

# Federated Hermes Short-Intermediate Municipal Fund

6/30/22

## Fund facts

### Performance inception date

Institutional Shares	8/20/81
Service Shares	9/1/93
A Shares	12/11/06

### Benchmark 1

S&P Municipal Bond Short Index

### Benchmark 2

S&P Municipal Bond 1-5 Years Investment Grade 5% Max Pre-Refunded Index

### Morningstar category

Municipal National Short

### Lipper classification

Short Municipal Debt Funds

### Fund assets

\$764.0 million

### Ticker symbols

Institutional Shares - FSHIX  
Service Shares - FSHSX  
A Shares - FMTAX

### Key investment team

Jeff Kozemchak, CFA  
Mary Jo Ochson, CFA

### Yields (%)

30-day yield (IS)	1.60
30-day yield (SS)	1.37
30-day yield (A)	1.34

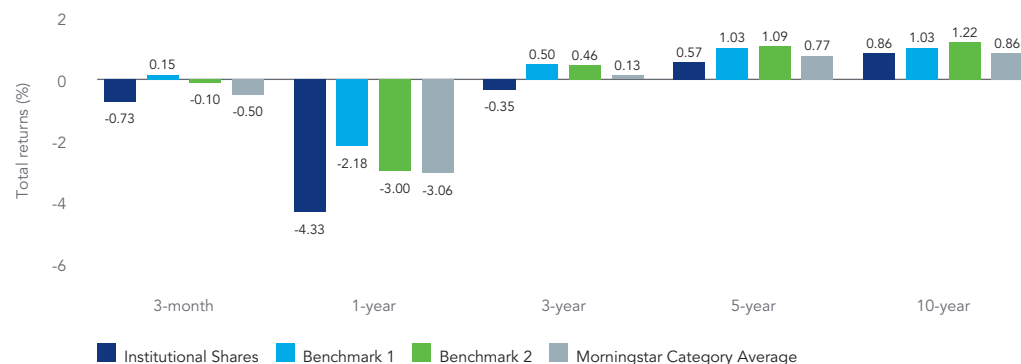
## Fund description

Investing primarily in short and intermediate municipal bonds, the fund seeks to provide dividend income exempt from federal regular income tax.

## Average annual total returns (%)

Performance shown is before tax.

	3-month	YTD	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year	Since inception	Expense ratio*	
								Before waivers	After waivers
<b>Institutional Shares</b>	-0.73	-4.18	-4.33	-0.35	0.57	0.86	3.67	0.81	0.46
<b>Service Shares</b>	-0.89	-4.38	-4.56	-0.59	0.32	0.61	2.34	0.81	0.71
<b>A Shares (NAV)</b>	-0.89	-4.39	-4.67	-0.67	0.15	0.41	1.21	0.81	0.71
<b>A Shares (MOP)</b>	-1.88	-5.31	-5.58	-0.99	-0.04	0.30	1.15	0.81	0.71
<b>Benchmark 1</b>	0.15	-2.22	-2.18	0.50	1.03	1.03	-	-	-
<b>Benchmark 2</b>	-0.10	-3.04	-3.00	0.46	1.09	1.22	-	-	-



## Calendar year total returns (%)

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>Institutional Shares</b>	0.12	1.97	3.34	1.19	2.15	-0.05	0.58	2.13	0.46	2.41
<b>Benchmark 1</b>	0.41	2.32	3.11	1.78	1.16	0.37	0.88	1.02	1.10	1.39
<b>Benchmark 2</b>	0.40	2.91	3.75	1.77	1.66	0.15	1.33	1.45	1.33	1.97
<b>Morningstar Category Average</b>	0.22	2.28	3.12	1.18	1.69	-0.15	0.70	1.44	-0.07	1.92

Performance quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than what is stated. To view performance current to the most recent month-end, and for after-tax returns, contact us or visit [FederatedInvestors.com](http://FederatedInvestors.com). Maximum offering price figures reflect the maximum sales charge of 4.5% for A Shares. See the prospectus for other fees and expenses that apply to a continued investment in the fund. Performance for other share classes will vary due to differences in charges and expenses. Total returns for periods of less than one year are cumulative.

