

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND  
Form DEF 14A  
January 02, 2008

**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 Pursuant to § 240.14a-12.

**PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND  
PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST**

(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:

---

## The proxy statement

Putnam High Income Securities Fund

Putnam Premier Income Trust

This proxy statement can help you decide how you want to vote on important issues relating to your Putnam fund. When you complete and sign your proxy ballot, the Trustees of the funds will vote on your behalf exactly as you have indicated. If you simply sign the proxy ballot, it will be voted in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations on page 4 of the proxy statement.

Please take a few moments and decide how you want to vote. When shareholders don't return their proxies in sufficient numbers, follow-up solicitations are required, which cost your fund money.

You can vote by returning your proxy ballots in the envelope provided. Or you can call our toll-free number, or go to the Internet. See your proxy ballot for the phone number and Internet address. If you have proxy related questions, please call 1-800-225-1581 or contact your financial advisor.

---

## Table of contents

A Message from the Chairman	1
Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders	3
Trustees' Recommendations	4
The Proposals.	5
Proposal 1	5
Further Information About Voting and the Meeting	27
Fund Information	31
Exhibit A Audit and Compliance Committee Charter	39

If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-800-225-1581 or call your financial advisor.

---

## A Message from the Chairman

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

I am writing to ask for your vote on important matters affecting your investment in the Putnam funds. While you are, of course, welcome to join us at your fund's meeting, most shareholders cast their vote by filling out and signing the enclosed proxy cards, voting via the Internet or by calling. We are asking for your vote on the following matter:

### **Fixing the number of Trustees at 13 and electing your fund's nominees for Trustees**

Although Trustees do not manage fund portfolios, they play an important role in protecting fund shareholders, and 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.

Consistent with the Investment Company Act of 1940 and SEC rules, more than three-quarters of your fund's Trustees currently are independent of the fund and Putnam Investments. Your fund's Trustees have also in the past several years been at the forefront of reform efforts affecting the mutual fund industry, including ending the practice of directing fund brokerage commissions to brokers in connection with sales of open-end fund shares, instituting measures to discourage excessive short-term trading in open-end funds and promoting other initiatives to reduce shareholder expenses and improve fund disclosures.

---

I'm sure that you, like most people, lead a busy life and are tempted to put this proxy aside for another day. Please don't. When shareholders do not vote their shares, their fund may have to incur the expense of follow-up solicitations. All shareholders benefit from the speedy return of proxies.

1

---

Your vote is important to us. We appreciate the time and consideration I am sure you will give these important matters. If you have questions about any of these proposals, please call a customer services representative at 1-800-225-1581 or contact your financial advisor.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Hill, Chairman

2

---

**PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND**  
**PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST**

## Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders

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

To the Shareholders of Putnam High Income Securities Fund and Putnam Premier Income Trust:

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of your fund will be held on January 31, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., Boston time, at the principal offices of the fund on the 8th floor of One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, to consider the following:

**1. Fixing the number of Trustees at 13 and electing your fund's nominees for Trustees. See page 5.**

By Judith Cohen, Clerk, on behalf of the Trustees:

John A. Hill, Chairman  
Jameson A. Baxter, Vice Chairman  
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr., President

Charles B. Curtis  
Robert J. Darretta  
Myra R. Drucker  
Paul L. Joskow  
Kenneth R. Leibler  
Elizabeth T. Kennan  
Robert E. Patterson  
George Putnam, III  
W. Thomas Stephens  
Richard B. Worley

**We urge you to mark, sign, date, and mail the enclosed proxy in the postage paid envelope provided or to record your voting instructions by telephone or via the Internet so that you will be represented at the meeting.**

January 4, 2008

3

---

## Proxy Statement

This document will give you the information you need to vote on the proposals. Much of the information is required under rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); some of it is technical. If there is anything you don't understand, please contact us at our toll-free number, 1-800-225-1581, or call your financial advisor.

**□ Who is asking for your vote?**

Your vote is being solicited by the Trustees of Putnam High Income Securities Fund and Putnam Premier Income Trust for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of each fund to be held on January 31, 2008, and, if your fund's meeting is adjourned, at any later meetings, for the purposes stated in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders (see page 3). The Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the proxy and the Proxy Statement are being mailed on or about January 4, 2008.





**Myra R. Drucker** (Born 1948)

Trustee since 2004

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□ □□

Ms. Drucker is Chair of the Board of Trustees of Commonfund (a not-for-profit firm specializing in asset management for educational endowments and foundations), Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Sarah Lawrence College, and a member of the Investment Committee of the Kresge Foundation (a charitable trust). She is also a Director of New York Stock Exchange LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the publicly-traded NYSE Group, Inc., a Director of Interactive Data Corporation (a provider of financial market data, analytics and related services to financial institutions and individual investors), and an advisor to RCM Capital Management (an investment management firm).

Ms. Drucker is an ex-officio member of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Pension Managers Advisory Committee, having served as Chair for seven years.

Until August 31, 2004, Ms. Drucker was Managing Director and a member of the Board of Directors of General Motors Asset Management and Chief Investment Officer of General Motors Trust Bank. Ms. Drucker also served as a member of the NYSE Corporate Accountability and Listing Standards Committee and the NYSE/NASD IPO Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining General Motors Asset Management in 2001, Ms. Drucker held various executive positions in the investment management industry. Ms. Drucker served as Chief Investment Officer of Xerox Corporation (a technology and service company in the document industry), where she was responsible for the investment of the company's pension assets. Ms. Drucker was also Staff Vice President and Director of Trust Investments for International Paper (a paper products, paper distribution, packaging and forest products company) and previously served as Manager of Trust Investments for Xerox Corporation. Ms. Drucker received a B.A. degree in Literature and Psychology from Sarah Lawrence College and pursued graduate studies in economics, statistics and portfolio theory at Temple University.

**John A. Hill** (Born 1942)

Trustee since 1985 and Chairman since 2000

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□

Mr. Hill is Vice Chairman of First Reserve Corporation, a private equity buyout firm that specializes in energy investments in the diversified worldwide energy industry.

Mr. Hill is a Director of Devon Energy Corporation and various private companies controlled by First Reserve Corporation, as well as Chairman of TH Lee, Putnam Investment Trust (a closed-end investment company advised by an affiliate of Putnam Management). He is also a Trustee of Sarah Lawrence College. Until 2005, he was a Director of Continuum Health Partners of New York.

Prior to acquiring First Reserve Corporation in 1983, Mr. Hill held executive positions in investment banking and investment management with several firms and with the federal government, including Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Deputy Director of the Federal Energy Administration. He is active in various business associations, including the Economic Club of New York, and lectures on energy issues in the United States and Europe. Mr. Hill holds a B.A. degree in Economics from Southern Methodist University and pursued graduate studies there as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.









