# **Piano Cleveland**

April 17, 2024 Review as of March 31, 2024

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# **Investment Policy Statement**



CLEVELAND INTL PIANO COMPETITION 21-75-073-5983568

This Investment Policy Statement covers the Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC) Endowment Fund (Fund), which comprises the following account(s):



COMPETITION O

**CLEVELAND** 

# I. Purpose

establish a basis upon which to evaluate the attainment of portfolio objectives ranges, (ii) to communicate CIPC's investment goals and guidelines to the Fund's CIPC's understanding of the investment goals and guidelines for the portfolio, including the investment objective, risk tolerance, investment restrictions and asset allocation Investment Adviser (currently PNC Institutional Asset Management, or PNC), and (iii) to The purposes of this Investment Policy Statement (IPS) are (i) to document PNC's and

financial security and long-term success of CIPC. The purposes of the Fund are to perpetuate and support CIPC and to assure the

# II. Investor Profile

# A. Investment Time Horizon:

perpetuity. The period of time during which the assets will be invested is expected to be for

# B. Portfolio Risk Tolerance:

on CIPC's and PNC's understanding, CIPC advises PNC that the portfolio risk tolerance of income, liquidity, return objectives, time horizon and investment experience. Based a number of factors that influence the risk profile for a portfolio, including: sustainability returns. In general, higher risk (e.g. return volatility) is associated with higher return. return that can be expected in a portfolio, although there can be no guarantee of greater potential for growth over time. is best described as: Willing to take moderate risk as long as the investments have a investment policy is the determination of an appropriate risk tolerance profile. There are periods of time there is a relationship between the level of risk assumed and the level of Given this relationship between risk and return, a fundamental step in determining the Investment theory and historical capital market return data suggest that over long

# C. Investment Objectives:

The overall investment objective for this portfolio is Growth.

endow specific prizes or activities, making those funds restricted in nature. CIPC will and for the use of such funds for the designated prizes and activities. withdraw those restricted funds pursuant to applicable restrictions on such withdrawals than 5% of the Fund's value annually. Donors have made additional contributions to CIPC established the Fund to cover emergency needs intending to withdraw no more

subject to Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements. applicable to an endowment fund of an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) entity. It is The Fund shall be operated in accordance with all federal laws and regulations

provide a diversified investment portfolio that will enable the Fund to replace It is the intent of the CIPC Investment Committee that the Fund's Investment Advisor

minus price changes affecting the value of securities). withdrawals over time through total returns (dividends plus interest minus fees, plus or

# **III.** Restrictions and Limitations

- No security (other than an index fund) shall comprise more than 10% of the Fund
- All securities will be liquid (i.e. can be turned into cash in three business days)
- No securities will be purchased on margin (The Fund may not borrow for any purpose) of securities rated single-A or better Fixed income vehicles (except commingled "junk" bond vehicles) must hold a majority
- Direct investments in derivative securities, futures, or options are not permitted (Mutual are permitted) funds that utilize these vehicles for the purpose of hedging, rather than speculation,
- -No Security position where a loss in excess of 100% is possible (e.g. short sales) may downside exposure is 100% for any mutual fund purchases) be utilized (Mutual funds that short may be purchased, since the Fund's maximum
- -Stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), cash equivalent vehicles and no-load mutual funds are permissible investments

-Mutual funds which carry a load (i.e. sales charge) are prohibited

# IV. Strategic Asset Allocation

strategy. CIPC understands that the growth strategy seeks capital appreciation, and is strategy is expected to be modest. experienced in an all equity portfolio. The absolute level of income generated by this fixed income and alternative investments to assist in moderating the volatility typically pursues its investment objective by investing primarily in equity securities, with some designed for investors with intermediate to long-term financial goals. The strategy Fund's Investment Adviser will use a Growth with Alternative Investments blend Based on the Fund's risk tolerance and investment objective, CIPC expects that the

	Alternative Assets	Fixed Income	Equities	Asset Classes
	15%	5%	50%	Minimum
	35%	20%	70%	Maximum
100%	25%	10%	65%	Strategic Target

# Asset Class Proposed Allocation (%)

# V. Strategic Considerations

developed the allocation using both quantitative and qualitative input, data and that the Fund's Investment Adviser has developed. The Fund's Investment Adviser has investment framework with baseline allocation percentages for each major asset class CIPC understands that the Strategic Asset Allocation represents a customized portfolio among various diversified classes of investments. The baseline Strategic Asset processes. CIPC expects the Fund's Investment Adviser to invest the assets of this

specific events, such as instructions from CIPC. due to changes in the value of assets in the account, market conditions and account Allocation. In addition, the Fund's investments may vary from the baseline allocation Adviser may make tactical changes from time to time in the baseline Strategic Asset alternative assets and cash according to the Fund's risk profile. The Fund's Investment Allocation is a long-term strategic asset allocation that considers equity, fixed income,

# VI. Investment Authority

authority for the accounts in the portfolio is defined as: CIPC has appointed PNC as the Fund's Investment Adviser. PNC's investment

# Account Name Account Number Full/Sole Discretion Investment Authority CLEVELAND INTL PIANO COMPETITION 21-75-073-5983568

# VII. Performance Measurement

against appropriate benchmarks The Fund's performance will be measured in accordance with industry standards and

# VIII. Additional Comments No Additional Comments

# IX. Signator's Role

subject to the terms and conditions, including the standard of care and limitations of defined by the governing instrument for each account listed in this IPS. This IPS is stated investment objective as long as all accounts in the aggregate comply with this account(s). This IPS has been accepted and approved liability, of the documents, which constitute the governing instruments for the applicable IPS. Each of CIPC and the Fund's Investment Adviser is signing this IPS in the capacity Fund in the aggregate. The Fund's Investment Adviser may manage each account to its preferences change, it is important that CIPC communicate those changes to the CIPC understands that as financial circumstances, goals, investment objectives and The undersigned agree(s) that this IPS applies to all of the accounts that constitute the Fund's Investment Adviser so that appropriate adjustments can be made in the portfolio.

By:

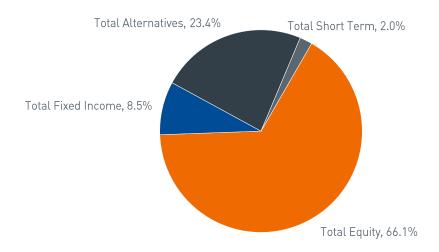
Petrus-Van Der Westhuizen, Chief Executive Officer and President

# **Portfolio Review**



Piano Cleveland As of March 31, 2024

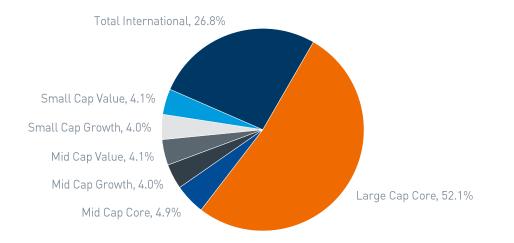




Description	Market Value (\$)	Portfolio Allocation	Policy Target	Policy Range
Total Equity	780,635	<b>66.1</b> %	<b>65</b> %	<b>50-70</b> %
Large Cap Equity	406,915	34.5%		
Mid Cap Equity	101,889	8.6%		
Small Cap Equity	62,825	5.3%		
Total International	209,007	17.7%		
Total Fixed Income	99,810	8.5%	10%	5-20%
Total Alternatives	275,831	<b>23.4</b> %	<b>25</b> %	15-35%
Total Short Term	24,125	2.0%		
Total Portfolio	1,180,401	100.0%	100.0%	

Piano Cleveland As of March 31, 2024



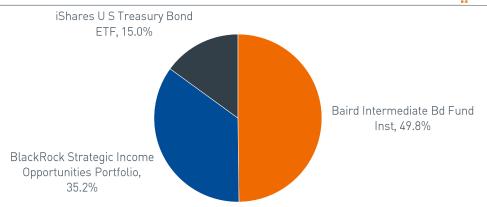


Description	Market Value (\$)	Equity Allocation	Portfolio Allocation
Large Cap Core	406,915	52.1%	34.5%
Mid Cap Core	38,571	4.9%	3.3%
Mid Cap Growth	31,413	4.0%	2.7%
Mid Cap Value	31,905	4.1%	2.7%
Small Cap Growth	31,106	4.0%	2.6%
Small Cap Value	31,719	4.1%	2.7%
Total International	209,007	26.8%	17.7%
 Total Equity	780,635	100.0%	66.1%

