

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND
Form DEFR14A
March 12, 2018

PUTNAM CLOSED-END PROXY

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14A-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant / X /

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant / /

Check the appropriate box:

/ / Preliminary Proxy Statement.

/ / Confidential, for use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e) (2)).

/ X / Definitive Proxy Statement.

/ / Definitive Additional Materials.

/ / Soliciting Material under § 240.14a-12.

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement,
if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

/ X / No fee required.

/ / Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

/ / Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

/ / Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

We Need Your Vote

Please vote today on matters affecting your investment in Putnam High Income Securities Fund.

Your prompt response to this proxy statement is important.

Voting now can help save costs.

3

A message from Putnam Investments and the Trustees of the Putnam funds

Putnam High Income Securities Fund

A few minutes of your time now can help save time and expenses later.

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

We are asking for your vote on important matters affecting your investment in Putnam High Income Securities Fund. Putnam High Income Securities Fund will hold its annual shareholder meeting on April 27, 2018 in Boston, Massachusetts. We are asking you — and all shareholders — to consider and vote on the important matters described below.

You may vote conveniently by:

• **Visiting** the website listed on the proxy card.

• **Calling** by telephone, using the toll-free number listed on the proxy card.

• **Mailing** the enclosed proxy card — be sure to sign, date, and return the card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

Of course, you are also welcome to attend the annual shareholder meeting on April 27, 2018 and vote your shares in person with respect to the following matters:

1. Fixing the number of Trustees at 12 and electing Trustees. Shareholders of the fund are being asked to fix the number of Trustees at 12 and to elect Trustees at the upcoming annual meeting. Although Trustees do not manage fund portfolios, they play an important role in protecting shareholders. Trustees are responsible for approving the fees paid to your fund's investment adviser and its affiliates, reviewing overall fund expenses, selecting the fund's auditors, monitoring conflicts of interest, overseeing the fund's compliance with federal securities laws, and voting proxies for the fund's portfolio securities. All but one of your fund's Trustees currently are independent of the fund and Putnam Investment Management, LLC ("Putnam Management").

Detailed information regarding these proposals may be found in the enclosed proxy statement.

Please vote today.

We encourage you to sign and return your proxy card today or, alternatively, to vote online or by telephone using the voting control number that appears on your proxy card. Delaying your vote will increase fund expenses if further mailings are required. Your shares will be voted on your behalf exactly

4

as you have instructed. If you sign the proxy card without specifying your vote, your shares will be voted in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations.

Your vote is extremely important. If you have questions, please call toll-free 1-877-536-1561 or contact your financial advisor.

We appreciate your participation and prompt response, and thank you for investing in the Putnam funds.

5

Table of Contents

Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders	6
Trustees' Recommendations	7
The Proposals	8
1a. FIXING THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES AT 12	8
1b. ELECTING TRUSTEES	8
Further Information About Voting and the Annual Meeting	26
Fund Information	30

PROXY CARD(S) ENCLOSED

If you have any questions, please call toll-free 1-877-536-1561 or call your financial advisor.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Shareholder Meeting to be Held on April 27, 2018.

The proxy statement is available at

<https://www.putnam.com/static/pdf/email/HighIncomeSecurities-proxy-statement.pdf>

Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders

To the Shareholders of Putnam High Income Securities Fund:

This is the formal agenda for your fund's annual shareholder meeting. It tells you what proposals will be voted on and the time and place of the annual meeting, in case you wish to attend in person.

The annual meeting of shareholders of your fund will be held on April 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m., Boston time, at the principal offices of the fund, One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, to consider the following proposals:

Proposal Proposal Description

- 1a. Fixing the number of trustees at 12.
- 1b. Electing Trustees.

By Michael J. Higgins, Clerk, and by the Trustees

Jameson A. Baxter, Chair

Liaquat Ahamed	Kenneth R. Leibler
Ravi Akhoury	Robert E. Patterson
Barbara M. Baumann	George Putnam, III
Katinka Domotorffy	Robert L. Reynolds
Catharine Hill	Manoj P. Singh
Paul L. Joskow	

In order for you to be represented at your fund's annual shareholder meeting, we urge you to record your voting instructions over the Internet or by telephone or to mark, sign, date, and mail the enclosed proxy card(s) in the postage-paid envelope provided.

March 13, 2018

Proxy Statement

This document gives you the information you need to vote on the proposals. Much of the information is required under rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"); some of it is technical. If there is anything you don't understand, please call toll-free 1-877-536-1561 or call your financial advisor.

Who is asking for your vote?

The enclosed proxy is solicited by the Trustees of Putnam High Income Securities Fund for use at the fund's annual meeting of shareholders to be held on April 27, 2018 and, if your fund's meeting is adjourned, at any later sessions, for the purposes stated in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders (see previous page). The Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the proxy card and this proxy statement are being mailed beginning on or about March 13, 2018.

How do your fund's Trustees recommend that shareholders vote on these proposals?

The Trustees recommend that you vote

1a. FOR fixing the number of Trustees at 12;

1b. FOR electing your fund's nominees for Trustees.

Are there other matters that will be considered at the meeting?

Full Value Partners, L.P., a shareholder of the fund and a member of the "Bulldog Investors Group of Funds" ("Bulldog"), has provided notice that it intends to propose a competing slate of seven nominees to serve on the fund's Board of Trustees (the "Board"), to fix the number of Trustees on the Board at seven, and that shareholders request that the Board authorize a self-tender offer for at least 50% of the outstanding common shares of the fund at or close to net asset value. Bulldog might send you soliciting materials in an effort to persuade you to vote for their nominees or agendas. **The fund's Trustees urge that you NOT RETURN any proxy card sent to you by Bulldog.**

Who is eligible to vote?

Shareholders of record of the fund at the close of business on February 5, 2018 (the "Record Date") are entitled to be present and to vote at the annual meeting or, if it is adjourned, at any later sessions.

Each shareholder will be entitled to one vote for each share held, with fractional shares voting proportionately. Shares represented by your duly executed proxy card will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you sign and return the proxy card but don't fill in a vote, your shares will be voted in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations. If any other business properly comes before your fund's annual meeting, your shares will be voted

at the discretion of the persons designated on the proxy card.

Shareholders of the fund vote separately with respect to each proposal. No proposal is contingent on the outcome of any other proposal.

The Proposals

1a. FIXING THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES AT 12

The fund's Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Declaration of Trust") states that shareholders shall fix the number of Trustees on the fund's Board of Trustees (the "Board") at each annual meeting. The Board, based on the recommendation of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, recommends that shareholders fix the number of Trustees on your fund's Board at 12. The Board also recommends that shareholders vote to elect its 12 Trustee nominees, as described below in Proposal 1b.

If a quorum is present at the annual meeting, a plurality vote, meaning the greatest number of affirmative votes cast by shareholders, will fix the number of Trustees.

The Trustees of your fund unanimously recommend that shareholders vote "FOR" fixing the number of Trustees at 12.

1b. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Who are the nominees for Trustees?

The Board Policy and Nominating Committee of the Board is responsible for recommending nominees for Trustees of your fund. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee consists solely of Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) of your fund or of Putnam Management. Those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of your fund or of Putnam Management are referred to as "Independent Trustees" throughout this proxy statement.

The fund's Declaration of Trust requires that shareholders elect the fund's Trustees by a plurality vote at the fund's annual meeting. The Board, based on the recommendation of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, recommends that you vote for the election of the nominees described in the following pages. Each nominee is currently a Trustee of your fund and of the other Putnam funds.

Biographical Information for the Fund's Nominees.

The Board's nominees for Trustees and their backgrounds are shown in the following pages. This information includes each nominee's name, year of birth, principal occupation(s) during the past five years, and other information about the nominee's professional background, including other directorships the nominee holds. Each Trustee oversees all of the Putnam funds and serves until the election and qualification of his or her successor, or until he or she

sooner dies, resigns, retires, or is removed. The address of all of the Trustees is One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. As of December 31, 2017, there were 106 Putnam funds.