\* With regard to A, IS and SS Shares, the fund's expense ratio is from the most recent prospectus. The expense ratio may reflect contractual and/or voluntary fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements determined by the fund's Advisor and/or its affiliates. Shareholders must approve any changes to a contractual required waiver/reimbursement. Additionally, the voluntary waivers and/or reimbursements, if applicable, are in effect up to but not including the later of 9/1/22 or the date of the fund's next effective prospectus.

## Investment approach

Multiple alpha sources	Portfolio positioning	Integrated investment team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The municipal bond investment process is integrated with Federated Hermes' fixed-income effort (the Alpha Pod process) as broad market and macroeconomic forces drive returns across taxable and tax-exempt bond markets</li> <li>Seeks diversified sources of alpha across municipal credit sector and credit quality allocation, duration management, yield curve management and security selection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invests primarily in short-intermediate tax-exempt municipal bonds and typically maintains a dollar-weighted average portfolio duration of less than 5 years</li> <li>Historically has invested less than 5% in below-investment grade securities*</li> <li>Allocates across fixed and floating securities based on direction of interest rates and across municipal sectors that offer the best risk/return profile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federated Hermes' municipal investment team has experience across a range of investment strategies, from liquidity management to intermediate and longer-duration portfolios</li> <li>Key investment team members manage liquidity, ultrashort and low duration municipal portfolios, applying their insights across the short-end of the yield curve</li> </ul>

\* Per the prospectus, the fund is permitted to invest up to 49% in below-investment grade securities.

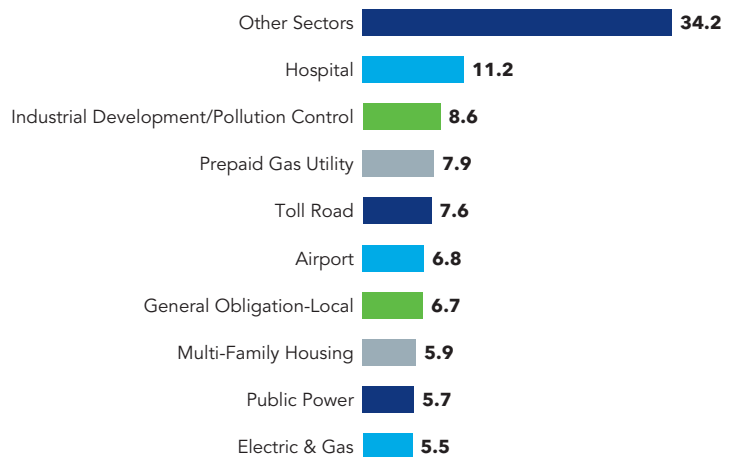
### Portfolio statistics

Weighted average effective duration	2.1 yrs.
Weighted average effective maturity	2.6 yrs.
Weighted average bond price	\$101.48
Weighted average yield to worst	2.46%

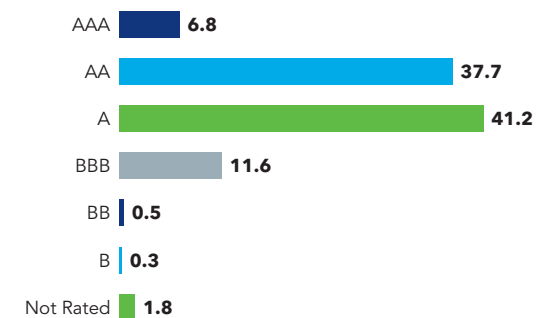
### Top holdings (%)