Mr. Haldeman is President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam, LLC (Putnam Investments) and President of the Putnam Funds. He is a member of Putnam Investments Executive Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Prior to November 2003, Mr. Haldeman served as Co-Head of Putnam Investments Investment Division.

Prior to joining Putnam Investments in 2002, Mr. Haldeman held executive positions in the investment management industry. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of Delaware Investments and President and Chief Operating Officer of United Asset Management. Mr. Haldeman was also a partner and director of Cooke & Bieler, Inc. (an investment management firm).

13

---

Mr. Haldeman currently serves on the Board of Governors of the Investment Company Institute and as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College. He also serves on the Partners HealthCare Investment Committee, the Tuck School of Business and Dartmouth College Board of Overseers, and the Harvard Business School Board of Dean's Advisors. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School. Mr. Haldeman is also a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder.

\* Nominee who is an interested person (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the fund, Putnam Management and/or Putnam Retail Management. Mr. Haldeman is the President of your fund and each of the other Putnam funds, and is President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments. None of the other nominees is an interested person.

All the nominees other than Mr. Darretta were elected by the shareholders of each fund on January 11, 2007. Mr. Darretta became a Trustee of each fund by vote of the Board of Trustees on July 12, 2007.

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 meeting, which is not anticipated, the Trustees may vote for other nominees at their discretion, or the Trustees may fix the number of Trustees at fewer than 13 for your fund.

#### **What are the Trustees' responsibilities?**

Your fund's Trustees are responsible for the general oversight of your fund's affairs and for assuring that your fund is managed in the best interests of its shareholders. 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, custody, and shareholder servicing. At least annually, the Trustees review and evaluate the fees and operating expenses paid by your fund for these services and negotiate changes that they deem 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.

At least 75% of the trustees of your fund are required to not be interested persons (as defined in the 1940 Act) of your fund or your fund's investment manager. These independent trustees, who are referred to in this proxy statement as Independent Trustees, must vote separately

14

---

to approve all financial arrangements and other agreements with your fund's investment manager and other affiliated parties. The role of 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. Twelve of the 13 nominees for election as Trustee are now, and would be, if elected, Independent Trustees.

**Board committees.** Your fund's Trustees have determined that the efficient conduct of your fund's affairs makes it desirable to delegate responsibility for certain specific matters to committees of the board. Certain committees (the Executive Committee, Distributions Committee, and Audit and Compliance Committee) are authorized to act for the Trustees as specified in their charters. The other committees 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 auditors as well as other experts. The committees

meet as often as necessary, either in conjunction with regular meetings of the Trustees or otherwise. The membership and chairperson of each committee are appointed by the Trustees upon recommendation of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee.

**Audit and Compliance Committee.** The Audit and Compliance Committee provides oversight on matters relating to the preparation of the 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 auditors 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 auditors, including their independence. The members of the Committee include only Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the funds or Putnam Management. Each member of the Committee also is "independent," as such term is interpreted for purposes of Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. The Board of Trustees has adopted a written charter for the Committee. The Audit and Compliance Committee's charter, which is included in this Proxy Statement as Exhibit A, is also available on the fund's web site at [https://content.putnam.com/individual\\_investor/pdf/committee\\_charter.pdf](https://content.putnam.com/individual_investor/pdf/committee_charter.pdf). Print copies of the charter are available free of

15

---

charge upon request by calling 1-800-225-1581. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Patterson (Chairperson), Darretta, Hill, Leibler and Stephens and Ms. Drucker.

**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 Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. 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 is composed entirely of Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the funds or Putnam Management and currently consists of Dr. Kennan (Chairperson), Ms. Baxter and Messrs. Hill, Patterson and Putnam.

**Brokerage Committee.** The Brokerage Committee reviews the 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 Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Drs. Joskow (Chairperson) and Kennan, Ms. Baxter and Messrs. Curtis, Putnam and Worley.

16

---

**Communications, Service and Marketing Committee.** The Communications, Service and Marketing Committee reviews the quality of services provided to shareholders and oversees the marketing and sale of fund shares by Putnam Retail Management. The Committee also exercises general oversight of marketing and sales communications used by Putnam Retail Management, as well as other communications sent to fund shareholders. The Committee also reviews periodic summaries of any correspondence to the Trustees from shareholders. The Committee reports to the Trustees and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Putnam (Chairperson), Curtis, Patterson and Stephens and Drs. Joskow and Kennan.

**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 funds, (ii) the expenditure of the funds' assets for distribution purposes pursuant to Distribution Plans of the open-end 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 and proposed structural changes to existing funds. The Committee reports and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Ms. Baxter (Chairperson), Drs. Joskow and Kennan and Messrs. Curtis, Putnam and Worley.

**Distributions Committee.** The Distributions Committee 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 such policies and procedures. The Committee reports to the Trustees and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Ms. Drucker (Chairperson) and Messrs. Darretta, Hill, Leibler, Patterson and Stephens.

17

---

**Executive Committee.** The functions of the Executive Committee are twofold. The first is to ensure that the 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 establish annual and ongoing goals, objectives and priorities for the Board of Trustees and to ensure coordination of all efforts between the Trustees and Putnam Management on behalf of the shareholders of the funds. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Hill (Chairperson), Curtis, Patterson and Putnam, Dr. Joskow and Ms. Baxter.

**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 investment objectives 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 Messrs. Leibler (Chairperson) and Stephens and Dr. Joskow. Investment Oversight Committee B currently consists of Messrs. Darretta (Chairperson), Curtis and Hill. Investment Oversight Committee C currently consists of Messrs. Worley (Chairperson) and Patterson and Ms. Baxter. Investment Oversight Committee D currently consists of Ms. Drucker (Chairperson), Messrs. Haldeman and Putnam and Dr. Kennan.

**Investment Oversight Coordinating Committee.** The Investment Oversight Coordinating Committee coordinates the work of the Investment Oversight Committees and works with representatives of Putnam Management to coordinate the Board's general oversight of the investment performance of the funds. From time to time, as determined by the Chairman of the Board, the Committee may also review particular matters relating to fund investments and Putnam Management's investment process. The Committee currently consists of Ms. Drucker (Chairperson) and Messrs. Darretta, Leibler and Worley.

**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

18

---

Management or other designated agents of the funds. The Committee also oversees compliance by money market funds with Rule 2a-7, interfund transactions pursuant to Rule 17a-7 and the correction of occasional pricing errors. The Committee also reviews matters related to the liquidity of portfolio holdings. The Committee reports

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEF 14A

to the Trustees and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Leibler (Chairperson), Darretta, Hill, Patterson and Stephens and Ms. Drucker.

