clerk/Finance Director and his signature is also listed below:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type Name: J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq. Clerk of the Court

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type Name: Todd Hutchison, Assistant Clerk/Finance Director

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment A**  
**Glossary of Cash and Investment Management Terms**

The following is a glossary of key investing terms, many of which appear in the policy. This glossary clarifies the meaning of investment terms generally used in cash and investment management. This glossary has been adapted from the GFOA Sample Investment Policy and the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada's Model Investment Policy.

**Accrued Interest.** Interest earned but which has not yet been paid or received.

**Agency.** See "Federal Agency Securities."

**Ask Price.** Price at which a broker/dealer offers to sell a security to an investor. Also known as "offered price."

**Asset Backed Securities (ABS).** A fixed-income security backed by notes or receivables against assets other than real estate. Generally issued by special purpose companies that "own" the assets and issue the ABS. Examples include securities backed by auto loans, credit card receivables, home equity loans, manufactured housing loans, farm equipment loans, and aircraft leases.

**Average Life.** The average length of time that an issue of serial bonds and/or term bonds with a mandatory sinking fund feature is expected to be outstanding.

**Bankers' Acceptance (BA's).** A draft or bill of exchange drawn upon and accepted by a bank. Frequently used to finance shipping of international goods. Used as a short-term credit instrument, bankers' acceptances are traded at a discount from face value as a money market instrument in the secondary market on the basis of the credit quality of the guaranteeing bank.

**Basis Point.** One hundredth of one percent, or 0.01%. Thus 1% equals 100 basis points.

**Bearer Security.** A security whose ownership is determined by the holder of the physical security. Typically, there is no registration on the issuer's books. Title to bearer securities is transferred by delivery of the physical security or certificate. Also known as "physical securities."

**Benchmark Bills:** In November 1999, FNMA introduced its Benchmark Bills program, a short-term debt securities issuance program to supplement its existing discount note program. The program includes a schedule of larger, weekly issues in three- and six-month maturities and biweekly issues in one-year for Benchmark Bills. Each issue is brought to market via a Dutch (single price) auction. FNMA conducts a weekly auction for each Benchmark Bill maturity and accepts both competitive and non-competitive bids through a web based auction system. This program is in addition to the variety of other discount note maturities, with rates posted on a daily basis, which FNMA offers. FNMA's Benchmark Bills are unsecured general obligations that are issued in book-entry form through the Federal Reserve Banks. There are no periodic payments of interest on Benchmark Bills, which are sold at a discount from the principal amount and payable at par at maturity. Issues under the Benchmark program constitute the same credit standing as other FNMA discount notes; they simply add organization and liquidity to the short-term Agency discount note market.

**Benchmark Notes/Bonds:** Benchmark Notes and Bonds are a series of FNMA "bullet" maturities (non-callable) issued according to a pre-announced calendar. Under its Benchmark Notes/Bonds program, 2, 3, 5, 10, and 30-year maturities are issued each quarter. Each Benchmark Notes new issue has a minimum size of \$4 billion, 30-year new issues having a minimum size of \$1 billion, with re-openings based on investor demand to further enhance liquidity. The amount of non-

callable issuance has allowed FNMA to build a yield curve in Benchmark Notes and Bonds in maturities ranging from 2 to 30 years. The liquidity emanating from these large size issues has facilitated favorable financing opportunities through the development of a liquid overnight and term repo market. Issues under the Benchmark program constitute the same credit standing as other FNMA issues; they simply add organization and liquidity to the intermediate- and long-term Agency market.

**Benchmark.** A market index used as a comparative basis for measuring the performance of an investment portfolio. A performance benchmark should represent a close correlation to investment guidelines, risk tolerance, and duration of the actual portfolio's investments.

**Bid Price.** Price at which a broker/dealer offers to purchase a security from an investor.

**Bond.** Financial obligation for which the issuer promises to pay the bondholder (the purchaser or owner of the bond) a specified stream of future cash-flows, including periodic interest payments and a principal repayment.

**Book Entry Securities.** Securities that are recorded in a customer's account electronically through one of the financial markets electronic delivery and custody systems, such as the Fed Securities wire, DTC, and PTC

(as opposed to bearer or physical securities). The trend is toward a certificate-free society in order to cut down on paperwork and to diminish investors' concerns about the certificates themselves. The vast majority of securities are now book entry securities.

**Book Value.** The value at which a debt security is reflected on the holder's records at any point in time. Book value is also called "amortized cost" as it represents the original cost of an investment adjusted for amortization of premium or accretion of discount. Also called "carrying value." Book value can vary over time as an investment approaches maturity and differs from "market value" in that it is not affected by changes in market interest rates.

