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**Invesco**

# Enhance and Diversify Your Portfolio with Non-Core Fixed Income

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# Help Enhance and Diversify your Core Bond Portfolios

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*Most look to the **Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index**<sup>1</sup> for fixed income exposure, but it only tells half the story. Historically the sectors it ignores have been key return drivers.*

1

**Incomplete Benchmark**

2

**Missing sectors are key alpha<sup>2</sup> drivers**

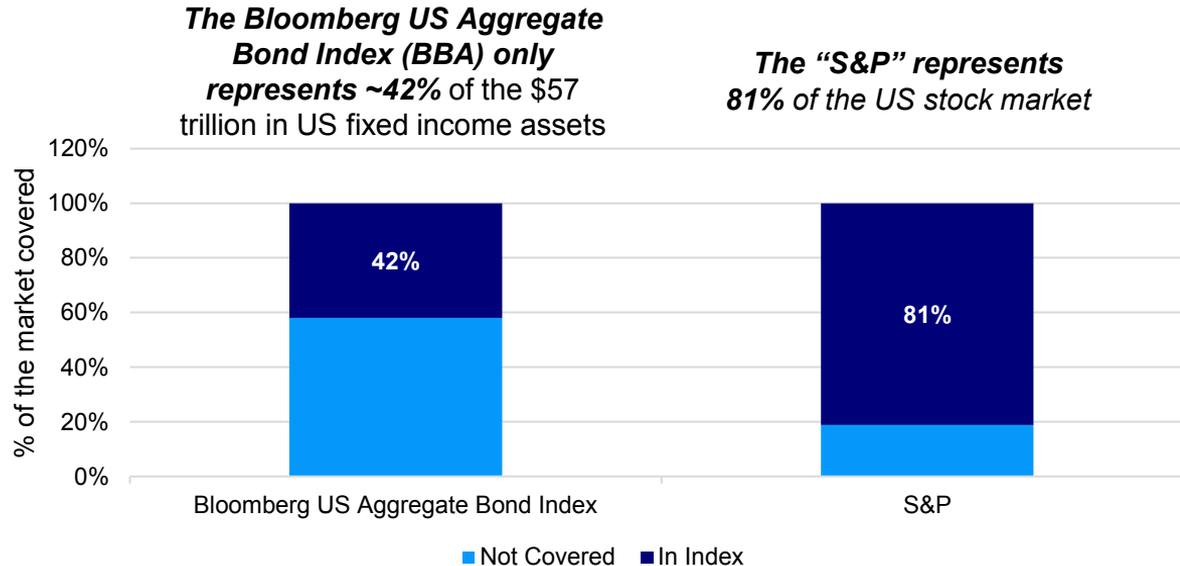
<sup>1</sup>The **Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index (BBA)** is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, mortgage-backed securities (MBS), asset-backed securities (ABS) and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS). An investment cannot be made directly into an index.

<sup>2</sup>**Alpha** is a measure of the performance of an investment as compared to a suitable benchmark index.

## 1

# Incomplete benchmark

## The Aggregate Bond Index's constraints severely limit its exposure



Source: Fixed income market, SIFMA and Bloomberg US Aggregate as of December 30, 2022. US stock market: Coverage of the S&P Composite 1500 ("S&P", S&P 500 + S&P 400<sup>1</sup> + S&P 600<sup>2</sup>) of the US listed stock market using FactSet Research Systems, Inc. and Bloomberg as of December 30, 2022.