Independent Trustees

4

Name, Address ¹ , Year of Birth, Position(s) Held with Fund and Length of Service as a Putnam Fund Trustee ²	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Other Directorships Held by Trustee
Liaquat Ahamed (Born 1952), Trustee since 2012	Author; won Pulitzer Prize for Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World. Director of Aspen Insurance Co., a New York Stock Exchange company and Chair of the Aspen Board's Investment Committee.	Trustee of the Brookings Institution (a nonprofit public policy organization). Mr. Ahamed is also a director of the Rohatyn Group, an emerging-market fund complex that manages money for institutions. Mr. Ahamed has 25 years experience in the management of fixed income portfolios and was previously the Chief Executive Officer of Fischer Francis Trees & Watts, Inc., a fixed-income investment management subsidiary of BNP Paribas. Mr. Ahamed holds a B.A. in economics from Trinity College, Cambridge University and an M.A. in economics from Harvard University.
Ravi Akhoury (Born 1947), Trustee since 2009	Served as Chairman and CEO of MacKay Shields (a multi-product investment management firm) from 1992 to 2007.	Director of RAGE Frameworks, Inc. and English Helper, Inc. (each a private software company). Mr. Akhoury previously served as Director of Jacob Ballas Capital India (a non-banking finance company focused on private equity advisory services) and a member of its Compensation Committee. He also served as Director and on the Compensation Committee of MaxIndia/New York Life Insurance Company in India. Mr. Akhoury is also a Trustee of the Rubin Museum, serving on the Investment Committee, and of American India Foundation. Mr. Akhoury is a former Vice President and Investment Policy Committee member of Fischer, Francis, Trees and Watts (a fixed-income investment management subsidiary of BNP Paribas). He previously served on the Board of Bharti Telecom

(an Indian telecommunications company) and was a member of its Audit and Compensation Committees. He also served on the Board of Thompson Press (a publishing company) and was a member of its Audit Committee. Mr. Akhoury graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology with a BS in Engineering and obtained an MS in Quantitative Methods from SUNY at Stony Brook.

Barbara M. Baumann (Born 1955), Trustee since 2010

President of Cross Creek Energy Corporation, a strategic consultant to domestic energy firms and direct investor in energy projects.

Director of Buckeye Partners, L.P. (a publicly traded master limited partnership focused on pipeline transport, storage and distribution of petroleum products) and Devon Energy Corporation (a leading independent natural gas and oil exploration and production company). She is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Mount Holyoke College, and serves on the Finance Committee of the Children's Hospital of Colorado. She is the Treasurer of the Board of The Denver Foundation, and chairs its Finance Committee. Until September 2014, Ms. Baumann was a director of UNS Energy Corporation (a publicly held electric and gas utility in Arizona). Until May 2014, Ms. Baumann

Name, Address¹, Year of Birth, Position(s) Held with Fund and Length of Service as a Putnam Fund Trustee²

Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years

Other Directorships Held by Trustee

was a Director of SM Energy Corporation (a publicly held U.S. exploration and production company). Until May 2012, Ms. Baumann was a Director of CVR Energy, Inc. (a publicly held petroleum refiner and fertilizer manufacturer). Prior to 2003, she was Executive Vice President of Associated Energy Managers, LLC (a domestic private equity firm). From 1981 until 2000 she held a variety of financial and operational management positions with the global energy company Amoco Corporation and its successor,

Jameson A. Baxter (Born 1943), Trustee since 1994, Vice Chair from 2005 to 2011 and Chair since 2011

President of Baxter Associates, Inc., (a private investment firm).

BP. Ms. Baumann holds a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College and an MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Chair of the Mutual Fund Directors Forum. Until 2017, Ms. Baxter was Director of the Adirondack Land Trust and Trustee of The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter. Until 2011, Ms. Baxter was a Director of ASHTA Chemicals Inc. Until 2007, Ms. Baxter was a Director of Banta Corporation (a printing and supply chain management company), Ryerson, Inc. (a metals service company) and Advocate Health Care. She has also served as a director on a number of other boards including BoardSource (formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards), Intermatic Corporation (a manufacturer of energy control products) and MB Financial. She is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, Mount Holyoke College. Ms. Baxter is also a graduate of Mount Holyoke College.

Katinka Domotorffy (Born 1975), Trustee since 2012

Voting member of the Investment Committees of the Anne Ray Foundation and Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, part of the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. Prior to 2012, Ms. Domotorffy was Partner, Chief Investment Officer, and Global Head of Quantitative Investment Strategies at Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

Director of Reach Out and Read of Greater New York, an organization dedicated to promoting childhood literacy, of the Great Lakes Science Center, and of College Now Greater Cleveland. Ms. Domotorffy holds a BSc in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and an MSc in Accounting and Finance from the London School of Economics.

Name, Address¹, Year of Birth, Position(s) Held with Fund and Length of Service

Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years

Other Directorships Held by Trustee

as a Putnam Fund Trustee²

Catharine Bond Hill (Born 1954), Trustee since 2017

Managing Director of Ithaca S+R (a not-for-profit service that helps the academic community navigate economic and technological change).

Director of Yale-NUS College; Alumni Fellow to the Yale Corporation. Dr. Hill graduated from Williams College, earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree at Brasenose College, Oxford University, and completed her doctorate in economics at Yale University.

From 2006 to 2016, Dr. Hill served as the 10th president of Vassar College. Prior to 2006, she was the provost of Williams College.

Paul L. Joskow (Born 1947), Trustee since 1997

Dr. Joskow is the Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics, Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he joined the faculty in 1972. He was the Head of the MIT Department of Economics from 1994 to 1998 and the Director of the MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research from 1999 through 2007. Dr. Joskow was the President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (a philanthropic institution focused primarily on research and education on issues related to science, technology, and economic performance) from 2008-2017.

Trustee of Yale University; a Director of Exelon Corporation (an energy company focused on power services); and a Member of the Board of Overseers of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Prior to April 2013, he served as Director of TransCanada Corporation and TransCanada Pipelines Ltd. (energy companies focused on natural gas transmission, oil pipelines, and power services). Prior to August 2007, he served as a Director of National Grid (a U.K.-based holding company with interests in electric and gas transmission and distribution and telecommunications infrastructure). Prior to July, 2006, he served as President of the Yale University Council. Prior to February 2005, he served on the board of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (a non-profit research institution). Prior to February 2002, he was a Director of State Farm Indemnity Company (an automobile insurance company), and prior to March 2000, he was a Director of New England Electric System (a public utility holding company). Dr. Joskow holds a Ph.D. and a M.Phil. from Yale University and a B.A. from Cornell University.

Kenneth R. Leibler (Born

A founder and former

Until November 2010, Mr. Leibler was a Director of

1949), Trustee since 2006 and Vice Chair since 2016	Chairman of the Boston Options Exchange (an electronic market place for the trading of listed derivatives securities). He is currently Vice Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Beth	Ruder Finn Group (a global communications and advertising firm). Prior to December 2006, Mr. Leibler served as a Director of the Optimum Funds Group. Prior to October 2006, he served as a Director of ISO New England (the organization responsible for the operation of the electric generation system in the New England states). Prior to 2000, he was a Director of the Investment Company Institute in Washington, D.C.
--	--	--

