

PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST
Form DEF 14A
December 23, 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 Sec. 240.14a-11(c) or Sec. 240.14a-12

**PUTNAM MASTER INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST
PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement,
if other than Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

/ X / No fee required

/ / Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rule 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 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 previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Proxy statement

Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust

Putnam Premier Income Trust

December 29, 2008

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. In the past few years, your fund's Trustees have been at the forefront of reform efforts affecting the mutual fund industry, including the initiatives to end the practice of directing fund brokerage commissions to brokers in connection with sales of open-end fund shares, to institute measures to discourage excessive short-term trading in open-end funds and to promote 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.

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 this proposal, please call a customer services representative at 1-800-225-1581 or contact your financial advisor.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Hill, Chairman

Table of contents

Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders	1
Trustees' Recommendations	2
The Proposal	3
Further Information About Voting and the Meeting	26
Fund Information	30
Exhibit A - Board Policy and Nominating Committee Charter	

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

Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders

To the Shareholders of:

PUTNAM MASTER INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST

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

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of your fund will be held on January 29, 2009 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 2.**
- 2. Transacting any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.**

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
Elizabeth T. Kennan
Kenneth R. Leibler
Robert E. Patterson
George Putnam, III
Robert L. Reynolds
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.

December 29, 2008

1

Proxy Statement

This document will give you the information you need to vote on the proposal. 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 Master Intermediate Income Trust and Putnam Premier Income Trust for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of each fund to be held on January 29, 2009, 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 1). The Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the proxy and the Proxy Statement are being mailed on or about December 29, 2008.

How do your fund's Trustees recommend that shareholders vote on this proposal?

The Trustees recommend that you vote

1. FOR fixing the number of Trustees at 13 as proposed and electing your fund's nominees for Trustees.

Who is eligible to vote?

Shareholders of record at the close of business on November 24, 2008 are entitled to be present and to vote at the meeting or any adjourned meeting.

Each share is entitled to one vote. Shares represented by a duly executed proxy will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you sign the proxy card, but don't fill in a vote, your shares will be voted in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations. If any other business is brought before your fund's meeting, your shares will be voted at the discretion of the persons designated on the proxy.

Shareholders of each fund vote separately with respect to this proposal. The outcome of a vote affecting one fund does not affect any other fund.

2

The Proposal

I. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Who are the nominees for Trustees?

The Board Policy and Nominating Committee of the Trustees of each fund makes recommendations concerning the nominees for Trustees of the fund. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee consists solely of Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) of your fund or of Putnam Investment Management, LLC, your fund's investment manager ("Putnam Management"). Those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of your fund or Putnam Management are referred to as "Independent Trustees" throughout this Proxy Statement.

The Board of Trustees, based on the recommendation of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, recommends that the number of Trustees be fixed at 13 and that you vote for the election of the nominees described in the following pages. Each nominee is currently a Trustee of your fund and of the other Putnam funds.

The nominees for Trustees and their backgrounds are shown in the following pages. This information includes each nominee's name, year of birth, principal occupation(s) during the past 5 years, and other information about the nominee's professional background, including other directorships the nominee holds. Each Trustee oversees all of the Putnam funds and serves until the election and qualification of his or her successor, or until he or she sooner dies, resigns, retires at age 72, or is removed. The address of all of the Trustees is One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. At December 31, 2007, there were 102 Putnam funds.

3

Independent Trustees

Jameson A. Baxter (Born 1943)

Trustee since 1994 and Vice Chairman since 2005

Ms. Baxter is the President of Baxter Associates, Inc., a private investment firm.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

Ms. Baxter serves as a Director of ASHTA Chemicals, Inc., and the Mutual Fund Directors Forum. Until 2007, she was a Director of Banta Corporation (a printing and supply chain management company), Ryerson, Inc. (a metals service corporation), and Advocate Health Care. Until 2004, she was a Director of BoardSource (formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards); and until 2002, she was a Director of Intermatic Corporation (a manufacturer of energy control products). She is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, Mount Holyoke College, having served as Chairman for five years.

Ms. Baxter has held various positions in investment banking and corporate finance, including Vice President of and Consultant to First Boston Corporation and Vice President and Principal of the Regency Group. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College.

