# TAX-EXEMPT SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY REVIEW AND OUTLOOK



Fourth Quarter 2023

The municipal bond market roared back to life in the fourth quarter as bond yields fell by more than 100 basis points (bp) across the yield curve. The Brown Advisory Tax-Exempt Sustainable strategy modestly outperformed its benchmark during a record quarter for the market, returning 5.61% compared to 5.46% for the index. The strategy finished 2023 with a calendar year total return of 5.14%, net of fees. Year-to-date relative returns were bolstered by a combination of active curve positioning, individual bond selection, and solid downside protection. The portfolio ultimately benefited from a consistent, long-term approach during a period of extraordinary market volatility.

The fourth quarter represented a dramatic turnaround in market performance as intermediate maturity bond yields staged a sharp reversal after touching multi-decade highs in late-October. The whipsaw in rates was largely driven by a period of policy uncertainty as many market participants viewed the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) as quickly pivoting from a tightening bias to an easing bias over the course of their last three meetings of the year. Heading into 2024, it now appears to us that the Fed has likely reached the terminal level of this rate cycle with the Fed Funds Rate of 5.50% (upper bound) after the last 25 basis point hike in July.

Longer-term interest rates, however, remained volatile throughout the second half of the year as the market attempted to digest both hawkish and then dovish messages from various FOMC speakers. Ultimately, intermediate-and-longer-term interest rates rallied dramatically throughout the last two months of the year as the market celebrated the potential end of the hiking cycle and better (relative) clarity around the path of monetary policy. While the timing of future monetary policy remains fluid, most strategists envision a mild (or orderly) slowing of the US Economy in 2024, with modest rate cuts beginning around mid-year in an effort by the Fed to avoid a recession as inflation approaches their 2% target level.

Municipal bond yields largely followed the directional moves of the Treasury rate markets during the quarter. As such, duration had the

NAME	3-MONTH RETURN (%)	YTD RETURN (%)	1-YEAR RETURN (%)	3-YEAR* RETURN (%)	5-YEAR* RETURN (%)	ITD RETURN (09/30/2014)
Tax Exempt Sustainable Composite (Gross of fees)	5.69	5.49	5.49	-0.14	1.91	1.89
Tax Exempt Sustainable Composite (Net of fees)	5.61	5.14	5.14	-0.47	1.58	1.56
Bloomberg 1-10 Year Blend Municipal Bond Index	5.46	4.61	4.61	0.03	1.96	1.92

<sup>\*</sup>Annualized Returns

largest impact on absolute returns for the period. Muni credit performance was a net positive for the quarter and the year, but credit spread performance tended to be more idiosyncratic than pervasive. Muni supply was tepid at best in 2023. Total issuance finished the year at \$380 billion, about 9% below the 10-year average and well below the boom years of 2020 and 2021, when interest rates were at record lows. The decline in issuance was largely attributed to a combination of economic uncertainty and interest rate volatility throughout the year. Thankfully, many municipalities termed out their debt when rates were low and weren't required to issue bonds into a choppy market. Nonetheless, the lower level of issuance did create a bit of scarcity when investor sentiment shifted into bullish territory late in the year as investors clamored to load up on bonds with elevated book yields.

The speed of this yield move has been a stark reminder of the merits of a long-term investment approach. It also provided validation of the need to maintain balance within portfolios, with specific allocations that are designed to play defense and others designed to play offense. From a yield curve perspective, our most active positioning has been an intentional underweight to bonds around the 5-year duration range. Given the unconventional "U-shape" of the municipal yield curve, this short-intermediate duration range has both the lowest absolute yields, as well as the least favorable relative value across the curve. We instead favor a relative barbell approach with overweight positions in ultra-short duration bonds (designed to play defense), and 10-year and longer bonds (designed to play offense). This positioning has allowed us to overweight the higher

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Source: FactSet and Bloomberg. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Returns shown are through 12/31/23 for each period. The composite performance shown above reflects the Brown Advisory Tax-Exempt Sustainable Fixed Income Composite, managed by Brown Advisory Institutional. Brown Advisory Institutional is a GIPS compliant firm and is a division of Brown Advisory LLC. Returns greater than one year are annualized. Portfolio level information is based on a representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable Fixed Income account and provided as Supplemental Information. The information provided is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions.