**□ How large a stake do the Trustees and nominees have in the Putnam family of funds?**

The Trustees allocate their investments among the Putnam funds based on their own investment needs. The table below shows the number of shares beneficially owned by each nominee for Trustee and the value of each nominee's holdings in each fund and in all of the Putnam funds as of October 31, 2007. As a group, the Trustees owned shares of the Putnam funds valued at approximately \$92 million as of October 31, 2007.

**Putnam High Income Securities Fund**

Name of Nominee	Dollar Range of Putnam High Income Securities Fund Shares Owned	Shares of Putnam High Income Securities Beneficially Owned	Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares held in all of the Putnam funds
Jameson A. Baxter	\$10,001-\$50,000	1,671.478	Over \$100,000
Charles B. Curtis	\$1-\$10,000	397.777	Over \$100,000
Robert J. Darretta	\$0	0	Over \$100,000
Myra R. Drucker	\$1-\$10,000	377.169	Over \$100,000
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.	\$1-\$10,000	841	Over \$100,000
John A. Hill	Over \$100,000	98,549.973	Over \$100,000
Paul L. Joskow	\$1-\$10,000	334	Over \$100,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan	\$1-\$10,000	785.380	Over \$100,000
Kenneth Leibler	\$1-\$10,000	100	Over \$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1-\$10,000	1,084	Over \$100,000
George Putnam, III	\$10,001 - \$50,000	1,670	Over \$100,000
W. Thomas Stephens	\$1-\$10,000	334	Over \$100,000
Richard B. Worley	\$1-\$10,000	352.222	Over \$100,000

**Putnam Premier Income Trust**

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEF 14A

Name of Nominee	Dollar Range of Putnam Premier Income Trust Shares Owned	Shares of Putnam Premier Income Trust Beneficially Owned	Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares held in all of the Putnam funds
Jameson A. Baxter	\$1-\$10,000	509.957	Over \$100,000
Charles B. Curtis	\$1-\$10,000	243.968	Over \$100,000
Robert J. Darretta	\$0	0	Over \$100,000
Myra R. Drucker	\$1-\$10,000	223.226	Over \$100,000
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.	\$1-\$10,000	1,005	Over \$100,000
John A. Hill	\$10,001-\$50,000	2,144.108	Over \$100,000
Paul L. Joskow	\$1-\$10,000	201	Over \$100,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan	\$1-\$10,000	493.060	Over \$100,000
Kenneth Leibler	\$1-\$10,000	100	Over \$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1-\$10,000	803	Over \$100,000
George Putnam, III	\$10,001-\$50,000	2,505	Over \$100,000
W. Thomas Stephens	\$1-\$10,000	201	Over \$100,000
Richard B. Worley	\$1-\$10,000	210.545	Over \$100,000

At October 31, 2007, the Trustees and officers of each fund, as a group, owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each fund on that date.

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

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

by carefully reviewing your fund's investment performance on an individual basis with your fund's investment team;

by carefully reviewing the quality of the various other services provided to your fund and its shareholders by Putnam Management and its affiliates;

by discussing with senior management of Putnam Management steps being taken to address any performance deficiencies;

□ by reviewing in depth the fees paid by each fund and by negotiating with Putnam Management to ensure that such 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;

20

---

□ by reviewing brokerage costs and fees, allocations among brokers, soft dollar expenditures and similar expenses of your fund;

□ by monitoring potential conflicts of interest between the funds 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 to ensure that shareholders continue to realize the benefits of participation in a large and diverse family of funds.

**□ How can shareholders communicate with the Trustees?**

The Board of Trustees provides a process for shareholders to send communications to the Trustees. Shareholders may direct communications to the Board of Trustees 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.

The Office of the Trustees will respond to all correspondence sent to Trustees; however, due to the volume of correspondence, all communications are not sent directly to the Trustees. The correspondence is reviewed, summarized and presented to the Trustees on a periodic basis.

**□ How often do the Trustees meet?**

The Trustees hold regular meetings each month (except August), usually over a two-day period, to review the operations of your fund and of the other Putnam funds. A portion of these meetings is devoted to meetings of various committees of the board that focus on particular matters. Each Trustee generally attends at least two formal committee meetings during each regular meeting of the Trustees. In addition, the Trustees meet in small groups with Chief Investment Officers, Portfolio Leaders and Portfolio Members to review recent performance and the current investment climate for selected funds. These meetings ensure that each fund's performance is reviewed in detail at least twice a year.

21

---

The committees of the board, including the Executive Committee, may also meet on special occasions as the need arises. During calendar year 2006, the average Trustee participated in approximately 64 committee and board meetings.

The number of times each committee met during your fund's last fiscal year is shown in the table below:

**Putnam High Income Securities Fund**

Fiscal year ended August 31, 2007



Audit and Compliance Committee	12
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	13
Brokerage Committee	6
Communications, Service and Marketing Committee*	9
Contract Committee	19
Distributions Committee	11
Executive Committee	2
Investment Oversight Committees	35
Investment Oversight Coordinating Committee**	10
Pricing Committee	10

**Putnam Premier Income Trust**

Fiscal year ended July 31, 2007

Audit and Compliance Committee	13
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	13
Brokerage Committee	6
Communications, Service and Marketing Committee*	9
Contract Committee	19
Distributions Committee	11
Executive Committee	2
Investment Oversight Committees	35
Investment Oversight Coordinating Committee**	10
Pricing Committee	11

\* Effective July 2007, certain responsibilities of the Marketing Committee and the Shareholder Communications and Relations Committee were assigned to a new committee, the Communications, Service and Marketing Committee. The number of meetings indicated for the Communications, Service and Marketing Committee includes the number of meetings held by the Marketing Committee and the Shareholder Communications and Relations Committee during the fund's last fiscal year.

\*\* Effective July 2007, certain responsibilities of the Investment Process Committee were assigned to a new committee, the Investment Oversight Coordinating Committee. The number of meetings indicated for the Investment Oversight Coordinating Committee includes the number of meetings held by the Investment Process Committee during the fund's last fiscal year.

Your fund does not have a policy with respect to Trustee attendance at shareholder meetings. Although your fund's Trustees did not attend the last annual meeting of your fund, they were represented at the meeting by their staff.

### □ What are the Trustees paid for their services?

Each Independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual retainer fee and additional fees for each Trustees' meeting attended, for attendance at industry seminars and for certain compliance-related services. Independent Trustees who serve on board committees receive additional fees for attendance at certain committee meetings and for special services rendered in that connection. Independent Trustees also are reimbursed for costs incurred in connection with their services, including costs of travel, seminars and educational materials. All of the current Independent Trustees of the fund are Trustees of all the Putnam funds and receive fees for their services.