Charles B. Curtis (Born 1940)

Trustee since 2001

Mr. Curtis is President and Chief Operating Officer of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (a private foundation dealing with national security issues), and serves as Senior Advisor to the United Nations Foundation.

Mr. Curtis is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves as Director of Edison International and Southern California Edison. Until 2006, Mr. Curtis served as a member of the Trustee Advisory Council of the Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University. Until 2003, Mr. Curtis was a member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council and the University of Chicago Board of Governors for Argonne National Laboratory. Prior to 2002, Mr. Curtis was a member of the Board of Directors of the Gas Technology Institute and the Board of Directors of the Environment and Natural Resources Program Steering Committee, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Until 2001, Mr. Curtis was a member of the Department of Defense Policy Board and Director of EG&G

4

Technical Services, Inc. (a fossil energy research and development support company).

From August 1997 to December 1999, Mr. Curtis was a Partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP, an international law firm headquartered in Washington, D.C. Prior to May 1997, Mr. Curtis was Deputy Secretary of Energy and Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy. He served as Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from 1977 to 1981 and has held positions on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Treasury Department, and the SEC.

Robert J. Darretta (Born 1946)

Trustee since 2007

Mr. Darretta serves as Director of United-Health Group, a diversified health-care company.

Until April 2007, Mr. Darretta was Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Johnson & Johnson, one of the world's largest and most broadly based health-care companies. Prior to 2007, he had responsibility for Johnson & Johnson's finance, investor relations, information technology, and procurement function. He served as Johnson &

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

Johnson Chief Financial Officer for a decade, prior to which he spent two years as Treasurer of the corporation and over ten years leading various Johnson & Johnson operating companies.

Mr. Darretta received a B.S. in Economics from Villanova University.

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 managing assets 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 NYSE Euronext), and a Director of Interactive Data Corporation (a provider of financial market data and analytics to financial institutions and investors).

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. She serves as an advisor to RCM Capital Management

5

(an investment management firm) and to the Employee Benefits Investment Committee of The Boeing Company (an aerospace firm).

From November 2001 until August 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. From December 1992 to November 2001, Ms. Drucker served as Chief Investment Officer of Xerox Corporation (a document company). Prior to December 1992, Ms. Drucker was Staff Vice President and Director of Trust Investments for International Paper (a paper and packaging company).

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 founder and Vice-Chairman of First Reserve Corporation, the leading private equity buyout firm specializing in the worldwide energy industry, with offices in Greenwich, Connecticut; Houston, Texas; London, England; and Shanghai, China. The firm's investments on behalf of some of the nation's largest pension and endowment funds are currently concentrated in 26 companies with annual revenues in excess of \$13 billion, which employ over 100,000 people in 23 countries.

Mr. Hill is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Mutual Funds, a Director of Devon Energy Corporation and various private companies owned by First Reserve, and serves as a Trustee of Sarah Lawrence

College where he chairs the Investment Committee.

Prior to forming First Reserve in 1983, Mr. Hill served as President of F. Eberstadt and Company, an investment banking and investment management firm. Between 1969 and 1976, Mr. Hill held various senior positions in Washington, D.C. with the federal government, including Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration during the Ford Administration.

Born and raised in Midland, Texas, he received his B.A. in Economics from Southern Methodist University and pursued graduate studies as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

6

Paul L. Joskow (Born 1947)

Trustee since 1997

Dr. Joskow is an economist and President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (a philanthropic institution focused primarily on research and education on issues related to science, technology, and economic performance). He is on leave from his position as the Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics and Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he has been on the faculty since 1972. Dr. Joskow was the Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research at MIT from 1999 through 2007.

Dr. Joskow serves as a Trustee of Yale University, as a Director of TransCanada Corporation (an energy company focused on natural gas transmission and power services) and of Exelon Corporation (an energy company focused on power services), and as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Prior to August 2007, he served as a Director of National Grid (a UK-based holding company with interests in electric and gas transmission and distribution and telecommunications infrastructure). Prior to July 2006, he served as President of the Yale University Council and continues to serve as a member of the Council. Prior to February 2005, he served on the board of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (a non-profit research institution). Prior to February 2002, he was a Director of State Farm Indemnity Company (an automobile insurance company), and prior to March 2000, he was a Director of New England Electric System (a public utility holding company).