# TAX-EXEMPT SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY REVIEW AND OUTLOOK



**Fourth Quarter 2023** 

yielding front-end and slightly longer portions of the municipal yield curve, while maintaining overall duration in a range where we feel comfortable. Longer duration bonds were the worst performing part of the market in 3Q as yields spiked, but we maintained conviction and leaned-into those better valuations to add exposure on the margins. This patience was rewarded in 4Q as longer-duration bonds led performance by a wide margin. Maintaining balance within our positioning allows us to focus on bottom-up security selection in an effort to build a sustainable long-term income advantage

Within credit, we have been very focused on late-cycle dynamics, taking advantage of relatively tight credit spreads and reducing credit risk in spread sectors that could underperform if/when economic growth deteriorates. The typical forms of revenue (sales, income, and property taxes) for government issuers have been robust, including providing some cushion for inflation concerns, and there has been an incredible amount of federal fiscal stimulus to municipal borrowers.

However, we are cognizant of the fact that further credit improvement will be difficult in any potential slowdown given a backdrop of lower economic activity, wage pressures abating, and stressed property valuations, all with a limited appetite for any further stimulus as a backstop. Therefore, we are being more selective at this point in the cycle, preferring issuers that have a more robust financial footing. Additionally, we have been adding exposure to the municipal housing sector, mostly focused on federal government guaranteed programs as we see value in the extremely high quality of the backing.

We are also looking at some secular trends in fundamental credit and adjusting accordingly. While many issuers are navigating the current complexities well, we have been actively reducing exposure to the not-for-profit hospital and senior living sectors, and some smaller higher education issuers. Beyond short term stress, we expect medium and long-term expenses, inflation (and in the case of higher education even some demographic) pressures to continue to be a headwind for broad credit improvement.

Staying true to our long-term, bottom-up approach to sector and credit selection, we are very focused on which sectors may be the most affected by this unique period of elevated inflationary pressure and late-cycle credit dynamics, and how individual issuers are likely to manage the current

dynamics, and how individual issuers are likely to manage the current environment. We are working to actively stay in front of these risks, while also maintaining a high level of portfolio liquidity, and we have been particularly proactive about pairing our credit thoughts with our positioning thoughts. Fortunately, we have had success finding ideas which both align with the sectors and issuers we like as well as have desirable interest rate risk characteristics.

With the backdrop of the speed and magnitude of the tightening cycle along with the recent move in yields, we would expect unforeseen risks to continue to surprise the market in the short term. As we progress deeper into this economic cycle, macroeconomic uncertainty will likely continue to remain at the front of investors' minds, which may keep market volatility at elevated levels broadly across assets. Yet, we believe the worst of the persistent negative sentiment within the municipal asset class is behind us, and now munis appear poised to serve more of their traditional roles such as providing diversification, capital preservation, and tax-efficient income.

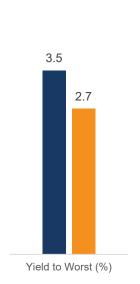
Source: FactSet and Bloomberg. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Returns shown are through 12/31/23 for each period. The composite performance shown above reflects the Brown Advisory Tax-Exempt Sustainable Fixed Income Composite, managed by Brown Advisory Institutional. Brown Advisory Institutional is a GIPS compliant firm and is a division of Brown Advisory LLC. Returns greater than one year are annualized. Portfolio level information is based on a representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable Fixed Income account and provided as Supplemental Information. The information provided is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions.