The Trustees periodically review their fees to ensure that such 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 three business days per Trustee meeting. The following table shows the year each Trustee became a Trustee of the Putnam funds, the fees paid to each of those Trustees by your fund for its most recent fiscal year and the fees paid to each of those Trustees by all of the Putnam funds during calendar year 2006:

### Putnam High Income Securities Fund Compensation Table

Fiscal year ended August 31, 2007

Trustees/Year	Aggregate compensation from the fund	Retirement benefits accrued as part of fund expenses	Estimated annual benefits from all Putnam funds upon retirement (1)	Total compensation from all Putnam funds (2)
Jameson A. Baxter/1994 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$1,777	\$844	\$110,500	\$290,000
Charles B. Curtis/2001	1,814	750	113,900	300,000
Robert J. Darretta/2007 <sup>(6)</sup>	292	N/A	N/A	N/A
Myra R. Drucker/2004 <sup>(3)</sup>	1,852	N/A	N/A	290,000

Charles E. Haldeman, Jr./2004	0	N/A	N/A	0
John A. Hill/1985(3)(4)	2,339	1,344	161,700	421,419
Paul L. Joskow/1997(3)	1,776	602	113,400	295,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan/1992(3)	1,806	1,124	108,000	300,000
Kenneth R. Leibler/2006(5)	1,688	N/A	N/A	77,500
Robert E. Patterson/1984	1,806	751	106,500	300,000
George Putnam, III/1984(4)	1,887	674	130,300	320,000
W. Thomas Stephens/1997	1,744	749	107,100	290,000
Richard B. Worley/2004	1,745	N/A	N/A	300,000

24

### Putnam Premier Income Trust Compensation Table

Fiscal year ended July 31, 2007

Trustees/Year	Aggregate compensation from the fund	Retirement benefits accrued as part of fund expenses	Estimated annual benefits from all Putnam funds upon retirement (1)	Total compensation from all Putnam funds (2)
Jameson A. Baxter/1994(3)	\$3,101	\$1,492	\$110,500	\$290,000
Charles B. Curtis/2001	3,165	1,395	113,900	300,000
Robert J. Darretta/2007(6)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Myra R. Drucker/2004(3)	3,231	N/A	N/A	290,000
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr./2004	0	N/A	N/A	0
John A. Hill/1985(3)(4)	4,083	2,346	161,700	421,419
Paul L. Joskow/1997(3)	3,100	1,082	113,400	295,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEF 14A

Elizabeth T. Kennan/1992 <sup>(3)</sup>	3,152	1,978	108,000	300,000
Kenneth R. Leibler/2006 <sup>(5)</sup>	2,940	N/A	N/A	77,500
Robert E. Patterson/1984	3,152	1,312	106,500	300,000
George Putnam, III/1984 <sup>(4)</sup>	3,296	1,177	130,300	320,000
W. Thomas Stephens/1997	3,047	1,345	107,100	290,000
Richard B. Worley/2004	3,047	N/A	N/A	300,000

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

(2) As of December 31, 2006, there were 107 funds in the Putnam fund family. For Mr. Hill, amounts shown also include compensation for service as Chairman of TH Lee, Putnam Emerging Opportunities Portfolio, a closed-end fund advised by an affiliate of Putnam Management.

(3) Certain Trustees are also owed compensation deferred pursuant to a Trustee Compensation Deferral Plan. As of the dates identified below, the total amounts of deferred compensation payable by the fund, including income earned on such amounts, to certain Trustees were:

**Putnam High Income Securities Fund** (August 31, 2007) Ms. Baxter □ \$2,384; Ms. Drucker □ \$382; Mr. Hill □ \$11,728; Dr. Joskow □ \$2,830; Dr. Kennan □ \$381.

**Putnam Premier Income Trust** (July 31, 2007) Ms. Baxter □ \$8,747; Ms. Drucker □ \$1,403; Mr. Hill □ \$43,056; Dr. Joskow □ \$10,388; Dr. Kennan □ \$1,398.

(4) Includes additional compensation to Messrs. Hill and Putnam, III, for service as Chairman of the Trustees and President of the Funds, respectively. Effective June 1, 2007, Mr. Haldeman became President of the Funds.

(5) Mr. Leibler was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Putnam funds on October 12, 2006.

(6) Mr. Darretta was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Putnam funds on July 12, 2007.

Under a Retirement Plan for Trustees of the Putnam funds (the "Plan"), each 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.

□ **What is the voting requirement for electing Trustees?**

If a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting, the thirteen nominees for election as Trustees who receive the greatest number of votes cast at the Annual Meeting will be elected Trustees.

26

---

## Further Information About Voting and the Meeting

**Quorum and Methods of Tabulation.** The shareholders of each fund vote separately with respect to the proposal. In the case of Putnam High Income Securities Fund, a majority of the shares entitled to vote constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business with respect to any proposal at the meeting (unless otherwise noted in the proxy statement). In the case of Putnam Premier Income Trust, thirty percent of the shares entitled to vote constitutes a quorum. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the meeting will be counted by persons appointed by your fund as tellers for the 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. With respect to the election of Trustees, neither abstentions nor broker non-votes have an effect on the outcome of the proposal.

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

**Other business.** The Trustees know of no matters other than those set forth herein to be brought before the meeting. If, however, any other matters properly come before the Meeting, proxies will be voted on such matters in accordance with the judgment of the persons named proxy.

**Simultaneous meetings.** The meeting of shareholders of your fund is called to be held at the same time as the meetings of shareholders of certain of the other Putnam funds. It is anticipated that all meetings will be held simultaneously.

27

---

If any shareholder at the meeting objects to the holding of a simultaneous meeting and moves for an adjournment of the meeting to a time promptly after the simultaneous meetings, the persons named as proxies will vote in favor of such adjournment.

**Solicitation of proxies.** In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, Trustees of your fund and employees of Putnam Management, Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company and Putnam Retail Management 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. 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 meeting. Your fund is unaware of any such challenge at this time. Shareholders would be called at the phone number Putnam Management has in its records for their accounts, and would be asked for their Social Security number or other identifying information. The shareholders would then be given an opportunity to authorize the proxies to vote their shares at the meeting in accordance with their instructions. To ensure that the 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.

Shareholders have the opportunity to submit their voting instructions via the Internet by utilizing 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 meeting. To use 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 via 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. Shareholders voting via the Internet should understand that there may be costs associated with electronic access, such as usage

28

---

charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies that must be borne by the shareholders.

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.

Persons holding shares as nominees will, upon request, be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses in soliciting instructions from their principals. The funds have retained at their own expense Broadridge Financial Services, 60 Research Rd, Hingham, MA 02043, to aid in the solicitation of instructions for registered and nominee accounts, for a fee not to exceed \$1,500 per fund plus reasonable out of pocket expenses. The expenses of the preparation of proxy statements and related materials, including printing and delivery costs, are borne by each fund.