Dr. Joskow has published six books and numerous articles on industrial organization, government regulation of industry, and competition policy. He is active in industry restructuring, environmental, energy, competition, and privatization policies □ serving as an advisor to governments and corporations worldwide. Dr. Joskow holds a Ph.D. and MPhil from Yale University and a B.A. from Cornell University.

7

Elizabeth T. Kennan (Born 1938)

Trustee since 1992

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

Dr. Kennan is a Partner of Cambus-Kenneth Farm (thoroughbred horse and cattle breeding). She is President Emeritus of Mount Holyoke College.

Dr. Kennan served as Chairman and is now Lead Director of Northeast Utilities. She is a Trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, of Centre College, and of Midway College in Midway, Kentucky. Until 2006, she was a member of The Trustees of Reservations. Prior to 2001, Dr. Kennan served on the oversight committee of the Folger Shakespeare Library. Prior to June 2005, she was a Director of Talbots, Inc., and she has served as Director on a number of other boards, including Bell Atlantic, Chastain Real Estate, Shawmut Bank, Berkshire Life Insurance, and Kentucky Home Life Insurance. Dr. Kennan has also served as President of Five Colleges Incorporated and as a Trustee of Notre Dame University, and is active in various educational and civic associations.

As a member of the faculty of Catholic University for twelve years, until 1978, Dr. Kennan directed the post-doctoral program in Patristic and Medieval Studies, taught history, and published numerous articles and two books. Dr. Kennan holds a Ph.D. from the University of Washington in Seattle, an M.S. from St. Hilda's College at Oxford University, and an A.B. from Mount Holyoke College. She holds several honorary doctorates.

Kenneth R. Leibler (Born 1949)

Trustee since 2006

Mr. Leibler is a Founding Partner and former Chairman of the Boston Options Exchange, an electronic marketplace for the trading of derivative securities.

Mr. Leibler currently serves as a Trustee of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston. He is also Lead Director of Ruder Finn Group, a global communications and advertising firm, and a Director of Northeast Utilities, which operates New England's largest energy delivery system. Prior to December 2006, he served as a Director of the Optimum Funds group. Prior to October 2006, he served as a Director of ISO New England, the organization responsible for the operation of the electric generation system in the

8

New England states. Prior to 2000, Mr. Leibler was a Director of the Investment Company Institute in Washington, D.C.

Prior to January 2005, Mr. Leibler served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Boston Stock Exchange. Prior to January 2000, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Financial Companies, a publicly traded diversified asset management organization. Prior to June 1990, Mr. Leibler served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Stock Exchange (AMEX), and at the time was the youngest person in AMEX history to hold the title of President. Prior to serving as AMEX President, he held the position of Chief Financial Officer, and headed its management and marketing operations. Mr. Leibler graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Economics from Syracuse University, where he was elected Phi Beta Kappa.

Robert E. Patterson (Born 1945)

Trustee since 1984

Mr. Patterson is Senior Partner of Cabot Properties, LP and Chairman of Cabot Properties, Inc. (a private equity firm investing in commercial real estate).

Mr. Patterson serves as Chairman Emeritus and Trustee of the Joslin Diabetes Center. Prior to June 2003, he was a Trustee of Sea Education Association. Prior to December 2001, Mr. Patterson was President and Trustee of Cabot Industrial Trust (a publicly traded real estate investment trust). Prior to February 1998, he was Executive Vice President and Director of Acquisitions of Cabot Partners Limited Partnership (a registered investment adviser involved in institutional real estate investments). Prior to 1990, he served as Executive Vice President of Cabot, Cabot & Forbes Realty Advisors, Inc. (the predecessor company of Cabot Partners).

Mr. Patterson practiced law and held various positions in state government, and was the founding Executive Director of the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency. Mr. Patterson is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

9

George Putnam, III (Born 1951)

Trustee since 1984

Mr. Putnam is Chairman of New Generation Research, Inc. (a publisher of financial advisory and other research services), and President of New Generation Advisers, Inc. (a registered investment adviser to private funds). Mr. Putnam founded the New Generation companies in 1986.

Mr. Putnam is a Director of The Boston Family Office, LLC (a registered investment adviser). He is a Trustee of St. Mark's School and a Trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Until 2006, he was a Trustee of Shore Country Day School, and until 2002, was a Trustee of the Sea Education Association.