## **PORTFOLIO ATTRIBUTES**





- Tax-Exempt Sustainable Representative Account
- Bloomberg 1-10 Year Blend Municipal Bond Index











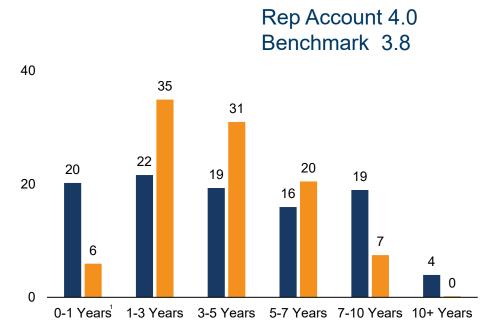
## **DURATION AND QUALITY DISTRIBUTIONS**

Fourth Quarter 2023



### **Duration Distribution**

Percentage Weight



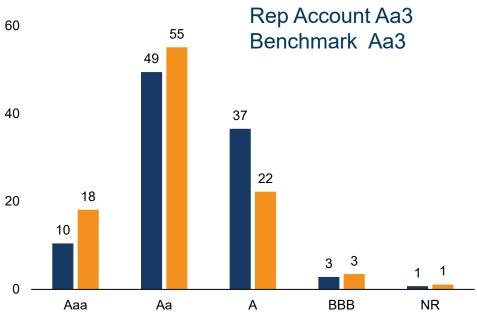
Tax-Exempt Sustainable Rep. AccountBloomberg 1-10 Year Blend Municipal Bond Index

Source: FactSet, Bloomberg.

- Floating-rate securities and short-callable, high-coupon "kicker" bonds make up the majority of our ultrashort duration.
- We are underweight 1-5 year bonds because we believe that part of the yield curve is overvalued.
- We are overweight higher quality 5-10 year bonds which we view as having an attractive relative valuation.

## **Quality Distribution**

Percentage Weight



■ Tax-Exempt Sustainable Rep. Account ■ Bloomberg 1-10 Year Blend Municipal Bond Index

Source: FactSet; Bloomberg.

- We focus on bottom-up credit and sector selection to drive investment performance, rather than hugging a benchmark.
- Our focus on revenue-backed issues, from sectors like health care and utilities, tends to create a more balanced ratings distribution than the benchmark. We view our credit expertise as a strong differentiating factor.

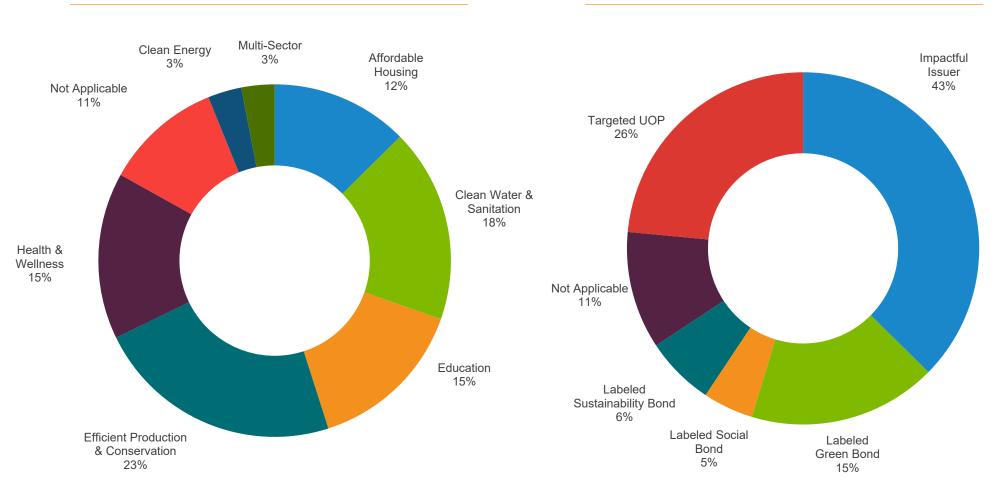
Source: FactSet and Bloomberg. Portfolio information is based on a representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable account, which includes cash and equivalents, as of December 31, 2023 and is provided as Supplemental Information. <sup>1</sup>0-1 Years includes cash and cash equivalents. Numbers may not total due to rounding. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions.

### TAX-EXEMPT SUSTAINABLE FIXED INCOME

Impact Distribution as of 12/31/2023







Source: FactSet. Impact breakdowns are based on a representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable Fixed Income account, include cash and equivalents and are provided as Supplemental Information. \*NA refers to cash and equivalents, treasuries, and sustainability-related neutral securities. Numbers may not total due to rounding. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. To the extent specific securities are mentioned, they have been selected by the author on an objective basis to illustrate views expressed in the commentary and do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions.

