

GABELLI DIVIDEND & INCOME TRUST
Form 486BPOS
April 25, 2019

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 25, 2019

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Investment Company Act File No. 811-21423

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

Form N-2

(Check Appropriate Box or Boxes)

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Pre-Effective Amendment No.

Post-Effective Amendment No. 3

and/or

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940

Amendment No. 25

THE GABELLI DIVIDEND & INCOME TRUST

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in Charter)

One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code: (914) 921-5100

Bruce N. Alpert

The Gabelli Dividend & Income Trust

One Corporate Center

Rye, New York 10580-1422

(914) 921-5100

(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

Copies to:

**Richard Prins, Esq.
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &
Flom LLP
4 Times Square
New York, New York 10036
(212) 735-3000**

**Thomas A. DeCapo
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &
Flom LLP
500 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116
(617) 573-4800**

**Andrea R. Mango, Esq.
The Gabelli Dividend &
Income Trust
One Corporate Center
Rye, New York 10580-1422
(914) 921-5100**

Approximate date of proposed public offering: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If any securities being registered on this form will be offered on a delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, other than securities offered in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, check the following box.

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box)

when declared effective pursuant to Section 8(c).
immediately upon filing pursuant to no-action relief granted to Registrant on April 18, 2014.

Base Prospectus dated April 25, 2019

\$500,000,000

The Gabelli Dividend & Income Trust

Common Shares

Preferred Shares

Notes

Subscription Rights to Purchase Common Shares

Subscription Rights to Purchase Preferred Shares

Subscription Rights to Purchase Common and Preferred Shares

Important Note. Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, paper copies of the Fund's annual and semiannual shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail, unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports. Instead, the reports will be made available on the Fund's website (<https://gabelli.com/>), and you will be notified by mail each time a report is posted and provided with a website link to access the report. If you already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. To elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge, please contact your financial intermediary, or, if you invest directly with the Fund, you may call 800-422-3554 or send an email request to info@gabelli.com. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all funds held in your account if you invest through your financial intermediary or all funds held within the fund complex if you invest directly with the Fund.

Investment Objective. The Gabelli Dividend & Income Trust (the Fund) is a diversified, closed-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act). The Fund's investment objective is to provide a high level of total return on its assets with an emphasis on dividends and income. The Fund will attempt to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its net assets in dividend paying securities (such as common and preferred stock) or other income producing securities (such as fixed-income securities and securities that are convertible into common stock). In addition, under normal market conditions, at least 50% of the Fund's total assets will consist of dividend paying equity securities. In making equity selections, Gabelli Funds, LLC (the Investment Adviser), which serves as investment adviser to the Fund, looks for securities that have a superior yield and capital gains potential. We cannot assure you that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

The Fund was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on August 20, 2003, and commenced its investment operations on November 28, 2003. An investment in the Fund is not appropriate for all investors.

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings, our common and/or fixed rate preferred shares, each with a par value \$0.001 per share (together, shares), our promissory notes (notes), and/or our subscription rights to purchase our common and/or fixed rate preferred shares, which we refer to collectively as the securities. The Fund will not issue auction rate preferred shares in a public offering pursuant to this Prospectus. Securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus (this Prospectus and each supplement thereto, a Prospectus Supplement). You should read this Prospectus and the applicable Prospectus Supplement carefully before you invest in our securities.

Our securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The Prospectus Supplement relating to the offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters, or among our underwriters, or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. The Prospectus Supplement relating to any sale of fixed rate preferred shares will set forth the liquidation preference and information about the dividend

period, dividend rate, any call protection or non-call period and other matters. The Prospectus Supplement relating to any sale of notes will set forth the principal amount, interest rate, interest payment dates, prepayment protection (if any) and other matters. The Prospectus Supplement relating to any offering of subscription rights will set forth the number of common and/or fixed rate preferred shares issuable upon the exercise of each right and the other terms of such rights offering. We may offer subscription rights for common shares, fixed rate preferred shares or common and fixed rate preferred shares. We may not sell any of our securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a Prospectus Supplement describing the method and terms of the particular offering of our securities. Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) under the symbol GDV and our Series A Preferred Shares, Series D Preferred Shares and Series G Preferred Shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol GDV Pr A, GDV Pr D and GDV Pr G, respectively. On April 24, 2019, the last reported sale price of our common shares was \$21.66. The net asset value of the Fund's common shares at the close of business on April 24, 2019 was \$23.68 per share.

Shares of closed-end funds often trade at a discount from net asset value. This creates a risk of loss for an investor purchasing shares in a public offering.

Investing in the Fund's securities involves risks. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations beginning on page 45 for factors that should be considered before investing in securities of the Fund.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this Prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This Prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities by us through agents, underwriters or dealers unless accompanied by a Prospectus Supplement.

This Prospectus, together with an applicable Prospectus Supplement, sets forth concisely the information about the Fund that a prospective investor should know before investing. You should read this Prospectus, together with an applicable Prospectus Supplement, which contains important information about the Fund, before deciding whether to invest in the securities, and retain it for future reference. A Statement of Additional Information, dated April 25, 2019, containing additional information about the Fund, has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this Prospectus. You may request a free copy of our annual and semiannual reports, request a free copy of the Statement of Additional Information, the table of contents of which is on page 102 of this Prospectus, request other information about us and make shareholder inquiries by calling (800) GABELLI (422-3554) or by writing to the Fund, or obtain a copy (and other information regarding the Fund) from the Securities and Exchange Commission's web site (<http://www.sec.gov>). Our annual and semiannual reports are also available on our website (www.gabelli.com). The Statement of Additional Information is only updated in connection with an offering and is therefore not available on the Fund's website.