Name, Address¹, Year of Birth, Position(s) Held with Fund and Length of Service as a Putnam Fund Trustee²	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Other Directorships Held by Trustee
	Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston and a former Director of Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization, an accountable care group jointly owned by the medical center and its affiliated physicians network. He is also Director of Eversource Corporation, which operates New England's largest energy delivery system.	Prior to January 2005, Mr. Leibler served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Boston Stock Exchange. Prior to January 2000, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Financial Companies (a publicly traded diversified asset management organization). Prior to June 1990, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Stock Exchange (AMEX). Prior to serving as AMEX President, he held the position of Chief Financial Officer, and headed its management and marketing operations. Mr. Leibler graduated with a B.A. in Economics from Syracuse University.
Robert E. Patterson³ (Born 1945), Trustee since 1984	Prior to March 15, 2017, Co-Chairman of Cabot Properties, Inc. (a private equity firm investing in commercial real estate) and Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Investment Committees	Mr. Patterson is past Chairman and served as a Trustee of the Joslin Diabetes Center. Prior to December 2001, Mr. Patterson served as the President and as a Trustee of Cabot Industrial Trust (a publicly-traded real estate investment trust). He has also served as a Trustee of the Sea Education Association. Prior to 1998, he was Executive Vice President and Director of Acquisitions of Cabot Partners Limited Partnership (a registered

	for various Cabot Funds. Mr. Patterson formerly served as Senior Advisor to these entities.	investment adviser involved in institutional real estate investments). Prior to 1990, he served as Executive Vice President of Cabot, Cabot & Forbes Realty Advisers, Inc. (the predecessor company of Cabot Partners). Mr. Patterson practiced law and held various positions in state government, and was the founding Executive Director of the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency. Mr. Patterson is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.
George Putnam, III (Born 1951), Trustee since 1984	Chairman of New Generation Research, Inc. (a publisher of financial advisory and other research services) and President of New Generation Advisors, LLC (a registered investment adviser to private funds), which are firms he founded in 1986. Prior to June 2007, Mr. Putnam was President of the Putnam Funds.	Director of The Boston Family Office, LLC (a registered investment advisor) and a Trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory. Until 2017, Mr. Putnam was a Trustee of Epiphany School. Until 2010, Mr. Putnam was a Trustee of St. Mark's School. Until 2006, Mr. Putnam was a Trustee of Shore Country Day School. Until 2002, he was a Trustee of the Sea Education Association. Mr. Putnam is a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School.

Name, Address¹, Year of Birth, Position(s) Held with Fund and Length of Service as a Putnam Fund Trustee²	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Other Directorships Held by Trustee
Manoj P. Singh (Born 1952), Trustee since 2017	Until 2015, chief operating officer and global managing director at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Ltd. (a global professional services organization). He served on the Deloitte U.S. board	Director of Abt Associates (a global research firm working in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development); Trustee of Carnegie Mellon University; Trustee of the Rubin Museum; Director of Pratham USA (an organization dedicated to children's education in India); member of the advisory board of Altimetrik (a business transformation and technology solutions

of directors and the boards of Deloitte member firms in China, Mexico and Southeast Asia.

firm); and Director of DXC Technology (a global IT services and consulting company). Mr. Singh holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and an MS in industrial administration from Carnegie Mellon University.

Interested Trustees

Robert L. Reynolds⁴ (Born 1952), Trustee since 2008

President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments since 2008 and, since 2014, President and Chief Executive Officer of Great-West Financial, a financial services company that provides retirement savings plans, life insurance, and annuity and executive benefits products, and of Great-West Lifeco U.S. Inc., a holding company that owns Putnam Investments and Great-West Financial. Member of Putnam Investments' and Great-West Financial's Board of Directors. Prior to joining Putnam Investments in 2008, Mr. Reynolds was Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Fidelity Investments from 2000 to 2007.

Director of several not-for-profit boards, including West Virginia University Foundation, the Concord Museum, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts Competitive Partnership (Chairman), and Boston Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Chief Executives Club of Boston, the National Innovation Initiative, the Massachusetts General Hospital President's Council, and the Council on Competitiveness, and he is a former President of the Commercial Club of Boston. Prior to 2008, he served as a Director of FMR Corporation, Fidelity Investments Insurance Ltd., Fidelity Investments Canada Ltd., and Fidelity Management Trust Company and as a Trustee of the Fidelity Family of Funds. Mr. Reynolds received a B.S. in Business Administration with a major in Finance from West Virginia University.

¹ The address of each Trustee is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109. As of December 31, 2017, there were 106 Putnam Funds.

² Each Trustee serves for an indefinite term, until his or her resignation, retirement during the year he or she reaches age 75, death or removal. Ms. Baxter will retire effective June 30, 2018.

³ On March 23, 2016, Great-West Financial, a company under common control with Putnam Investments, LLC and of which Mr. Reynolds is the Chief Executive Officer, entered into a loan agreement as the lending party with Cabot Industrial Core Fund Operating Partnership, L.P. ("Cabot OP"), the guarantor for a collection of six borrowing parties, each being a limited liability company wholly owned by Cabot OP. The loan is intended to provide long-term financing in the form of a 7 year loan totaling \$72.25 million to Cabot Industrial Core Fund, L.P. (the "Cabot Fund"). Cabot OP is an entity through which the Cabot Fund holds certain investments. The interest rate for the loan is 3.48%. Mr. Patterson may be deemed to have had an indirect interest in the transaction, or an indirect relationship with Great-West Financial, through his former position as an officer of Cabot OP and as the former Co-Chairman of the Investment Committee of the Cabot Fund, which approved the proposed loan on behalf of the borrowing parties. Prior to his retirement on March 15, 2017, Mr. Patterson had an 18.3% ownership interest in Cabot Properties, Inc., the highest controlling entity of Cabot OP, and was also a 14.3% partner in Cabot Properties, L.P., the asset manager of the Cabot Fund. Upon his retirement, pursuant to the terms of the governing agreements of Cabot Properties, Inc. and Cabot Properties, L.P., Mr. Patterson ceased to have any rights as a stockholder or partner, except with respect to his right to receive payment.

⁴ Trustee who is an "interested person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the fund and Putnam Management. Mr. Reynolds is deemed an "interested person" by virtue of his positions as an officer of the fund and Putnam Management. Mr. Reynolds is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments, LLC and President of your fund and each of the other Putnam funds.

Most of the Trustees have served on the Board for many years. Dr. Hill and Mr. Singh were appointed to the Board of Trustees of your fund and the other Putnam funds effective March 16, 2017. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending proposed nominees for election to the Board of Trustees for its approval. In recommending the election or appointment of the current Board members as Trustees, the Committee generally considered the educational, business and professional experience of each Trustee in determining his or her qualifications to serve as a Trustee of the fund, including the Trustee's record of service as a director or trustee of public and private organizations. This included each long-serving Trustee's previous service as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Putnam funds, during which he or she has demonstrated a high level of diligence and commitment to the interests of fund shareholders and the ability to work effectively and collegially with other members of the Board. The Committee also considered, among other factors, the particular attributes described below with respect to the various individual Trustees.

Independent Trustees:

Liaquat Ahamed — Mr. Ahamed's experience as Chief Executive Officer of a major investment management organization and as head of the investment division at the World Bank, as well as his experience as an author of economic literature.

Ravi Akhoury — Mr. Akhoury's experience as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of a major investment management organization.

Barbara M. Baumann — Ms. Baumann's experience in the energy industry as a consultant, an investor, and in both financial and operational management positions at a global energy

company, and her service as a director of multiple New York Stock Exchange companies.

Jameson A. Baxter — Ms. Baxter's experience in corporate finance acquired in the course of her career at a major investment bank, her experience as a director and audit committee chair of two New York Stock Exchange companies and her role as Chair of the Mutual Fund Directors Forum.

Katinka Domotorffy — Ms. Domotorffy's experience as Chief Investment Officer and Global Head of Quantitative Investment Strategies at a major asset management organization.

Catharine Bond Hill — Dr. Hill's education and experience as an economist and as president and provost of colleges in the United States.

Paul L. Joskow — Dr. Joskow's education and experience as a professional economist familiar with financial economics and related issues and his service on multiple for-profit boards.

Kenneth R. Leibler — Mr. Leibler's extensive experience in the financial services industry, including as Chief Executive Officer of a major asset management organization, and his service as a director of various public and private companies.

Robert E. Patterson — Mr. Patterson's training and experience as an attorney and his experience as president of a New York Stock Exchange company.

George Putnam, III — Mr. Putnam's training and experience as an attorney, his experience as the founder and Chief Executive Officer of an investment management firm and his experience as an author of various publications on the subject of investments.

Manoj P. Singh — Mr. Singh's experience as chief operating officer and global managing director of a global professional services organization that provided accounting, consulting, tax, risk management, and financial advisory services.

Interested Trustee:

Robert L. Reynolds — Mr. Reynolds's extensive experience as a senior executive of one of the largest mutual fund organizations in the United States and his current role as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments.