### **AVERAGE WEIGHT DETAIL BY SECTOR**

Fourth Quarter 2023



SECTOR	TAX-EXEMPT SUSTAINABLE REP ACCOUNT	BLOOMBERG 1-10 YEAR BLEND MUNICIPAL BOND INDEX	CONTRII	BUTION TO RETURN	(GROSS)	CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (NET)		
SECTOR	AVERAGE WEIGHT (%)	AVERAGE WEIGHT (%)	BROWN ADVISORY (%)	BENCHMARK (%)	DIFFERENCE (%)	BROWN ADVISORY (%)	BENCHMARK (%)	DIFFERENCE (%)
Hospital/CCRC	14.0	5.8	0.63	0.29	0.34	0.62	0.29	0.33
Ports/Airports	13.4	5.8	0.72	0.36	0.36	0.71	0.36	0.35
Lease/Housing	12.5	4.0	0.70	0.22	0.47	0.69	0.22	0.46
General Obligation	11.7	31.3	0.82	1.72	-0.90	0.81	1.72	-0.91
Education	11.7	5.1	0.68	0.29	0.39	0.67	0.29	0.38
Tax Revenue	9.5	10.7	0.67	0.65	0.02	0.66	0.65	0.02
Utilities	9.3	16.2	0.39	0.87	-0.49	0.38	0.87	-0.49
Other Transportation	5.3	8.8	0.29	0.51	-0.22	0.29	0.51	-0.22
Miscellaneous Revenue	5.2	6.2	0.35	0.36	-0.01	0.35	0.36	-0.02
Cash	4.9		0.07		0.07	0.06	0.00	0.06
Pre-Refunded	2.5	6.1	0.03	0.17	-0.13	0.03	0.17	-0.13
Total	100	100	5.35	5.44	-0.09	5.27	5.44	-0.17

Source: FactSet and Brown Advisory calculations. Portfolio information is based on a representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable account and is provided as Supplemental Information. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. Net of fees returns are calculated by adjusting gross of fees returns by the highest fee for the institutional strategy as outlined in Part 2A of the firm's Form ADV, applied on a monthly basis and allocated pro rata based on position weight. Actual fees may be lower based on assets under management and other factors. Net of fees returns for actual accounts may therefore differ from the returns shown above. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

# AVERAGE WEIGHT BY DURATION AND CREDIT QUALITY



Fourth Quarter 2023

DURATION	TAX-EXEMPT NATIONAL MUNICIPAL BOND REP ACCOUNT	BLOOMBERG 1-10YR MUNI BLEND	CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (GROSS) CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN			N (NET)		
DURATION RANGE	AVERAGE WEIGHT (%)	AVERAGE WEIGHT (%)	BROWN ADVISORY (%)	BENCHMARK (%)	DIFFERENCE (%)	BROWN ADVISORY (%)	BENCHMARK (%)	DIFFERENCE (%)
0 – 1	20.2	5.9	0.26	0.07	0.19	0.24	0.07	0.17
1 – 3	21.6	34.9	0.67	1.05	-0.39	0.65	1.05	-0.40
3 – 5	19.3	31.0	0.94	1.72	-0.78	0.92	1.72	-0.80
5 – 7	16.0	20.5	1.07	1.73	-0.66	1.05	1.73	-0.68
7 – 10	19.0	7.5	1.81	0.83	0.98	1.79	0.83	0.96
10 +	3.9	0.2	0.61	0.03	0.58	0.61	0.03	0.58
Total	100	100	5.35	5.44	-0.09	5.27	5.44	-0.17

QUALITY	TAX-EXEMPT SUSTAINABLE REP ACCOUNT	BLOOMBERG 1-10YR MUNI BLEND	со	NTRIBUTION TO RETUR	RN (GROSS)	CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (NET)		
CREDIT RATING	AVERAGE WEIGHT (%)	AVERAGE WEIGHT (%)	BROWN ADVISORY (%)	BENCHMARK (%)	DIFFERENCE (%)	BROWN ADVISORY (%)	BENCHMARK (%)	DIFFERENCE (%)
AAA	10.5	18.1	0.48	0.97	-0.49	0.47	0.97	-0.50
AA	49.4	55.1	2.90	3.00	-0.10	2.86	3.00	-0.14
Α	36.5	22.2	1.72	1.24	0.48	1.69	1.24	0.45
BBB	2.8	3.5	0.24	0.20	0.04	0.24	0.20	0.04
NR	0.8	1.1	0.01	0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.03	-0.02
Total	100	100	5.35	5.44	-0.09	5.27	5.44	-0.17