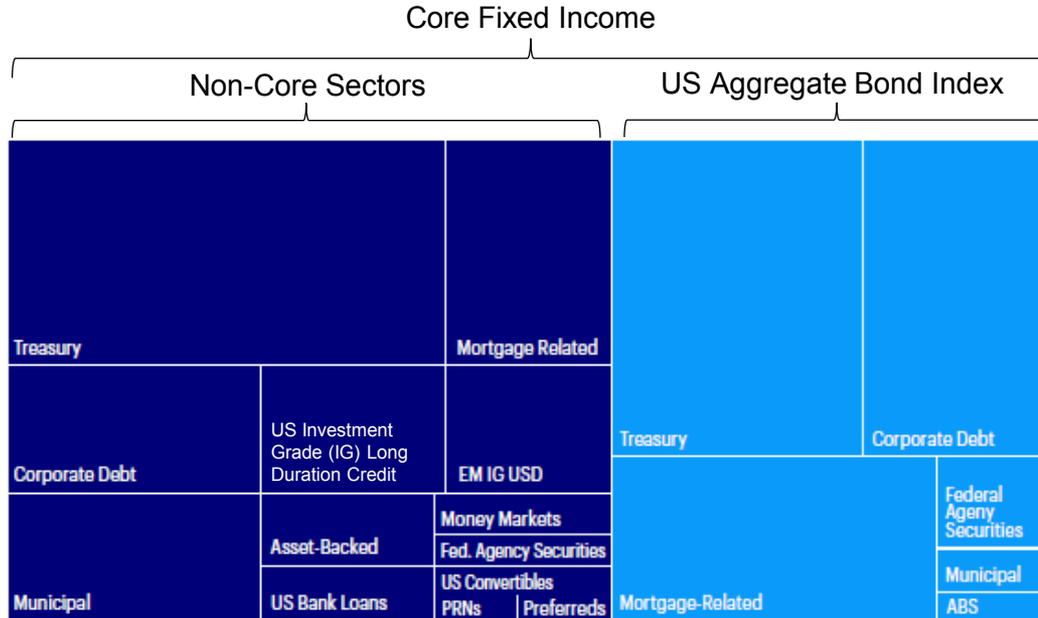
<sup>1</sup>The S&P MidCap 400 Index (S&P 400) serves as a gauge for the performance of the US mid-sized equities sector and is the most widely followed mid-cap index.

<sup>2</sup>The S&P SmallCap 600 Index (S&P 600) seeks to measure the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity market. Cap refers to the market value of the companies' outstanding stocks.

# 1

## Incomplete benchmark

The missing sectors (Non-Core) represent a substantial portion of the US fixed income market



### US Aggregate Bond Index's Key Constraints:

- ✓ Must be investment grade (IG)
- ✓ Fixed-rate
- ✓ USD
- ✓ Taxable

### This misses:

- High yield
- Bank loans
- Floating rate corporates
- Preferreds
- TIPS
- Convertibles
- EM USD debt
- Tax-exempt Munis

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Historically active managers have looked to missing sectors to enhance return potential

**88%**

*underweight the  
BBA's government  
securities allocation*

**94%**

*allocate to the  
missing sectors*

BBA = The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index

Source: Morningstar Direct February 24, 2023.

**There's a potential solution.**  
Consider strengthening your core with fixed income ETFs that may provide...

- ✓ **Added diversification<sup>1</sup>**
- ✓ **Improved risk-adjusted return potential**

<sup>1</sup>Diversification does not guarantee a profit or eliminate the risk of loss.

Interest rate risk: Fixed income ETFs are vulnerable to interest rate risk. When interest rates rise, the value of bonds held by the ETFs tends to decline, and the price of the ETF will also decrease.

Credit risk: Fixed income ETFs invest in bonds issued by various companies, governments, and other entities. These bonds may have varying levels of credit quality, and some issuers may default on their payments, which can lead to a decline in the value of the ETF.

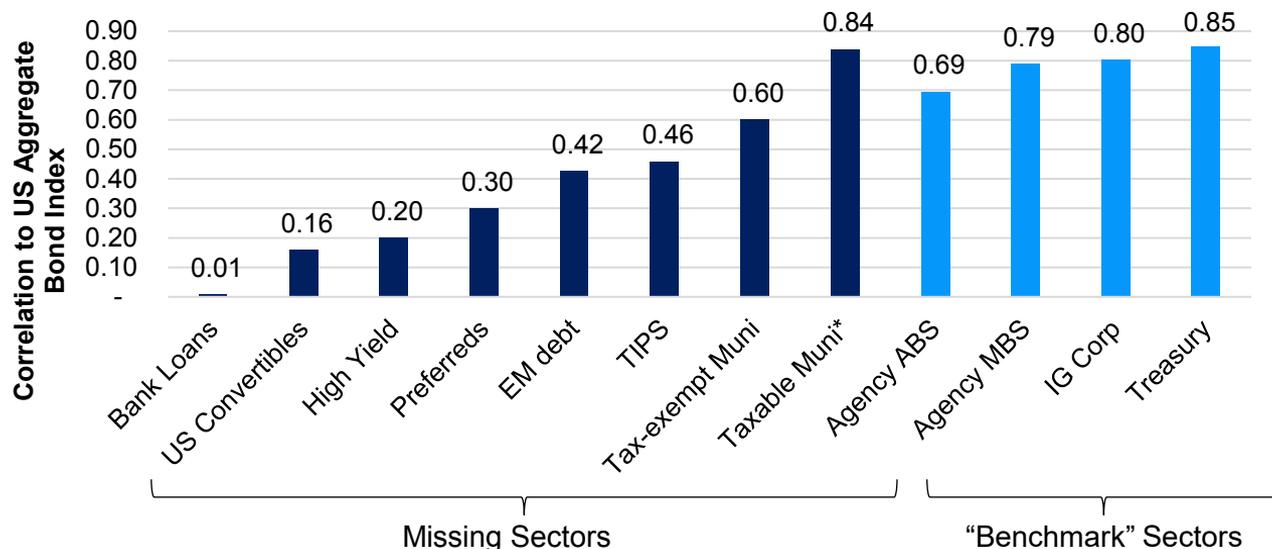
Liquidity risk: Fixed income ETFs trade on exchanges, and their liquidity may be affected by market conditions. If there are no buyers or sellers in the market, it can be difficult to buy or sell the ETF, which can lead to significant price fluctuations.