Nuveen California AMT-Free Quality Municipal Income Fund, (Series A), Due 7/7/22	2.3
Invesco Value Municipal Income Trust, PUTTERs 3a-7 (VMTP 5027), Due 7/1/22, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. Liquidity	1.7
Geisinger Authority, PA Health System, (Geisinger Health System), Health System Revenue Bonds (Series 2014B), Due 6/1/24	1.6
Tennergy Corp., TN Gas Revenue, Gas Supply Revenue Bonds (Series 2019A), Due 10/1/24, Royal Bank of Canada Guaranteed	1.5
Wisconsin Health & Educational Facilities Authority, (Marshfield Clinic), (Series 2022A), Due 7/7/22	1.4
Bay Area Toll Authority, CA, San Francisco Bay Area Toll Bridge Revenue Bonds (SIFMA Index Rate Bonds Series 2007G-1), Due 10/1/23	1.3
New Jersey EDA, (New Jersey State), School Facilities Construction Refunding SIFMA Index Bonds (Series 2013 I), Due 3/1/25	1.3
New York City, NY Municipal Water Finance Authority, (Series 2022D), Due 7/7/22	1.3
San Francisco, CA City and County, (1500 Mission Urban Housing LP), SPEARs 3a7 (Series DBE-8059), Due 8/29/22, Deutsche Bank AG LCD, Deutsche Bank AG Liquidity	1.3
Nuveen AMT-Free Municipal Credit Income Fund, (Series C), Due 7/7/22	1.2
Total % of portfolio	14.9

### Sector weightings (%)



### Quality breakdown<sup>1</sup> (%)



Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Portfolio composition is based on net assets at the close of business on 6/30/22 and may not necessarily reflect adjustments that are routinely made when presenting net assets for formal financial statement purposes. Because this is a managed portfolio, the investment mix will change.

## Highlights

- The fund's quarterly net return and gross returns lagged the shorter duration prospectus benchmark
- Interest rates rose from two to ten years and the yield curve steepened, which negatively impacted fund performance
- The fund shortened duration and added variable-rate coupon demand notes in anticipation of the Federal Reserve moving the target rate sharply higher in 2022

## Looking back

The second quarter of 2022 confirmed that the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) has made reducing inflation its top priority. After a modest 25 basis-point liftoff of the fed funds target range from the zero bound to 0.25-0.50% in March, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) raised rates by 50 basis points in May and 75 basis points in June. These moves took the target range to 1.5-1.75%. The Treasury yield curve rose, but its front end remained depressed due to high demand partly stemming from a flight-to-quality instigated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which worsened during the quarter. The Fed also began to allow a set amount of U.S. Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities to roll off its balance sheet rather than reinvest the proceeds.

Concurrent with the Fed's aggressive tightening, inflation continued to rise over the reporting period. The Consumer Price Index and the Personal Consumption Expenditures Index increased in May to 8.6% and 6.3%, respectively, on an annualized basis. Inflation expectations continued to grow, as well, adding urgency to the Fed's approach, though exogenous issues such as soaring energy prices, stubborn supply-chain snarls and China's Covid-related lockdown hindered its plans. The quarter ended with the risk of a recession growing because of the Fed's campaign against inflation and nascent signs of economic slowdown as consumers adjusted to high inflation by cutting back spending. The 7-day SIFMA Municipal Swap Index experienced large swings in the quarter due to the seasonal nature of the summer cashflows in the municipal market. It opened at 0.51%, rose as high as 0.98% and ended the quarter at 0.91%.

Treasury and municipal bond yields increased sharply during the quarter as persistently elevated inflation data prompted the Fed to rapidly tighten monetary policy. The Fed increased its short-term target interest rates by 1.25% in just two FOMC meetings this quarter and projected more rate hikes over the next 18 months. Investors reacted to poor bond market returns during the quarter, redeeming historically large sums from municipal bond funds.

During the latter half of the quarter, Treasury yields partially retraced from recent highs as economic data suggested that the Fed's extensive tightening and weak consumer sentiment linked to multi-decade highs in inflation have eroded macroeconomic momentum, increasing the risk of recession in the next 12-24 months. The AAA-rated Bloomberg Evaluation 2-year, 5-year, 10-year and 30-year municipal yields increased 15, 24, 51 and 65 basis points, respectively. The yields on 2-year, 5-year, 10-year and 30-year Treasury securities increased 62, 61, 68 and 74 basis points, respectively.

The S&P Municipal Bond Index posted a return of -3.02% for the quarter. The 3-year component of the Index returned -0.06%, the 10-year component returned -2.55% and the portion of the index maturing in 22 years and longer returned -7.00%. The S&P Municipal Bond Short Index (SPMBSI), the fund's prospectus benchmark, returned 0.15%.