Source: FactSet and Brown Advisory calculations. Portfolio information is based on a representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable account. Net of fees returns are calculated by adjusting gross of fees returns by the highest fee for the institutional strategy as outlined in Part 2A of the firm's Form ADV, applied on a monthly basis and allocated pro rata based on position weight. Actual fees may be lower based on assets under management and other factors. Net of fees returns for actual accounts may therefore differ from the returns shown above. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions.

## QUARTER-TO-DATE TOP FIVE AND BOTTOM FIVE CONTRIBUTORS TO RETURN



Fourth Quarter 2023

#### Representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable Account Top Five Contributors

NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT (%)	CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (NET)
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Sales Tax Revenue	Finances and operates mass transportation services within the Greater Boston Area.	3.39	0.35
Town of Middleton MA	A town located in northeastern Massachusetts.	2.03	0.32
City of Waltham MA	A city located within the Boston MSA.	1.59	0.29
San Francisco City & County Airport Comm-San Francisco International Airport	A large hub international airport operating as the principal commercial service airport for the Bay Area.	2.96	0.28
Children's Hospital Obligated Group	145-bed acute care pediatric hospital in Nebraska	1.86	0.25

#### Representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable Account Bottom Five Contributors

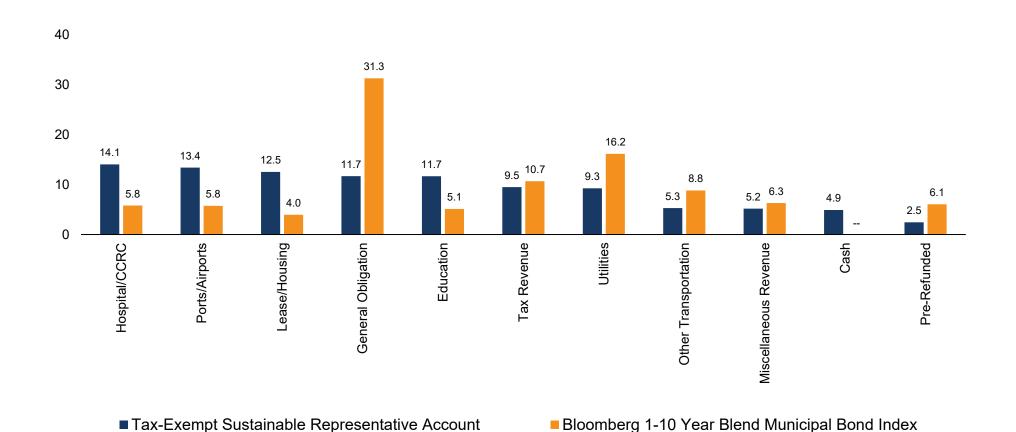
NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT (%)	CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (NET)
City of Somerville MA	A city located three miles northwest of Boston.	0.32	0.00
Town of North Andover MA	A town located in Essex County, approximately 24 miles north of Boston	0.28	0.00
Baystate Medical Obligated Group	A not-for-profit, integrated health care organization located in Springfield, MA.	0.69	0.01
NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist	Operates a 591-bed hospital in Brooklyn, New York	0.75	0.01
Dallas Fort Worth International Airport	Largest carbon neutral airport in North America	1.45	0.02

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#### **SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION**

Fourth Quarter 2023





- We focus on bottom-up credit and sector selection to drive relative performance.
- We find credit fundamentals in revenue-backed bonds to be more transparent and more easily modeled, with the bonds yielding more than most general obligation (GO) issues.

Source: FactSet. Portfolio information is based on a representative Tax-Exempt Sustainable account and is provided as Supplemental Information. Sector diversification includes cash and cash equivalents. Sectors are based on the Bloomberg sector classifications. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions.