**Broker/Dealer.** A person or firm transacting securities business with customers. A "broker" acts as an agent between buyers and sellers, and receives a commission for these services. A "dealer" buys and sells financial assets from its own portfolio. A dealer takes risk by owning inventory of securities, whereas a broker merely matches up buyers and sellers. See also "Primary Dealer."

**Bullet Notes/Bonds.** Notes or bonds that have a single maturity date and are non-callable.

**Call Date.** Date at which a call option may be or is exercised.

**Call Option.** The right, but not the obligation, of an issuer of a security to redeem a security at a specified value and at a specified date or dates prior to its stated maturity date. Most fixed-income calls are a par, but can be at any previously established price. Securities issued with a call provision typically carry a higher yield than similar securities issued without a call feature. There are three primary types of call options (1) European - one-time calls, (2) Bermudan - periodically on a predetermined schedule (quarterly, semi-annual, annual), and (3) American - continuously callable at any time on or after the call date. There is usually a notice period of at least 5 business days prior to a call date.

**Callable Bonds/Notes.** Securities which contain an imbedded call option giving the issuer the right to redeem the securities prior to maturity at a predetermined price and time.

**Certificate of Deposit (CD).** Bank obligation issued by a financial institution generally offering

a fixed rate of return (coupon) for a specified period of time (maturity). Can be as long as 10 years to maturity, but most CDs purchased by public agencies are one year and under.

**Collateral.** Investment securities or other property that a borrower pledges to secure repayment of a loan, secure deposits of public monies, or provide security for a repurchase agreement.

**Collateralization.** Process by which a borrower pledges securities, property, or other deposits for securing the repayment of a loan and/or security.

**Collateralized Mortgage Obligation (CMO).** A security that pools together mortgages and separates them into short, medium, and long-term positions (called tranches). Tranches are set up to pay different rates of interest depending upon their maturity. Interest payments are usually paid monthly. In “plain vanilla” CMOs, principal is not paid on a tranche until all shorter tranches have been paid off. This system provides interest and principal in a more predictable manner. A single pool of mortgages can be carved up into numerous tranches each with its own payment and risk characteristics.

**Commercial Paper.** Short term unsecured promissory note issued by a company or financial institution. Issued at a discount and matures for par or face value. Usually a maximum maturity of 270 days and given a short-term debt rating by one or more NRSROs.

**Convexity.** A measure of a bond's price sensitivity to changing interest rates. A high convexity indicates greater sensitivity of a bond's price to interest rate changes.

~~**Corporate Note.** A debt instrument issued by a corporation with a maturity of greater than one year and less than ten years.~~

**Counterparty.** The other party in a two party financial transaction. "Counterparty risk" refers to the risk that the other party to a transaction will fail in its related obligations. For example, the bank or broker/dealer in a repurchase agreement.

**Coupon Rate.** Annual rate of interest on a debt security, expressed as a percentage of the bond's face value.

**Current Yield.** Annual rate of return on a bond based on its price. Calculated as (coupon rate / price), but does not accurately reflect a bond's true yield level.

**Custody.** Safekeeping services offered by a bank, financial institution, or trust company, referred to as the “custodian.” Service normally includes the holding and reporting of the customer's securities, the collection and disbursement of income, securities settlement, and market values.

**Dealer.** A dealer, as opposed to a broker, acts as a principal in all transactions, buying and selling for his/her own account.

**Delivery Versus Payment (DVP).** Settlement procedure in which securities are delivered versus payment of cash, but only after cash has been received. Most security transactions, including those through the Fed Securities Wire system and DTC, are done DVP as a protection for both the buyer and seller of securities.

**Depository Trust Company (DTC).** A firm through which members can use a computer to arrange for securities to be delivered to other members without physical delivery of certificates. A member of the Federal Reserve System and owned mostly by the New York Stock Exchange, the Depository Trust Company uses computerized debit and credit entries. Most corporate securities,

commercial paper, CDs, and BAs clear through DTC.

**Derivatives.** (1) Financial instruments whose return profile is linked to, or derived from, the movement of one or more underlying index or security, and may include a leveraging factor, or (2) financial contracts based upon notional amounts whose value is derived from an underlying index or security (interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equities, or commodities). For hedging purposes, common derivatives are options, futures, interest rate swaps, and swaptions.

**Derivative Security.** Financial instrument created from, or whose value depends upon, one or more underlying assets or indexes of asset values.

**Designated Bond.** FFCB's regularly issued, liquid, non-callable securities that generally have a 2 or 3 year original maturity. New issues of Designated Bonds are \$1 billion or larger. Re-openings of existing Designated Bond issues are generally a minimum of \$100 million. Designated Bonds are offered through a syndicate of two to six dealers. Twice each month the Funding Corporation announces its intention to issue a new Designated Bond, reopen an existing issue, or to not issue or reopen a Designated Bond. Issues under the Designated Bond program constitute the same credit standing as other FFCB issues; they simply add organization and liquidity to the intermediate- and long-term Agency market.