Our securities do not represent a deposit or obligation of, and are not guaranteed or endorsed by, any bank or other insured depository institution, and are not federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board, or any other government agency.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and any applicable Prospectus Supplement. The Fund has not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. The Fund is not making an offer to sell these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this Prospectus and any applicable Prospectus Supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of this Prospectus or the date of the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u> | 1 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | 25 |
| <u>SUMMARY OF FUND EXPENSES</u> | 26 |
| <u>FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS</u> | 28 |
| <u>THE FUND</u> | 34 |
| <u>INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES</u> | 34 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u> | 45 |
| <u>HOW THE FUND MANAGES RISK</u> | 69 |
| <u>MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND</u> | 71 |
| <u>PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS</u> | 75 |
| <u>DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS</u> | 75 |
| <u>AUTOMATIC DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE PLANS</u> | 76 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURITIES</u> | 78 |
| <u>ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS OF THE FUND'S GOVERNING DOCUMENTS</u> | 92 |
| <u>CLOSED-END FUND STRUCTURE</u> | 93 |
| <u>REPURCHASE OF COMMON SHARES</u> | 94 |
| <u>RIGHTS OFFERINGS</u> | 94 |
| <u>TAXATION</u> | 95 |
| <u>CUSTODIAN, TRANSFER AGENT AND DIVIDEND DISBURSING AGENT</u> | 98 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | 98 |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u> | 100 |
| <u>INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u> | 100 |
| <u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u> | 100 |
| <u>PRIVACY PRINCIPLES OF THE FUND</u> | 101 |
| <u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | 101 |
| <u>TABLE OF CONTENTS OF STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u> | 102 |
| <u>CORPORATE BOND RATINGS</u> | A-1 |

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This is only a summary. This summary may not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our securities. You should review the more detailed information contained in this prospectus (this Prospectus), including the section titled Risk Factors and Special Considerations beginning on page 45, the applicable Prospectus Supplement and the Statement of Additional Information, dated April 25, 2019 (the SAI).

The Fund

The Gabelli Dividend & Income Trust is a diversified, closed-end management investment company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware on August 20, 2003. Throughout this Prospectus, we refer to The Gabelli Dividend & Income Trust as the Fund or as we. See The Fund.

The Fund's outstanding common shares, par value \$0.001 per share, are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) under the symbol GDV and our Series A Preferred Shares, our Series D Preferred Shares and our Series G Preferred Shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol GDV Pr A, GDV Pr D and GDV Pr G, respectively. On April 24, 2019, the last reported sale price of our common shares was \$21.66. The net asset value of the Fund's common shares at the close of business on April 24, 2019 was \$23.68 per share. As of December 31, 2018, the net assets of the Fund attributable to its common shares were \$1,691,085,605. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund had outstanding 82,432,426 common shares; 3,048,019 shares of 5.875% Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares, liquidation preference \$25 per share (the Series A Preferred); 3,600 shares of Series B Auction Market Cumulative Preferred Shares, liquidation preference \$25,000 per share (the Series B Auction Market Preferred); 4,320 shares of Series C Auction Market Cumulative Preferred Shares, liquidation preference \$25,000 per share (the Series C Auction Market Preferred); 1,271,148 shares of 6.00% Series D Cumulative Preferred Shares, liquidation preference \$25 per share (the Series D Preferred); 4,000 shares of Series E Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares, liquidation preference \$25,000 per share (the Series E Auction Rate Preferred); and 4,000,000 shares of 5.25% Series G Cumulative Preferred Shares, liquidation preference \$25 per share (the Series G Preferred). The Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Market Preferred, Series C Auction Market Preferred, Series D Preferred, Series E Auction Rate Preferred and Series G Preferred have the same seniority with respect to distributions and liquidation preference.

The Offering

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings, our common and/or fixed rate preferred shares, \$0.001 par value per share, our notes, or our subscription rights to purchase our common or fixed rate preferred shares or both, which we refer to collectively as the securities. The Fund will not issue auction rate preferred shares in a public offering pursuant to this Prospectus. The securities may be

offered at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this Prospectus (each a Prospectus Supplement). The offering price per common share of the Fund will not be less than the net asset value per common share at the time we make the offering, exclusive of any underwriting commissions or discounts; however, transferable rights offerings that meet certain conditions may be offered at a price below the then current net asset value per common share of the Fund. You should read this Prospectus and the applicable Prospectus Supplement carefully before you invest in our securities. Our securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, through agents designated from time to time by us, or through underwriters or dealers. The Prospectus Supplement relating to the offering will identify any agents, underwriters or dealers involved in the sale of our shares, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters, or among our underwriters, or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. The Prospectus Supplement relating to any sale of fixed rate preferred shares will set forth the liquidation preference and information about the dividend period, dividend rate, any call protection or non-call period and other matters. The Prospectus Supplement relating to any sale of notes will set forth the principal amount, interest rate, interest payment dates, prepayment protection (if any), and other matters. The Prospectus Supplement relating to any offering of subscription rights will set forth the number of common and/or fixed rate preferred shares issuable upon the exercise of each right and the other terms of such rights offering.