## **SAMPLE HOLDINGS**

Tax-Exempt Sustainable

## THE MORTON ARBORETUM (GREEN BOND)



### Portfolio Holding: The Morton Arboretum - DuPage County, IL



#### **Fundamental Drivers**

- Unsecured, general obligation of the arboretum.
- Strong reputation as a leader in tree science and education, consistently attracting more than 1 million visitors annually.
- Strong liquidity with over 5 years of days cash on hand as of FY22.

#### **Sustainable Drivers**

- Science and conservation efforts at the Arboretum strive to preserve native plant species, manage invasive species, and improve tree care and preservation within urban forests.
- Green Bond Proceeds: Supports 1,700 acres dedicated to scientific research, education, and preservation of trees, shrubs and other plants.

The Morton Arboretum is a current holding in the Tax-Exempt Sustainable Fixed Income portfolio as of 12/31/2023 and was selected because the investment team believes it demonstrates the strategy's stated investment philosophy regarding attractive business fundamentals, compelling valuation, and strong or improving Sustainable Drivers. It does not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. Please see slide 1 for composite performance as of 12/31/2023.

Source: Morton Arboretum; data as of 12/31/23. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. To the extent specific securities are mentioned, they have been selected by the author on an objective basis to illustrate views expressed in the commentary and do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions.

#### **CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE AUTHORITY**



Portfolio Holding: California Earthquake Authority (CEA)

California Earthquake Authority (CEA) offers residential earthquake insurance.





#### **Fundamental Drivers**

- Bond proceeds increase CEA's capacity to pay claims by \$500 million.
- The State of California, California insurance companies, and California policyholders all have a vested interest in CEA's success.
- CEA's investment portfolio is high quality, consisting of cash and cash equivalents, treasuries, corporate securities, and commercial paper.

#### **Sustainable Drivers**

- The California Earthquake Authority (CEA) has offered basic residential earthquake insurance policies in California since 1996, and is the largest underwriter of this type in California with two-thirds of policies in the state as of year-end 2022 issued by the CEA.
- The CEA's provision of insurance enables communities to continue to thrive in California where they otherwise may not be able to. To further support this initiative, the CEA also supports retrofitting programs for single and multi-family homes to reduce the environmental impact of a damaging earthquake.

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Source: California Earthquake Authority; data as of 12/31/23. The information provided is based on a representative Tax Exempt Sustainable Fixed Income account and provided as Supplemental Information. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. To the extent specific securities are mentioned, they have been selected by the author on an objective basis to illustrate views expressed in the commentary and do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. Please see the end of this presentation for a GIPS Report, important disclosures and a complete list of terms and definitions.

#### **DISCLOSURES**



The views expressed are those of the author and Brown Advisory as of the date referenced and are subject to change at any time based on market or other conditions. These views are not intended to be and should not be relied upon as investment advice and are not intended to be a forecast of future events or a guarantee of future results. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance and you may not get back the amount of money invested. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. To the extent specific securities are mentioned, they have been selected by the author on an objective basis to illustrate views expressed in the commentary and do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. The information contained herein has been prepared from sources believed reliable but is not guaranteed by us as to its timeliness or accuracy, and is not a complete summary or statement of all available data. This piece is intended solely for our clients and prospective clients, is for informational purposes only, and is not individually tailored for or directed to any particular client or prospective client.

All investments involve risk. The value of the investment and the income from it will vary. There is no guarantee that the initial investment will be returned.

Sustainable investment considerations are one of multiple informational inputs into the investment process, alongside data on traditional financial factors, and so are not the sole driver of decision-making. Sustainable investment analysis may not be performed for every holding in the strategy. Sustainable investment considerations that are material will vary by investment style, sector/industry, market trends and client objectives. The strategy seeks to identify companies that it believes may be desirable based on our analysis of sustainable investment related risks and opportunities, but investors may differ in their views. As a result, the strategy may invest in companies that do not reflect the beliefs and values of any particular investor. The strategy may also invest in companies that would otherwise be excluded from other funds that focus on sustainable investment risks. Security selection will be impacted by the combined focus on sustainable investment research assessments and fundamental research assessments including the return forecasts. The strategy incorporates data from third parties in its research process but does not make investment decisions based on third-party data alone.