**Discount Notes.** Unsecured general obligations issued by Federal Agencies at a discount. Discount notes mature at par and can range in maturity from overnight to one year. Very large primary (new issue) and secondary markets exist.

**Discount Rate.** Rate charged by the system of Federal Reserve Banks on overnight loans to member banks. Changes to this rate are administered by the Federal Reserve and closely mirror changes to the "fed funds rate."

**Discount Securities.** Non-interest bearing money market instruments that are issued at discount and redeemed at maturity for full face value. Examples include: U.S. Treasury Bills, Federal Agency Discount Notes, Bankers' Acceptances, and Commercial Paper.

**Discount.** The amount by which a bond or other financial instrument sells below its face value. See also "Premium."

**Diversification.** Dividing investment funds among a variety of security types, maturities, industries, and issuers offering potentially independent returns.

**Dollar Price.** A bond's cost expressed as a percentage of its face value. For example, a bond quoted at a dollar price of 95 ½, would have a principal cost of \$955 per \$1,000 of face value.

**Duff & Phelps.** One of several NRSROs that provide credit ratings on ~~corporate and~~ bank debt issues.

**Duration.** The weighted average maturity of a security's or portfolio's cash-flows, where the present values of the cash-flows serve as the weights. The greater the duration of a security/portfolio, the greater its percentage price volatility with respect to changes in interest rates. Used as a measure of risk and a key tool for managing a portfolio versus a benchmark and for hedging risk. There are also different kinds of duration used for different purposes (e.g. MacAuley Duration, Modified Duration).

**Fannie Mae.** See "Federal National Mortgage Association."

**Fed Money Wire.** A computerized communications system that connects the Federal Reserve System with its member banks, certain U. S. Treasury offices, and the Washington D.C. office of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The Fed Money Wire is the book entry system used to transfer cash balances between banks for themselves and for customer accounts.

**Fed Securities Wire.** A computerized communications system that facilitates book entry transfer of securities between banks, brokers and customer accounts, used primarily for settlement of U.S. Treasury and Federal Agency securities.

**Fed.** See "Federal Reserve System."

**Federal Agency Security.** A debt instrument issued by one of the Federal Agencies. Federal Agencies are considered second in credit quality and liquidity only to U.S. Treasuries.

**Federal Agency.** Government sponsored/owned entity created by the U.S. Congress, generally for the purpose of acting as a financial intermediary by borrowing in the marketplace and directing proceeds to specific areas of the economy considered to otherwise have restricted access to credit markets. The largest Federal Agencies are GNMA, FNMA, FHLMC, FHLB, FFCB, SLMA, and TVA.

**Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).** Federal agency that insures deposits at commercial banks, currently to a limit of \$250,000 per depositor per bank.

**Federal Farm Credit Bank (FFCB).** One of the large Federal Agencies. A government sponsored enterprise (GSE) system that is a network of cooperatively-owned lending institutions that provides credit services to farmers, agricultural cooperatives and rural utilities. The FFCBs act as financial intermediaries that borrow money in the capital markets and use the proceeds to make loans and provide other assistance to farmers and farm-affiliated businesses. Consists of the consolidated operations of the Banks for Cooperatives, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, and Federal Land Banks. Frequent issuer of discount notes, agency notes and callable agency securities. FFCB debt is not an obligation of, nor is it guaranteed by the U.S. government, although it is considered to have minimal credit risk due to its importance to the U.S. financial system and agricultural industry. Also issues notes under its "designated note" program.

**Federal Funds (Fed Funds).** Funds placed in Federal Reserve Banks by depository institutions in excess of current reserve requirements, and frequently loaned or borrowed on an overnight basis between depository institutions.

**Federal Funds Rate (Fed Funds Rate).** The interest rate charged by a depository institution lending Federal Funds to another depository institution. The Federal Reserve influences this rate by establishing a "target" Fed Funds rate associated with the Fed's management of monetary policy.

**Federal Home Loan Bank System (FHLB).** One of the large Federal Agencies. A government sponsored enterprise (GSE) system, consisting of wholesale banks (currently twelve district banks) owned by their member banks, which provides correspondent banking services and credit to various financial institutions, financed by the issuance of securities. The principal purpose of the FHLB is to add liquidity to the mortgage markets. Although FHLB does not directly fund mortgages, it provides a stable supply of credit to thrift institutions that make new mortgage loans. FHLB debt is not an obligation of, nor is it guaranteed by the U.S. government, although it is considered to have minimal credit risk due to its importance to the U.S. financial system and housing market. Frequent issuer of discount notes, agency notes and callable agency securities.

Also issues notes under its “global note” and “TAP” programs.

**Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC or "Freddie Mac").** One of the large Federal Agencies. A government sponsored public corporation (GSE) that provides stability and assistance to the secondary market for home mortgages by purchasing first mortgages and participation interests financed by the sale of debt and guaranteed mortgage backed securities. FHLMC debt is not an obligation of, nor is it guaranteed by the U.S. government, although it is considered to have minimal credit risk due to its importance to the U.S. financial system and housing market. Frequent issuer of discount notes, agency notes, callable agency securities, and MBS. Also issues notes under its “reference note” program.

**Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA or "Fannie Mae").** One of the large Federal Agencies. A government sponsored public corporation (GSE) that provides liquidity to the residential mortgage market by purchasing mortgage loans from lenders, financed by the issuance of debt securities and MBS (pools of mortgages packaged together as a security). FNMA debt is not an obligation of, nor is it guaranteed by the U.S. government, although it is considered to have minimal credit risk due to its importance to the U.S. financial system and housing market. Frequent issuer of discount notes, agency notes, callable agency securities and MBS. Also issues notes under its “benchmark note” program.

**Federal Reserve Bank.** One of the 12 distinct banks of the Federal Reserve System.

**Federal Reserve System (the Fed).** The independent central bank system of the United States that establishes and conducts the nation's monetary policy. This is accomplished in three major ways: (1) raising or lowering bank reserve requirements, (2) raising or lowering the target Fed Funds Rate and Discount Rate, and (3) in open market operations by buying and selling government securities. The Federal Reserve System is made up of twelve Federal Reserve District Banks, their branches, and many national and state banks throughout the nation. It is headed by the seven member Board of Governors known as the “Federal Reserve Board” and headed by its Chairman.

**Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA).** A private corporation that acts as a self-regulatory organization (SRO). FINRA is the successor to the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (NASD). Though sometimes mistaken for a government agency, it is a non-governmental organization that performs financial regulation of member brokerage firms and exchange markets. The government also has a regulatory arm for investments, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

**Fiscal Agent/Paying Agent.** A bank or trust company that acts, under a trust agreement with a corporation or municipality, in the capacity of general treasurer. The agent performs such duties as making coupon payments, paying rents, redeeming bonds, and handling taxes relating to the issuance of bonds.

**Fitch Investors Service, Inc.** One of several NRSROs that provide credit ratings on [corporate and](#) municipal debt issues.

**Floating Rate Security (FRN or “floater”).** A bond with an interest rate that is adjusted according to changes in an interest rate or index. Differs from variable-rate debt in that the changes to the rate take place immediately when the index changes, rather than on a predetermined schedule. See also “Variable Rate Security.”

**Freddie Mac.** See "Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation."



**Ginnie Mae.** See "Government National Mortgage Association."

**Global Notes:** Notes designed to qualify for immediate trading in both the domestic U.S. capital market and in foreign markets around the globe. Usually large issues that are sold to investors worldwide and therefore have excellent liquidity. Despite their global sales, global notes sold in the U.S. are typically denominated in U.S. dollars.

**Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA or "Ginnie Mae").** One of the large Federal Agencies. Government-owned Federal Agency that acquires, packages, and resells mortgages and mortgage purchase commitments in the form of mortgage-backed securities. Largest issuer of mortgage pass-through securities. GNMA debt is guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government (one of the few agencies that are actually full faith and credit of the U.S. government).

**Government Securities.** An obligation of the U.S. government, backed by the full faith and credit of the government. These securities are regarded as the highest quality of investment securities available in the U.S. securities market. See "Treasury Bills, Notes, Bonds, and SLGS."

**Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE).** Privately owned entity subject to federal regulation and supervision, created by the U.S. Congress to reduce the cost of capital for certain borrowing sectors of the economy such as students, farmers, and homeowners. GSEs carry the implicit backing of the U.S. government, but they are not direct obligations of the U.S. government. For this reason, these securities will offer a yield premium over U.S. Treasuries. Examples of GSEs include: FHLB, FHLMC, FNMA, and SLMA.

**Government Sponsored Enterprise Security.** A security issued by a Government Sponsored Enterprise. Considered Federal Agency Securities.

**Index.** A compilation of statistical data that tracks changes in the economy or in financial markets.

**Interest-Only (IO) STRIP.** A security based solely on the interest payments from the bond. After the principal has been repaid, interest payments stop and the value of the security falls to nothing. Therefore, IOs are considered risky investments. Usually associated with mortgage-backed securities.

**Internal Controls.** An internal control structure ensures that the assets of the entity are protected from loss, theft, or misuse. The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that 1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and 2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management. Internal controls should address the following points:

1. **Control of collusion** - Collusion is a situation where two or more employees are working in conjunction to defraud their employer.
2. **Separation of transaction authority from accounting and record keeping** - A separation of duties is achieved by separating the person who authorizes or performs the transaction from the people who record or otherwise account for the transaction.
3. **Custodial safekeeping** - Securities purchased from any bank or dealer including appropriate collateral (as defined by state law) shall be placed with an independent third party for custodial safekeeping.