Mr. Putnam previously worked as an attorney with the law firm of Dechert LLP (formerly known as Dechert Price & Rhoads) in Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Business School, and Harvard Law School.

Richard B. Worley (Born 1945)

Trustee since 2004

Mr. Worley is Managing Partner of Permit Capital LLC, an investment management firm.

Mr. Worley serves as a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (a philanthropic organization devoted to health-care issues), and the National Constitution Center. He is also a Director of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (a historical preservation organization), and the Philadelphia Orchestra Association. Mr. Worley also serves on the investment committees of Mount Holyoke College and World Wildlife Fund (a wildlife conservation organization).

Prior to joining Permit Capital LLC in 2002, Mr. Worley served as President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Investment Management and as a Managing Director of Morgan Stanley, a financial services firm. Mr. Worley also was the Chairman of Miller Anderson & Sherrerd, an investment management firm that was acquired by Morgan Stanley in 1996.

10

Mr. Worley holds a B.S. degree from the University of Tennessee and pursued graduate studies in economics at the University of Texas.

Interested Trustees

Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.* (Born 1948)

Trustee since 2004 and President of the Putnam Funds since June 2007

Mr. Haldeman is Chairman of Putnam Investment Management, LLC and President of the Putnam Funds. Prior to July 2008, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam, LLC (Putnam Investments). Prior to November 2003, Mr. Haldeman served as Co-Head of Putnam Investments Investment Division.

Prior to joining Putnam in 2002, he 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).

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 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.

Robert L. Reynolds* (Born 1952)

Trustee since 2008

Mr. Reynolds is President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments, and a member of Putnam Investments Executive Board of Directors. He has more than 30 years of investment and financial services experience.

Prior to joining Putnam Investments in 2008, Mr. Reynolds was Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Fidelity Investments from 2000 to 2007. During this time, he served on the Board of Directors for FMR Corporation, Fidelity Investments Insurance Ltd., Fidelity Investments Canada Ltd., and Fidelity Management Trust Company.

11

He was also a Trustee of the Fidelity Family of Funds. From 1984 to 2000, Mr. Reynolds served in a number of increasingly responsible leadership roles at Fidelity.

Mr. Reynolds serves on several not-for-profit boards, including those of the West Virginia University Foundation, Concord Museum, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Lahey Clinic, and Initiative for a Competitive Inner City in Boston. He is a member of the Chief Executives Club of Boston, the National Innovation Initiative, and the Council on Competitiveness.

Mr. Reynolds received a B.S. in Business Administration/Finance from West Virginia University.

* Nominees who are "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940) of the fund and/or Putnam Management. Messrs. Haldeman and Reynolds are deemed "interested persons" by virtue of their positions as officers of the fund and/or Putnam Management. As of July 2008, Mr. Reynolds is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments, LLC ("Putnam Investments") and of Putnam Management. Mr. Haldeman is the President of your fund and each of the other Putnam funds and is Chairman of Putnam Management.

All the nominees other than Mr. Reynolds were elected by the shareholders of each fund on January 31, 2008. Mr. Reynolds became a Trustee of each fund by vote of the Board of Trustees on September 12, 2008.

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.

12

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 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. Eleven 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 (the "Exchange Act") and the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. The Board of

13

Trustees has adopted a written charter for the Committee. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Patterson (Chairperson), Darretta, Hill, and Leibler and Ms. Drucker.

Board Policy and Nominating Committee. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee reviews policy 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 Putnam funds. The Committee also oversees the voting of proxies associated with portfolio investments of the Putnam funds, with the goal of ensuring that these proxies are voted in the best interest of the fund's shareholders.

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 also identifies prospective nominees for election as trustee by considering individuals that come to its attention through the recommendation of current Trustees, Putnam Management or shareholders. Candidates properly submitted by shareholders (as described below) will be considered and evaluated on the same basis as candidates recommended by other sources. The Committee may, but is not required to, engage a third-party professional search firm to assist it in identifying and evaluating potential nominees.