**Revocation of proxies.** Proxies, including proxies given by telephone or over the Internet, may be revoked at any time before they are voted either (i) by a written revocation received by the Clerk of your fund, (ii) by properly executing a later-dated proxy, (iii) by recording later-dated voting instructions via the Internet, (iv) in the case of brokers and nominees, by submitting written instructions to your fund's solicitation agent or the applicable record shareholder or (v) by attending the meeting and voting in person.

**Date for receipt of shareholders' proposals for the next annual meeting** It is currently anticipated that your fund's next annual meeting of shareholders will be held in January 2009. The Trustees of your fund reserve the right to set an earlier or later date for the 2009 meeting. Shareholder proposals to be included in the proxy statement for that meeting must be received by your fund on or before September 6, 2008. 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 1934 Act. Shareholders who wish to make a proposal at the 2009 annual meeting — other than one that will be included in the fund's proxy materials — should notify the fund no later than November 20, 2008. Shareholders who wish to propose one or more nominees for election as Trustees, or to make a proposal fixing the number of Trustees, at the 2009 annual meeting must provide written notice to the fund (including all required information) so that such notice is received in good order by the fund no earlier than November 1, 2008 and no later than December 2, 2008.

29

---

**Adjournment.** If sufficient votes in favor of any of the proposals set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders are not received by the time scheduled for the meeting or if the quorum required for the proposal has not been met, the persons named as proxies may propose adjournments of the meeting for a period or periods of not more than 60 days in the aggregate to permit further solicitation of proxies. Any adjournment will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on the question in person or by proxy at the session of the Meeting to be adjourned. The persons named as proxies will vote in favor of adjournment those proxies that they are entitled to vote in favor of the proposals. They will vote against any such adjournment those proxies required to be voted against the proposals. Your fund pays the costs of any additional solicitation and of any adjourned session. Any proposals for which sufficient favorable votes have been received by the time of the meeting may be acted upon and considered final regardless of whether the meeting is adjourned to permit additional solicitation with respect to any other proposal.

**Duplicate mailings.** As permitted by SEC rules, Putnam'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 ballots 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 1-800-225-1581 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 such requests to Putnam Investor Services, P.O. Box 8383, Boston, MA 02266-8383 or by phone at 1-800-225-1581.**

30

---

## Fund Information

**Putnam Investments.** Putnam Investment Management, LLC, your fund's investment manager and administrator, is owned through a series of holding companies by Putnam Investments, LLC (Putnam Investments). Putnam Investments is a holding company that, except for a minority stake owned by employees, is owned (through a series of holding companies) by Great-West Lifeco Inc., a subsidiary of Power Financial Corporation. Power Financial Corporation is a diversified management and holding company that has interests, directly or indirectly, in companies that are active in the financial services sector on Canada, the United States and Europe. It also has substantial holdings in a group of energy, water, waste services, specialty minerals and cement and building materials companies in Europe.

The address of each of Putnam Investments and Putnam Investment Management, LLC, is One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. The address of the executive offices of Power Financial Corporation is 751 Victoria Square, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2J3, Canada. Charles E. Haldeman, Jr. is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments. His address is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

Charles E. Haldeman, Jr., a Trustee and the President of the funds, serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments. Mr. Haldeman is also a former stockholder of Putnam Investments Trust as a result of various equity grants made to him in recent years. On September 29, 2005, Mr. Haldeman participated in the Putnam Option Exchange Program, in which holders of eligible options to purchase class B common stock of Putnam Investments Trust, the predecessor of Putnam Investments, were permitted to elect to exchange their options for restricted shares of class B common stock with a value equal to the value of the exchanged options. Mr. Haldeman was granted 14,226 restricted shares of class B common stock in exchange for an option to purchase 99,200 shares of class B common stock. On March 15, 2006, Putnam Investments Trust granted Mr. Haldeman 111,693 restricted shares of class B common stock for his performance in 2005. On March 15, 2006, Mr. Haldeman received an additional grant of 314,136 restricted shares of class B common stock and an option to purchase 510,638 shares as a special grant as a result of his employment contract with Marsh & McLennan (the former

31

---

parent company of Putnam Investments). On March 15, 2007, Mr. Haldeman received a grant of 212,660 restricted shares of class B common stock. Mr. Haldeman also held other restricted shares of class B common stock from grants in years prior to 2006.

In connection with the August 2007 acquisition of Putnam Investments by Great-West Lifeco Inc., Mr. Haldeman received cash payments of approximately \$21.8 million in complete payment for his vested equity interests in Putnam Investments Trust at a per-share price of \$30.33. Also in connection with the acquisition, Mr. Haldeman is entitled to receive deferred cash payments, which are currently expected to be paid by a newly-formed grantor trust, of up to approximately \$33.1 million over the three years following the acquisition. Mr. Haldeman has committed to invest at least 25% of the aggregate amount of such deferred payments in equity interests of Putnam Investments LLC, pursuant to an equity incentive plan established by Putnam Investments.

**Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company.** Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company, the fund's investor servicing agent, is a subsidiary of Putnam Investments. Its address is One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. In 2007, State Street Bank and Trust Company assumed the role of Custodian of the funds; previously, Putnam Fiduciary

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEF 14A

Trust Company had served as fund custodian.

For its most recent fiscal year, each fund paid Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company aggregate fees as follows, in each case excluding custody credits and investor servicing credits:

Fund (Fiscal Year-End)	Fee
Putnam High Income Securities Fund (August 31, 2007)	\$159,487
Putnam Premier Income Trust (July 31, 2007)	930,627

**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 in the reasonable belief that their actions were in the best interests of the fund 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.

32

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.** As set forth in the table below, the Audit and Compliance Committee and the full Board of Trustees have selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 125 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, or KPMG LLP, 99 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm for your fund's current fiscal year. Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and KPMG LLP are expected to be present at the meeting of shareholders of the funds to make statements and to respond to appropriate questions.

The following table presents fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for services rendered to each fund by the fund's independent registered public accounting firm:

Fiscal year ended	Audit Fees	Audit-Related Fees	Tax Fees	All Other Fees
<b>Putnam High Income Securities Fund (PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP)</b>				
August 31, 2007	\$ 98,764	\$ 2	\$9,879	\$1,042
August 31, 2006	100,437	51	9,504	215
<b>Putnam Premier Income Trust (KPMG LLP)</b>				
July 31, 2007	73,650	□	\$5,450	□
July 31, 2006	65,580	□	4,680	862



**Audit Fees** represents fees billed for the fund[s] last two fiscal years.

**Audit-Related Fees** represents 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 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.

**All Other Fees** represents fees billed for services relating to an analysis of recordkeeping fees and services relating to the valuation of derivative securities.

33

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

Fiscal year ended

Putnam High Income Securities Fund  
(PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP)

August 31, 2007	\$126,139
August 31, 2006	279,442

Putnam Premier Income Trust  
(KPMG LLP)

July 31, 2007	\$5,450
July 31, 2006	5,542

**Pre-Approval Policies of the Audit and Compliance Committee.** The Audit and Compliance Committee has determined that all work performed for the funds by the funds' independent auditors will be pre-approved by the Committee itself and thus will generally not be subject to pre-approval procedures.