4. **Avoidance of physical delivery securities** - Book-entry securities are much easier to transfer and account for since actual delivery of a document never takes place. Delivered securities must be properly safeguarded against loss or destruction. The potential for fraud and loss increases with physically delivered securities.
5. **Clear delegation of authority to subordinate staff members** - Subordinate staff members must have a clear understanding of their authority and responsibilities to avoid improper actions. Clear delegation of authority also preserves the internal control structure that is contingent on the various staff positions and their respective responsibilities.
6. **Written confirmation of transactions for investments and wire transfers** - Due to the potential for error and improprieties arising from telephone and electronic transactions, all transactions should be supported by written communications and approved by the appropriate person. Written communications may be via fax if on letterhead and if the safekeeping institution has a list of authorized signatures.
7. **Development of a wire transfer agreement with the lead bank and third-party custodian** - The designated official should ensure that an agreement will be entered into and will address the following points: controls, security provisions, and responsibilities of each party making and receiving wire transfers.

**Inverse Floater.** A floating rate security structured in such a way that it reacts inversely to the direction of interest rates. Considered risky as their value moves in the opposite direction of normal fixed-income investments and whose interest rate can fall to zero.

**Investment Advisor.** A company that provides professional advice managing portfolios, investment recommendations, and/or research in exchange for a management fee.

**Investment Adviser Act of 1940.** Federal legislation that sets the standards by which investment companies, such as mutual funds, are regulated in the areas of advertising, promotion, performance reporting requirements, and securities valuations.

**Investment Grade.** Bonds considered suitable for preservation of invested capital, including bonds rated a minimum of Baa3 by Moody's, BBB- by Standard & Poor's, or BBB- by Fitch. Although "BBB" rated bonds are considered investment grade, most public agencies cannot invest in securities rated below "A."

**Liquidity.** Relative ease of converting an asset into cash without significant loss of value. Also, a relative measure of cash and near-cash items in a portfolio of assets. Additionally, it is a term describing the marketability of a money market security correlating to the narrowness of the spread between the bid and ask prices.

**Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP).** An investment by local governments in which their money is pooled as a method for managing local funds, (e.g., Florida State Board of Administration's Florida Prime Fund).

**Long-Term Core Investment Program.** Funds that are not needed within a one-year period.

**Market Value.** The fair market value of a security or commodity. The price at which a willing buyer and seller would pay for a security.

**Mark-to-market.** Adjusting the value of an asset to its market value, reflecting in the process unrealized gains or losses.

**Master Repurchase Agreement.** A widely accepted standard agreement form published by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) that is used to govern and document Repurchase Agreements and protect the interest of parties in a repo transaction.

**Maturity Date.** Date on which principal payment of a financial obligation is to be paid.

~~**Medium Term Notes (MTN's).** Used frequently to refer to corporate notes of medium maturity (5 years and under). Technically, any debt security issued by a corporate or depository institution with a maturity from 1 to 10 years and issued under an MTN shelf registration. Usually issued in smaller issues with varying coupons and maturities, and underwritten by a variety of broker/dealers (as opposed to large corporate deals issued and underwritten all at once in large size and with a fixed coupon and maturity).~~

**Money Market.** The market in which short-term debt instruments (bills, commercial paper, bankers' acceptance, etc.) are issued and traded.

**Money Market Mutual Fund (MMF).** A type of mutual fund that invests solely in money market instruments, such as: U.S. Treasury bills, commercial paper, bankers' acceptances, and repurchase agreements. Money market mutual funds are registered with the SEC under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and are subject to "rule 2a-7" which significantly limits average maturity and credit quality of holdings. MMF's are managed to maintain a stable net asset value (NAV) of \$1.00. Many MMFs carry ratings by a NRSRO.

**Moody's Investors Service.** One of several NRSROs that provide credit ratings on ~~corporate and~~ municipal debt issues.

**Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS).** Mortgage-backed securities represent an ownership interest in a pool of mortgage loans made by financial institutions, such as savings and loans, commercial banks, or mortgage companies, to finance the borrower's purchase of a home or other real estate. The majority of MBS are issued and/or guaranteed by GNMA, FNMA, and FHLMC. There are a variety of MBS structures with varying levels of risk and complexity. All MBS have reinvestment risk as actual principal and interest payments are dependent on the payment of the underlying mortgages which can be prepaid by mortgage holders to refinance and lower rates or simply because the underlying property was sold.

**Mortgage Pass-Through Securities.** A pool of residential mortgage loans with the monthly interest and principal distributed to investors on a pro-rata basis. The largest issuer is GNMA.

**Municipal Note/Bond.** A debt instrument issued by a state or local government unit or public agency. The vast majority of municipals are exempt from state and federal income tax, although some non-qualified issues are taxable.