All investments involve risk. The value of the investment and the income from it will vary. There is no guarantee that the initial investment will be returned.

An investor cannot invest directly in an index.

The **Bloomberg 1-10 Year Blend Municipal Bond Index** consists of a broad selection of investment-grade general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds (including all insured bonds with a Aaa/AAA rating), and prerefunded bonds with maturities of at least 1 year and less than 10 years. It is an unmanaged index representative of the tax-exempt bond market.

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**Effective Duration** is a time measure of a bond's interest rate sensitivity, based on the weighted average of the time periods over which a bond's cash flows accrue to the bondholder. **Yield to Worst** is calculated by making worst-case scenario assumptions on the issue by calculating the returns that would be received if provisions, including prepayment, call or sinking fund, are used by the issuer. **Yield to Maturity** is the total return of a bond if it is held until maturity. The **Average Weight** of a position or sector refers to the daily average for the period covered in this report of a stock's value as a percentage of the portfolio. **Contribution to return** measures the contribution of certain portfolio constituents (symbols, sectors) to the portfolio's overall return

## **TAX-EXEMPT SUSTAINABLE COMPOSITE**



Year	Composite Total Gross Returns (%)	Composite Total Net Returns (%)	Benchmark Returns (%)	Composite 3-Yr Annualized Standard Deviation (%)	Benchmark 3-Yr Annualized Standard Deviation (%)	Portfolios in Composite at End of Year	Composite Dispersion (%)	Composite Assets (\$USD Millions)*	GIPS Firm Assets (\$USD Millions)*
2022	-7.5	-7.8	-4.8	5.1	4.4	42	0.5	488	58,575
2021	2.0	1.7	0.5	3.4	2.8	56	0.7	494	79,715
2020	3.9	3.5	4.2	3.3	4.1	51	0.6	491	59,683
2019	6.4	5.9	5.6	1.8	1.9	27	0.5	206	42,426
2018	1.6	1.3	1.6	2.4	2.5	48	0.2	114	30,529
2017	3.7	3.3	3.5	2.4	2.5	10	0.4	41	33,155
2016	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	N/A	N/A	Five or fewer	N/A	29	30,417
2015	2.1	1.7	2.5	N/A	N/A	Five or fewer	N/A	7	43,746
2014**	0.8	0.7	0.6	N/A	N/A	Five or fewer	N/A	7	44,772

<sup>\*\*</sup>Return is for period October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Brown Advisory Institutional claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Brown Advisory Institutional has been independently verified for the periods from January 1, 1993 through December 31, 2022. The Verification reports are available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