#### **Fixed Income Asset Allocation**

Piano Cleveland As of March 31, 2024





Description	Market Value (\$)	Fixed Income Allocation	Portfolio Allocation
Baird Intermediate Bd Fund Inst	49,740	49.8%	4.2%
BlackRock Strategic Income Opportunities Portfolio	35,133	35.2%	3.0%
iShares U S Treasury Bond ETF	14,937	15.0%	1.3%
Total Fixed Income	99,810	100.0%	8.5%

#### **Alternative Asset Allocation**

Description	Market Value (\$)	Alternative Allocation	Portfolio Allocation
American Beacon Mgd	49,426	17.9%	4.2%
Angel Oak Multi-Strategy Income Fund Instl Class	68,112	24.7%	5.8%
BlackRock Event Driven Eq Inst	80,443	29.2%	6.8%
Eaton Vance Global Macro Absolute Return Advantage	77,850	28.2%	6.6%
Total Alternatives	275,831	100.0%	23.4%

#### **Portfolio Holdings**

Piano Cleveland As of March 31, 2024



Description	Ticker	Units	Market Value (\$)	% of Market Value
Large Cap Core				
iShares Core S&P 500 ETF	IVV	774	406,915	34.5%
Mid Cap Core				
Hennessy Focus Fund Class Inst	HFCIX	813	38,571	3.3%
Mid Cap Growth				
Madison Mid Cap Fund-R6	MMCRX	1,774	31,413	2.7%
Mid Cap Value				
Allspring Special Mid Cap Value Fund Cl I	WFPRX	635	31,905	2.7%
Small Cap Growth				
Transamerica Small Cap Growth	TSPIX	4,406	31,106	2.6%
Small Cap Value				
AMG Rr Sm Cap Val-I	ARSIX	1,918	31,719	2.7%
Total International				
iShares MSCI EAFE Value ETF	EFV	1,055	57,392	4.9%
Oakmark Intl Sm Cap-R6	OAZEX	621	12,132	1.0%
Pzena Emerg Mkts Value-Inst	PZIEX	1,699	21,319	1.8%
Seafarer Overseas Growth & Income Inst	SIGIX	2,033	25,699	2.2%
Touchstone Sands Cptl Emerging Markets Gr Inst	TSRMX	1,422	20,583	1.7%
Wasatch Intl Opportunit-Inst	WIIOX	3,775	11,892	1.0%
WCM Focused Intl Growth-Ins	WCMIX	2,357	59,990	5.1%
Total Equity			780,635	<b>66.1</b> %

#### **Portfolio Holdings (Continued)**

Piano Cleveland

As of March 31, 2024



Description	Ticker	Units	Market Value (\$)	% of Market Value
Fixed Income				
Baird Intermediate Bd Fund Inst	BIMIX	4,853	49,740	4.2%
BlackRock Strategic Income Opportunities Portfolio	BSIIX	3,734	35,133	3.0%
iShares U S Treasury Bond ETF	GOVT	656	14,937	1.3%
Total Fixed Income			99,810	8.5%
Alternatives				
American Beacon Mgd	AHLIX	4,611	49,426	4.2%
Angel Oak Multi-Strategy Income Fund Instl Class	ANGIX	8,013	68,112	5.8%
BlackRock Event Driven Eq Inst	BILPX	7,996	80,443	6.8%
Eaton Vance Global Macro Absolute Return Advantage	EGRSX	7,407	77,850	6.6%
Total Alternatives			275,831	23.4%
Short Term				
Blackrock Liquid Funds FedFund	TFDXX	2,658	2,658	0.2%
Cash & Equivl	-	21,467	21,467	1.8%
Total Short Term			24,125	2.0%
Total Portfolio			1,180,401	100.0%

# **Investment Performance**

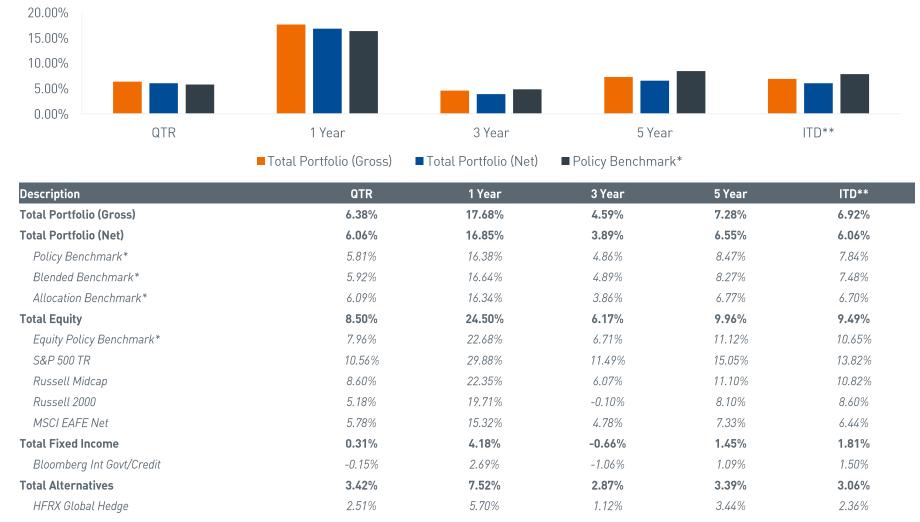


#### **Total Portfolio Performance**

#### Piano Cleveland







\*See Appendix – Policy Benchmark Composition for description of benchmarks.

\*\*Inception date is 12/01/2015

Total Portfolio (Gross) shows performance gross of advisory fees and separately managed account (SMA) fees. Total Portfolio (Net) shows performance net of advisory fees, transaction costs, and all manager fees. Performance reflects reinvestment of dividends, interest and capital gain distributions and rebalancing. Indices are unmanaged, are not available for direct investment, and are not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur. Past performance is not guarantee of future results.

#### **Manager Performance**

Piano Cleveland

As of March 31, 2024



Description	QTR	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Large Cap Core	<b>10.41</b> %	<b>29.79</b> %	11.23%	<b>14.89</b> %
Shares Core S&P 500 ETF	10.41%	29.79%	11.15%	14.84%
S&P 500 TR	10.56%	29.88%	11.49%	15.05%
Mid Cap Growth	<b>9.73</b> %	<b>32.01</b> %	<b>13.00</b> %	-
Madison Mid Cap Fund-R6	9.73%	32.01%	13.00%	-
Russell Midcap Growth	9.50%	26.28%	4.62%	-
Mid Cap Core	4.52%	<b>21.31</b> %	<b>3.56</b> %	<b>9.28</b> %
Hennessy Focus Fund Class Inst	4.52%	21.31%	3.56%	9.63%
Russell Midcap	8.60%	22.35%	6.07%	11.10%
Mid Cap Value	<b>9.15</b> %	<b>18.66</b> %	-	-
Allspring Special Mid Cap Value Fund Cl I	9.15%	18.66%	-	-
Russell Midcap Value	8.23%	20.40%	-	-
Small Cap Growth	6.65%	<b>16.84</b> %	<b>-0.29</b> %	-
Transamerica Small Cap Growth	6.65%	16.84%	-0.29%	-
Russell 2000 Growth	7.58%	20.35%	-2.68%	-
Small Cap Value	8.17%	<b>21.45</b> %	-	-
AMG Rr Sm Cap Val-I	8.17%	21.45%	-	-
Russell 2000 Value	2.90%	18.75%	-	-
Total International	4.33%	<b>14.10</b> %	-1.33%	5.11%
Shares MSCI EAFE Value ETF	4.51%	17.34%	-	-
MSCI EAFE Value Net	4.48%	17.32%	-	-
Pzena Emerg Mkts Value-Inst	2.95%	16.54%	-	-
MSCI Emerging Market Net	2.37%	8.15%	-	-
Dakmark Intl Sm Cap-R6	0.51%	12.98%	3.42%	-
MSCI ACWI ex USA SMID Value Net USD	2.21%	14.07%	2.54%	-

\*\*Inception date is 12/01/2015

Performance is shown gross of advisory fees and separately managed account (SMA) fees. The effect of advisory fees on the portfolio could be material. If these fees were reflected, returns would be lower. Indices are unmanaged, are not available for direct investment, and are not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur. Past performance is not guarantee of future results.