**Mutual Fund.** Portfolio of securities professionally managed by a registered investment company that issues shares to investors. Many different types of mutual funds exist (e.g., bond, equity, and money market funds); all except money market funds operate on a variable net asset value (NAV).

**Negotiable Certificate of Deposit (Negotiable CD).** Large denomination CDs (\$100,000 and larger) that are issued in bearer form and can be traded in the secondary market.

**Net Asset Value.** The market value of one share of an investment company, such as a mutual

fund. This figure is calculated by totaling a fund's assets including securities, cash, and any accrued earnings, then subtracting the total assets from the fund's liabilities, and dividing this total by the number of shares outstanding. This is calculated once a day based on the closing price for each security in the fund's portfolio. (See below.)

$$[(\text{Total assets}) - (\text{Liabilities})]/(\text{Number of shares outstanding})$$

**NRSRO.** A “Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization” (NRSRO) is a designated rating organization that the SEC has deemed a strong national presence in the U.S. NRSROs provide credit ratings on ~~corporate and~~ bank debt issues. Only ratings of a NRSRO may be used for the regulatory purposes of rating. Includes Moody’s, S&P, Fitch, and Duff & Phelps.

**Offered Price.** See also "Ask Price."

**Open Market Operations.** A Federal Reserve monetary policy tactic entailing the purchase or sale of government securities in the open market by the Federal Reserve System from and to primary dealers in order to influence the money supply, credit conditions, and interest rates.

**Par Value.** The face value, stated value, or maturity value of a security.

**Physical Delivery.** Delivery of readily available underlying assets at contract maturity.

**Portfolio.** Collection of securities and investments held by an investor.

**Premium.** The amount by which a bond or other financial instrument sells above its face value. See also "Discount."

**Primary Dealer.** A designation given to certain government securities dealer by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Primary dealers can buy and sell government securities directly with the Fed. Primary dealers also submit daily reports of market activity and security positions held to the Fed and are subject to its informal oversight. Primary dealers are the largest buyers and sellers by volume in the U.S. Treasury securities market.

**Prime Paper.** Commercial paper of high quality. Highest rated paper is A-1+/A-1 by S&P and P-1 by Moody’s.

**Principal.** Face value of a financial instrument on which interest accrues. May be less than par value if some principal has been repaid or retired. For a transaction, principal is par value times price and includes any premium or discount.

**Prudent Expert Rule.** Standard that requires that a fiduciary manage a portfolio with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence, under the circumstances then prevailing, that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims. This statement differs from the “prudent person” rule in that familiarity with such matters suggests a higher standard than simple prudence.

**Prudent Investor Standard.** Standard that requires that when investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling, or managing public funds, a trustee shall act with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, including, but not limited to, the general economic conditions and the anticipated needs of the agency, that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiarity with those matters would use in the conduct of funds of a like character and with like aims, to safeguard the principal and maintain the liquidity needs of the agency. More stringent than the “prudent person” standard as it implies a level of knowledge

commensurate with the responsibility at hand.

**Qualified Public Depository** - Per Subsection 280.02(26), F.S., “qualified public depository” means any bank, savings bank, or savings association that:

1. Is organized and exists under the laws of the United States, the laws of this state or any other state or territory of the United States.
2. Has its principal place of business in this state or has a branch office in this state which is authorized under the laws of this state or of the United States to receive deposits in this state.
3. Has deposit insurance under the provision of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended, 12 U.S.C. ss.1811 et seq.
4. Has procedures and practices for accurate identification, classification, reporting, and collateralization of public deposits.
5. Meets all requirements of Chapter 280, F.S.
6. Has been designated by the Chief Financial Officer as a qualified public depository.

**Range Note.** A type of structured note that accrues interest daily at a set coupon rate that is tied to an index. Most range notes have two coupon levels; a higher accrual rate for the period the index is within a designated range, the lower accrual rate for the period that the index falls outside the designated range. This lower rate may be zero and may result in zero earnings.

**Rate of Return.** Amount of income received from an investment, expressed as a percentage of the amount invested.

**Realized Gains (Losses).** The difference between the sale price of an investment and its book value. Gains/losses are “realized” when the security is actually sold, as compared to “unrealized” gains/losses which are based on current market value. See “Unrealized Gains (Losses).”

**Reference Bills:** FHLMC’s short-term debt program created to supplement its existing discount note program by offering issues from one month through one year, auctioned on a weekly or on an alternating four-week basis (depending upon maturity) offered in sizeable volumes (\$1 billion and up) on a cycle of regular, standardized issuance. Globally sponsored and distributed, Reference Bill issues are intended to encourage active trading and market-making and facilitate the development of a term repo market. The program was designed to offer predictable supply, pricing transparency, and liquidity, thereby providing alternatives to U.S. Treasury bills. FHLMC’s Reference Bills are unsecured general corporate obligations. This program supplements the corporation’s existing discount note program. Issues under the Reference program constitute the same credit standing as other FHLMC discount notes; they simply add organization and liquidity to the short-term Agency discount note market.