When evaluating a potential candidate for membership on the Board of Trustees, the Board Policy and Nominating Committee considers the skills and characteristics that it feels would most benefit the Putnam funds at the time the evaluation is made. The Committee may take into account a wide variety of attributes in considering potential trustee candidates, including, but not limited to: (i) availability and commitment of a candidate to attend meetings and perform his or her responsibilities to the Board of Trustees, (ii) other board experience, (iii) relevant industry and related experience, (iv) educational background, (v) financial expertise, (vi) an assessment of the candidate's ability, judgment and expertise, (vii) an assessment of the perceived needs of the Board of Trustees and its committees at that point in time and (viii) overall Board of Trustees composition. In connection with this evaluation, the Committee will determine whether to interview prospective nominees, and, if warranted, one or more members of the Committee, and other Trustees and representatives of the funds, as appropriate, will interview prospective nominees in person or by telephone. Once this evaluation is completed, the Committee recommends such candidates as it determines appropriate to the independent

14

Trustees for nomination, and the independent Trustees select the nominees after considering the recommendation of the Committee.

The Board Policy and Nominating Committee will consider nominees for trustee recommended by shareholders of a fund provided shareholders submit their recommendations by the date disclosed in the paragraph entitled "Date for receipt of shareholders' proposals for subsequent meeting of shareholders," and provided the shareholders' recommendations otherwise comply with applicable securities laws, including Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

The Committee consists only of Trustees who are not "interested persons" of your fund or Putnam Management (as such term is defined in the 1940 Act). The Trustees have adopted a written charter for the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Exhibit A. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee 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.

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

15

the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Putnam (Chairperson), Curtis and Patterson 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 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, and Patterson.

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.

16

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), Haldeman and Reynolds 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), Mr. 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 Management or other designated agents of the funds. The Committee also oversees compliance by money market funds with Rule 2a-7 and the correction of occasional pricing errors. The Committee also reviews matters related to the liquidity of portfolio holdings. The Committee reports to the Trustees and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding these matters. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Leibler (Chairperson), Darretta, Hill, Patterson and Ms. Drucker.

17

□ 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, 2008. As a group, the Trustees owned shares of the Putnam funds valued at approximately \$33 million as of October 31, 2008.

Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust

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	510.237	Over \$100,000
Charles B. Curtis	\$1 - \$10,000	126.863	Over \$100,000
Robert J. Darretta	\$1 - \$10,000	100	Over \$100,000
Myra R. Drucker	\$1 - \$10,000	119.970	Over \$100,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.	\$1 - \$10,000	510	Over \$100,000
John A. Hill	\$1 - \$10,000	274.585	Over \$100,000
Paul L. Joskow	\$1 - \$10,000	100	Over \$100,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan	\$1 - \$10,000	465.436	Over \$100,000
Kenneth Leibler	\$1 - \$10,000	100	\$50,001-\$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1 - \$10,000	587	Over \$100,000
George Putnam, III	\$10,001 - \$50,000	2,178	Over \$100,000
Robert L. Reynolds	\$0	0	\$10,001-\$50,000
Richard B. Worley	\$1 - \$10,000	113.381	\$50,001-\$100,000

18

Putnam Premier Income Trust

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	549.199	Over \$100,000
Charles B. Curtis	\$1 - \$10,000	259.669	Over \$100,000
Robert J. Darretta	\$1 - \$10,000	100	Over \$100,000
Myra R. Drucker	\$1 - \$10,000	240.201	Over \$100,000
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.	\$1 - \$10,000	1,005	Over \$100,000
John A. Hill	\$10,001 - \$50,000	2,309.089	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	\$50,001-\$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1 - \$10,000	803	Over \$100,000

George Putnam, III	\$10,001 - \$50,000	2,505	Over \$100,000
Robert L. Reynolds	\$0	0	\$10,001-\$50,000
Richard B. Worley	\$1 - \$10,000	226.555	\$50,001-\$100,000

At October 31, 2008, 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;

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 and Portfolio Managers 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. The

20

committees of the board, including the Executive Committee, may also meet on special occasions as the need arises. During calendar year 2007, 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 tables below:

Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust

Fiscal year ended September 30, 2008

Audit and Compliance Committee	13
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	9
Brokerage Committee	6
Communications, Service and Marketing Committee	7
Contract Committee	12
Distributions Committee	11
Executive Committee	1
Investment Oversight Committees	27
Investment Oversight Coordinating Committee	10
Pricing Committee	8