The Audit and Compliance Committee also has adopted a policy to pre-approve the engagement by Putnam Management and certain of its affiliates of the funds' independent 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.

The following table presents fees billed by the fund[s] independent auditor for services required to be approved pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

34

Total

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEF 14A

Fiscal year ended	Audit- Related Fees	Tax Fees	All Other Fees	Non- Audit Fees
Putnam High Income Securities Fund (PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP)				
July 31, 2007	\$0	\$26,129	\$0	\$0
July 31, 2006	0	153,160	0	0
Putnam Premier Income Trust (KPMG LLP)				
August 31, 2007	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
August 31, 2006	0	0	0	0

The Audit and Compliance Committee of your fund has submitted the following report:

The Audit and Compliance Committee has reviewed and discussed with management of your fund the audited financial statements for the last fiscal year. The Audit and Compliance Committee has discussed with your fund's independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statements on Auditing Standard No. 61 (SAS 61). SAS 61 requires independent auditors to communicate to the Audit and Pricing Committee matters including, if applicable: (1) methods used to account for significant unusual transactions; (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus; (3) the process used by management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and the basis for the auditor's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates and (4) disagreements with management over the application of accounting principles and certain other matters. The Audit and Compliance Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from your fund's independent auditors required by the SEC's Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (among other things, requiring auditors to make written disclosures to and discuss with the Audit and Compliance Committee various matters relating to the auditor's independence), and has discussed with such accountants the independence of such accountants. Based on the foregoing review and discussions, the Audit and Compliance Committee recommended

35

to the Trustees that the audited financial statements for the last fiscal year be included in your fund's annual report to shareholders for the last fiscal year.

Robert E. Patterson (Chairperson)  
 Robert J. Darretta  
 Myra R. Drucker  
 John A. Hill  
 Kenneth R. Leibler  
 W. Thomas Stephens

**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. Haldeman, as well as the other officers of your fund, will benefit from the management fees and investor servicing fees paid or allowed by the fund. In addition to Mr. Haldeman, the other officers of each fund are as follows:

<b>Name (year of birth), Office with the fund</b>	<b>Year first elected to office</b>	<b>Business experience during past 5 years</b>
Charles E. Porter (Born 1938)* Executive Vice President, Principal Executive Officer, Associate Treasurer and Compliance Liaison	1989	Executive Vice President, Principal Executive Officer, Associate Treasurer and Compliance Liaison The Putnam Funds
Jonathan S. Horwitz (Born 1955)* Senior Vice President and Treasurer	2004	Senior Vice President and Treasurer, The Putnam Funds. Prior to 2004, Mr. Horwitz was a Managing Director at Putnam Investments.
Steven D. Krichmar (Born 1958) Vice President and Principal Financial Officer	2002	Senior Managing Director, Putnam Investments
Janet C. Smith (Born 1965) Vice President, Assistant Treasurer and Principal Accounting Officer	2006	Managing Director, Putnam Investments
Susan G. Malloy (Born 1957) Vice President and Assistant Treasurer	2007	Managing Director, Putnam Investments
Beth Mazor (Born 1958) Vice President	2002	Managing Director, Putnam Investments

36

<b>Name (year of birth), Office with the fund</b>	<b>Year first elected to office</b>	<b>Business experience during past 5 years</b>
Robert R. Leveille (Born 1969) Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer	2007	Managing Director, Putnam Investments Prior to 2004, Mr. Leveille was a member of Bell Boyd & Lloyd LLC, and prior to 2003 he was Vice President and Senior Counsel of Liberty Funds Group LLC.

Mark C. Trenchard (Born 1962) Vice President and BSA Compliance Officer	2002	Managing Director, Putnam Investments
Francis J. McNamara, III (Born 1955) Vice President and Chief Legal Officer	2004	Senior Managing Director, Putnam Investments, Putnam Management and Putnam Retail Management. Prior to 2004, Mr. McNamara was General Counsel of State Street Research & Management.
James P. Pappas (Born 1953) Vice President	2004	Managing Director, Putnam Investments and Putnam Management. During 2002, Mr. Pappas was Chief Operating Officer of Atalanta/Sosnoff Management Corporation.
Richard S. Robie III (Born 1960) Vice President	2004	Senior Managing Director, Putnam Investments, Putnam Management and Putnam Retail Management. Prior to 2003, Mr. Robie was Senior Vice President of United Asset Management Corporation.
Judith Cohen (Born 1945)* Vice President, Clerk and Assistant Treasurer	1993	Vice President, Clerk and Assistant Treasurer, The Putnam Funds
Wanda M. McManus (Born 1947)* Vice President, Senior Associate Treasurer and Assistant Clerk	1993	Vice President, Senior Associate Treasurer and Assistant Clerk, The Putnam Funds

<b>Name (year of birth), Office with the fund</b>	<b>Year first elected to office</b>	<b>Business experience during past 5 years</b>
---	---	--

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEF 14A

Nancy E. Florek (Born 1957)\* 2000  
 Vice President, Assistant Clerk,  
 Assistant Treasurer  
 and Proxy Manager

Vice President, Assistant  
 Clerk, Assistant Treasurer  
 and Proxy Manager, The  
 Putnam Funds

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

**Net assets of your fund as of November 5, 2007**

<b>Putnam High Income Securities Fund</b>	\$ 177,099,779
---	----------------

<b>Putnam Premier Income Trust</b>	\$1,124,808,446
------------------------------------	-----------------

**Shares outstanding of your fund as of November 5, 2007**

<b>Putnam High Income Securities Fund</b>	
Common shares	19,043,348.850

<b>Putnam Premier Income Trust</b>	
Common shares	156,722,876.584

**5% beneficial ownership:**

As of October 31, 2007, to the knowledge of the fund, no person owned beneficially or of record 5% or more of any class of shares of each fund, except as follows:

Putnam High Income Securities Fund

Cede & Company*	17,997,211 common shares
20 Bowling Green	(94.32% of outstanding common shares)
New York, NY 10004-1408	

Putnam Premier Income Trust

Cede & Company*	146,865,132 common shares
20 Bowling Green	(93.55% of outstanding common shares)
New York, NY 10004-1408	

\* Believed to hold shares only as nominee.

## The Putnam funds

### AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER

**Purpose.** The purpose of the Audit and Compliance Committee (the "Committee") is to oversee and assist Trustee oversight of: the integrity of the Funds' financial statements, including overseeing accounting and financial reporting processes of the Funds and the audits of the Funds' financial statements; the Funds' compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; the independent auditors' qualifications and independence; and the performance of the Funds' internal audit function, if any, and independent auditors.

The Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, terms of engagement, termination, compensation and oversight of the work of the independent auditors employed by the Funds (including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditors regarding financial reporting), and the independent auditors shall report directly to the Committee.<sup>1</sup> The Committee is also directly responsible for preparing an audit committee report required to be included in the annual proxy statement for the closed-end Funds. The Board of Trustees (the "Board") and the Funds' shareholders shall have such rights to approve, ratify and replace the Funds' independent auditors as are required by applicable law.

**Composition.** The Committee will be comprised exclusively of "independent" Trustees, as such term is interpreted for purposes of Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the listing standards of each exchange on which shares of one or more of The Putnam Funds are traded (each an "Exchange"). In addition, none of the Committee's members will be "interested persons" of the Funds as that term is defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The Committee shall have at least three members, who shall collectively satisfy the independence, financial sophistication and financial literacy listing standards of each Exchange, as financial literacy is interpreted by the Board. Committee members may serve on the audit

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this Charter, the term "management" refers to the relevant officers of the Funds, including officers that comprise the staff of the Office of the Trustees, as well as the relevant officers and employees of Putnam Investments and its affiliates.

committee of more than three listed companies, provided that the Board determines that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of the member to serve effectively on the Committee.

**Assistance.** The Committee may seek the assistance of the staff of the Office of the Trustees, the Funds' independent auditors and counsel, management and other parties as it may deem appropriate.

**Funding.** The Funds will provide the necessary funding as determined by the Committee (i) to compensate the Funds' independent auditors and any advisers employed by or at the direction of the Committee and (ii) to pay ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

**Specific Duties of Committee.** The duties of the Committee include:

□ Obtaining and reviewing, at least annually, a formal, written report by the independent auditors describing: the auditors' internal quality-control procedures; any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the auditors, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the auditors, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues; and (to assess the auditors' independence), consistent

## Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEF 14A

with Independent Standards Board Standard 1, all relationships between the independent auditors, management and the Funds;

Actively engaging in a dialogue with the independent auditors with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditors and recommending that the Trustees take appropriate action in response to the independent auditors' report to satisfy themselves of the independent auditors' independence;

Reviewing the arrangements for and scope of the annual audit and any special audits;

Conducting meetings at least quarterly;

Evaluating Committee performance at least annually;

For Funds whose shares are traded on an Exchange, discussing the annual audited financial statements and semiannual or any other periodic financial statements with Fund management and the independent auditors, including the Funds' disclosures under management's discussion of Fund performance;

40

---

Discussing with management, guidelines and policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management;

Meeting separately and periodically with management, with internal auditors (or other personnel responsible for the internal audit function, if any) and with the independent auditors;

Reviewing with the independent auditors any audit problems or difficulties and management's response to such issues, and to resolve any disagreements between management and the independent auditors;

Setting clear hiring policies by the Funds for employees or former employees of the independent auditors;

Establishing procedures for (A) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Funds regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and (B) confidential, anonymous submissions regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;

Reviewing, at least annually, (A) major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the Funds' selection or application of accounting principles, and major issues as to the adequacy of the Funds' internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies; (B) analyses prepared by management and/or the independent auditors setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the financial statements; (C) the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, on the financial statements of the Funds; and (D) earnings press releases (paying particular attention to any use of "pro forma," or "adjusted" non-GAAP, information), if any, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies;

Reviewing scope and adequacy of audits;

Reporting regularly to the Board of Trustees to review any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Funds' financial statements, the Funds' compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance, qualifications and independence of the Funds' independent auditors and the performance of the Funds' internal audit function (if any);

41

---

Pre-approving any work performed by the Funds' auditors, as required by applicable law or the rules of any Exchange;

- Reviewing matters relating to the Funds  Code of Ethics and Putnam Investments  Code of Ethics;
- Reviewing compliance matters identified to the Committee;
- Performing such other functions and having such powers as may be necessary and appropriate in the efficient and lawful discharge of the powers provided in this Charter.

**Role and Responsibilities of the Committee.** The function of the Committee is oversight; it is management's responsibility to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal control over financial reporting, and the independent auditors' responsibility to plan and carry out a proper audit. Specifically, a Fund's management is responsible for: (1) the preparation, presentation and integrity of the Fund's financial statements; (2) the maintenance of appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles and policies; and (3) the maintenance of internal control over financial reporting and other procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and related laws and regulations. The independent auditors are responsible for planning and carrying out an audit consistent with applicable legal and professional standards and the terms of their engagement letter. Nothing in this Charter shall be construed to reduce the responsibilities or liabilities of a Fund's service providers, including the independent auditors.

The review of a Fund's financial statements by the Committee is not an audit, nor does the Committee's review substitute for the responsibilities of the Funds' management for preparing, or the independent auditors for auditing, the financial statements. Members of the Committee are not full-time employees of the Funds and, in serving on the Committee, are not, and do not hold themselves out to be, acting as accountants or auditors. As such, it is not the duty or responsibility of the Committee or its members to conduct "field work" or other types of auditing or accounting reviews or procedures.

In discharging their duties, the members of the Committee are entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, if prepared or presented by: (1) one or more officers of the Funds whom the Committee member reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented; (2) legal counsel, public accountants or other persons as to

42

---

matters the Committee member reasonably believes are within the person's professional or expert competence; or (3) a Board committee of which the Committee member is not a member.

43

---

This page intentionally left blank.

---

---

**The Putnam Funds**

*One Post Office Square  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109  
Toll-free 1-800-225-1581*

248944 12/07

---

The proxy ballot



**PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND**

**To vote by mail**

Read the proxy statement.

Check the appropriate boxes on the reverse side.

Sign and date the proxy ballot. Return the proxy ballot in the envelope provided.

**To vote by telephone**

Read the proxy statement and have the proxy ballot at hand.

Call 1-888-221-0697.

Follow the automated telephone directions. There is no need for you to return your proxy ballot.

**To vote on the Web**

Read the proxy statement and have the proxy ballot at hand.

Go to <http://www.proxyweb.com/Putnam>

Follow the instructions on the site. There is no need for you to return your proxy ballot.

By signing below, you, as a shareholder of Putnam High Income Securities Fund, appoint Trustees John A. Hill and Robert E. Patterson, and each of them separately, with power of substitution to each, to be your proxies. You are empowering them to vote your Putnam Fund shares on your behalf at the meeting of the shareholders of Putnam High Income Securities Fund. The meeting will take place on January 31, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., Boston time, and may be adjourned to later times or dates. **Your vote is being solicited on behalf of the Board of Trustees.** When you complete and sign the proxy ballot, your proxies will vote exactly as you have indicated on the other side of this card. **If you simply sign the proxy ballot, or don't vote on a specific proposal, your shares will be automatically voted as the Board of Trustees recommends.** Your proxies are also authorized to vote at their discretion on any other matter that arises at the meeting or any adjournment of the meeting.