Each of the nominees has agreed to serve as a Trustee, if elected. If any of the nominees is unavailable for election at the time of the annual meeting, which is not anticipated, the persons designated on the proxy card may vote for other nominees at their discretion or may fix the number of Trustees at fewer than 12 for your fund.

What are the Trustees' responsibilities?

Your fund's Trustees are responsible for the general oversight of your fund's affairs. The Trustees regularly review your fund's investment performance as well as the quality of other services provided to your fund and its shareholders by Putnam Management and its affiliates, including administration and

shareholder servicing. Currently, Putnam Management and its affiliates provide administrative services to your fund. At least annually, the Trustees review and evaluate the fees and operating expenses paid by your fund for these services and negotiate changes if they deem it appropriate. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Trustees are assisted by an independent administrative staff and by your fund's auditors, independent counsel and other experts as appropriate, selected by and responsible to the Trustees.

Board Leadership Structure. Currently, 11 of the 12 Trustees of your fund are independent Trustees. These Independent Trustees must vote separately to approve all financial arrangements and other agreements with your fund's investment manager and other affiliated parties. The role of the Independent Trustees has been characterized as that of a "watchdog" charged with oversight to protect shareholders' interests against overreaching and abuse by those who are in a position to control or influence a fund. Your fund's Independent Trustees meet regularly as a group in executive session (i.e., without representatives of Putnam Management or its affiliates present). An Independent Trustee currently serves as chair of the Board.

Board Committees. Taking into account the number, the diversity and the complexity of the funds overseen by the Board and the aggregate amount of assets under management, your fund's Trustees have determined that the efficient conduct of the Board's affairs makes it desirable to delegate responsibility for certain specific matters to committees of the Board. The Executive Committee, Audit, Compliance and Distributions Committee and Board Policy and Nominating Committee are authorized to take action on certain matters as specified in their charters or in policies and procedures relating to the governance of the funds; with respect to other matters, these committees review and evaluate and make recommendations to the Trustees as they deem appropriate. The other committees also review and evaluate matters specified in their charters and make recommendations to the Trustees as they deem appropriate. Each committee may utilize the resources of your fund's independent staff, counsel and independent registered public accountants as well as other experts. The committees meet as often as appropriate, either in conjunction with regular meetings of the Trustees or otherwise. The membership and chair of each committee are appointed by the Trustees upon recommendation of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee. Each committee is chaired by an Independent Trustee and, except as noted below, the membership and chairs of each committee consist exclusively of Independent Trustees.

The Trustees have determined that this committee structure also allows the Board to focus more effectively on the oversight of risk as part of its broader oversight of the funds' affairs. While risk management is the primary responsibility of the funds' investment manager, the Trustees receive reports regarding investment risks, compliance risks and other risks. The Board and certain committees also meet periodically with the funds' Chief Compliance Officer to receive compliance reports. In addition, the Board and its Investment Oversight Committees meet periodically with the portfolio managers of the fund to receive reports regarding the management of the fund. The Board's committee structure allows separate committees to focus on different aspects of these risks and their potential impact on some or all of the funds and to discuss with the funds' investment manager how it monitors and controls risks.

The Board recognizes that the reports it receives concerning risk management matters are, by their nature, typically summaries of the relevant information. Moreover, the Board recognizes that not all risks that may affect your fund can be identified in advance; that it may not be practical or cost-effective to eliminate or to mitigate certain risks; that it may be necessary to bear certain risks (such as investment-related risks) in seeking to achieve your fund's investment objectives; and that the processes,

procedures and controls employed to address certain risks may be limited in their effectiveness. As a result of the foregoing and for other reasons, the Board's risk management oversight is subject to substantial limitations.

Audit, Compliance and Distributions Committee. The Audit, Compliance and Distributions Committee provides oversight on matters relating to the preparation of the Putnam funds' financial statements, compliance matters, internal audit functions, and Codes of Ethics issues. This oversight is discharged by regularly meeting with management and the funds' independent registered public accountants and keeping current on industry developments. Duties of this Committee also include the review and evaluation of all matters and relationships pertaining to the funds' independent registered public accountants, including their independence. The Committee also oversees all dividends and distributions by the funds. The Committee makes recommendations to the Trustees of the funds regarding the amount and timing of distributions paid by the funds, and determines such matters when the Trustees are not in session. The Committee also oversees the policies and procedures pursuant to which Putnam Management prepares recommendations for distributions, and meets regularly with representatives of Putnam Management to review the implementation of these policies and procedures. The Committee reports to the Trustees and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. Information about the fees billed to the fund by the fund's registered public accountant, as well as information about the Committee's pre-approval policies relating to the work performed by the fund's registered public accountant, is included on pages 31-32 of this proxy statement. The members of the Committee include only Independent Trustees. Each member of the Committee also is "independent," as that term is interpreted for purposes of Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Committee, a current copy of which is available at www.putnam.com/about-putnam/. The Committee currently consists of Mses. Baumann (Chairperson), Baxter and Domotorffy and Messrs. Akhoury, Patterson and Singh.

Board Policy and Nominating Committee. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee reviews matters pertaining to the operations of the Board of Trustees and its Committees, the compensation of the Trustees and their staff, and the conduct of legal affairs for the funds. The Committee evaluates and recommends all candidates for election as Trustees and recommends the appointment of members and chairs of each board committee. The Committee will consider nominees for Trustee recommended by shareholders of a fund provided that such recommendations are submitted by the date disclosed in the fund's proxy statement and otherwise comply with applicable securities laws, including Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act. The Committee also reviews policy matters affecting the operation of the

Board and its independent staff. In addition, the Committee oversees the voting of proxies associated with portfolio investments of the funds with the goal of ensuring that these proxies are voted in the best interest of the funds' shareholders. The Committee reports to the Trustees and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee generally believes that the Board benefits from diversity of background, experience and views among its members, and considers this as a factor in evaluating the composition of the Board, but has not adopted any specific policy in this regard. The Committee is composed entirely of Independent Trustees and currently consists of Dr. Joskow (Chairperson), Messrs. Leibler, Patterson and Putnam and Ms. Baxter and Baumann.

Brokerage Committee. The Brokerage Committee reviews the Putnam funds' policies regarding the execution of portfolio trades and Putnam Management's practices and procedures relating to the implementation of those policies. The Committee reviews periodic reports on the cost and quality of

execution of portfolio transactions and the extent to which brokerage commissions have been used (i) by Putnam Management to obtain brokerage and research services generally useful to it in managing the portfolios of the funds and of its other clients, and (ii) by the funds to pay for certain fund expenses. The Committee reports to the Trustees and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Ahamed (Chairperson), Leibler and Putnam and Drs. Hill and Joskow.

Contract Committee. The Contract Committee reviews and evaluates at least annually all arrangements pertaining to (i) the engagement of Putnam Management and its affiliates to provide services to the Putnam funds, (ii) the expenditure of the open-end Putnam funds' assets for distribution purposes pursuant to Distribution Plans of the open-end Putnam funds, and (iii) the engagement of other persons to provide material services to the funds, including in particular those instances where the cost of services is shared between the funds and Putnam Management and its affiliates or where Putnam Management or its affiliates have a material interest. The Committee also reviews the proposed organization of new fund products, proposed structural changes to existing funds and matters relating to closed-end funds. The Committee reports and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Putnam (Chairperson), Ahamed and Leibler and Drs. Hill and Joskow.

Executive Committee. The functions of the Executive Committee are twofold. The first is to ensure that the Putnam funds' business may be conducted at times when it is not feasible to convene a meeting of the Trustees or for the Trustees to act by written consent. The Committee may exercise any or all of the power and authority of the Trustees when the Trustees are not in session. The second is to review annual and ongoing goals, objectives and priorities for the Board and to facilitate coordination of all efforts between the Trustees and Putnam Management on behalf of the shareholders of the funds. The Committee currently consists of Ms. Baxter (Chairperson) and Baumann and Messrs. Leibler and Putnam.