#### **Manager Performance (Continued)**

Piano Cleveland

#### As of March 31, 2024



Description	QTR	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Wasatch Intl Opportunit-Inst	-0.63%	7.88%	-11.13%	2.56%
MSCI ACWI Ex USA SMID Growth Net USD	2.69%	10.56%	-1.96%	5.15%
Seafarer Overseas Growth & Income Inst	-0.32%	9.60%	-1.57%	-
MSCI Emerging Market Net	2.37%	8.15%	-5.05%	-
Touchstone Sands Cptl Emerging Markets Gr Inst	3.21%	7.66%	-11.73%	-
MSCI Emerging Market Net	2.37%	8.15%	-5.05%	-
WCM Focused Intl Growth-Ins	11.82%	17.87%	2.75%	11.53%
MSCI ACWI ex USA Growth Net	5.91%	11.22%	-0.76%	6.24%
Fixed Income	<b>0.31</b> %	<b>4.18</b> %	-0.66%	1.45%
BlackRock Strategic Income Opportunities Portfol	0.96%	6.55%	-	-
Bloomberg US Universal	-0.47%	2.67%	-	-
Baird Intermediate Bd Fund Inst	0.18%	3.50%	-0.94%	1.38%
Bloomberg Int Govt/Cr	-0.15%	2.69%	-1.06%	1.09%
Shares U S Treasury Bond ETF	0.54%	-	-	-
Bloomberg US Aggregate	-0.78%	-	-	-
Total Alternatives	<b>3.42</b> %	<b>7.52</b> %	<b>2.87</b> %	3.39%
Eaton Vance Global Macro Absolute Return Advanta	4.89%	11.21%	5.05%	6.29%
HFRX Macro-CTA Index	5.86%	6.96%	2.20%	3.43%
American Beacon Mgd	8.17%	7.95%	6.49%	-
HFRX Macro-CTA Index	5.86%	6.96%	2.20%	-
BlackRock Event Driven Eq Inst	0.70%	5.35%	2.42%	-
HFRX Event Driven	1.28%	2.02%	-2.31%	-
Angel Oak Multi-Strategy Income Fund Instl Class	1.82%	5.87%	-1.15%	-
HFRX Relative Value Arbitrage Index	0.68%	4.29%	-0.73%	-

\*\*Inception date is 12/01/2015

Performance is shown gross of advisory fees and separately managed account (SMA) fees. The effect of advisory fees on the portfolio could be material. If these fees were reflected, returns would be lower. Indices are unmanaged, are not available for direct investment, and are not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur. Past performance is not guarantee of future results.

#### **Manager Performance (Continued)**

Piano Cleveland

As of March 31, 2024



Description	QTR	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Total Short Term	1.30%	5.25%	<b>2.81</b> %	2.02%
Blackrock Liquid Funds FedFund	1.30%	5.26%	-	-
Bloomberg US Treasury Bill 1-3 Month Blend	1.32%	5.38%	-	-
Cash & Equivl	1.30%	5.25%	2.82%	2.02%
Bloomberg US Treasury Bill 1-3 Month Blend	1.32%	5.38%	2.66%	2.04%

\*\*Inception date is 12/01/2015

Performance is shown gross of advisory fees and separately managed account (SMA) fees. The effect of advisory fees on the portfolio could be material. If these fees were reflected, returns would be lower. Indices are unmanaged, are not available for direct investment, and are not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur. Past performance is not guarantee of future results.

#### **Benchmark Composition**

#### Piano Cleveland

**Total Portfolio** 

As of March 31, 2024



Policy Benchmark	
December 2015	%
S&P 500 TR	30.00
HFRX Global Hedge	25.00
MSCI ACWI Ex US Net	20.00
Russell Midcap	10.00
Bloomberg Int Govt/Cr	10.00
Russell 2000	5.00

#### **Blended Benchmark**

December 2015	%
MSCI ACWI Net	65.00
Bloomberg Int Govt/Cr	10.00
HFRX Global Hedge	25.00

#### **Allocation Benchmark**

Adotation Deneminark		
March 2024	%	
S&P 500 TR	34.34	
Russell 2000 Value	2.62	
Russell 2000 Growth	2.64	
Russell Midcap	3.30	
Russell Midcap Growth	2.65	
Russell Midcap Value	2.63	
MSCI Emerging Market Net	5.74	
Bloomberg Int Govt/Cr	4.31	
Bloomberg US Aggregate	1.29	
HFRX Event Driven	6.96	
HFRX Relative Value Arbitrage Index	5.85	
HFRX Macro-CTA Index	10.72	
MSCI EAFE Value Net	4.78	
MSCI ACWI ex USA Growth Net	5.11	
Bloomberg US Universal	3.03	
Bloomberg US Treasury Bill 1-3 Mon	1.97	
MSCI ACWI Ex USA SMID Growth Net USD	1.03	
MSCI ACWI ex USA SMID Value Net USD	1.03	

Indices are unmanaged, are not available for direct investment, and are not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur. Indices performance results do not represent, and are not necessarily indicative of, the results that may be achieved in accounts investing in the corresponding investment strategy; actual account returns may vary significantly.

For definitions of Indices/Benchmarks used in this presentation, please refer to www.pnc.com/indexdefinitions.

#### **Benchmark Composition**

Piano Cleveland

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As of March 31, 2024



Equity Policy Benchmark- December 2015	%
S&P 500 TR	45.00
MSCI ACWI Ex US Net	30.00
Russell Midcap	15.00
Russell 2000	10.00

Indices are unmanaged, are not available for direct investment, and are not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur. Indices performance results do not represent, and are not necessarily indicative of, the results that may be achieved in accounts investing in the corresponding investment strategy; actual account returns may vary significantly.

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# **Taking Stock of the Markets**

Investment Strategy

April 2024



The path forward is highly dependent on specific themes



As the probability of a near-term recession continues to fade, investors are faced with several key themes that should continue to impact markets throughout 2024.





## Investment Process and Asset Allocations

Each facet of analysis plays a critical role in our decision-making



In the "slower for longer" business cycle, we believe the reward/risk balance at elevated valuations supports diversified, high-quality portfolio within equites and fixed income allocations.

#### **Investment Process Insights**



#### Tight labor market extends the cycle

Leading economic indicators point to contracting manufacturing activity, whereas strong labor market is supporting personal consumption, which is the largest component of U.S. GDP.

#### **Global earnings reacceleration is** needed to bring down multiples

Earnings estimates for 2024 have been falling, yet the market rally over the past few months has driven valuations higher. Without an earnings reacceleration, valuations may become extended.



Valuation

S

#### New global all-time highs as momentum remains positive

**Technical** S

# In our view, equity markets at all-time highs

should be considered a positive as global equity market momentum remains a tailwind.



#### **Asset Allocation Viewpoints**



We continue to favor quality, global allocations that can weather elevated inflation and high interest rates amid a slowing economy.



Fixed

Income

#### Core fixed income is attractive at this phase in the credit cycle

As interest rate volatility falls from extremely high levels, we believe core fixed income remains attractive relative to credit.



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#### Broad opportunity set for long-term investors

Alternative investments offer various risk and return, correlation and liquidity profiles for differentiated alpha, potentially aiding riskadjusted performance and dampening volatility.

Scan the QR code using your smartphone's camera app to watch a video in which Dan Brady, PNC's Managing Director of Investment Strategy, discusses investment process and asset allocations



Better-than-expected economic data continues to be a tailwind for markets



Easing financial conditions reduce recession risk in 2024 as labor market remains tight relative to history. Higher borrowing costs and elevated inflation remain a risk to the economic outlook.

March 20	24 Economic Data I	Equity Market Highlights					
3.4%	3.9%	3.2%	Consensus E Earnings (				
U.S. REAL GDP	UNEMPLOYMENT	CPI		2024	E		
4Q 2024	RATE	ANNUAL CHANGE		EPS Growth	NTM P/E		
1 000/	1 00/	4 50/	S&P 500®	10.6%	21.0x		
4.20%	4.3%	1.5%	Magnificent 7	23.9%	31.1X		
10-YEAR U.S.	ANNUAL HOURLY	U.S. RETAIL SALES	Russell 2000®	16.4%	23.5x		
TREASURY YIELD	WAGE GROWTH	GROWTH RATE	MSCI World ex USA	4.6%	14.3x		
			MSCI EM IMI	18.8%	12.2x		
-42BASISPOINTS	· ·	<b>\$3.54</b> /GAL	S&P 500 EPS Strategists' Median Est.	\$235			
2YR/10YR YIELD	MONTHLY PAYROLL	NATIONAL AVERAGE	Bull Case	\$250			
CURVE INVERSION	REPORT ADDITIONS	GASOLINE PRICE	Bear Case	\$221			

As of 3/31/2024. Source: Bloomberg L.P., FactSet®, FactSet® is a registered trademark of FactSet Research Systems, Inc., and its affiliates.