While the aggregate number and amount of securities we may issue pursuant to this registration statement is limited to \$500,000,000 of securities, our Board of Trustees (the Board and each member of the Board individually a Trustee) may, without any action by the shareholders, amend our Agreement and Declaration of Trust from time to time to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares or the number of shares of any class or series that we have authority to issue. We may not sell any of our securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a Prospectus Supplement describing the method and terms of the particular offering.

Investment Objective and Policies

The Fund's investment objective is to provide a high level of total return on its assets with an emphasis on dividends and income. The Fund will attempt to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its net assets in dividend paying securities (such as common and preferred stock) or other income producing securities (such as fixed-income securities and securities that are convertible into common stock). In addition, under normal market conditions, at least 50% of the Fund's total assets will consist of dividend paying equity securities. The Fund may invest in the securities of companies of any market capitalization. The Fund may invest up to 25% of its total assets in securities of issuers in a single industry and may invest up to 35% of its total assets in

securities of non-U.S. issuers (including securities of companies in emerging markets), which are generally denominated in foreign currencies. The Fund may also invest up to 10% of its total assets in below investment-grade securities, also known as high-yield securities. These securities, which may be preferred stock or debt, are predominantly speculative and involve major risk exposure to adverse conditions. Securities that are rated lower than BBB by Standard & Poor's Rating Services (S&P) or lower than Baa by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's) (or unrated debt securities of comparable quality) are referred to in the financial press as junk bonds or high-yield securities. The average duration of the Fund's investments in debt securities is expected to vary and the Fund does not target any particular average duration. The Fund's policy to invest at least 80% of its net assets in dividend paying securities or other income producing securities may be changed by the Board; however, if this policy changes, the Fund will provide shareholders at least 60 days written notice before implementation of the change in compliance with U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission or the SEC) rules.

No assurance can be given that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. See Investment Objective and Policies in the Prospectus.

The Fund is intended for investors seeking long term growth of capital. It is not intended for those who wish to play short term swings in the stock market.

Gabelli Funds, LLC (the Investment Adviser) serves as investment adviser to the Fund. The Investment Adviser's investment philosophy with respect to equity and debt securities is to identify assets that are selling in the public market at a discount to their private market value. The Investment Adviser defines private market value as the value informed purchasers are willing to pay to acquire assets with similar characteristics. In making equity selections, the Investment Adviser looks for securities that have a superior yield and capital gains potential. The Investment Adviser also normally evaluates an issuer's free cash flow and long term earnings trends. Finally, the Investment Adviser looks for a catalyst, something indigenous to the company, its industry or country, that will surface additional value.

Preferred Shares

The terms of each series of preferred shares may be fixed by the Board and may materially limit and/or qualify the rights of holders of the Fund's common shares. If the Fund's Board determines that it may be advantageous to the holders of the Fund's common shares for the Fund to utilize additional leverage, the Fund may issue additional series of fixed rate preferred shares. Any fixed rate preferred shares issued by the Fund will pay distributions at a fixed rate. The Fund will not issue additional series of auction rate preferred shares in a public offering pursuant to this Prospectus. Leverage creates a greater risk of loss as well as a potential for more gains for the common shares than if

leverage were not used. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations Special Risk Factors to Holders of Common Shares Leverage Risk. The Fund may also determine in the future to issue other forms of senior securities, such as securities representing debt, subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act. The Fund may also engage in investment management techniques which will not be considered senior securities if the Fund establishes a segregated account with cash or other liquid assets or sets aside assets on the accounting records equal to the Fund's obligations in respect of such techniques. The Fund may also borrow money, to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act. See Investment Objective and Policies Certain Investment Practices in the Prospectus.

Dividends and Distributions

Preferred Shares Distributions. In accordance with the Fund's Governing Documents (as defined below) and as required by the 1940 Act, all preferred shares of the Fund must have the same seniority with respect to distributions. Accordingly, no complete distribution due for a particular dividend period will be declared or paid on any series of preferred shares of the Fund for any dividend period, or part thereof, unless full cumulative dividends and distributions due through the most recent dividend payment dates for all series of outstanding preferred shares of the Fund are declared and paid. If full cumulative distributions due have not been declared and made on all outstanding preferred shares of the Fund, any distributions on such preferred shares will be made as nearly pro rata as possible in proportion to the respective amounts of distributions accumulated but unmade on each such series of preferred shares on the relevant dividend payment date. As used herein, Governing Documents means the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws, together with any amendments or supplements thereto, including any Statement of Preferences establishing a series of preferred shares.

The distributions to the Fund's preferred shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 were comprised of net investment income and long term capital gains. ***The Fund's annualized distributions may in the future contain a return of capital. Shareholders who receive the payment of a distribution consisting of a return of capital may be under the impression that they are receiving net profits when they are not. Shareholders should not assume that the source of a distribution from the Fund is net profit.*** The composition of each distribution is estimated based on the earnings of the Fund as of the record date for each distribution. The actual composition of each of the current year's distributions will be based on the Fund's investment activity through the end of the calendar year.