Investment Oversight Committees. The Investment Oversight Committees regularly meet with investment personnel of Putnam Management to review the investment performance and strategies of the funds in light of their stated goals and policies. The Committees seek to identify any compliance issues that are unique to the applicable categories of funds and work with the appropriate Board committees to ensure that any such issues are properly addressed. Investment Oversight Committee A currently consists of Mses. Domotorffy (Chairperson) and Baumann, Messrs. Leibler and Putnam, and Drs. Hill and Joskow. Investment Oversight Committee B currently consists of Messrs. Akhoury (Chairperson), Patterson, Reynolds and Singh and Ms. Baxter.

Pricing Committee. The Pricing Committee oversees the valuation of assets of the Putnam funds and reviews the funds' policies and procedures for achieving accurate and timely pricing of fund shares. The Committee also oversees implementation of these policies, including fair value determinations of individual securities made by Putnam Management or other designated agents of the funds. The Committee also oversees compliance by money market funds with Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act and the correction of occasional pricing errors. The Committee also reviews matters related to the liquidity of portfolio holdings. The Committee reports to the Trustees and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Singh (Chairperson), Akhoury and Patterson and Mses. Baumann, Baxter and Domotorffy.

14

How large a stake do the Trustees have in the Putnam family of funds?

<R>

The Trustees allocate their investments among the Putnam funds based on their own investment needs. The table below shows the number of shares of Putnam High Income Securities Fund beneficially owned by each nominee for Trustee, as well as the value of each nominee's holdings in the fund and in all of the Putnam funds as of December 31, 2017. As a group, the Trustees owned shares of the Putnam funds valued at approximately \$80 million, as of December 31, 2017.

</R>

Trustees/ Officers	Dollar Range of Fund Shares Owned	Fund Shares Beneficially Owned	Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares Owned in All of the Putnam funds Overseen by Trustee
Liaquat Ahamed	\$1-\$10,000	100.0000	Over \$100,000
Ravi Akhoury	\$1-\$10,000	100.0000	Over \$100,000
Barbara M. Baumann	\$1-\$10,000	100.0000	Over \$100,000
Jameson A. Baxter	\$10,001-\$50,000	3,093.5810	Over \$100,000
Katinka Domotorffy	\$1-\$10,000	100.0000	Over \$100,000

<R>

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEFR14A

Catharine Bond Hill ¹	none	0.0000	\$0.00
</R>			
Paul L. Joskow	\$1-\$10,000	334.0000	Over \$100,000
Kenneth R. Leibler	\$1-\$10,000	100.0000	Over \$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1-\$10,000	1,084.0000	Over \$100,000
George Putnam, III	\$10,001-\$50,000	1,670.0000	Over \$100,000
Robert L. Reynolds	\$1-\$10,000	100.0000	Over \$100,000
<R>			
Manoj P. Singh ¹	none	0.0000	\$0.00
Trustees and Officers as a group	Over \$100,000	6,657.3270	Over \$100,000
</R>			

¹ Appointed to the Board of Trustees effective March 16, 2017.

As of December 31, 2017, to the knowledge of your fund, each Trustee, and the officers and Trustees of the fund as a group, owned less than 1% of the fund's outstanding common shares.

15

How can shareholders communicate with the Trustees?

The Board provides a process for shareholders to send communications to the Trustees. Shareholders may direct communications to the Board as a whole or to specified individual Trustees by submitting them in writing to the following address:

The Putnam Funds
Attention: "Board of Trustees" or any specified Trustee(s)
One Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Written communications must include the shareholder's name, be signed by the shareholder, refer to the Putnam fund(s) in which the shareholder holds shares and include the class and number of shares held by the shareholder as of a recent date.

Representatives of the fund's transfer agent will review all communications sent to Trustees and, as deemed appropriate, will provide copies and/or summaries of communications to the Trustees.

How often do the Trustees meet?

The Trustees currently hold regular in-person meetings eight times each year, usually over a

two-day period, to review the operations of the Putnam funds. A portion of these meetings is devoted to meetings of various committees of the Board that focus on particular matters. Each Independent Trustee generally attends several formal committee meetings during each regular meeting of the Trustees, including meetings with senior investment personnel and portfolio managers to review recent performance and the current investment climate for selected funds. These meetings ensure that fund performance is reviewed in detail on at least an annual basis. The committees of the Board, including the Executive Committee, may also meet on special occasions as the need arises. During calendar year 2017, the average Trustee participated in approximately 35 committee and Board meetings.

The number of times each committee met during calendar year 2017 is shown in the table below:

Audit, Compliance and Distributions Committee	11
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	4
Brokerage Committee	5
Contract Committee	10
Executive Committee	1
Investment Oversight Committee A	7
Investment Oversight Committee B	7
Pricing Committee	8

16

Your fund does not have a formal policy with respect to Trustee attendance at shareholder meetings. While various Trustees may attend shareholder meetings from time to time, your fund's Trustees did not attend the last annual meeting of your fund. The Trustees are generally represented at shareholder meetings by their independent staff and independent counsel.

What are some of the ways in which the Trustees represent shareholder interests?

Among other ways, the Trustees seek to represent shareholder interests:

- by reviewing your fund's investment performance with your fund's investment personnel;
- by discussing with senior management of Putnam Management steps being taken to address any performance deficiencies;
- by reviewing the quality of the various other services provided to your fund and its shareholders by Putnam Management and its affiliates;
- by reviewing in depth the fees paid by your fund and by negotiating with Putnam Management, if appropriate, to ensure that the fees remain reasonable and competitive with

those of comparable funds, while at the same time providing Putnam Management sufficient resources to continue to provide high quality services in the future;

- by reviewing brokerage costs and fees, allocations among brokers and soft dollar expenditures (if applicable);

- by reviewing the specific concerns of closed-end fund shareholders;

- by monitoring potential conflicts of interest between the Putnam funds, including your fund, and Putnam Management and its affiliates to ensure that the funds continue to be managed in the best interests of their shareholders; and

- by monitoring potential conflicts among funds managed by Putnam Management to ensure that shareholders continue to realize the benefits of participation in a large and diverse family of funds.

What are the Trustees paid for their services?

Each Independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual retainer fee and additional fees for each Trustee meeting attended and for certain related services. Independent Trustees also are reimbursed for expenses they incur relating to their service as Trustees. All of the current Independent Trustees of the fund are Trustees of all of the Putnam funds and receive fees for their services.

The Trustees periodically review their fees to ensure that the fees continue to be appropriate in light of their responsibilities as well as in relation to fees paid to trustees of other mutual fund complexes. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee, which consists solely of Independent Trustees of the fund, estimates that committee and Trustee meeting time, together with the appropriate preparation, requires the equivalent of at least four business days per regular Trustee meeting.

Under a Retirement Plan in effect for Trustees of the Putnam funds elected to the Board before 2003 (the "Plan"), each eligible Trustee who retires with at least five years of service as a Trustee of the funds is entitled to receive an annual retirement benefit equal to one-half of the average annual attendance and

retainer fees paid to such Trustee for calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005. This retirement benefit is payable during a Trustee's lifetime, beginning the year following retirement, for the number of years of service through December 31, 2006. A death benefit, also available under the Plan, ensures that the Trustee and his or her beneficiaries will receive benefit payments for the lesser of an aggregate period of (i) ten years or (ii) such Trustee's total years of service.

The Plan Administrator (currently the Board Policy and Nominating Committee) may terminate or amend the Plan at any time, but no termination or amendment will result in a reduction in the amount of benefits (i) currently being paid to a Trustee at the time of such

termination or amendment, or (ii) to which a current Trustee would have been entitled had he or she retired immediately prior to such termination or amendment. The Trustees have terminated the Plan with respect to any Trustee first elected to the Board after 2003.

The following table includes the year each Trustee became a Trustee of the Putnam funds, the fees paid to each of those Trustees by your fund included in this proxy statement for its most recent fiscal year (ended prior to December 31, 2017) and the fees paid to each of those Trustees by all of the Putnam funds during calendar year 2017.