Putnam Premier Income Trust

Fiscal year ended July 31, 2008

Audit and Compliance Committee	12
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	9
Brokerage Committee	5
Communications, Service and Marketing Committee	7
Contract Committee	11
Distributions Committee	11
Executive Committee	1
Investment Oversight Committees	27
Investment Oversight Coordinating Committee	8
Pricing Committee	7

21

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 2007:

22

Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust

Fiscal year ended September 30, 2008

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)	\$1,824	\$297	\$110,500	\$305,000
Charles B. Curtis/2001	1,824	215	113,900	291,250
Robert J. Darretta/2007	1,745	N/A	N/A	135,000
Myra R. Drucker/2004(3)	1,824	N/A	N/A	307,500
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr./2004	0	0	N/A	0
John A. Hill/1985(3)(4)	2,366	495	161,700	408,126
Paul L. Joskow/1997(3)	1,824	197	113,400	295,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan/1992(3)	1,824	408	108,000	300,000
Kenneth R. Leibler/2006	1,824	N/A	N/A	300,000
Robert E. Patterson/1984	1,824	274	106,500	300,000
George Putnam, III/1984(4)	1,824	241	130,300	307,500
Robert L. Reynolds/2008(5)	0	0	N/A	0
W. Thomas Stephens/1997(6)	820	248	107,100	290,000
Richard B. Worley/2004	1,824	N/A	N/A	290,000

23

Putnam Premier Income Trust

Fiscal year ended July 31, 2008

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)
---------------	--------------------------------------	--	--	---

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

Jameson A. Baxter/1994 ⁽³⁾	\$3,086	\$413	\$110,500	\$305,000
Charles B. Curtis/2001	2,985	297	113,900	291,250
Robert J. Darretta/2007	3,483	N/A	N/A	135,000
Myra R. Drucker/2004 ⁽³⁾	3,086	N/A	N/A	307,500
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr./2004	0	0	N/A	0
John A. Hill/1985 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	3,826	688	161,700	408,126
Paul L. Joskow/1997 ⁽³⁾	3,086	273	113,400	295,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan/1992 ⁽³⁾	3,086	565	108,000	300,000
Kenneth R. Leibler/2006	3,086	N/A	N/A	300,000
Robert E. Patterson/1984	3,086	382	106,500	300,000
George Putnam, III/1984 ⁽⁴⁾	3,086	337	130,300	307,500
Robert L. Reynolds/2008 ⁽⁵⁾	0	0	N/A	0
W. Thomas Stephens/1997 ⁽⁶⁾	1,752	344	107,100	290,000
Richard B. Worley/2004	3,086	N/A	N/A	290,000

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

(2) As of December 31, 2007, there were 102 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 Master Intermediate Income Trust (September 30, 2008) Ms. Baxter □ \$5,574; Ms. Drucker □ \$1,133; Mr. Hill □ \$23,162; Dr. Joskow □ \$5,445; Dr. Kennan □ \$838.

Putnam Premier Income Trust (July 31, 2008) Ms. Baxter □ \$9,419; Ms. Drucker □ \$1,917; Mr. Hill □ \$39,129; Dr. Joskow □ \$9,187; Dr. Kennan □ \$1,418.

(4) Includes additional compensation to Messrs. Hill and Putnam, III, for service as Chairman of the Trustees and President (through May 31, 2007) of the Funds, respectively. Effective June 1, 2007, Mr. Haldeman became President of the Funds.

(5) Mr. Reynolds was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Putnam funds on September 12, 2008.

(6) Mr. Stephens retired from the Board of Trustees of the Putnam funds on March 31, 2008.

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.

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 Master Intermediate Income Trust, a majority of the shares entitled to vote constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business with respect to any proposal at the meeting. 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 as proxies.

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.

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 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 The Altman Group, 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 2010. The Trustees of your fund reserve the right to set an earlier or later date for the 2010 meeting. Shareholder proposals to be included in the proxy statement for that meeting must be received by your fund on or before August 31, 2009. 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 2010 annual meeting — other than one that will be included in the fund's proxy materials — should notify the fund no later than November 14, 2009. 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 2010 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 October 31, 2009 and no later than November 30, 2009.

28

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.

29

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., which is a financial services holding company with interests in the life insurance, retirement, savings, and reinsurance businesses. Its businesses have operations in Canada, the United States and Europe. Great-West Lifeco Inc. is a majority-owned 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. Power Corporation of Canada, a diversified international management and holding company, owns a majority of the voting securities of Power Financial Corporation. The Hon. Paul Desmarais, Sr., through a group of holding companies that he controls, has voting control of Power Corporation of Canada.