Distributions on fixed rate preferred shares, at the applicable annual rate of the per share liquidation preference, are cumulative from the original issue date and are payable, when, as and if declared by the Board, out of funds legally available therefor. The holders of auction

rate preferred shares are entitled to receive cash distributions, based on the applicable per share liquidation preference, that vary from dividend period to dividend period.

Common Shares Distributions. In order to allow its holders of common shares to realize a predictable, but not assured, level of cash flow and some liquidity periodically on their investment without having to sell shares, the Fund has adopted a policy of paying monthly distributions on its common shares. The Fund's distribution policy may be modified from time to time by the Board as it deems appropriate, including in light of market and economic conditions and the Fund's current, expected and historical earnings and investment performance. Common shareholders are expected to be notified of any such modifications by press release or in the Fund's periodic shareholder reports. As a regulated investment company (a RIC) under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), the Fund will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any taxable income that it distributes to shareholders, provided that at least 90% of its investment company taxable income for that taxable year is distributed to its shareholders. If necessary, the Fund will pay an adjusting distribution in December which includes any additional income and net realized capital gains in excess of the monthly distributions for that year to satisfy the minimum distribution requirements of the Code.

In the event that for any taxable year the total distributions on the Fund's shares exceed the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess distributions will generally be treated as a tax free return of capital to the extent of the shareholder's tax basis in the shares (reducing the basis accordingly) and as capital gains thereafter. In determining the extent to which a distribution will be treated as being made from the Fund's earnings and profits, earnings and profits will be allocated on a pro rata basis first to distributions with respect to preferred shares, and then to the Fund's common shares. Distributions sourced from paid-in capital should not be considered as dividend yield or total return of an investment in the Fund. Shareholders who receive the payment of a distribution consisting of a return of capital may be under the impression that they are receiving net profits when they are not. Shareholders should not assume that the source of a distribution from the Fund is net profit. In addition, the amount treated as a tax-free return of capital will reduce a shareholder's adjusted tax basis in its shares, thereby increasing the shareholder's potential taxable gain or reducing the potential taxable loss on the sale of the shares.

A portion of the Fund's common share distributions for many of its fiscal years has included a return of capital. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Fund made distributions of \$1.32 per common share, approximately \$0.0204 of which constituted a return

of capital. When the Fund makes distributions consisting of returns of capital, such distributions may further decrease the Fund's total assets and, therefore have the likely effect of increasing the Fund's expense ratio as the Fund's fixed expenses will become a larger percentage of the Fund's average net assets. In addition, in order to make such distributions, the Fund may have to sell a portion of its investment portfolio at a time when independent investment judgment may not dictate such action. These effects could have a negative impact on the prices investors receive when they sell shares of the Fund.

Indebtedness

Under applicable state law and our Agreement and Declaration of Trust, we may borrow money without prior approval of holders of common and preferred shares. We may issue debt securities, including notes, or other evidence of indebtedness and may secure any such notes or borrowings by mortgaging, pledging or otherwise subjecting as security our assets to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or rating agency guidelines. Any borrowings, including without limitation any notes, will rank senior to the preferred shares and the common shares. The Prospectus Supplement will describe the interest payment provisions relating to notes. Interest on notes will be payable when due as described in the related Prospectus Supplement. If we do not pay interest when due, it will trigger an event of default and we will be restricted from declaring dividends and making other distributions with respect to our common shares and preferred shares.

Use of Proceeds

The Fund will use the net proceeds from the offering to purchase portfolio securities in accordance with its Investment Objective and Policies. The Investment Adviser anticipates that the investment of the proceeds will be made as appropriate investment opportunities are identified, which is expected to substantially be completed within three months; however, changes in market conditions could result in the Fund's anticipated investment period extending to as long as six months. This could occur because the Investment Adviser follows a value-oriented investment strategy; therefore, market conditions could result in the Investment Adviser delaying the investment of proceeds if it believes the margin of risk in making additional investments is not favorable in light of its value-oriented investment strategy. See "Investment Objective and Policies" "Investment Methodology of the Fund" in the Prospectus. Depending on market conditions and operations, a portion of the proceeds may be used to pay distributions. See "Use of Proceeds" in the Prospectus.

The Fund may use the net proceeds from the offering to call, redeem or repurchase shares of one or more of its Series A Preferred, Series B Auction Market Preferred, Series C Auction Market Preferred, Series D Preferred or Series E Auction Rate Preferred. The Series G Preferred Shares generally may not be called for redemption at the option of the Fund prior to July 1, 2021. The Fund reserves the right, however, to redeem the Series G Preferred Shares at any time if it is necessary, in the judgment of the Board, to maintain its status as a

RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. The distribution rates on the Series A Preferred, Series D Preferred and Series G Preferred are 5.875%, 6.00% and 5.25%, respectively. Distributions on the Series B Auction Market Preferred, Series C Auction Market Preferred and Series E Auction Rate Preferred accumulate at a variable rate set at a weekly auction. As of April 16, 2019, April 18, 2019 and April 17, 2019, the distribution rates on the Series B Auction Market Preferred, Series C Auction Market Preferred and Series E Auction Rate Preferred, respectively, were 3.913%, 3.911% and 6.034%, respectively.