## Performance

During the second quarter of 2022, the fund had net total returns of -0.73% for the Institutional Shares (IS), -0.89% for the Service Shares (SS) and -0.89% for the A Shares at net asset value (NAV). These returns lagged the SPMBSI return of 0.15%.

### Performance contributors

- Significant weightings in variable-rate demand notes (VRDNs) and floating-rate notes (FRNs) at 30-35% helped to offset the price pressures longer out the yield curve
- Shortening the duration of the cash portfolio, as well as the use of Treasury futures to hedge against rising rates

### Performance detractors

- Duration positioning that was slightly longer than its benchmark amid the rise in rates
- Yield curve positioning—namely weightings in 5-to-10-year maturities, which are not included in the benchmark and underperformed shorter-maturity bonds
- Overweight in "A" and "BBB" quality paper as credit spreads widened

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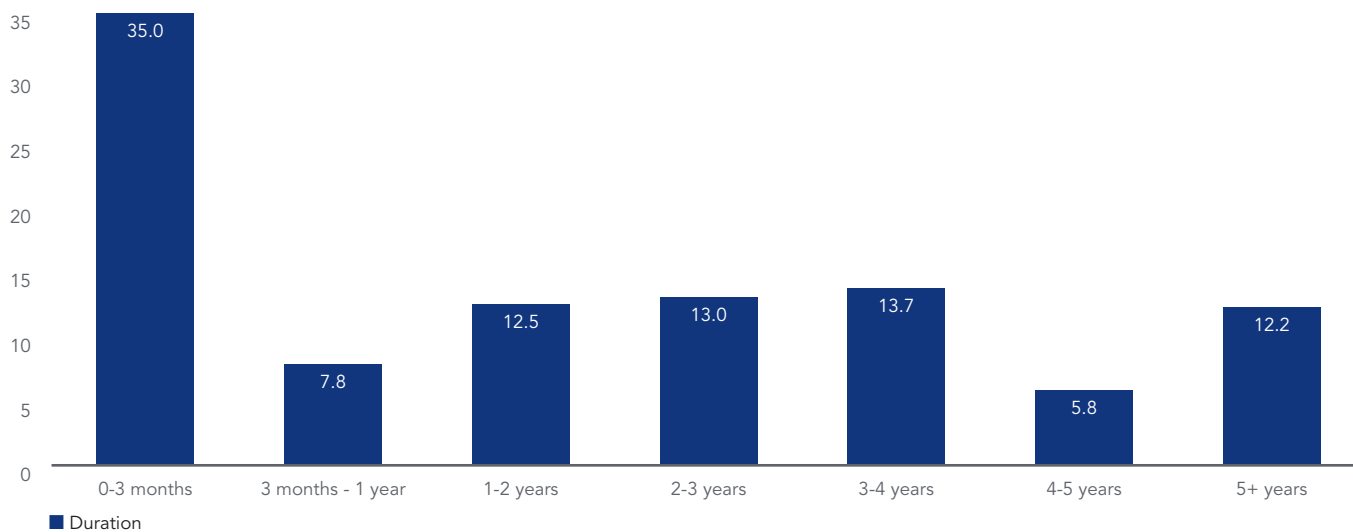
## How we are positioned

Management believes the portfolio structure will emphasize the defensiveness of high-quality fixed-rate issuance in the 3-month to 3-year space, in which coupon carry is now far higher. The portfolio should continue to benefit in terms of income and liquidity as material weightings in VRDNs and FRNs (less than 30%) can contribute to a combination of higher income, rates defensibility and lower volatility, providing tactical flexibility to adjust and deploy capital into better-yielding market opportunities.

We remain constructive to emphasizing high-quality General Obligation and Revenue debt of issuers over mid-quality debt.

See *disclosure section for important disclosures and definitions*.