**MIS EDITS: # OF CHANGES \_\_\_/\_\_\_ PRF 1 PRF 2\_\_\_**

**OK TO PRINT AS IS\***

\*By signing this form you are authorizing MIS to print this form in its current state.

**LABEL BELOW FOR MIS USE ONLY!**

**PO# M-2775**

SIGNATURE OF PERSON AUTHORIZING PRINTING DATE

**PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME & HIGH #150-159  
PUTNAM INVESTMENTS #305, 307  
ORIGINAL 2-UP 12-10-07 JM  
DOREEN (PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND 2008 DH)  
REVISION #1 12-12-07 JM**

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND - Form DEF 14A

number 2 pencil. Please do not use a fine point pen.

If you do not mark the Proposal, your shares will be voted as the Board of Trustees recommends.

THE TRUSTEES RECOMMEND A VOTE **FOR** PROPOSAL 1.

1. Proposal to fix the number of Trustees at 13 and elect the Fund's 13 Nominees for Trustees.

		<b>F O R</b>	<b>WITHHOLD</b>	<b>FOR ALL</b>
		<b>ALL</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>E XCEPT</b>
The nominees for Trustees are:	01 John A. Hill			
	02 Jameson A. Baxter			
	03 Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.			
	04 Charles B. Curtis		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	05 Robert J. Darretta			
	06 Myra R. Drucker			
	07 Paul L. Joskow			
	08 Kenneth R. Leibler			
	09 Elizabeth T. Kennan			
	10 Robert E. Patterson			
	11 George Putnam, III			
	12 W.Thomas Stephens			
	13 Richard B. Worley			

To withhold authority to vote for one or more of the nominees, check the For All Except<sup>1</sup> box and write the name(s) or number(s) of the nominee(s) above:

If you have questions on the proposals, please call 1-800-225-1581. Please sign and date the other side of this card.

**MIS EDITS: # OF CHANGES \_\_\_/\_\_\_ PRF 1  
PRF 2\_\_\_**

\*By signing this form you are

**OK TO PRINT AS IS\*** \_\_\_\_\_ are authorizing MIS to print this form in its current state.

**LABEL BELOW FOR MIS USE ONLY!  
PO# M-2775**

**PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME & HIGH #150-159  
PUTNAM INVESTMENTS #305, 307  
ORIGINAL 2-UP 12-10-07 JM  
DOREEN (PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND 2008 DH)  
REVISION #1 12-11-07 KD  
REVISION #2 12-12-07 JM  
REVIEW #1 12-12-07 KD  
REVISION #3 12-12-07 KD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PERSON AUTHORIZING  
PRINTING

DATE

# The proxy ballot

## PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST

### To vote by mail

Read the proxy statement.

Check the appropriate boxes on the reverse side.

Sign and date the proxy ballot. Return the proxy ballot in the envelope provided.

### To vote by telephone

Read the proxy statement and have the proxy ballot at hand.

Call 1-888-221-0697.

Follow the automated telephone directions. There is no need for you to return your proxy ballot.

### To vote on the Web

Read the proxy statement and have the proxy ballot at hand.

Go to <http://www.proxyweb.com/Putnam>

Follow the instructions on the site. There is no need for you to return your proxy ballot.

By signing below, you, as a shareholder of Putnam Premier Income Trust, appoint Trustees John A. Hill and Robert E. Patterson, and each of them separately, with power of substitution to each, to be your proxies. You are empowering them to vote your Putnam Fund shares on your behalf at the meeting of the shareholders of Putnam Premier Income Trust. The meeting will take place on January 31, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., Boston time, and may be adjourned to later times or dates. **Your vote is being solicited on behalf of the Board of Trustees.** When you complete and sign the proxy ballot, your proxies will vote exactly as you have indicated on the other side of this card. **If you simply sign the proxy ballot, or don't vote on a specific proposal, your shares will be automatically voted as the Board of Trustees recommends.** Your proxies are also authorized to vote at their discretion on any other matter that arises at the meeting or any adjournment of the meeting.

|

MIS EDITS: # OF CHANGES \_\_\_/\_\_\_ PRF 1  
PRF 2\_\_\_

\*By signing this form you are

OK TO PRINT AS IS\* \_\_\_\_\_ are authorizing MIS to print this form in its current state.

**LABEL BELOW FOR MIS USE ONLY!**  
**PO# M-2775**

**PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME & HIGH #150-159**  
**PUTNAM INVESTMENTS #305, 307**  
**ORIGINAL 2-UP 12-10-07 JM**  
**DOREEN (PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST 2008 DH)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PERSON AUTHORIZING  
PRINTING

DATE

**REVISION #1 12-12-07 JM**

Proposal Please place an X in the appropriate box using black or blue ink or number 2 pencil. Please do not use a fine point pen.

If you do not mark the Proposal, your shares will be voted as the Board of Trustees recommends.

THE TRUSTEES RECOMMEND A VOTE **FOR** PROPOSAL 1.

1. Proposal to fix the number of Trustees at 13 and elect the Fund's 13 Nominees for Trustees.

			<b>F O R</b>	<b>WITHHOLD</b>	<b>FOR ALL</b>
			<b>ALL</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>E XCEPT</b>
The nominees for Trustees are:	01 John A. Hill	08 Kenneth R. Leibler			
	02 Jameson A. Baxter	09 Elizabeth T. Kennan			
	03 Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.	10 Robert E. Patterson			
	04 Charles B. Curtis	11 George Putnam, III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	05 Robert J. Darretta	12 W.Thomas Stephens			
	06 Myra R. Drucker	13 Richard B. Worley			
	07 Paul L. Joskow				

To withhold authority to vote for one or more of the nominees, check the For All Except box and write the name(s) or number(s) of the nominee(s) above:

If you have questions on the proposals, please call 1-800-225-1581. Please sign and date the other side of this card.

**MIS EDITS: # OF CHANGES \_\_\_/\_\_\_ PRF 1  
PRF 2\_\_\_**

\*By signing this form you are

**OK TO PRINT AS IS\*** \_\_\_\_\_ are authorizing MIS to print this form in its current state.

**LABEL BELOW FOR MIS USE ONLY!  
PO# M-2775**

**PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME & HIGH #150-159**

SIGNATURE OF PERSON AUTHORIZING  
PRINTING

DATE

**PUTNAM INVESTMENTS #305, 307**

**ORIGINAL 2-UP 12-10-07 JM**

**DOREEN (PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST 2008 DH)**

**REVISION #1 12-11-07 KD**

**REVISION #2 12-12-07 JM**

**REVIEW #1 12-12-07 KD**

**REVISION #3 12-12-07 KD**

---