Trustees/ Officers	Aggregate compensation	Pension or retirement benefits	Estimated annual benefits from
	from the fund (\$)	accrued as part of fund expenses (\$)	Putnam funds upon retirement
Liaquat Ahamed / 2012(3)	496	N/A	N/A
Ravi Akhoury / 2009	487	N/A	N/A
Barbara M. Baumann / 2010(3)	506	N/A	N/A
Jameson A. Baxter / 1994(3)(4)	724	29	110,533
Robert J. Darretta / 2007(3)(7)	442	N/A	N/A
<R>			
Katinka Domotorffy / 2012(3)	496	N/A	N/A
Catharine Bond Hill / 2017	262	N/A	N/A
</R>			
John A. Hill / 1985(3)(7)	392	47	161,667
<R>			
Paul L. Joskow / 1997(3)	496	22	113,417
</R>			
Kenneth R. Leibler / 2006	544	N/A	N/A
Robert E. Patterson / 1984	496	35	106,542
George Putnam, III / 1984	536	36	130,333
<R>			
Manoj P. Singh / 2017	262	N/A	N/A
</R>			
W. Thomas Stephens / 1997(5)(7)	412	20	107,125
Robert L. Reynolds / 2008(6)	N/A	N/A	N/A

(1) Estimated benefits for each Trustee are based on Trustee fee rates for calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005.

(2) As of December 31, 2017, there were 106 funds in the Putnam family.

(3) Certain Trustees are also owed compensation deferred pursuant to a Trustee Compensation Deferral Plan. As of the fund's fiscal year ended prior to December 31, 2017, no amounts of deferred compensation were payable, including income earned on such amounts, to these Trustees by the fund.

(4) Includes additional compensation to Ms. Baxter for service as Chair of the Trustees of the Putnam funds.

(5) Mr. Stephens retired from the Board of Trustees of the Putnam funds on March 31, 2008. Upon his retirement in 2008, Mr. Stephens became entitled to receive annual retirement benefit payments from the funds commencing on January 15, 2009. Mr. Stephens was re-appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Putnam funds effective May 14, 2009, and in connection with his re-appointment, Mr. Stephens agreed to suspend the balance of his retirement benefit payments for the duration of his service as a Trustee.

(6) Mr. Reynolds is an "interested person" of the fund and Putnam Management.

(7) Messrs. Darretta's, Hill's and Stephens's term as a Trustee of the Fund expired on April 28, 2017, and they retired from the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Funds on June 30, 2017.

Why should you vote for your fund's nominees?

Your current Trustees are independent, experienced, and highly qualified fiduciaries who exercise strong fund governance practices.

Independent

- The Chair of your fund, Jameson A. Baxter, is independent of Putnam Management and has served on the Board for 23 years. She also serves as the Chair of the Mutual Fund Directors Forum, which provides educational and outreach programs for independent directors;
- 11 of the 12 Trustee nominees are independent of Putnam Management; and
- The Independent Trustees are assisted by an independent administrative staff and legal counsel who are selected by the Independent Trustees and are independent of Putnam Management.

Highly Qualified

- The Trustees have significant current and past related industry experience, and have a demonstrated history of actively pursuing the interests of fund shareholders;
- The Board includes individuals with substantial professional accomplishments and prior experience in a variety of fields, including investment management, economics, finance, energy, professional services and real estate; and

- The Board has taken actions that directly benefit shareholders — liquidity events such as mergers and tender offers when in the best interests of all shareholders; a share repurchase program that has made a meaningful contribution to investment return; and a significant decrease in 2006 in management fee rates for certain Putnam funds, including your fund.

Strong Governance Practices

- The Board includes a combination of long-tenured and newer members, bringing diverse perspectives to fund oversight;
- The Board has a well-established committee and oversight structure for the Putnam funds, which has been developed over a long period of time; and
- The fund does not have a staggered board structure or other takeover defenses. Every Trustee stands for election at each annual meeting of shareholders.

What is the voting requirement for electing Trustees?

If a quorum is present at the annual meeting, the applicable number of nominees (see Proposal 1a) for election as Trustees who receive a plurality vote, meaning the greatest number of affirmative votes cast by shareholders, will be elected as Trustees.

The Trustees unanimously recommend that shareholders vote “FOR” the election of your fund’s nominees.

Further Information About Voting and the Annual Meeting

Meeting Quorum and Methods of Tabulation. The shareholders of your fund vote separately with respect to each proposal. The presence in person or by proxy of thirty percent of the shares entitled to vote constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business with respect to any proposal at the annual meeting. The tellers will count the total number of votes cast “for” approval of a proposal for purposes of determining whether sufficient affirmative votes have been cast. Shares represented by proxies that reflect abstentions and “broker non-votes” (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or the persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have the discretionary voting power on a particular matter) will be counted as shares that are present and entitled to vote on the matter for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

The documents that authorize Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company or Putnam Investor Services, Inc. (“Putnam Investor Services”) to act as Trustee for certain individual retirement accounts (including traditional, Roth and SEP IRAs, 403(b)(7) accounts and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts) provide that if an account owner does not submit voting instructions for his or her shares, Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company or Putnam Investor Services will vote such shares in the same proportions as other shareholders with similar accounts have submitted voting instructions for their shares. Shareholders should be aware that this practice, known as “echo-voting,” may have the effect of increasing the likelihood that a proposal will be acted upon (approved or disapproved) and that Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company or Putnam Investor Services, each of which is an affiliate of Putnam Management,

may

benefit indirectly from the approval and disapproval, in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations, of the various proposals in the proxy statement.

Neither abstentions nor broker non-votes have an effect on the outcome of Proposal 1a or 1b. Your fund may request that selected brokers and nominees, in their discretion, submit broker non-votes, if doing so is necessary to obtain a quorum.

Shareholders who object to any proposal in this proxy statement will not be entitled under Massachusetts law or your fund's Declaration of Trust to demand payment for, or an appraisal of, their shares.

Other business. The Trustees know of no matters other than those described in this proxy statement to be brought before the annual meeting, other than the proposals mentioned above that may be brought by Bulldog. If these or any other matters properly come before the annual meeting, proxies will be voted on these matters in accordance with the judgment of the persons named in the enclosed proxy card(s). The persons named in the enclosed proxy card(s) intend to vote against the proposals that may be brought by Bulldog, and will vote against the proposal to fix the number of Trustees on the Board at seven and will not support the competing slate of seven directors. In addition, they intend to vote against the proposal to request that the Board authorize a self-tender offer for at least 50% of the outstanding common shares of the fund at or close to net asset value per share. The Trustees of your fund and Putnam Management regularly review the closed-end structure of your fund and its benefits, which include the investment advantages of not having to manage shareholder inflows and outflows and the ability to take on investment leverage. The Trustees are mindful that, under certain circumstances, liquidity events such as those described in this proposal may be beneficial to long-term shareholders and have considered these matters over the years. We believe that the Trustees and Putnam Management are best positioned to evaluate the circumstances in which such actions may be advisable. At present, we are satisfied with the current structure of your fund. We do not believe that the tender offer is in the best interest of your fund.

Solicitation of proxies. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, the Trustees of your fund and employees of Putnam Management and Putnam Investor Services, as well as their agents, may solicit proxies in person or by telephone. Your fund may arrange to have a proxy solicitation firm call you to record your voting instructions by telephone. The procedures for voting proxies by telephone are designed to authenticate shareholders' identities, to allow them to authorize the voting of their shares in accordance with their instructions, and to confirm that their instructions have been properly recorded. Shareholders would be called at the phone number Putnam Management or Putnam Investor Services has in its records for their accounts (or that Putnam Management or Putnam Investor Services obtains from agents acting on behalf of financial intermediaries, in the case of shares held in street name through a bank, broker or other financial intermediary) and would be given an opportunity to authenticate their identities and to authorize the proxies to vote their shares at the annual meeting in accordance with their instructions. To ensure that shareholders' instructions have

been recorded correctly, they will also receive a confirmation of their instructions in the mail. A special toll-free number will be available in case the information contained in the confirmation is incorrect. Your fund has been advised by counsel that these procedures are consistent with the requirements of applicable law. If these procedures were subject to a successful legal challenge, such votes would not be counted at the annual meeting. Your fund is unaware of any such challenge at this time.