Exchange Listing

The Fund's outstanding common shares have been listed and traded on the NYSE under the trading or ticker symbol GDV since November 25, 2003 and our Series A Preferred Shares, Series D Preferred Shares and Series G Preferred Shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol GDV Pr A, GDV Pr D and GDV Pr G, respectively. See Description of the Securities. The Fund's common shares have historically traded at a discount to the Fund's net asset value. Since the Fund commenced trading on the NYSE, the Fund's common shares have traded at a discount to net asset value as high as (28.1)% and a premium as high as 7.2%. Any additional series of fixed rate preferred shares or subscription rights issued in the future pursuant to a Prospectus Supplement by the Fund would also likely be listed on the NYSE.

Risk Factors and Special Considerations

Risk is inherent in all investing. Therefore, before investing in the Fund's securities, you should consider the risks carefully.

A summary of certain risks associated with an investment in the Fund is set forth below. It is not complete and you should read and consider carefully the more detailed list of risks described in Risk Factors and Special Considerations in the Prospectus.

Equity Risk. A principal risk of investing in the Fund is equity risk, which is the risk that the securities held by the Fund will fall in market value due to adverse market and economic conditions, perceptions regarding the industries in which the issuers of securities held by the Fund participate and the particular circumstances and performance of particular companies whose securities the Fund holds. An investment in the Fund represents an indirect investment in the securities owned by the Fund, which are for the most part traded on securities exchanges or in the over-the-counter markets. The market value of these securities, like other market investments, may move up or down, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably. The net asset value of the Fund may at any point in time be worth less than the amount at the time the shareholder invested in the Fund, even after taking into account any reinvestment of distributions. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Equity Risk in the Prospectus.

Convertible Securities Risk. Convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality. The market values of convertible securities tend to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, to increase as interest rates decline. In the absence of adequate anti-dilution provisions in a convertible security, dilution in the value of the Fund's holding may occur in the event the underlying stock is subdivided, additional equity securities are issued for below market value, a stock dividend is declared or the issuer enters into another type of corporate transaction that has a similar effect.

Value Investing Risk. The Fund focuses its investments on the securities of companies that the Investment Adviser believes are undervalued or inexpensive relative to other investments. These types of securities may present risks in addition to the general risks associated with investing in common and preferred stocks. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Value Investing Risk in the Prospectus.

Selection Risk. Different types of stocks tend to shift into and out of favor with stock market investors, depending on market and economic conditions. The performance of funds that invest in value-style stocks may at times be better or worse than the performance of stock funds that focus on other types of stocks or that have a broader investment style.

Distribution Risk for Equity Income Securities. In selecting equity income securities in which the Fund will invest, the Investment Adviser will consider the issuer's history of making regular periodic distributions (i.e., dividends) to its equity holders. An issuer's history of paying dividends, however, does not guarantee that the issuer will continue to pay dividends in the future. The dividend income stream associated with equity income securities generally is not guaranteed and will be subordinate to payment obligations of the issuer on its debt and other liabilities. Accordingly, in the event the issuer does not realize sufficient income in a particular period both to service its liabilities and to pay dividends on its equity securities, it may forgo paying dividends on its equity securities. In addition, because in most instances issuers are not obligated to make periodic distributions to the holders of their equity securities, such distributions or dividends generally may be discontinued at the issuer's discretion. Dividend producing equity securities, in particular those whose market price is closely related to their yield, may exhibit greater sensitivity to interest rate changes. The Fund's investments in dividend producing equity securities may also limit its potential for appreciation during a broad market advance. The prices of dividend producing equity securities can be highly volatile. Investors should not assume that the Fund's investments in these securities will necessarily reduce the volatility of the Fund's NAV or provide protection, compared to other types of equity securities, when markets perform poorly. See Risk Factors

and Special Considerations General Risks Distribution Risk for Equity Income Securities in the Prospectus.

Fixed Income Securities Risks. Fixed income securities in which the Fund may invest are generally subject to the following risks:

Interest Rate Risk. The market value of bonds and other fixed-income or dividend-paying securities changes in response to interest rate changes and other factors. Interest rate risk is the risk that prices of bonds and other income- or dividend-paying securities will increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. This effect is generally more pronounced for fixed rate securities than for securities whose income rate is periodically reset. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates due to the current period of historically low interest rates. Recently, there have been some modest signs of inflationary price movements. There is a possibility that interest rates may rise, which would likely drive down the prices of income- or dividend-paying securities. Further, while longer term fixed rate securities may pay higher interest rates than shorter term securities, longer term fixed rate securities, like fixed rate securities, also tend to be more sensitive to interest rate changes and, accordingly, tend to experience larger changes in value as a result of interest rate changes. An increase in market interest rates will also generally result in a decrease in the price of any of the Fund's outstanding preferred shares.

Issuer Risk. Issuer risk is the risk that the value of an income- or dividend-paying security may decline for a number of reasons which directly relate to the issuer, such as management performance, financial leverage, reduced demand for the issuer's goods and services, historical and prospective earnings of the issuer and the value of the assets of the issuer.

Credit Risk. Credit risk is the risk that one or more income- or dividend-paying securities in the Fund's portfolio will decline in price or fail to pay interest/distributions or principal when due because the issuer of the security experiences a decline in its financial status. Credit risk is increased when a portfolio security is downgraded or the perceived creditworthiness of the issuer deteriorates.

Prepayment Risk. Prepayment risk is the risk that during periods of declining interest rates, borrowers may exercise their option to prepay principal earlier than scheduled. For income- or dividend-paying securities, such payments often occur during periods of declining interest rates, forcing the Fund to reinvest in lower yielding securities, resulting in a possible decline in the Fund's income and distributions to shareholders.