Inflation risk: Fixed income ETFs may be exposed to inflation risk, which is the risk that the rate of inflation will exceed the rate of return on the ETF, leading to a decline in purchasing power.

Currency risk: Fixed income ETFs that invest in bonds denominated in foreign currencies may be affected by currency risk. Fluctuations in the exchange rate can impact the value of the ETF, even if the underlying bonds are performing well.

## Diversification

The missing sectors (i.e., non-core sectors) can help diversify a Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index allocation:



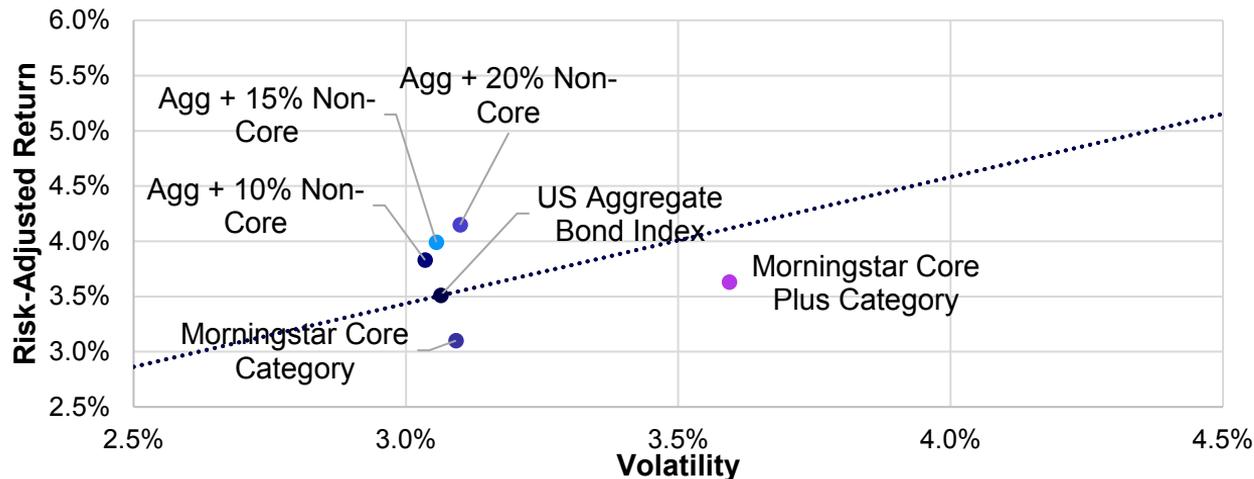
Many of the missing sectors offer **low correlations<sup>1</sup> to the US Aggregate Bond Index**, providing potential diversification benefits.

\*Taxable Munis are a small allocation within the US Aggregate Index. Adding a taxable muni allocation to a non-core sleeve may benefit the portfolio due to the sector's unique characteristics. Source: 5 year correlations from Bloomberg as of December 30, 2022. Please see page 19 for the list of indexes that were used as sector proxies. Diversification does not guarantee a profit or eliminate the risk of loss.

<sup>1</sup>Correlation is a statistical measure that determines the degree to which two variables move in relation to each other.

# Enhanced risk-return profile

## Completing the fixed income exposure improved risk-adjusted returns



- *Pairing the missing sectors (i.e., non-core) with the BBA improved risk-adjusted returns.*
- The sleeve of missing sectors equally allocates to each of the alpha drivers on the previous slide.