**Reference Notes:** FHLMC’s intermediate-term debt program with issuances of 2, 3, 5, 10, and 30-year maturities. Initial issuances range from \$2 - \$6 billion with re-openings ranging \$1 - \$4 billion.

The notes are high-quality bullet structures securities that pay interest semiannually. Issues under the Reference program constitute the same credit standing as other FHLMC notes; they simply add organization and liquidity to the intermediate- and long-term Agency market.

**Repurchase Agreement (Repo).** A short-term investment vehicle where an investor agrees to buy securities from a counterparty and simultaneously agrees to resell the securities back to the counterparty at an agreed upon time and for an agreed upon price. The difference between the purchase price and the sale price represents interest earned on the agreement. In effect, it represents a collateralized loan to the investor, where the securities are the collateral. Can be DVP, where securities are delivered to the investor's custodial bank, or "tri-party" where the securities are delivered to a third party intermediary. Any type of security can be used as "collateral," but only some types provide the investor with special bankruptcy protection under the law. Repos should be undertaken only when an appropriate Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) approved master repurchase agreement is in place.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreement (Reverse Repo).** A repo from the point of view of the original seller of securities. Used by dealers to finance their inventory of securities by essentially borrowing at short-term rates. Can also be used to leverage a portfolio and in this sense, can be considered risky if used improperly.

**Safekeeping.** Service offered for a fee, usually by financial institutions, for the holding of securities and other valuables. Safekeeping is a component of custody services.

**Secondary Market.** Markets for the purchase and sale of any previously issued financial instrument.

**Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA).** The bond market trade association representing the largest securities markets in the world. In addition to publishing a Master Repurchase Agreement, widely accepted as the industry standard document for Repurchase Agreements, the SIFMA also recommends bond market closures and early closes due to holidays.

**Securities Lending.** An arrangement between an investor and a custody bank that allows the custody bank to "loan" the investor's investment holdings, reinvest the proceeds in permitted investments, and shares any profits with the investor. Should be governed by a securities lending agreement. Can increase the risk of a portfolio in that the investor takes on the default risk on the reinvestment at the discretion of the custodian.

**Sinking Fund.** A separate accumulation of cash or investments (including earnings on investments) in a fund in accordance with the terms of a trust agreement or indenture, funded by periodic deposits by the issuer (or other entity responsible for debt service), for the purpose of assuring timely availability of moneys for payment of debt service. Usually used in connection with term bonds.

**Spread.** The difference between the price of a security and similar maturity U.S. Treasury investments, expressed in percentage terms or basis points. A spread can also be the absolute difference in yield between two securities. The securities can be in different markets or within the same securities market between different credits, sectors, or other relevant factors.

**Standard & Poor's.** One of several NRSROs that provide credit ratings on ~~corporate and~~ municipal debt issues.

**STRIPS (Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities).** Acronym applied to U.S. Treasury securities that have had their coupons and principal repayments separated

into individual zero-coupon Treasury securities. The same technique and "strips" description can be applied to non-Treasury securities (e.g., FNMA strips).

**Structured Notes.** Notes that have imbedded into their structure options such as step-up coupons or derivative-based returns.

**Supranational.** Supranational organizations are international financial institutions that are generally established by agreements among nations, with member nations contributing capital and participating in management. These agreements provide for limited immunity from the laws of member countries. Bonds issued by these institutions are part of the broader class of Supranational, Sovereign, and Non-U.S. Agency (SSA) sector bonds. Supranational bonds finance economic and infrastructure development and support environmental protection, poverty reduction, and renewable energy around the globe. For example, the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), and African Development Bank (AfDB) have "green bond" programs specifically designed for energy resource conservation and management. Supranational bonds, which are issued by multi-national organizations that transcend national boundaries. Examples include the World Bank, African Development Bank, and European Investment Bank.

**Swap.** Trading one asset for another.

**TAP Notes:** Federal Agency notes issued under the FHLB TAP program. Launched in 6/99 as a refinement to the FHLB bullet bond auction process. In a break from the FHLB's traditional practice of bringing numerous small issues to market with similar maturities, the TAP Issue Program uses the four most common maturities and reopens them up regularly through a competitive auction. These maturities (2, 3, 5, and 10 year) will remain open for the calendar quarter, after which they will be closed and a new series of TAP issues will be opened to replace them. This reduces the number of separate bullet bonds issued, but generates enhanced awareness and liquidity in the marketplace through increased issue size and secondary market volume.

**Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).** One of the large Federal Agencies. A wholly owned corporation of the United States government that was established in 1933 to develop the resources of the Tennessee Valley region in order to strengthen the regional and national economy and the national defense. Power operations are separated from non-power operations. TVA securities represent obligations of TVA, payable solely from TVA's net power proceeds, and are neither obligations of nor guaranteed by the United States. TVA is currently authorized to issue debt up to \$30 billion. Under this authorization, TVA may also obtain advances from the U.S. Treasury of up to \$150 million. Frequent issuer of discount notes, agency notes, and callable agency securities.

**Total Return.** Investment performance measured over a period of time that includes coupon interest, interest on interest, and both realized and unrealized gains or losses. Total return includes, therefore, any market value appreciation/depreciation on investments held at period end.

**Treasuries.** Collective term used to describe debt instruments backed by the U.S. government and issued through the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Includes Treasury bills, Treasury notes, and Treasury bonds. Also a benchmark term used as a basis by which the yields of non-Treasury securities are compared (e.g., "trading at 50 basis points over Treasuries").

**Treasury Bills (T-Bills).** Short-term direct obligations of the United States government issued with an original term of one year or less. Treasury bills are sold at a discount from face value and do not pay interest before maturity. The difference between the purchase price of the bill and the maturity value is the interest earned on the bill. Currently, the U.S. Treasury issues 4-week, 13-week, and 26-week T-Bills.

**Treasury Bonds.** Long-term interest-bearing debt securities backed by the U.S. government and issued with maturities of ten years and longer by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

**Treasury Notes.** Intermediate interest-bearing debt securities backed by the U.S. government and issued with maturities ranging from one to ten years by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The Treasury currently issues 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, and 10-year Treasury Notes.

**Trustee.** A bank designated by an issuer of securities as the custodian of funds and official representative of bondholders. Trustees are appointed to insure compliance with the bond documents and to represent bondholders in enforcing their contract with the issuer.

**Uniform Net Capital Rule.** SEC Rule 15c3-1 that outlines the minimum net capital ratio (ratio of indebtedness to net liquid capital) of member firms and non-member broker/dealers.

**Unrealized Gains (Losses).** The difference between the market value of an investment and its book value. Gains/losses are “realized” when the security is actually sold, as compared to “unrealized” gains/losses which are based on current market value. See also “Realized Gains (Losses).”

**Variable-Rate Security.** A bond that bears interest at a rate that varies over time based on a specified schedule of adjustment (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly, semi-annually, or annually). See also “Floating Rate Note.”

**Weighted Average Maturity (or just “Average Maturity”).** The average maturity of all securities and investments of a portfolio, determined by multiplying the par or principal value of each security or investment by its maturity (days or years), summing the products, and dividing the sum by the total principal value of the portfolio. A simple measure of risk of a fixed-income portfolio.

**Weighted Average Maturity to Call.** The average maturity of all securities and investments of a portfolio, adjusted to substitute the first call date per security for maturity date for those securities with call provisions.

**Yield Curve.** A graphic depiction of yields on like securities in relation to remaining maturities spread over a time line. The traditional yield curve depicts yields on U.S. Treasuries, although yield curves exist for Federal Agencies ~~and various credit quality corporates as well~~. Yield curves can be positively sloped (normal) where longer-term investments have higher yields, or “inverted” (uncommon) where longer-term investments have lower yields than shorter ones.

**Yield to Call (YTC).** Same as “Yield to Maturity,” except the return is measured to the first call date rather than the maturity date. Yield to call can be significantly higher or lower than a security’s yield to maturity.

**Yield to Maturity (YTM).** Calculated return on an investment, assuming all cash-flows from the security are reinvested at the same original yield. Can be higher or lower than the coupon rate depending on market rates and whether the security was purchased at a premium or discount. There are different conventions for calculating YTM for various types of securities.

**Yield.** There are numerous methods of yield determination. In this glossary, see also "Current Yield," "Yield Curve," "Yield to Call," and "Yield to Maturity."



**Attachment B**  
**Investment Pool/Fund Questionnaire**

1. A description of eligible investment securities, and a written statement of investment policy and objectives.
2. Do all underlying securities meet the District's-County's investment requirements in terms of rating, term and type?
3. Describe how ongoing monitoring regarding ratings of underlying securities is performed and how that information is reported to investors.
4. Does the pool have a stable net asset value or floating net asset value?
5. What are the liquidity gates?
6. A description of interest calculations and how it is distributed, and how gains and losses are treated.
7. A description of how the securities are safeguarded (including the settlement processes), and how often the securities are priced and the program audited.
8. A description of who may invest in the program, how often, what size deposit and withdrawal are allowed.
9. A schedule for receiving statements and portfolio listings.
10. Are reserves, retained earnings, etc. utilized by the pool/fund?
11. A fee schedule, and when and how is it assessed.
12. Is the pool/fund eligible for bond proceeds and/or will it accept such proceeds?