Shareholders have the opportunity to submit their voting instructions over the Internet by using a program provided by a third-party vendor hired by Putnam Management or by automated telephone service. The giving of a proxy will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the annual meeting. To vote online using the Internet, please access the Internet address listed on the proxy card and follow the instructions on the Internet site. To record your voting instructions using the automated telephone service, use the toll-free number listed on your proxy card. The Internet and telephone voting procedures are designed to authenticate shareholder identities, to allow shareholders to give their voting instructions, and to confirm that shareholders' instructions have been recorded properly.

Your fund's Trustees have adopted a general policy of maintaining confidentiality in the voting of proxies. Consistent with this policy, your fund may solicit proxies from shareholders who have not voted their shares or who have abstained from voting, including brokers and nominees.

Expense of the solicitation. For managing your fund's proxy campaign, AST Fund Solutions, 48 Wall Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10005 will receive a management fee plus reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses. AST Fund Solutions will also receive fees in connection with assembling, mailing and transmitting the notice of meeting, proxy statement and related materials on behalf of your fund, tabulating those votes that are received, and any solicitation of additional votes. While the fees received by AST Fund Solutions will vary based on the level of additional solicitation necessary to achieve quorum and shareholder approval of the Trustees' recommendations, the fees paid to AST Fund Solutions for your fund's proxy campaign are estimated to be approximately \$131,894. In addition, banks, brokers or other financial intermediaries holding shares as nominee will be reimbursed, upon request, for their reasonable expenses in sending solicitation materials to the principals of the accounts and tabulating those instructions that are received. After reimbursement of these expenses, it is estimated that your fund will incur total costs of approximately \$163,315 in connection with the proxy campaign. Other costs associated with the proxy campaign include the expenses of the preparation and printing of proxy materials. Proxy campaign costs may be increased in connection with the proposals mentioned above that may be brought by a shareholder of your fund. **The fund is bearing all of its proxy campaign costs.**

<R>

Revocation of proxies. Giving your proxy, whether by returning the proxy card(s) or providing voting instructions over the Internet or by telephone, does not affect your right to

attend the annual meeting and vote in person. Proxies, including proxies given by telephone or over the Internet, may be revoked at any time before they are voted (i) by a written revocation received by the Clerk of your fund, (ii) by properly executing and submitting a later-dated proxy, (iii) by recording later-dated voting instructions by telephone or via the Internet, or (iv) by attending the annual meeting and voting in person. If your shares are held in street name through a bank, broker or other financial intermediary, please check your voting instruction form or contact your bank, broker or other financial intermediary for instructions on how to change or revoke your vote.

Dates for receipt of shareholders' proposals for subsequent meetings of shareholders. It is currently anticipated that your fund's next annual meeting of shareholders will be held on April 26, 2019, although the Trustees of your fund reserve the right to set an earlier or later date for the annual meeting for the 2018–2019 fiscal year. Shareholder proposals which are intended to be included in the proxy statement for that meeting and presented at the 2019 annual meeting must be received by your fund on

22

or before November 13, 2018. In order for a shareholder proposal to be included in the proxy statement, both the submitting shareholder and the proposal itself must satisfy the requirements set forth in Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act. The fund may exclude from the proxy materials and consideration at a meeting certain proposals as permitted by Securities and Exchange Commission rules and state law. Shareholders who wish to make a proposal at the 2019 annual meeting without including the proposal in the fund's proxy statement must ensure that the proposal is received by your fund in good order and in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, including the requirements set forth in your fund's Amended and Restated Bylaws, between January 27, 2019 and February 26, 2019. You may obtain a copy of your fund's Amended and Restated Bylaws by submitting a request in writing to The Putnam Funds, One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.

</R>

Adjournment. To the extent permitted by the fund's Declaration of Trust and Amended and Restated Bylaws, any meeting of shareholders may, by action of the chair of the meeting, be adjourned from time to time without notice (other than announcement at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken) with respect to one or more matters to be considered at such meeting to a designated date (which may be more than 120 days after the date initially set for the meeting), time and place, whether or not a quorum is present with respect to such matter. Upon motion of the chair of the meeting, the question of adjournment may be submitted to a vote of the shareholders, and in that case, any adjournment with respect to one or more matters must be approved by the vote of holders of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote with respect to the matter or matters to be adjourned and, if approved, such adjournment shall take place without further notice (other than announcement at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken). If the required quorum has not been met, the persons named as proxies may propose adjournment of the meeting and to vote all shares that they are entitled to vote in favor of such adjournment. Unless a proxy is otherwise limited in this regard, any shares present and entitled to vote at a

meeting, including shares that are represented by broker non-votes, may, at the discretion of the proxies named therein, be voted in favor of such an adjournment. Adjournments may be proposed for a reasonable period or periods to permit further solicitation of proxies. The fund will bear the costs of any additional solicitation and of any adjourned session. Any proposal for which sufficient votes consistent with the Trustees' recommendation have been received may be acted upon and considered final regardless of whether the annual meeting is adjourned to permit additional solicitation with respect to any other proposal that may properly come before the meeting.

Duplicate mailings. As permitted by SEC rules, Putnam Management's policy is to send a single copy of the proxy statement to shareholders who share the same last name and address, unless a shareholder previously has requested otherwise. Separate proxy cards will be included with the proxy statement for each account registered at that address. If you would prefer to receive your own copy of the proxy statement, please contact Putnam Investor Services by phone at 1-877-536-1561 or by mail at P.O. Box 8383, Boston, MA 02266-8383.

Financial information. Your fund's Clerk will furnish to you, upon request and without charge, a copy of the fund's annual report for its most recent fiscal year, and a copy of its semiannual report for any subsequent semiannual period. You may direct these requests to Putnam Investor Services, P.O. Box 8383, Boston, MA 02266-8383 or by phone at 1-800-225-1581. You may also access copies of these reports by visiting Putnam's website at www.putnam.com/individual.

Fund Information

Putnam Investments. Putnam Management is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC ("Putnam Investments"). The fund does not have a distributor or principal underwriter. The Desmarais Family Residuary Trust, a trust established pursuant to the Last Will and Testament of The Honourable Paul G. Desmarais, indirectly holds approximately 59.19% of the voting rights of Power Corporation of Canada. Power Corporation of Canada, a diversified international management and holding company with interests in companies in the financial services, renewable energy, communications and other business sectors, indirectly owns approximately 65.5% of the voting shares of Power Financial Corporation, a diversified management and holding company with direct and indirect interests in the financial services sector in Canada, the United States and Europe. Power Financial Corporation in turn owns, directly and indirectly, voting securities to which are attached approximately 71.74% of the votes attached to all voting securities of Great-West Lifeco Inc., a financial services holding company with interests in life insurance, health insurance, retirement and investment services, asset management and reinsurance businesses. Great-West Lifeco Inc. indirectly owns a majority interest in, and all of the voting shares of, Putnam Investments through a series of subsidiaries.

The address of each of Putnam Investments and Putnam Management is One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. The address of The Desmarais Family Residuary Trust is 759 Victoria Square, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2J7. The address of Power Corporation

of Canada and Power Financial Corporation is 751 Victoria Square, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2J3. The address of Great-West Lifeco Inc. is 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1V3. Robert L. Reynolds is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments. His address is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

Putnam Investments Limited. Putnam Investments Limited is a registered investment adviser that has been retained by Putnam Management as investment sub-manager with respect to a portion of the assets of certain funds, and is directly owned by The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC, which is a registered investment adviser, and is owned indirectly by Putnam Investments. The directors of Putnam Investments Limited, listed along with their principal business occupations at Putnam Investments, are Andra S. Bolotin, Chief Financial Officer, Simon L. Davis, Co-Head of International Equities, Jeffrey L. Gould, Co-Head of Global Distribution, and Alan G. McCormack, Head of Quantitative Equities and Risk. The address of Putnam Investments Limited, Alan G. McCormack, and Simon L. Davis is 16 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1ER, U.K. The address of The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC, Andra S. Bolotin, and Jeffrey L. Gould is One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.