**Non-core** represents an equal weighted portfolio of Tax-exempt Muni, Emerging Market (EM) Debt, Preferreds, US Convertibles, Bank Loans, Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS), High Yield and Taxable Muni. See page 19 for index definitions.

**Example:** "Agg + 15% Non-Core" represents an 85% weighting to BBA and the remaining 15% is equally distributed amongst the above-mentioned categories.

**Morningstar Core Plus Category** consists of Intermediate-Term Core-Plus Bond Funds. **Morningstar Core Category** consists of Core Bond Funds – Intermediate-term taxable-bond funds.

**Volatility** is measured by the standard deviation between returns.

Source: Five-year volatilities and annualized returns from Morningstar and Bloomberg as of December 30, 2022. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. An investor cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not represent Fund returns. The performance results shown are hypothetical (not real) and were achieved by means of the retroactive application of the statistical model. It may not be possible to replicate the hypothetical results.

# Three ways to complete Fixed Income exposure

**1** **Potentially Enhance & Diversify**  
your “benchmark” bond ETF exposure with Non-Core ETFs

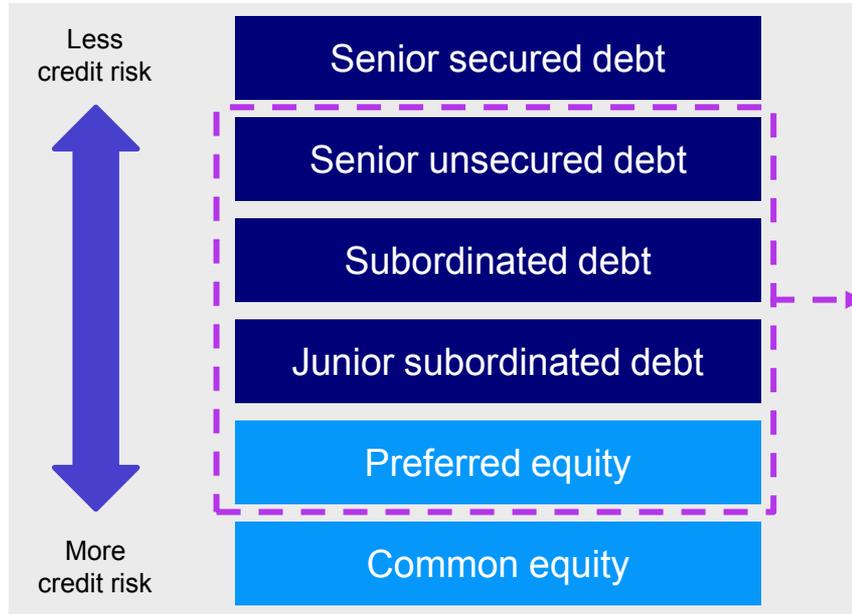
**2** **Help Simplify**  
your core plus allocation with bond ETFs

**3** **Possibly Replace**  
high-fee, underperforming active strategies

# Overview of Preferred Securities

# What are preferred and hybrid securities?

Securities with a preferred status versus common shares in a company's capital structure



Preferred/hybrid securities include characteristics of both equity and debt, and are characterized by:

- Long-dated or perpetual maturities
- Deep subordination to traditional debt
- Deferrable payments without triggering a default event
- Cumulative or Non-cumulative distributions

Source: Invesco, for illustrative purposes only

# Key features of preferred and hybrid securities



## Defined Distributions

- “Preferred” as they are paid before any dividends to common shareholders
- Can be cumulative i.e. missed dividends must be paid before any dividends are paid to common shareholders



## Perpetual or long-dated fixed maturity

- Often callable, typically after five years



## No voting rights



## Returns driven more by income than capital growth

Preferred/hybrid securities have several characteristics that investors may find attractive:

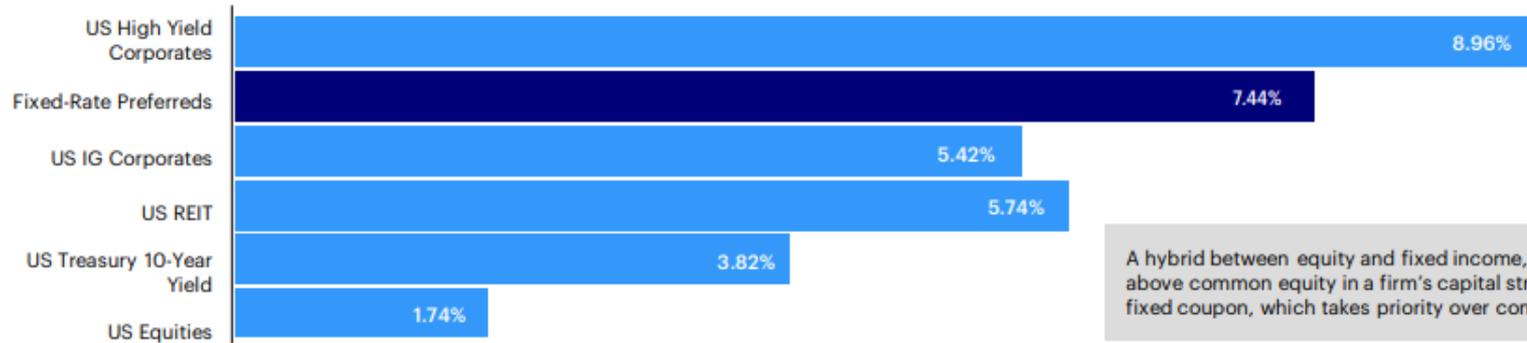
- Fixed income diversification
- Potential for higher yields vs. traditional corporate bonds
- Historically low rate of default/deferral<sup>1</sup>

Diversification does not guarantee a profit or eliminate the risk of loss

<sup>1</sup>Lower Default Risk: A significant proportion of preferreds are issued by banks and the banking sector historically has a lower default rate than other sectors. From 1981 –2021 the annual default rate of the banking sector averaged 0.64% while all other sectors averaged 1.85% (Source: Moody’s as of April 2022)

The performance results shown are hypothetical (not real) and were achieved by means of the retroactive application of the statistical model. It may not be possible to replicate the hypothetical results.

# Potential for High Income



A hybrid between equity and fixed income, preferred securities sit above common equity in a firm's capital structure and often pay a fixed coupon, which takes priority over common stock dividends.

Source: Bloomberg L.P., as of December 31, 2022. Yield to Worst was represented in this chart. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.** S&P 500 Index, ICE BofAML US Treasury Current 10-Year Index, ICE BofAML US Corporate Index, MSCI US REIT Index, ICE BofAML US High Yield Index, ICE BofAML Core Plus Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index. An investment cannot be directly into an index.

# Tax-efficient Yield

## Tax-efficient yield

Similar to traditional equity securities, many preferred issuers pay qualified dividend income (QDI), which is taxed at a lower rate than ordinary income.



For Illustrative Purposes Only.

- **Preferreds can offer tax-advantaged income for investors in high tax brackets**
- **Many preferred securities are Qualified Dividend Income-eligible (QDI)<sup>1</sup>**

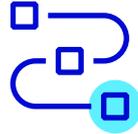
<sup>1</sup>**Qualified Dividend Income-eligible (QDI)** refers to dividends that are taxed at a lower rate. A qualified dividend is an ordinary dividend that meets the criteria to be taxed at capital gains tax rates, which are lower than income tax rates for some taxpayers.

# Taxable Municipal Bonds

# What are municipal bonds?



Issued by U.S. state and local governments, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and territories of the US.



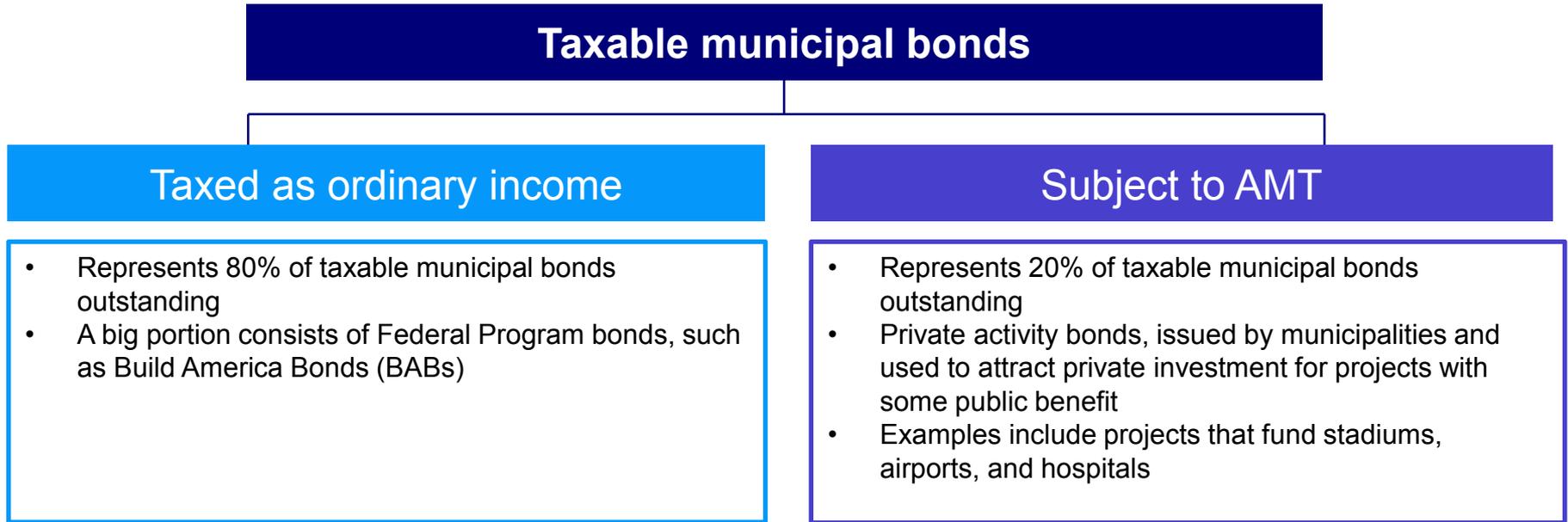
Typically used to finance the building of schools, highways, hospitals, sewer systems, and other public projects.