Reinvestment Risk. Reinvestment risk is the risk that income from the Fund's portfolio will decline if the Fund invests the

proceeds from matured, traded or called fixed income securities at market interest rates that are below the Fund portfolio's current earnings rate.

Duration and Maturity Risk. The Fund may incur costs in seeking to adjust the portfolio average duration or maturity. In comparison to maturity (which is the date on which the issuer of a debt instrument is obligated to repay the principal amount), duration is a measure of the price volatility of a debt instrument as a result of changes in market rates of interest, based on the weighted average timing of the instrument's expected principal and interest payments. Specifically, duration measures the anticipated percentage change in net asset value (NAV) that is expected for every percentage point change in interest rates. The two have an inverse relationship. Duration can be a useful tool to estimate anticipated price changes to a fixed pool of income securities associated with changes in interest rates. Duration differs from maturity in that it takes into account a security's yield, coupon payments and its principal payments in addition to the amount of time until the security matures. As the value of a security changes over time, so will its duration. There can be no assurance that the Investment Adviser's assessment of current and projected market conditions will be correct or that any strategy to adjust duration or maturity will be successful at any given time.

See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Fixed Income Securities Risk in the Prospectus.

Prepayment Risks on Government Sponsored Mortgage-Backed Securities. The yield and maturity characteristics of government sponsored mortgage-backed securities differ from traditional debt securities. A major difference is that the principal amount of the obligations may generally be prepaid at any time because the underlying assets (i.e., loans) generally may be prepaid at any time. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Prepayment Risks on Government Sponsored Mortgage-Backed Securities in the Prospectus.

Non-Investment Grade Securities. The Fund may invest in securities rated below investment grade by recognized statistical rating agencies or unrated securities of comparable quality. The prices of these lower grade securities are more sensitive to negative developments, such as a decline in the issuer's revenues or a general economic downturn, than are the prices of higher grade securities. Securities of below investment grade quality (those securities rated below Baa by Moody's or below BBB by S&P) are predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal when due and therefore involve a greater risk of default and are commonly referred to as "junk bonds" or "high yield securities."

See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Non-Investment Grade Securities in the Prospectus.

Small and Mid-Cap Company Risk. The Fund invests in the equity securities of U.S. and non-U.S. small-cap and/or mid-cap companies. More information regarding investing in foreign securities and emerging markets is set forth below. The securities of small and mid-cap companies generally trade in lower volumes and are subject to greater and more unpredictable price changes than larger capitalization securities or the market as a whole. In addition, small and mid-cap securities may be particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates, borrowing costs and earnings. Investing in small and mid-cap securities requires a longer-term view. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Small and Mid-Cap Company Risk in the Prospectus.

Financial Services Sector Risk. The Fund has in the past invested, and may in the future invest, a significant portion of its total assets in securities issued by financial services companies. Financial services are generally involved in banking, mortgage finance, consumer finance, specialized finance, investment banking and brokerage, asset management and custody, corporate lending, insurance, financial investments, or real estate.

The profitability of many types of financial services companies may be adversely affected in certain market cycles, including periods of rising interest rates, which may restrict the availability and increase the cost of capital, and declining economic conditions, which may cause credit losses due to financial difficulties of borrowers. Financial services companies are also subject to extensive government regulation, including policy and legislative changes in the United States and other countries. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Financial Services Sector Risk in the Prospectus.

U.S. Government Securities and Credit Rating Downgrade Risk. The Fund may invest in direct obligations of the government of the United States or its agencies. Obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies, authorities and instrumentalities and backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. guarantee only that principal and interest will be timely paid to holders of the securities. These entities do not guarantee that the value such obligations will increase, and, in fact, the market values of such obligations may fluctuate. In addition, not all U.S. government securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States; some are the obligation solely of the entity through which they are issued. There is no guarantee that the U.S. government would provide financial support to its agencies and instrumentalities if not required to do so by law.

The events surrounding negotiations regarding the U.S. federal government debt ceiling and deficit reduction could adversely affect the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective. In 2011, S&P

lowered its long term sovereign credit rating on the U.S. to AA+ from AAA. The downgrade by S&P increased volatility in both stock and bond markets, resulting in higher interest rates and higher Treasury yields, and increased the costs of all kinds of debt. Repeat occurrences of similar events could have significant adverse effects on the U.S. economy generally and could result in significant adverse impacts on issuers of securities held by the Fund itself. The Investment Adviser cannot predict the effects of similar events in the future on the U.S. economy and securities markets or on the Fund's portfolio. The Investment Adviser monitors developments and seeks to manage the Fund's portfolio in a manner consistent with achieving the Fund's investment objective, but there can be no assurance that it will be successful in doing so and the Investment Adviser may not timely anticipate or manage existing, new or additional risks, contingencies or developments. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks U.S. Government Securities and Credit Rating Downgrade Risk in the Prospectus.

Foreign Securities Risk. Investing in securities of foreign companies (or foreign governments), which are generally denominated in foreign currencies, may involve certain risks and opportunities not typically associated with investing in domestic companies. Foreign companies generally are not subject to the same accounting, auditing and financial standards and requirements as those applicable to U.S. companies.