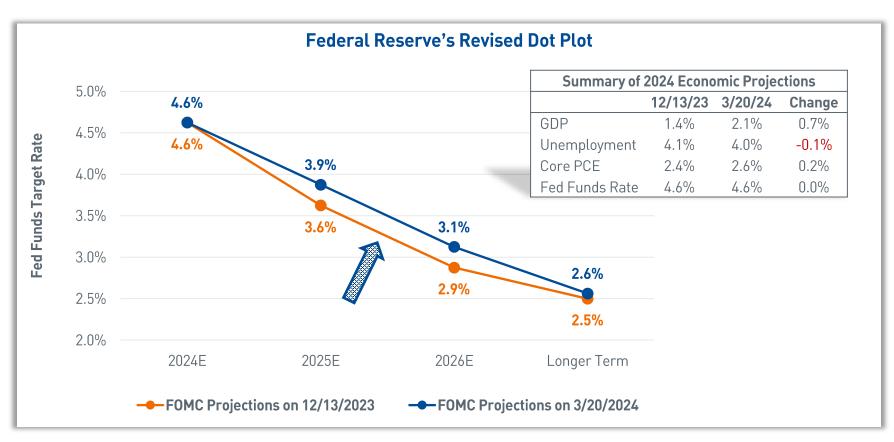
### Federal Reserve Delivers a Dovish Message

As widely expected, the Fed held rates steady at their march meeting



#### Updated "dot plot" continues to signal three rate cuts in 2024

Consensus expects the Fed will begin to cut interest rates in June, which is in line with PNC Economics' view. Expectations for 2025 are slightly more restrictive compared to December's outlook, however Fed officials still expect to ease policy.



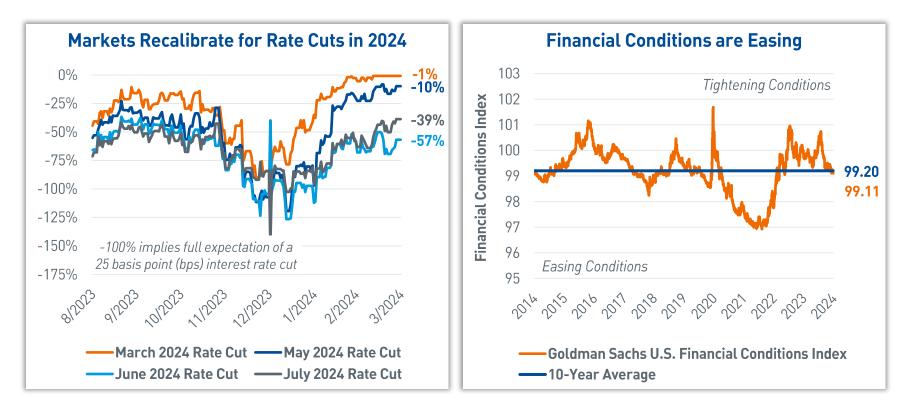
## Fed Policy Remains a Key Market Driver

Consensus continues to expect the Fed to ease monetary policy in 2024



Rate cut expectations have moved to June, but financial conditions are already easing With inflation on a bumpy course towards 2%, Fed officials have signaled plans for interest rate cuts later in 2024.

Financial conditions have already eased back to 2021 levels, before the Fed had even begun to raise interest rates.



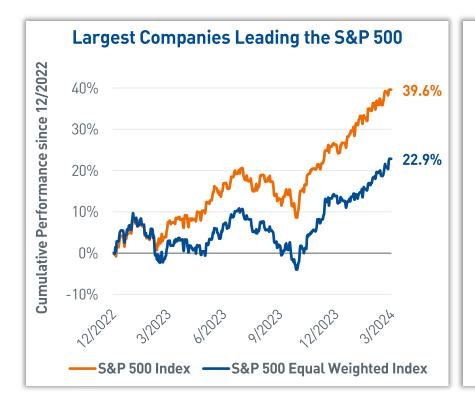
### **U.S. Equity Market Reaches All-Time Highs**

Market momentum widens beyond the mega-cap growth stocks



The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> has been driven by the largest companies for over a year Equities delivered a fifth consecutive positive monthly return as economic and earnings data continue to come in better than expected.

For a sustainable rally, markets will need to broaden beyond the mega-cap growth stocks, but international markets have yet to top their 2021 all-time highs.



#### **Equity Market Performance**

Index	YTD Total Return
"Magnificent 7" (weighted average)	13.5%
S&P 500 <sup>®</sup>	10.6%
Nasdaq Composite	9.3%
S&P 500 Equal Weight	7.9%
Median S&P 500 stock return	7.4%
Russell 2000	5.2%
MSCI World Ex USA	5.6%
MSCI Emerging Markets IMI	2.2%

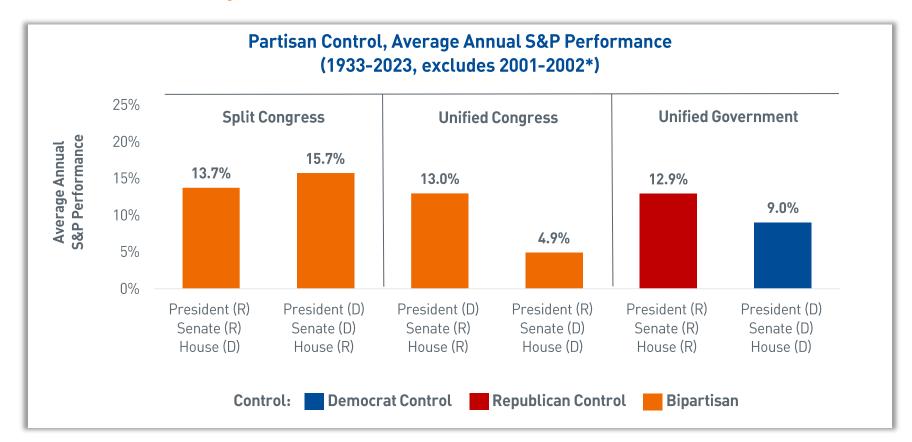
As of 3/31/2024. Source: FactSet®, FactSet® is a registered trademark of FactSet Research Systems, Inc., and its affiliates. Indices are unmanaged, not available for direct investment, and not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur.

### U.S. Elections Take Centerstage in 2024

Fiscal policy tools could offset economic weakness ahead of the elections



Investors have historically favored divided government Markets may be underestimating the potential for expanded fiscal stimulus that could be provided ahead of the 2024 U.S. presidential election. We believe this may be underappreciated and would work to delay any economic weakness.



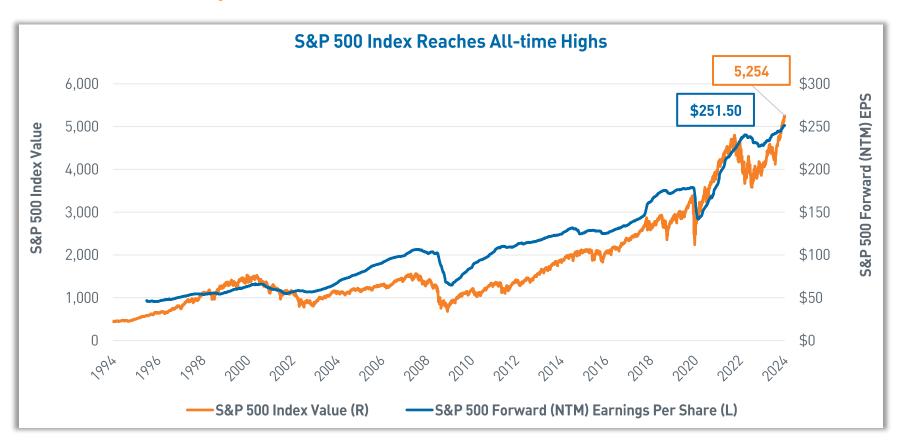
\*Data excludes 2001-2002 when Senator James M. Jeffords left the Republican party in 2001 to become an Independent and caucus with Democrats. As of 3/31/2024. Source: Strategas Securities, LLC, PNC

### S&P 500 Index and Forward Earnings

Earnings drive stock prices in the long run



Consensus earnings estimates rise for the S&P 500 rise Consensus earnings estimates are above the highs of 2022, indicating very optimistic views that the business cycle reaccelerates from here. We believe these estimates do not reflect a possible slow down and suggest valuations may be rich.



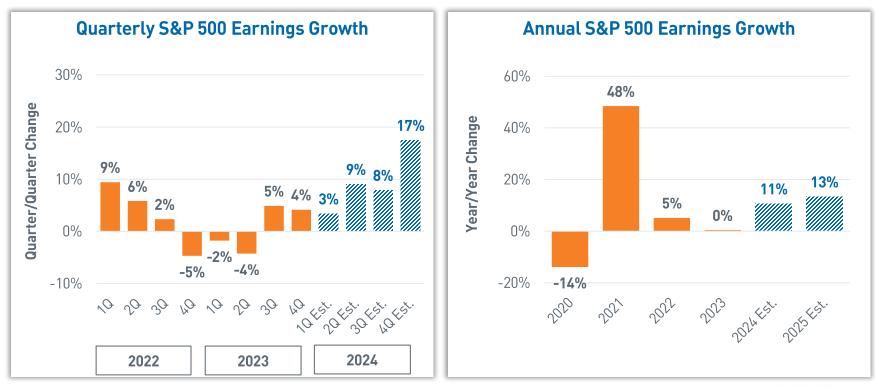
As of 3/31/2024. Source: FactSet®, FactSet® is a registered trademark of FactSet Research Systems, Inc., and its affiliates. Indices are unmanaged, not available for direct investment, and not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur.