## Duration profile (%)



## Risk statistics

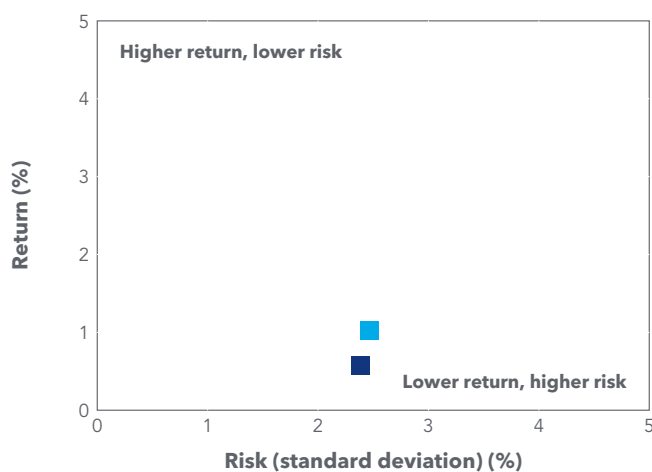
	3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year
<b>Standard deviation</b>	3.00	2.38	2.10	1.88
<b>Alpha</b>	-0.67	-0.61	-0.61	-0.47
<b>Beta</b>	0.97	0.88	0.80	0.78
<b>Up capture ratio</b>	88.54	76.11	69.00	69.10
<b>Down capture ratio</b>	107.72	89.54	81.05	78.41
<b>Sharpe ratio</b>	-0.31	-0.23	-0.09	0.68

Sources: Federated Hermes, Morningstar, Inc.

Fund vs. S&P Municipal Bond Short Index

**See disclosure section for important definitions.**

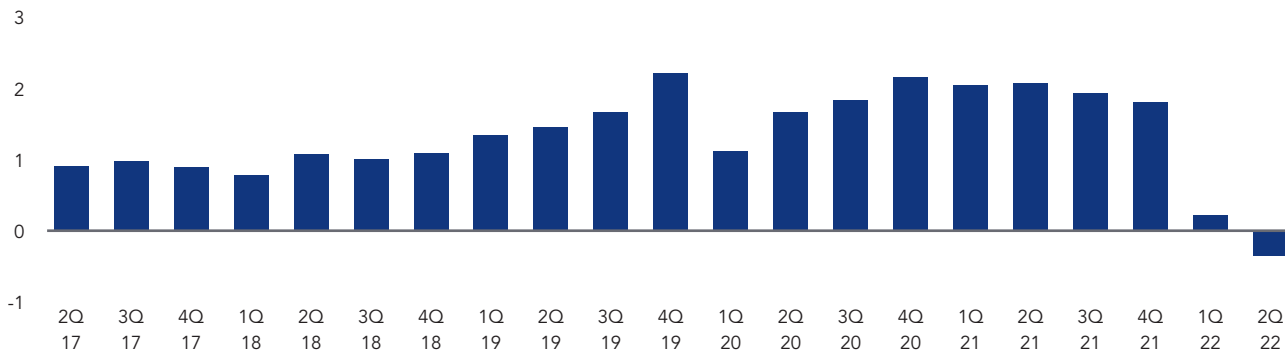
## 5-year risk/return



	Risk (%)	Return (%)
Federated Hermes Short-Intermediate Municipal Fund (IS)	2.38	0.57
S&P Municipal Bond Short Index	2.47	1.03

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### 3-year rolling returns - IS (%)



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### Category rankings

Morningstar Municipal National Short Category		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
<b>IS Shares</b>	Morningstar Category % Rank	73	86	73	49
	Morningstar Category Rank	145 of 220 funds	172 of 209 funds	126 of 180 funds	63 of 135 funds
<b>A Shares</b>	Morningstar Category % Rank	82	94	93	90
	Morningstar Category Rank	165 of 220 funds	189 of 209 funds	164 of 180 funds	117 of 135 funds

Lipper Short Municipal Debt Funds		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
<b>IS Shares</b>	Lipper Classification % Rank	90	87	65	22
	Lipper Classification Rank	125 of 139 funds	112 of 128 funds	68 of 105 funds	17 of 77 funds
<b>A Shares</b>	Lipper Classification % Rank	98	94	91	80
	Lipper Classification Rank	137 of 139 funds	120 of 128 funds	96 of 105 funds	62 of 77 funds

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Rankings are based on total return and do not take sales charges into account.