Investing in securities of companies in emerging markets may entail special risks relating to potential political and economic instability and the risks of expropriation, nationalization, confiscation or the imposition of restrictions on foreign investment, the lack of hedging instruments and restrictions on repatriation of capital invested. Emerging securities markets are substantially smaller, less developed, less liquid and more volatile than the major securities markets. The limited size of emerging securities markets and limited trading volume compared to the volume of trading in U.S. securities could cause prices to be erratic for reasons apart from factors that affect the quality of the securities. For example, limited market size may cause prices to be unduly influenced by traders who control large positions. Adverse publicity and investors' perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the value and liquidity of portfolio securities, especially in these markets. Many emerging market countries have experienced substantial, and in some periods extremely high, rates of inflation for many years. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates and corresponding currency devaluations have had and may continue to have negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

The Fund may invest in companies whose securities are denominated or quoted in currencies other than U.S. dollars or have significant

operations or markets outside of the United States. In such instances, the Fund will be exposed to currency risk, including the risk of fluctuations in the exchange rate between U.S. dollars (in which the Fund's shares are denominated) and such foreign currencies, the risk of currency devaluations and the risks of non-exchangeability and blockage. As non-U.S. securities may be purchased with and payable in currencies of countries other than the U.S. dollar, the value of these assets measured in U.S. dollars may be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in currency rates and exchange control regulations. Fluctuations in currency rates may adversely affect the ability of the Investment Adviser to acquire such securities at advantageous prices and may also adversely affect the performance of such assets.

For more details on certain pronounced risks with foreign investing see Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Foreign Securities Risk in the Prospectus.

Industry Risk. The Fund may invest up to 25% of its total assets in securities of a single industry. Should the Fund choose to do so, the net asset value of the Fund will be more susceptible to factors affecting those particular types of companies, which, depending on the particular industry, may include, among others: governmental regulation; inflation; cost increases in raw materials, fuel and other operating expenses; technological innovations that may render existing products and equipment obsolete; and increasing interest rates resulting in high interest costs on borrowings needed for capital investment, including costs associated with compliance with environmental and other regulations. In such circumstances, the Fund's investments may be subject to greater risk and market fluctuation than a fund that had securities representing a broader range of industries. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Industry Risk in the Prospectus.

Leverage Risk. The Fund currently uses financial leverage for investment purposes by issuing preferred shares and is also permitted to use other types of financial leverage, such as through the issuance of debt securities or additional preferred shares and borrowing from financial institutions. As provided in the 1940 Act and subject to certain exceptions, the Fund may issue additional senior securities (which may be stock, such as preferred shares, and/or securities representing debt) only if immediately after such issuance the value of the Fund's total assets, less certain ordinary course liabilities, exceeds 300% of the amount of the debt outstanding and exceeds 200% of the amount of preferred shares and debt outstanding. As of December 31, 2018, the amount of leverage represented approximately 23% of the Fund's net assets.

The Fund's leveraged capital structure creates special risks not associated with unleveraged funds having a similar investment

objective and policies. These include the possibility of greater loss and the likelihood of higher volatility of the net asset value of the Fund and the asset coverage for the preferred shares. Such volatility may increase the likelihood of the Fund having to sell investments in order to meet its obligations to make distributions on the preferred shares or principal or interest payments on debt securities, or to redeem preferred shares or repay debt, when it may be disadvantageous to do so. The Fund's use of leverage may require it to sell portfolio investments at inopportune times in order to raise cash to redeem preferred shares or otherwise de-leverage so as to maintain required asset coverage amounts or comply with the mandatory redemption terms of any outstanding preferred shares. The use of leverage magnifies both the favorable and unfavorable effects of price movements in the investments made by the Fund. To the extent that the Fund employs leverage in its investment operations, the Fund is subject to substantial risk of loss. The Fund cannot assure you that borrowings or the issuance of preferred shares will result in a higher yield or return to the holders of the common shares. Also, since the Fund utilizes leverage, a decline in net asset value could affect the ability of the Fund to make common share distributions and such a failure to make distributions could result in the Fund ceasing to qualify as a RIC under the Code.

Any decline in the net asset value of the Fund's investments would be borne entirely by the holders of common shares. Therefore, if the market value of the Fund's portfolio declines, the leverage will result in a greater decrease in net asset value to the holders of common shares than if the Fund were not leveraged. This greater net asset value decrease will also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for the common shares. The Fund might be in danger of failing to maintain the required asset coverage of its borrowings, notes or preferred shares or of losing its ratings on its notes or preferred shares or notes or, in an extreme case, the Fund's current investment income might not be sufficient to meet the distribution or interest requirements on the preferred shares or notes. In order to counteract such an event, the Fund might need to liquidate investments in order to fund redemption of some or all of the preferred shares or notes.

The issuance of preferred shares or notes causes the net asset value and market value of the common shares to become more volatile. If the interest rate on the notes or the dividend rate on the preferred shares approaches the net rate of return on the Fund's investment portfolio, the benefit of leverage to the holders of the common shares would be reduced. If the interest rates on the notes or the dividend rate on the preferred shares plus the management fee annual rate of 1.00% exceeds the net rate of return on the Fund's portfolio, the leverage will result in a lower rate of return to the holders of common shares than if the Fund had not issued preferred shares or notes.