### S&P 500 Earnings Outlook

Positive revisions trend masks narrow market breadth



The S&P 500 reaches all-time highs as forward earnings estimates rise Consensus earnings growth for the first quarter is 3.4%, however excluding the "Magnificent 7" stocks (Microsoft Corp., Alphabet Inc., Meta Platforms Inc., Amazon.com, Apple Inc., Tesla Inc., and NVIDIA Corp.), it falls to -2.6%. Consensus earnings estimates for 2024 remain optimistic in our view, leaving valuations rich.



Scan the QR code using your smartphone's camera app to watch a video in which Dan Brady, PNC's Managing Director of Investment Strategy, discusses the S&P 500 Earnings Outlook



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### **S&P 500 Earnings and Valuations**

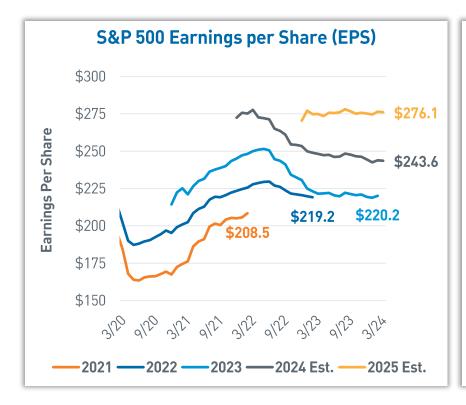
#### Valuation scenario analysis and the equity risk premium



Rising risks to future multiple expansion

From their peak in summer 2022, S&P 500 forward earnings have now risen 4%.

It can be helpful for investors to see different scenarios depicting what it would take for equity markets to climb higher or pull back, without being considered under- or overvalued.



#### Implied S&P 500 Price Level using Earnings per Share and Forward Price-to-Earnings

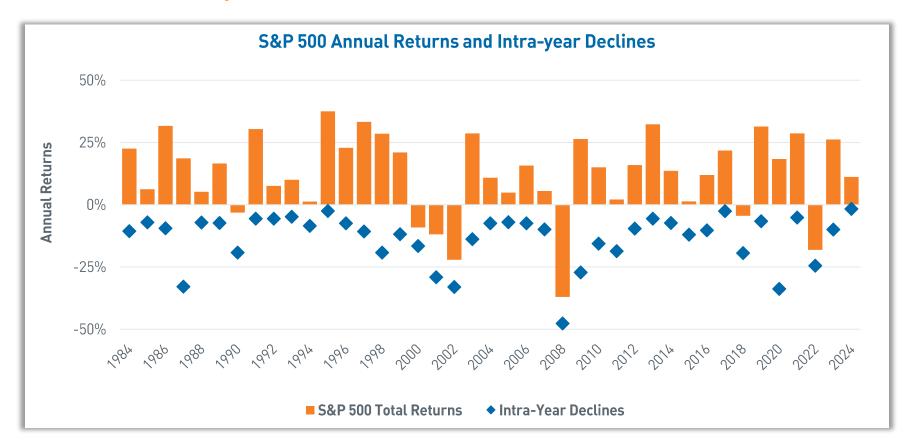
NTM	Hypothetical	Price to Earnings (P/E NTM)									
EPS	Scenario	18.0x	19.5x	21.0x	22.5x	24.0x					
\$183	25% downside	3,280	3,554	3,828	4,102	4,376					
\$219	10% downside	3,936	4,265	4,594	4,923	5,251					
\$244	*NTM Consensus Est.	4,373	4,739	5,104	5,469	5,835					
\$268	10% upside	4,811	5,213	5,614	6,016	6,418					
\$305	25% upside	5,467	5,923	6,380	6,837	7,294					

### S&P 500 Market Volatility

Heightened volatility remains dependent on the path of monetary policy



Pullbacks happen, even in positive returning years Even in years of positive performance, intra-year pullbacks can be sizeable, so it is critical to analyze pullbacks in different phases of the cycle. Drawdowns are a poor guide for how a year ultimately turns out, so it is important to stay invested.



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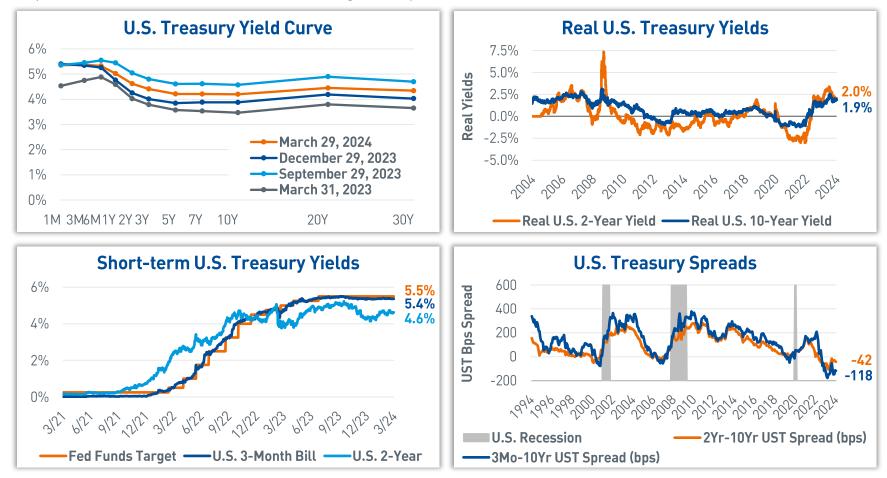
### **Interest Rates**

# Markets are questioning a near-term Fed "pivot" as inflation remains high

Long-term U.S. Treasuries and real (inflation-adjusted) yields retraced the declines from late last year as expectations of an imminent Fed rate cut got delayed.

INSTITUTIONAL

ASSET MANAGEMENT





While 2022 marked one of the worst years for stocks and bonds, financial markets rallied in 2023 as the Fed neared the end of its tightening cycle. In 2024, we expect Fed policy and economic strength to drive markets.