Traditionally, municipal bond interest payments have been exempt from federal income taxes for in-state residents, however, changes in the tax code over the years has given rise to municipal bonds that are subject to varying levels of taxation.

Source: Invesco. For illustrative purposes only.

# Types of taxable municipal bonds



Source: Bloomberg L.P. as of July 27, 2021

# Why invest in taxable municipal bond funds?

Taxable municipals are often exempt from state & local income taxes for investors who reside in the state of issuance, allowing for the possibility that the after-tax yield of the muni to be higher than that of a corporate bond of similar credit quality and duration.

Taxable municipals are secured with the same revenue streams and/or tax pledges that secure the tax-exempt bonds of the same issuers.

Taxable municipals may make sense in retirement accounts such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and pension funds, since tax on the interest income is tax-deferred.

This does not constitute a recommendation or suitability of any investment strategy or product for a particular investor. Invesco does not offer tax advice. Investors should consult a financial professional before making any investment decisions.

# Index Definitions

## *Fixed Income Indexes that were used as proxies for fixed income sectors:*

Sector	Index Name	Index Definition
Agency MBS	S&P US Mortgage-Backed Securities Index	Rules-based, market-value-weighted index covering USD-denominated, fixed-rate and adjustable-rate/hybrid mortgage pass-through securities.
IG Corp	iBoxx USD Liquid Investment Grade Index	Designed to reflect the performance of USD-denominated Investment Grade corporate debt.
Treasury	Bloomberg US Treasury Total Return Unhedged USD	Measures USD-denominated, fixed-rate, nominal debt issued by the US Treasury excluding treasury bills due to maturity constraint.
Agency ABS	Bloomberg US Agg ABS Total Return Value Unhedged USD	Measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable, asset-backed securities (ABS) market.
Tax-exempt Muni	ICE BofA National Long-Term Core Plus Municipal Securities Index	Composed of USD-denominated, investment grade, tax-exempt debt, publicly issued by US states and territories, or their political subdivisions, in the US domestic market with a term of at least 15 years remaining to final maturity.
EM debt	J.P. Morgan EMBI Global Core	Tracks liquid, US dollar emerging market fixed and floating-rate debt instruments issued by sovereign and quasi sovereign entities.
Preferreds	ICE BofA Core Plus Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index	Tracks the performance of fixed rate US dollar-denominated preferred securities issued in the US domestic market.
US Convertibles	Bloomberg U.S. Convertibles Liquid Bond Index TR Unhedged USD	Designed to represent the market of US convertible bonds.
Bank Loans	S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 Index	Designed to measure the performance of the 100 largest facilities in the US leveraged loan market.
TIPS	ICE BofA 0-5 Year US Inflation-Linked Treasury Index	Designed to measure the performance of the shorter maturity subset of the U.S. Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (“TIPS”) market.
High Yield	iBoxx USD Liquid High Yield Index	Rules-based index consisting of liquid USD-denominated, high yield corporate bonds for sale in the United States.
Taxable Muni	ICE BofA US Taxable Municipal Securities Plus Index	Designed to track the performance of USD-denominated taxable municipal debt publicly issued by US states and territories, and their political subdivisions.