In addition, the Fund pays (and the holders of common shares bear) all costs and expenses relating to the issuance and ongoing

maintenance of the preferred shares or notes, including any additional advisory fees on the incremental assets attributable to such preferred shares or notes. Holders of preferred shares and notes may have different interests than holders of common shares and at times may have disproportionate influence over the Fund's affairs. As provided in the 1940 Act and subject to certain exceptions, the Fund may issue senior securities (which may be stock, such as preferred shares, and/or securities representing debt, such as notes) only if immediately after such issuance the value of the Fund's total assets, less certain ordinary course liabilities, exceeds 300% of the amount of the debt outstanding and exceeds 200% of the amount of preferred shares and debt outstanding, which is referred to as the "asset coverage" required by the 1940 Act. In the event the Fund fails to maintain an asset coverage of 100% for any notes outstanding for certain periods of time, the 1940 Act requires that either an event of default be declared or that the holders of such notes have the right to elect a majority of the Fund's Trustees until asset coverage recovers to 110%. In addition, holders of preferred shares, voting separately as a single class, have the right to elect two members of the Board at all times and in the event dividends become in arrears for two full years would have the right (subject to the rights of noteholders) to elect a majority of the Trustees until the arrearage is completely eliminated. In addition, preferred shareholders have class voting rights on certain matters, including changes in fundamental investment restrictions and conversion of the Fund to open-end status, and accordingly can veto any such changes. Further, interest on notes will be payable when due as described in a Prospectus Supplement and if the Fund does not pay interest when due, it will trigger an event of default and the Fund expects to be restricted from declaring dividends and making other distributions with respect to common shares and preferred shares. Upon the occurrence and continuance of an event of default, the holders of a majority in principal amount of a series of outstanding notes or the trustee will be able to declare the principal amount of that series of notes immediately due and payable upon written notice to the Fund. The 1940 Act also generally restricts the Fund from declaring distributions on, or repurchasing, common or preferred shares unless notes have an asset coverage of 300% (200% in case of declaring distributions on preferred shares). The Fund's common shares are structurally subordinated as to income and residual value to any preferred shares or notes in the Fund's capital structure, in terms of priority to income and payment in liquidation. See "Risk Factors and Special Considerations—Special Risks to Holders of Common Shares—Leverage Risk" and "Description of the Securities—Preferred Shares—Asset Maintenance Requirements" and "Description of the Securities—Notes—Limitations" in the Prospectus.

Market Discount Risk. The Fund is a diversified, closed-end management investment company. Whether investors will realize gains or losses upon the sale of additional securities of the Fund will

depend upon the market price of the securities at the time of sale, which may be less or more than the Fund's net asset value per share or the liquidation value of any Fund preferred shares issued. The Fund cannot predict whether any such securities will trade at, below or above net asset value or at, below or above their public offering price. The risk of a market price discount from net asset value is separate and in addition to the risk that net asset value itself may decline. The Fund's securities are designed primarily for long term investors, and investors in the shares should not view the Fund as a vehicle for trading purposes. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations General Risks Market Discount Risk in the Prospectus.

Special Risks to Holders of Fixed Rate Preferred Shares. Prior to the offering of any additional series of fixed rate preferred shares, there will be no public market for such shares. During an initial period, not expected to exceed 30 days after the date of initial issuance, such shares may not be listed on any securities exchange. During such period, the underwriters may make a market in such shares, although they will have no obligation to do so. Consequently, an investment in such shares may be illiquid during such period. Fixed rate preferred shares may trade at a premium to or discount from liquidation preference for a variety of reasons, including changes in interest rates. See Risk Factors and Special Considerations Special Risks to Holders of Fixed Rate Preferred Shares in the Prospectus.

Special Risks to Holders of Auction Rate Preferred Shares. Holders of auction rate preferred shares may not be able to sell their auction rate preferred shares at an auction if the auction fails, i.e., if more auction rate preferred shares are offered for sale than there are buyers for those shares. If you try to sell your auction rate preferred shares between auctions, you may not be able to sell them for their liquidation preference per share or such amount per share plus accumulated dividends. Since February 2008 all of the auctions of our Series B Preferred, Series C Preferred, and Series E Preferred have failed. Most auction rate preferred share auctions have been unable to hold successful auctions and holders of such shares have suffered reduced liquidity. Holders of our auction rate preferred have continued to receive their dividends on the auction rate preferred shares at the maximum rate determined by reference to short term rates, rather than at a price set by auction. At present, the maximum rate for Series B Auction Market Preferred and Series C Auction Market Preferred is equal to the greater of (a) 150% of or (b) 150 bps over the 7-day LIBOR, and equal to the greater of (a) 250% of or (b) 250 bps over the 7-day LIBOR for Series E Preferred. A failed auction is not a default and the Fund has no obligation to redeem its auction rate preferred shares because the auctions continue to fail. There can be no assurance that liquidity will improve. There appears to be a secondary market in certain auction market preferred issues, although the Fund is not aware whether there is or will be an active

trading market for the Fund's auction rate preferred shares. See "Risk Factors and Special Considerations - Special Risks to Holders of Auction Rate Preferred Shares" in the Prospectus.

Special Risks to Holders of Notes. An investment in our notes is subject to special risks. Our notes are not likely to be listed on an exchange or automated quotation system. We cannot assure you that any market will exist for our notes or if a market does exist, whether it will provide holders with liquidity. Broker-dealers that maintain a secondary trading market for the notes are not required to maintain this market.