The address of each of Putnam Investments and Putnam Investment Management, LLC, is One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. The address of Great-West Lifeco Inc. is 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3A5. The address of Mr. Desmarais, Power Corporation of Canada and Power Financial Corporation is 751 Victoria Square, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2J3, Canada. Robert L. Reynolds is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments, effective July 1, 2008. His address is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

Charles E. Haldeman, Jr., former President and CEO of Putnam Investments, has taken on the role of Chairman of Putnam Investment Management, LLC. He continues to serve as Trustee and the President of the funds. 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, the predecessor of

Putnam Investments, at a per-share price of \$30.33. Also in connection with the acquisition, Mr. Haldeman became entitled to receive deferred cash payments of up to approximately \$33.1 million over the three years following the acquisition. A portion of this deferred amount was used to acquire 246,472 restricted class B shares of Putnam Investments, to be held in a grantor trust, under a new equity incentive plan established by Putnam Investments at a price of \$35.79 per share. Mr. Haldeman also made a straight purchase of 300 class B shares at the same price. In connection with the July 1, 2008 vesting of his class B shares, Mr. Haldeman sold 102,902 shares for \$35.79 per share to satisfy tax obligations.

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 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 Master Intermediate Income Trust (September 30, 2008)	\$264,843
Putnam Premier Income Trust (July 31, 2008)	553,657

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.

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 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 KPMG LLP are expected to be present at the meeting of shareholders of the funds to make statements and to respond to appropriate questions.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

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
Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust				
September 30, 2008	\$89,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0
September 30, 2007	73,650	0	5,450	0
Putnam Premier Income Trust				
July 31, 2008	\$95,699	\$0	\$6,000	\$0
July 31, 2007	73,650	0	5,450	0

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

Audit-Related Fees 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.

The following table presents the amounts KPMG 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

32

under common control with Putnam Management that provides ongoing services to the fund:

Fiscal year ended	
Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust	
September 30, 2008	\$74,733
September 30, 2007	5,450
Putnam Premier Income Trust	
July 31, 2008	\$74,733
July 31, 2007	5,450

Pre-Approval Policies of the Audit and Compliance Committee.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

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.

During your fund's last two fiscal years, KPMG LLP did not provide any services required to be approved pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

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

33

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 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

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:

34

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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

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, Principal Accounting Officer and Assistant Treasurer	2006	Managing Director, Putnam Investments
Susan G. Malloy (Born 1957) Vice President and Assistant Treasurer	2007	Managing Director, Putnam Investments
Beth S. Mazor (Born 1958) Vice President	2002	Managing Director, Putnam Investments
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 Manage- ment. Prior to 2004, Mr. McNamara was General

Counsel of State Street
Research & Management.

35

Name (year of birth), Office with the fund	Year first elected to office	Business experience during past 5 years
James P. Pappas (Born 1953) Vice President	2004	Managing Director, Putnam Investments and Putnam Management.
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	2005	
Nancy E. Florek (Born 1957)* Vice President, Assistant Clerk, Assistant Treasurer and Proxy Manager	2005	

* 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 24, 2008

Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust	\$265,212,402
Putnam Premier Income Trust	\$599,991,215

Shares outstanding of your fund as of November 24, 2008

Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust Common shares	64,546,198
Putnam Premier Income Trust Common shares	142,407,273

36

5% beneficial ownership:

As of October 31, 2008, 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 Master Intermediate Income Trust

Cede & Company*	61,012,534 common shares
20 Bowling Green	(94.53% of outstanding common shares)
New York, NY 10004-1408	

Putnam Premier Income Trust

Cede & Company*	133,022,996 common shares
20 Bowling Green	(93.35% of outstanding common shares)
New York, NY 10004-1408	

* Believed to hold shares only as nominee.

EXHIBIT A

**BOARD POLICY AND NOMINATING
COMMITTEE CHARTER**

This Committee reviews matters pertaining to the operations of the Board of Trustees and its Committees 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 also reviews policy matters affecting the operation of the Board and its independent staff. The Committee also 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.

This page intentionally left blank.

This page intentionally left blank.