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	YTD		LE	GEND
EM 82.36	Small-Cap 26.85		EM 18.68				Small-Cap 21.31	EM 36.83		Large Value 31.93				Large Growth 30.03			Large Cap	S&P 500®
High Yield 58.21	Mid-Cap 26.64		Real Estate 18.59					Large Growth 27.44		Large Cap 31.49	Large Growth 33.47			Large Cap 26.29			Large Growth	S&P 500 Growth
Mid-Cap 37.38	Real Estate 25.93		Mid-Cap 17.88	Small-Cap 38.82	Real Estate 24.91		Large Value 17.40	Intl Dev 24.21		Large Growth 31.13	Small-Cap 19.96	Real Estate 39.35		Large Value 22.23	Large Growth 12.75		Large Value	S&P 500 Value
Intl Dev 33.67	EM 19.90		Large Value 17.68	33.50	Large Growth 14.89		High Yield 17.13	Large Cap 21.83		Real Estate 27.62	18.40	Large Growth 32.01		Intl Dev 17.94	Large Cap 10.56	RETURNS	Mid-Cap	S&P 400®
Large Growth 31.57	Ĭ5.12		16.41	Large Growth 32.75	13.69		Large Cap 11.96	Mid-Cap 16.24		Mid-Cap 26.20	EM 18.39	Large Cap 28.71		Small-Cap 16.93	Mid-Cap 9.95	RETL	Small-Cap	Russell 2000®
Real Estate 27.22	Large Value 15.10	Core Bond 7.84	Small-Cap 16.35	Large Cap 32.39	Large Value 12.36		EM 9.90	Large Value 15.36		Small-Cap 25.52	Mid-Cap 13.66	Large Value 24.90		Mid-Cap 16.44	Large Value 8.05	POSITIVE	Intl Dev	MSCI World ex USA
Small-Cap 27.17	Large Cap 15.06	High Yield 4.98	Large Cap 16.00	Large Value 31.99	9.77	Large Growth 5.52	6.89	14.65		Intl Dev 22.49	Intl Dev 7.59	Mid-Cap 24.76		High Yield 13.44	Intl Dev 5.59	POS	EM	MSCI EM
26.46	Large Growth 15.05	4.92	High Yield 15.81	Intl Dev 21.02	Core Bond 5.97	Large Cap 1.38	Real Estate 6.74	Real Estate 7.76		EM 17.65	Core Bond 7.51	Small-Cap 14.82		EM 11.67	Small-Cap 5.18		Core Bond	Bloomberg US Aggregate
Large Value 21.18	8.95	4.65	Large Growth 14.61	7.44	Small-Cap 4.89	Core Bond 0.55	Intl Dev 2.75	High Yield 7.50		High Yield 14.32	High Yield 7.11	Intl Dev 12.62		Real Estate 10.61	EM 2.17		High Yield	Bloomberg US Corp High Yield
Core Bond 5.93	Core Bond 6.54	Large Cap 2.11	Core Bond 4.21	Real Estate 1.93	High Yield 2.45	Real Estate 0.21	Core Bond 2.65	Core Bond 3.54	Core Bond 0.01	Core Bond 8.72	Large Value 1.36	High Yield 5.28		Core Bond 5.53	High Yield 1.47		Real Estate	MSCI USA IMI Real Estate 25/50
		Large Value -0.48		Core Bond -2.02	EM -1.79	Mid-Cap -2.18			Large Growth -0.01		Real Estate -5.57	EM -0.28	Large Value -5.22		Core Bond -0.78			
		Mid-Cap -1.73		EM -2.20	Intl Dev -4.32	Intl Dev -3.04			High Yield -2.08			Core Bond -1.54	High Yield -11.19		Real Estate -1.41			
		Small-Cap -4.18				Large Value -3.13			Large Cap -4.38				Core Bond -13.01			S		
		Intl Dev -12.21				Small-Cap -4.41			Real Estate -5.75				Mid-Cap -13.06			<b>URN</b>		
		EM -19.49				High Yield -4.47			Large Value -8.95				Intl Dev -14.29			NEGATIVE RETURNS		
						EM -13.86			Small-Cap -11.01				Large Cap -18.11			ATIV		
									Mid-Cap -11.08 Intl Dev				EM -19.83 Small-Cap			NEG		
									-14.09 EM				-20.44 Real Estate					
									EM -15.05				-26.90					
													Large Growth -29.41					

As of 3/31/2024. Source: Morningstar, PNC. MSCI USA IMI Real Estate 25/50 Index includes the historical results of the MSCI USA IMI Real Estate Index prior to 2017. Indices are unmanaged, not available for direct investment, and not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur.

## Index Total Returns - Equity

#### Narrow 2023 performance leadership masks underlying weakness



						Traili	ng Total Re	eturns				Proje	ital Market ections cast (2024-33)
		Index	1 Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	Return	Volatility
	U.S. Equity	Russell 3000	3.2%	10.0%	10.0%	<b>29.3</b> %	<b>9.8</b> %	14.3%	12.3%	<b>15.4</b> %	10.1%		
	LCC	S&P 500	3.2%	10.6%	10.6%	29.9%	11.5%	15.0%	13.0%	15.6%	10.2%	8.30%	16.90%
	LCG	S&P 500 Growth	2.1%	12.8%	12.8%	33.7%	10.2%	15.8%	14.6%	16.7%	11.1%	8.45%	17.30%
	LCV	S&P 500 Value	4.5%	8.1%	8.1%	25.6%	12.2%	13.3%	10.6%	14.1%	8.8%	8.15%	17.80%
	Sector	S&P 500 Communication Services	4.3%	15.8%	15.8%	49.8%	6.9%	13.7%	9.4%	11.0%	8.5%		
	Sector	S&P 500 Consumer Discretionary	0.1%	5.0%	5.0%	28.7%	4.3%	11.5%	12.6%	17.8%	10.8%		
	Sector	S&P 500 Consumer Staples	3.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.2%	8.0%	10.0%	9.3%	12.3%	9.3%		
	Sector	S&P 500 Energy	10.6%	13.7%	13.7%	17.7%	30.0%	12.9%	4.7%	8.5%	8.8%		
$\geq$	Sector	S&P 500 Financials	4.8%	12.5%	12.5%	33.5%	9.5%	12.8%	11.1%	14.7%	5.1%		
	Sector	S&P 500 Health Care	2.4%	8.8%	8.8%	16.1%	10.0%	12.1%	11.7%	14.9%	10.3%		
EQUITY	Sector	S&P 500 Industrials	4.4%	11.0%	11.0%	26.7%	10.4%	13.0%	11.1%	15.8%	9.9%		
щ	Sector	S&P 500 Information Technology	2.0%	12.7%	12.7%	46.0%	19.0%	25.4%	22.0%	21.8%	14.6%		
U.S.	Sector	S&P 500 Materials	6.5%	8.9%	8.9%	17.6%	7.9%	13.3%	9.2%	12.7%	9.0%		
	Sector	S&P 500 Real Estate	1.8%	-0.5%	-0.5%	9.6%	3.4%	5.3%	8.0%	15.1%	8.1%		
	Sector	S&P 500 Utilities	6.6%	4.6%	4.6%	0.4%	4.1%	5.9%	8.4%	10.5%	9.0%		
	MCC	S&P 400	5.6%	10.0%	10.0%	23.3%	7.0%	11.7%	10.0%	14.7%	10.1%	9.00%	20.80%
	MCG	S&P 400 Growth	5.8%	15.6%	15.6%	29.3%	6.4%	12.0%	10.4%	15.1%	10.4%	8.95%	20.20%
	MCV	S&P 400 Value	5.4%	4.1%	4.1%	17.2%	7.2%	10.9%	9.2%	14.1%	9.5%	9.05%	22.30%
	SCC	Russell 2000	3.6%	5.2%	5.2%	19.7%	-0.1%	8.1%	7.6%	12.9%	8.1%	9.40%	22.00%
	SCG	Russell 2000 Growth	2.8%	7.6%	7.6%	20.3%	-2.7%	7.4%	7.9%	13.4%	8.4%	9.45%	23.90%
	SCV	Russell 2000 Value	4.4%	2.9%	2.9%	18.8%	2.2%	8.2%	6.9%	12.1%	7.5%	9.00%	23.70%
	REITs	MSCI USA IMI REAL ESTATE 25-50	1.8%	-1.4%	-1.4%	7.4%	0.8%	2.7%				8.00%	23.60%
	New U.C. Emilia		2 40/	( 20/	( 20/	10.00/	4 50/	/ 00/	( 20/	0.40/	E 00/		
~	Non-U.S. Equity	MSCI ACWI Ex USA IMI	3.1%	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	4.3%	8.1%	<b>5.8%</b>	0.000/	10.000/
E	ILCC	MSCI World ex USA	3.4%	5.6%	5.6%	15.3%	4.9%	7.5%	4.8%	8.4%	5.8%	8.80%	18.80%
N	ILCG	MSCI World Ex USA Growth	2.4%	6.9%	6.9%	13.7%	2.8%	7.9%	5.7%	8.8%	6.2%	8.90%	18.30%
EQUITY	ILCV	MSCI World Ex USA Value	4.4%	4.2%	4.2%	16.9%	6.8%	6.6%	3.6%	7.7%	5.1%	8.70%	20.20%
	ISCC	MSCI World Ex USA Small Cap	4.1%	2.6%	2.6%	10.0%	-0.9%	5.4%	4.5%	9.9%	6.5%	9.30%	21.40%
5	ISCG	MSCI World Ex USA Small Cap Growth	3.0%	2.3%	2.3%	7.2%	-4.2%	4.6%	4.8%	9.9%	6.5%	9.50%	21.40%
ł	ISCV	MSCI World Ex USA Small Cap Value	5.1%	2.9%	2.9%	12.9%	2.2%	5.8%	4.1%	9.8%	6.7%	9.10%	21.60%
NON-U.S.	EM	MSCI Emerging Markets IMI	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	9.8%	-3.9%	3.0%	3.2%	7.0%	6.7%	9.80%	24.60%
Z	<b>Global Equity</b>	MSCI All Country	3.1%	8.2%	8.2%	23.2%	<b>7.0</b> %	<b>10.9</b> %	<b>8.7</b> %	<b>11.6</b> %	<b>7.8</b> %		
	INFRA	S&P Global Infrastructure	4.5%	1.1%	1.1%	3.1%	4.6%	4.0%	4.2%	7.9%	6.9%	8.50%	17.60%

As of 3/31/2024. Source: Morningstar, Inc., FactSet<sup>®</sup>. Indices are unmanaged, not available for direct investment, and not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur.