- 1. \*For the purpose of complying with the GIPS standards, the firm is defined as Brown Advisory Institutional, the Institutional and Balanced Institutional asset management divisions of Brown Advisory. As of July 1, 2016, the firm was redefined to exclude the Brown Advisory Private Client division, due to an evolution of the three distinct business lines.
- 2. The Tax-Exempt Sustainable Composite (the Composite) is comprised of all discretionary accounts with no material investment restrictions, which invest in tax-exempt fixed income securities of an intermediate target duration, and flexibility to invest in bonds from multiple states. At least 80% of the securities in each portfolio in the Composite will have credit quality ratings of A or better at the time of purchase. The minimum account market value required for Composite inclusion is \$2 million, and accounts in the Composite will have an average effective duration between 3.5 and 5.5 years.
- 3. Bonds in Composite accounts are evaluated according to a variety of considerations including sustainability-related risks and opportunities. These inputs are used by the portfolio manager to seek holdings with effective management of sustainability-related risks and or bonds whose uses of proceeds meet the standards of the Green Bond Principles. Sustainability considerations are not used for the purposes of absolute negative screening in Composite accounts.
- 4. Sustainable investment considerations are one of multiple informational inputs into the investment process, alongside data on traditional financial factors, and so are not the sole driver of decision-making. Sustainable investment analysis may not be performed for every holding in the strategy. Sustainable investment considerations that are material will vary by investment style, sector/industry, market trends and client objectives. The Tax-Exempt Sustainable Strategy ("Strategy") seeks to identify issuers that it believes may be desirable based on our analysis of sustainable investment related risks and opportunities, but investors may differ in their views. As a result, the Strategy may invest in issuers that do not reflect the beliefs and values of any particular investor. The Strategy may also invest in issuers that would otherwise be excluded from other strategies that focus on sustainable investment risks. Security selection will be impacted by the combined focus on sustainable investment research assessments including the return forecasts. The Strategy incorporates data from third parties in its research process but does not make investment decisions based on third-party data alone.
- 5. The Composite creation date is May 1, 2016. The Composite inception date is October 1, 2014.
- 6. The current benchmark is the Bloomberg Municipal Bond 1-10 Year Index. The Bloomberg Municipal Bond 1-10 Year Index consists of a broad selection of investment-grade general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds (including all insured bonds with a Aaa/AAA rating), and prerefunded bonds with maturities of at least 1 year and less than 10 years. It is an unmanaged index representative of the tax-exempt bond market. "Bloomberg®" and Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index are service marks of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates, including Bloomberg Index Services Limited ("BISL"), the administrator of the index (collectively, "Bloomberg") and have been licensed for use for certain purposes by Brown Advisory Institutional. Bloomberg is not affiliated with Brown Advisory Institutional, and Bloomberg does not approve, endorse, review, or recommend the Composite. Bloomberg does not guarantee the timeliness, accurateness, or completeness of any data or information relating to the Composite. An investor cannot invest directly into an index. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of the independent verifiers.
- 7. The composite dispersion presented is an equal-weighted standard deviation of portfolio gross returns calculated for the accounts in the Composite for the entire calendar year period. The composite dispersion is not applicable (N/A) for periods where there were five or fewer accounts in the Composite for the entire period.
- 8. Gross-of-fees performance returns are presented before management fees but after all trading commissions, and gross of foreign withholding taxes (if applicable). Net-of-fees performance returns are calculated by adjusting the gross-of-fees performance return by the highest fee for the institutional strategy as outlined in Part 2A of the firm's Form ADV, applied on a monthly basis. Certain accounts in the Composite may pay asset-based custody fees that include commissions. For these accounts, gross returns are also net of custody fees. Other expenses can reduce returns to investors. The standard management fee schedule is as follows: 0.325% on the first \$10 million; 0.30% on the next \$15 million; and 0.25% on the balance over \$25 million. Further information regarding investment advisory fees is described in Part 2A of the firm's Form ADV. Actual fees paid by accounts in the Composite may differ from the current fee schedule.
- 9. Effective July 1, 2023, the firm transitioned from using actual account fees in the calculation of net performance returns to applying the highest fee for the institutional strategy as outlined in Part 2A of the firm's Form ADV. The net performance track record was revised back to Composite inception.
- 10. The investment management fee for the Investor Shares of the Brown Advisory Tax-Exempt Sustainable Bond Fund (the Fund), which is included in the Composite, is 0.30%, and represents the highest fee charged excluding Advisor Shares. The total expense ratio for the Investor Shares of the Fund as of the most recent fiscal year end (June 30, 2022) was 0.49%. Further information regarding investment management fees and expenses is described in the fund prospectus and annual report.
- 11. The three-year annualized ex-post standard deviation measures the variability of the Composite (using gross returns) and the benchmark for the 36-month period ended on December 31. The 3 year annualized standard deviation is not presented as of December 31, 2014, December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2016, because 36 month returns for the Composite were not available (N/A).
- 12. Valuations and performance returns are computed and stated in U.S. Dollars. All returns reflect the reinvestment of income and other earnings.
- 13. Portfolios in the Composite do not make material use of derivative securities.
- Duration is a measure of interest rate risk.
- 15. A complete list of composite descriptions and broad distribution and limited distribution pooled funds is available upon request.
- 16. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request.
- 17. Past performance is not indicative of future results.
- 18. This is not an offer to sell securities. That may only be accomplished by the issuance of a private offering memorandum/subscription documents.
- 19. This piece is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a research report, a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell or hold any of the securities mentioned, including any mutual fund managed by Brown Advisory.