This page intentionally left blank.

This page intentionally left blank.

This page intentionally left blank.

The Putnam Funds

One Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

1-800-225-1581

254835 12/08

The proxy ballot

To vote by mail

Read the proxy statement.
Check the appropriate box 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 1-866-458-9840
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 www.proxyonline.com.
Follow the instructions on the site.
There is no need for you to return your proxy ballot.

PUTNAM MASTER INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST

By signing below, you, as a holder of shares of Putnam Master Intermediate 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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

them to vote your Putnam fund shares on your behalf at the meeting of the shareholders of Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust. The meeting will take place on January 29, 2009 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 Trustees.** When you complete and sign the proxy ballot, the Trustees 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 Trustees recommend.** The Trustees are also authorized to vote at their discretion on any other matter that arises at the meeting or any adjournment of the meeting.

Sign your name exactly as it appears on this card. If you own shares jointly, each owner should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee, guardian, or as custodian for a minor, please give your full title as such. If you are signing for a corporation, please sign the full corporate name and indicate the signer's office. If you are a partner, sign in the partnership name.

Proposals **Please vote by checking the appropriate boxes below.**

To vote on all proposals as the Trustees recommend, mark this box. (No other vote is necessary.)

THE TRUSTEES RECOMMEND
A VOTE **FOR** ALL NOMINEES.

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------|
| 1. Fixing the number of Trustees at 13 and electing your fund's nominees for Trustees. | FOR ALL | WITHHOLD ALL |
| 1) J.A. 4) M.R.
Baxter Drucker 7) P.L. Joskow 10) R.E. Patterson (except as marked on left)
5) C.E. | | |
| 2) C.B. Haldman,
Curtis Jr. 8) E.T. Kennan 11) G. Putnam, III | | |
| 3) R.J. 6) J.A.
Darrett Hill 9) K. Leibler 12) R.L. Reynolds
13) R.B. Worley | | |

To withhold authority to vote for one or more of the nominees, check the FOR ALL (except as marked on left) box and write the name(s) or number(s) of the nominee(s) below:

If you have any questions on this proposal, please call 1-800-780-7316.

Please sign and date the other side of t

CUSIP: 746909-10-0

BARCODE

TAG ID

The proxy ballot

To vote by mail

Read the proxy statement.
Check the appropriate box on the reverse side.

To vote by telephone

Read the proxy statement and have the proxy ballot at hand.
Call 1-866-458-9840

To vote on the web

Read the proxy statement and have the proxy ballot at hand.
Go to www.proxyonline.com.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form DEF 14A

Sign and date the proxy ballot. Follow the automated Follow the instructions on the site.
Return the proxy ballot in the telephone directions. There is no need for you to return your
envelope provided. There is no need for you to proxy ballot.
return your proxy ballot.

PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST

By signing below, you, as a holder of shares 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 29, 2009 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 Trustees. When you complete and sign the proxy ballot, the Trustees 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 Trustees recommend. The Trustees are also authorized to vote at their discretion on any other matter that arises at the meeting or any adjournment of the meeting.

Sign your name exactly as it appears on this card. If you own shares jointly, each owner should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee, guardian, or as custodian for a minor, please give your full title as such. If you are signing for a corporation, please sign the full corporate name and indicate the signer's office. If you are a partner, sign in the partnership name.

Proposals Please vote by checking the appropriate boxes below.

To vote on all proposals as the Trustees recommend, mark this box. (No other vote is necessary.)

THE TRUSTEES RECOMMEND A VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES.

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

FOR ALL WITHHOLD ALL

- 1) J.A. Baxter 4) M.R. Drucker 7) P.L. Joskow 10) R.E. Patterson (except as marked on left)
2) C.B. Curtis 5) C.E. Haldman, Jr. 8) E.T. Kennan 11) G. Putnam, III
3) R.J. Darretta 6) J.A. Hill 9) K. Leibler 12) R.L. Reynolds
13) R.B. Worley

To withhold authority to vote for one or more of the nominees, check the [FOR ALL (except as marked on left)] box and write the name(s) or number(s) of the nominee(s) below:

If you have any questions on this proposal, please call 1-800-780-7316. Please sign and date the other side of this card.

CUSIP: 746853-10-0

BARCODE

TAG ID: 12345678