## Index Total Returns – Fixed Income and Alternatives

Narrow 2023 performance leadership masks underlying weakness



**PNC Capital Market** 

						Traili	ng Total Re	eturns					ections cast (2024-33)
		Index	1 Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	Return	Volatility
	MUNI	Bloomberg Municipal Bond	0.0%	-0.4%	-0.4%	3.1%	-0.4%	1.6%	2.7%	3.7%	3.6%	3.20%	4.95%
	SHORT MUNI	Bloomberg Municipal 1-3 Year	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.5%	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%	1.8%	2.40%	1.40%
ш	CORE	Bloomberg US Aggregate	<b>0.9</b> %	<b>-0.8</b> %	-0.8%	<b>1.7</b> %	<b>-2.5</b> %	0.4%	1.5%	2.6%	3.0%	4.50%	4.30%
FIXED INCOME	SHORT	Bloomberg US Aggregate 1-3 Year	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	3.6%	0.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%	2.1%	3.70%	1.45%
8	INTERM	Bloomberg US Govt/Credit Intermediate	0.6%	-0.2%	-0.2%	2.7%	-1.1%	1.1%	1.6%	2.5%	2.8%	4.20%	3.40%
Ž	LONG	Bloomberg US Govt/Credit Long	1.6%	-2.4%	-2.4%	-1.1%	-6.0%	-0.6%	2.3%	4.5%	4.4%	5.80%	11.10%
	TIPS	Bloomberg US Treasury US TIPS	0.8%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.5%	-0.5%	2.5%	2.2%	3.1%	3.4%	4.90%	6.50%
Ш Ш	BILLS	Bloomberg US Treasury Bills 1-3 Month	0.5%	1.3%	1.3%	5.4%	2.7%	2.0%	1.4%	0.9%	1.5%	3.50%	0.50%
Ê	HY	Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield	1.2%	1.5%	1.5%	11.2%	2.2%	4.2%	4.4%	8.9%	6.5%	6.30%	10.50%
	LLOAN	Morningstar LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan	0.9%	2.5%	2.5%	12.5%	6.0%	5.5%	4.5%	7.1%	4.9%	4.90%	7.75%
	IBND	Bloomberg Global Aggregate	0.6%	-2.1%	-2.1%	0.5%	-4.7%	-1.2%	-0.1%	1.6%	2.2%	5.50%	8.80%
	EMD	Bloomberg EM USD Aggregate	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	8.4%	-1.5%	1.1%	2.9%	6.0%	5.7%	6.30%	9.60%
	Hedge Funds	HFRX Global Hedge Fund (USD)	1.3%	2.5%	5.7%	5.7%	1.1%	3.4%	1.6%	2.3%	1.3%	5.60%	7.00%
	Equity Hedge	HFRX Equity Hedge	1.3%	3.4%	10.5%	9.7%	5.3%	5.6%	3.1%	3.1%	1.6%		
	Event Driven	HFRX Event Driven	1.1%	1.3%	1.8%	2.0%	-2.3%	2.4%	0.3%	2.3%	1.8%		
	Macro-CTA	HFRX Macro	2.5%	5.9%	4.3%	7.0%	2.2%	3.4%	1.6%	-0.2%	0.8%		
	<b>Relative Value</b>	HFRX Relative Value Arbitrage	0.5%	0.7%	5.5%	4.3%	-0.7%	1.9%	0.8%	3.4%	1.0%		
	Private Capital	Burgiss Global Private Capital*		-0.2%	2.7%	4.0%	14.6%	12.7%	12.6%	10.7%	12.7%		
ALTERNATIVES	Private Equity	Burgiss Global Private Equity*		-0.6%	2.7%	3.3%	15.7%	15.7%	15.2%	13.1%	14.6%		
≥		Burgiss Global Private Equity ex-Venture	Capital*	-0.1%	4.9%	8.3%	16.6%	15.2%	14.6%	12.8%	15.0%	10.65%	21.90%
A		Burgiss Global Venture Capital*		-2.1%	-3.2%	-9.1%	13.4%	17.1%	17.3%	14.1%	12.7%		
N N		Burgiss Global Early-Stage Venture Capita		-2.5%	-4.7%	-10.1%	16.7%	17.3%	16.9%	13.8%	12.5%		
Ш		Burgiss Global Late-Stage Venture Capita	l*	-2.0%	-2.3%	-9.1%	10.8%	17.3%	17.7%	15.6%	14.6%		
5		Burgiss Global Expansion Capital*		-0.2%	2.0%	3.5%	7.2%	6.8%	8.2%	7.8%	10.0%		
◄		Burgiss Global Buyout*		-0.1%	5.4%	9.5%	17.4%	15.6%	15.0%	13.1%	15.4%		
	Private Debt	Burgiss Global Private Debt*		2.1%	6.8%	10.1%	10.9%	7.6%	7.9%	8.6%	10.0%	7.70%	15.00%
	Real Assets	Burgiss Global Private Real Assets*		0.0%	0.7%	3.0%	12.1%	6.7%	8.0%	4.9%	8.5%		
		Burgiss Global Real Estate*		-2.4%	-3.9%	-4.5%	8.9%	6.4%	8.6%	4.0%	7.4%	8.30%	12.70%
		Burgiss Global Infrastructure*		0.8%	4.5%	9.6%	11.4%	8.9%	9.6%	7.3%	9.5%		
		Burgiss Global Natural Resources*		4.7%	3.2%	7.1%	20.4%	5.4%	4.7%	5.1%	10.4%		
		Bloomberg Commodity	3.3%	2.2%	2.2%	-0.6%	9.1%	6.4%	-1.6%	0.3%	-0.6%	6.20%	17.50%

\*Private alternative investments are subject to reporting lag; data is available as of most recent reported data; Burgiss Global Private Equity ex-Venture Capital Funds Index, Burgiss Global Private Debt Funds Index, and Burgiss Global Real Estate Funds Index as of 9/30/2023. As of 3/31/2024. Source: Morningstar, Inc., FactSet ®, The Burgiss Group, LLC, Indices are unmanaged, not available for direct investment, and not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that an account may incur.

#### Capital Market Assumptions: Methodology Methodology & Key Assumptions



Results in this report incorporate PNC's Capital Market Assumptions (CMA) for calendar year 2024. These assumptions represent PNC Bank's 10-year projections of risk and return for the respective asset classes. These estimates are updated on an annual basis and take into account economic fundamentals, long-term historical trends, as well as other relevant factors.

#### Methodology

CMA returns reflect combining market-implied equilibrium returns with PNC's subjective views using a technique known as Black-Litterman<sup>1</sup>. Black Litterman Methodology blends subjective and market-implied views using a Bayesian approach that takes account of cross-asset-class relationships to help determine an internally consistent set of final estimates. In general, the expected return on every asset class is adjusted so that it is as consistent as possible with both the market-implied equilibrium and our subjective views, even if we do not express a specific subjective view on that asset class. This methodology is an imperfect model of market behavior. Among the simplifications is the assumption that asset returns are adequately summarized by constant means, variances, and correlations. Empirical evidence generally indicates that these statistics are not sufficient to fully characterize asset returns.

The projected returns for hedge funds, private debt, private equity, and private real estate (property) include premiums for the fact that these classes are, in varying degrees, illiquid. The mean returns shown should be interpreted as arithmetic average returns. They are not compounded rates of return. The difference between these two concepts is approximately equal to one-half the asset's volatility squared.

#### **Key Assumptions**

**Risk-free Rate** — As of August 31, 2023, the yield on the 10-year UST is above 4%. This is slightly higher than what we expect over the next 10 years. Our approximation for the risk-free rate remains 3.0%, consistent with our 2023 analysis. We believe this is a reasonable expectation as the Fed normalizes the interest rate environment, likely starting in 2024. For reference, the 2022 analysis used a risk-free rate of 1.5%.

**Inflation** — We use an inflation expectation of 2.25% per year, based on our estimated Consumer Price Index (CPI)<sup>2</sup> level over the forecast period. This is consistent with, but slightly higher than, the Fed's long-run target level of 2%. While CPI has recently run at the highest level in 40 years, over the next 10 years, we believe levels will normalize around 2.25%. This is also consistent with market expectations based on inflation breakeven rates<sup>3</sup>, which are currently trending back toward 2%.

**U.S. Dollar** — We have assumed the Fed's nominal Trade-Weighted U.S. Dollar Index<sup>4</sup> remains flat over the forecast horizon. Given the significant interest rate differentials around the globe, we expect the dollar to largely maintain its current position of relative strength against most other major currencies.