Limitation of Trustee liability. Your fund's Declaration of Trust provides that the fund will indemnify its Trustees and officers against liabilities and expenses incurred in connection with litigation in which they may be involved because of their offices with the fund, except if it is determined in the manner specified in the Declaration of Trust that they have not acted in good faith, have not acted in the reasonable belief that their actions were in the best interests of the fund or at least were not opposed to the best interests of the fund or had reasonable cause to believe their actions were unlawful in the case of a criminal proceeding, or that such indemnification would relieve any officer or Trustee of any liability to the fund or its shareholders arising by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of his or her duties. Your fund, at its expense, provides liability insurance for the benefit of its Trustees and officers.

Auditor. As listed below, the Trustees have selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 101 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02210 as the auditor for the fund's current fiscal year. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is among the country's preeminent auditors. The firm was selected primarily on the basis of its expertise as an auditor of investment companies, the quality of its audit services and the competitiveness of its fees. Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are expected to be available or present at the annual meeting and to have the opportunity to make a statement and respond to appropriate questions.

The following table presents fees billed to the fund in each of its last two fiscal years by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP:

Fiscal Year Ended	Audit Fees	Audit-Related Fees	Tax Fees	All Other Fees
August 31, 2017	\$76,363	\$—	\$17,420	\$—
August 31, 2016	\$76,328	\$—	\$17,078	\$—

Audit Fees represent fees billed for the fund's last two fiscal years relating to the audit and review of the financial statements included in annual reports and registration statements, and other services that are normally provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

Audit-Related Fees represent fees billed in the fund's last two fiscal years for services traditionally performed by the fund's auditor, including accounting consultation for proposed transactions or concerning financial accounting and reporting standards and other audit or attest services not required by statute or regulation.

Tax Fees represent fees billed in the fund's last two fiscal years for tax compliance, tax planning and tax advice services. Tax planning and tax advice services include assistance with tax audits, employee benefit plans and requests for rulings or technical advice from taxing authorities.

The following table presents the amounts PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed for aggregate non-audit fees to the fund, Putnam Management and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with Putnam Management that provides ongoing services to the fund in each of the fund's last two fiscal years:

Fiscal year ended

Aug. 31, 2017	\$399,950
Aug. 31, 2016	\$576,831

Pre-Approval Policies of the Audit, Compliance and Distributions Committee. The Audit, Compliance and Distributions Committee has determined that, as a matter of policy, all work performed for your fund by the fund's auditor will be pre-approved by the Committee itself and thus will generally not be subject to pre-approval procedures.

The Audit, Compliance and Distributions Committee of the Putnam funds also has adopted a policy to pre-approve the engagement by Putnam Management and certain of its affiliates of the fund's auditors, even in circumstances where pre-approval is not required by applicable law. Any such requests by Putnam Management or certain of its affiliates are typically submitted in writing to the Committee and explain, among other things, the nature of the proposed engagement, the estimated fees, and why this work should be performed by that particular audit firm as opposed to another one. In reviewing such requests, the Committee considers, among other things, whether the provision of such services by the audit firm is compatible with the independence of the audit firm.

Since the beginning of the two most recently completed fiscal years of your fund, all work performed by the auditor for the fund, Putnam Management and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with Putnam Management that provides ongoing services to the fund was pre-approved by the Committee or a member of the Committee pursuant to the pre-approval policies discussed above.

The following table presents fees billed to the fund in each of its last two fiscal years by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for services required to be approved pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X:

Fiscal year ended

Aug. 31, 2017	\$ 382,530
Aug. 31, 2016	\$559,753

Officers and other information. All of the officers of your fund are employees of Putnam Management or its affiliates or serve on the staff of the Office of the Trustees. Because of his positions with Putnam Management or its affiliates, Mr. Reynolds, as well as the other affiliated officers of your fund, will benefit indirectly from the management fees and investor servicing fees paid or allowed by your fund. In addition to Mr. Reynolds, the other officers of your fund are as follows:

Name, Address¹, Year of Birth, Position(s) Held with Putnam funds	Length of Service with the Putnam funds²	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years³
Jonathan S. Horwitz⁴ (Born 1955) <i>Executive Vice President, Principal Executive Officer and Compliance Liaison</i>	Since 2004	Executive Vice President, Principal Executive Officer, and Compliance Liaison, The Putnam Funds
Robert T. Burns (Born 1961) <i>Vice President and Chief Legal Officer</i>	Since 2011	General Counsel, Putnam Investments, Putnam Management and Putnam Retail Management
James F. Clark³ (Born 1974) <i>Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer</i>	Since 2016	Associate General Counsel, Putnam Investments, Putnam Management and Putnam Retail Management (2003-2015)
Michael J. Higgins⁴ (Born 1976) <i>Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk</i>	Since 2010	Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk, The Putnam Funds
Janet C. Smith (Born 1965) <i>Vice President, Principal Financial Officer,</i>	Since 2007	Director of Fund Administration Services, Putnam Investments and

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEFR14A

Principal Accounting Officer and Assistant

Putnam Management

Treasurer

Susan G. Malloy (Born 1957)

Since 2007

Director of Accounting and Control

Vice President and Assistant Treasurer

Services, Putnam Management

Mark C. Trenchard (Born 1962)

Since 2002

Director of Operational Compliance,

26

Vice President and

BSA Compliance Officer

Nancy E. Florek⁴ (Born 1957)

Since 2000

Vice President, Director of Proxy

Voting and Corporate Governance,

Assistant Clerk, and Associate

Treasurer

Denere P. Poulack⁴ (Born 1968)

Since 2004

Assistant Vice President, Assistant

Clerk, and Assistant Treasurer

Putnam Investments and Putnam

Retail Management

Vice President, Director of Proxy

Voting and Corporate Governance,

Assistant Clerk and Associate

Treasurer, The Putnam Funds

Assistant Vice President,

Assistant Clerk, and Assistant

Treasurer, The Putnam Funds

¹ The address of each officer is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

² Each officer serves an indefinite term, until his or her resignation, retirement, death or removal.

³ Prior positions and/or officer appointments with the fund or the fund's investment adviser have been omitted.

⁴ Officers of the fund who are members of the Trustees' independent administrative staff. Compensation for these individuals is fixed by the Trustees and reimbursed to Putnam Management by the fund.

Net assets of your fund as of December 31, 2017: \$ 125,387,834.67

Shares outstanding of your fund as of February 5, 2018: 12,935,965.942

5% Beneficial Ownership. As of February 1, 2018, to the knowledge of the fund, no person owned beneficially or of record 5% or more of any class of shares of the fund, except as noted as follows:

Fund Shareholder Name and Address	Holdings	Percentage Owned
CEDE & Company*		
20 Bowling Green		
New York, NY 10004-1408	12,354,313	95.50%

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEFR14A

Bulldog Investors, LLC**

250 Pehle Ave., Suite 708

Saddle Brook, NJ 07663	1,988,504	15.32%
------------------------	-----------	--------

Sit Investment Associates, Inc.***

3300 IDS Center

80 South Eighth Street

Minneapolis, MN 55402	895,932	.90%
-----------------------	---------	------

First Trust Portfolios L.P.****

First Trust Advisors L.P.

The Charger Corporation

120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400

Wheaton, IL 60187	847,464	6.55%
-------------------	---------	-------

* Believed to hold shares only as nominee.

** Bulldog Investors, LLC reported its aggregate amount owned as of February 5, 2018 (based on disclosed trades through February 1), in a 13D/A filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 7, 2018. Some or all of this position may already be reflected in Cede & Company's position in the fund.

27

*** Sit Investment Associates, Inc. reported its aggregate beneficial share ownership as of December 31, 2017, in a February 1, 2018, filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Schedule 13G. Some or all of this position may already be reflected in Cede & Company's position in the fund.

**** First Trust Portfolios, L.P., First Trust Advisors L.P., and The Charger Corporation reported shared beneficial share ownership as of December 31, 2017 in a January 26, 2018, filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Schedule 13G. Some or all of this position may already be reflected in Cede & Company's position in the fund.

28

Putnam Investments
One Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109
1-800-225-1581

Address correspondence to:
Putnam Investor Services
P.O. Box 8383
Boston, MA 02266-8383

putnam.com