1 The Black-Litterman methodology was introduced by Fischer Black and Robert Litterman of Goldman Sachs in 1990. It avoids problems inherent in some other methods by incorporating market-implied equilibrium returns consistent with the risk structure of the asset classes. The model works by blending subjective and market-implied views using a Bayesian approach that takes account of cross-asset-class relationships to help determine an internally consistent set of final estimates. In general, the expected return on every asset class is adjusted so that it is as consistent as possible with both the market-implied equilibrium and our subjective views, even if we do not express a specific subjective view on that asset class. 2 The CPI measures changes in the price level of a weighted average market basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households. It is usually calculated and reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis and Statistics of a country on a monthly and annual basis. 3 The inflation breakeven rate, defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is derived as a discount rate that equates the nominal return on a dollar of investment to the real return (not as an arithmetic difference between the nominal rate and the real rate). 4 The Trade-Weighted U.S. Dollar Index, is a measure of the value of the dollar relative to other world currencies. It is a trade-weighted index that improves on the older U.S. Dollar Index by using more currencies and updating the weights yearly rather than on an ad-hoc basis

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#### Capital Market Assumptions: Key Assumptions Methodology & Key Assumptions



**Currency Impacts** — International equities generally entail currency exposure, which potentially adds volatility for U.S.-based investors. However, compensation for this additional risk may not be adequate or reliable, and international equities have not historically offered consistent purchasing power protection. Over the short term, when the dollar is strengthening, U.S. equities and fixed income investments tend to outperform their international counterparts. Conversely, when the dollar is weakening, international investments tend to outperform. This is all from the perspective of a U.S.-based investor (defined as an investor whose local currency is the U.S. dollar, whether an individual or institution).

In an international equity portfolio with exposure to a basket of currencies, some will likely have positive returns in local currency terms, while others will be negative. In theory, this counter effect should result in currency exposures netting themselves out over time. In addition, currency returns do not exhibit strong positive correlations and, as such, tend to help diversify equity portfolios. Furthermore, there is ample empirical evidence that has been cited by the CFA Institute, among others, suggesting the standard deviation (i.e., volatility) of currency prices is only about half the standard deviation of stock prices. This suggests to us that an unhedged currency exposure may help reduce the volatility of an international equity portfolio over time. As currencies also tend to revert to a theoretical fair value/mean over time, currency-related volatility risk tends to fall, becoming a less critical component of equity risk. Thus, over the long term, our preference is to be unhedged.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** — We use the 3-month Treasury bill (T-bill) as our proxy for cash, despite it being subject to inflation and interest rate risk. Although T-bills typically do not generate positive real returns (i.e., inflation-adjusted), they do offer liquidity, safety of principal and exemption from state and local taxes. T-bills tend to carry higher yields than what are available in cash accounts, such as money market funds or deposit accounts, but are comparable on a risk-adjusted basis.

**Volatility** — Our volatility assumptions are primarily driven by a historical blend of both turbulent and quiet market periods, defined within the Windham Portfolio Advisor technology platform as the 30% most statistically unusual observations, which are then classified as turbulent. Based on our analysis of historical market volatility over the past 20-plus years, we use a blend of 60% quiet periods, 40% turbulent periods to derive our assumed asset class volatilities. This methodology has been consistently implemented in our CMA process.

The volatility backdrop over the last five years has increased, even with declines in 2023 relative to 2022. As a result, we expect an increase in overall volatility for the forecasted 10-year horizon. Persistently higher volatility has developed into a "new normal," brought on, in part, by technological enhancements to financial markets overall. However, the volatility backdrop is not significant enough, in our view, to shift our split between quiet and turbulent periods, given we are forecasting a 10-year horizon.

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# **Capital Market Assumptions: 10-Year Forecast** 2024-2033



		Proj	jected			Proj	ected
Asset Class	Index		Annual Volatility <sup>5</sup>	Asset Class	Index		Annual Volatility <sup>5</sup>
U.S. EQUITY				FIXED INCOME			
US Large Cap – Growth	S&P 500 Growth	8.45%	17.30%	Municipal Short-term	Bloomberg Municipal Bond (1-3 Y)	3.70%	1.40%
US Large Cap – Core	S&P 500	8.30%	16.90%	Municipal	Bloomberg Municipal Bond	4.50%	4.95%
US Large Cap – Value	S&P 500 Value	8.15%	17.80%	Core Short-term	Bloomberg US Aggregate (1-3 Y)	3.70%	1.45%
US Mid Cap – Growth	S&P MidCap 400 Growth	8.95%	20.20%	Core	Bloomberg US Aggregate	4.50%	4.30%
US Mid Cap – Core	S&P MidCap 400	9.00%	20.80%	Taxable Intermediate	Bloomberg US Government/Corporate Intermediate	4.20%	3.40%
US Mid Cap – Value	S&P MidCap 400 Value	9.05%	22.30%	Taxable Long	Bloomberg US Government/Corporate Long	5.80%	11.10%
US Small Cap – Growth	Russell 2000 Growth	9.45%	23.90%	U.S. Leveraged Loans	Morningstar LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan	4.90%	7.75%
US Small Cap – Core	Russell 2000	9.40%	22.00%	U.S. High Yield	Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield	6.30%	10.50%
US Small Cap – Value	Russell 2000 Value	9.00%	23.70%	Int'l Developed Markets	Bloomberg Global Aggregate Ex-US	5.50%	8.80%
Real Estate Investment	MSCI USA IMI Real Estate 25-50	9.80%	23.60%	Emerging Markets	Bloomberg Emerging Markets USD Aggregate	6.30%	9.60%
Trusts				Inflation-linked Bonds	Bloomberg US Treasury TIPS	4.90%	6.50%
INTERNATIONAL E	QUITY			ALTERNATIVES			
Int'l Large/Mid – Growth	MSCI World ex USA Growth	8.90%	18.30%	Private Equity	Burgiss Global Private Equity ex-Venture Capital <sup>6</sup>	10.65%	21.90%
Int'l Large/Mid – Core	MSCI World ex USA	8.80%	18.80%	Private Debt	Burgiss Global Private Debt <sup>6</sup>	7.70%	15.00%
Int'l Large/Mid – Value	MSCI World ex USA Value	8.70%	20.20%	Private Real Estate	Burgiss Global Real Estate <sup>6</sup>	8.30%	12.70%
Int'l Small – Growth	MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Growth	9.50%	21.40%	Infrastructure	S&P Global Infrastructure Index	8.50%	17.60%
Int'l Small – Core	MSCI World ex USA Small Cap	9.30%	21.40%	Commodities	Bloomberg Commodity Index	6.20%	17.50%
Int'l Small – Value	MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Value	9.10%	21.60%	Hedge Funds	HFRI Fund of Funds Composite Index	5.60%	7.00%
Emerging Markets	MSCI Emerging Markets IMI	9.80%	24.60%				

5 The volatilities for each asset class shown in this table represent our projections for annual volatilities. In performing the underlying analysis, we used historical monthly volatilities (as opposed to daily or weekly) spanning the last 20+ years as a key input. 6 The Private Equity, Private Debt, and Private Real Estate indices have been de-smoothed and the resulting index returns generally tracks the return patterns of the original index, but with greater volatility.

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# Appendix



#### **Overview and Enhancements**



PNC Institutional Asset Management invests in technology to help institutional investors. Our I-Hub solution includes:

ONLINE ACCOUNT ACCESS	REPORTING CAPABILITIES
<ul> <li>Access from any device</li> <li>Customized access for each user</li> <li>Dedicated technical support</li> <li>Messaging including sending documents securely</li> <li>Document retrieval for statements, investment policy statement, fee invoices and more.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Customizable reporting of key account information</li> <li>Benefit payment inquiry access and reporting</li> <li>Paperless statements for authorized persons</li> </ul>
OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES	SECURITY FEATURES
<ul> <li>Ability to initiate and manage cash processing</li> <li>Ability to initiate and manage benefit payments</li> <li>Ability to process mutual fund, equity, and fixed income trades</li> <li>Ability to process wires for alternative investment capital calls</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Unique login credential with strict password parameters</li> <li>Dual authentication with each login requires additional one-time passcode be sent to email, phone (voice) or text</li> <li>Customizable approval flows for your organization</li> <li>Emails sent to authorized persons for withdrawals that exceed thresholds by withdrawal type</li> </ul>

#### LATEST SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

• Requirement for One-Time Passcode (OTP) with each login to assist with preventing fraud. Expanded options to receive the OTP include voice call or text message.

- Allowing a current authorized person to utilize I-Hub to request a new authorized signer be added. The new Authorized Signers form is executed within I-Hub using e-Sign.
- Messaging enhancement to include the Investment Advisor in addition to the existing options of the Institutional Trust Officer and I-Hub Support.

If you have questions, or would like an I-Hub demo, please reach out to your Institutional Trust Officer or contact I-Hub Support at 1-877-636-9703 or pnc.i-hub.support@pnc.com

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