As of October 31, 2007, the fund gained the ability to invest at least a majority of its assets in securities rated investment-grade (or unrated securities of comparable quality), and may purchase securities rated below investment-grade (or unrated securities of comparable quality), which are also known as junk bonds, up to 49% of its assets. The fund does not have a specific minimum quality rating.

As of August 31, 2019, benchmark 1 changed from S&P Municipal Bond Short Intermediate Index to S&P Municipal Bond Short Index and benchmark 2 changed from S&P 1-5 Year National AMT-Free Municipal Bond Index to S&P Municipal Bond 1-5 Years Investment Grade 5% Max Pre-Refunded Index.

<sup>1</sup>The ratings agencies that provided the ratings are Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. When ratings vary, the highest rating is used. Credit ratings of A or better are considered to be high credit quality; credit ratings of BBB are good credit quality and the lowest category of investment grade; credit ratings BB and below are lower-rated securities ("junk bonds"); and credit ratings of CCC or below have high default risk. The credit quality breakdown does not give effect to the impact of any credit derivative investments made by the fund.

30-day yield (also known as "SEC yield") is a compounded and annualized figure calculated according to a formula set by the SEC. The formula requires use of a specific methodology for calculating dividends and interest earned, and expenses accrued, during the period, and reflects the maximum offering price per fund share. The standardized computation is designed to facilitate yield comparisons among different funds. In the absence of temporary expense waivers or reimbursements, the 30-day yield would have been 1.40% for Institutional Shares, 1.21% for A Shares and 1.24% for Service Shares.

## Federated Hermes Short-Intermediate Municipal Fund

### A word about risk

Mutual funds are subject to risks and fluctuate in value.

International investing involves special risks, including currency risk, increased volatility, political risks and differences in auditing and other financial standards.

Small company stocks may be less liquid and subject to greater price volatility than large capitalization stocks.

Prices of emerging market and frontier market securities can be significantly more volatile than the prices of securities in developed countries, and currency risk and political risks are accentuated in emerging markets.

Diversification does not assure a profit nor protect against loss.

### Definitions

**Alpha** shows how much or how little return is generated, given the risk a portfolio takes. A portfolio with an alpha greater than 0 has earned more than expected given its beta—meaning the portfolio has generated excess return without increasing risk. A portfolio with a negative alpha is producing a lower return than would be expected given its risk.

**Beta** measures a portfolio's volatility relative to the market. A beta greater than 1.00 suggests the portfolio has historically been more volatile than the market as measured by the fund's benchmark. A beta less than 1.00 suggests the portfolio has historically had less volatility relative to the market.

**Sharpe ratio** is calculated by dividing a fund's annualized excess return by the fund's annualized standard deviation. The higher the Sharpe ratio, the better the fund's historical risk adjusted performance.

**Standard deviation** is a historical measure of the variability of returns relative to the average annual return. A higher number indicates higher overall volatility.

**Up capture ratio/down capture ratio** is a measure of how well a manager was able to replicate or improve on periods of positive benchmark returns and how badly the manager was affected by periods of negative benchmark returns. The up-market capture ratio is a measure of a manager's performance in up markets relative to the index during the same period. For example, a ratio value of 115 indicates that the manager has outperformed the market index by 15% in periods when the index has risen. The down-market capture ratio is the direct opposite of the up-market capture ratio, gauging performance of the manager relative to the index in down markets. A ratio value of 80 would indicate the manager had declined on 80% as much as the declining overall market, indicating relative outperformance.

**Weighted average bond price** is the weighted average of all individual bond prices within a portfolio.

**Weighted average effective duration** (sometimes called "Option-Adjusted Duration") is a measure of a security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates calculated using a model that recognizes that the probability of a bond being called or remaining outstanding until maturity may vary if market interest rates change, and that makes

adjustments based on a bond's embedded options (e.g., call rights, or in the case of a mortgage-backed security, the probability that homeowners will prepay their mortgages), if any, based on the probability that the options will be exercised. A fund's weighted average effective duration will equal the market value weighted average of each bond's effective duration in the fund's portfolio. As with any model, several assumptions are made so the weighted average effective duration of a fund in the Federated Hermes family of funds may not be comparable to other funds outside of the Federated Hermes family of funds. Securities with longer durations are more sensitive to changes in interest rates than securities of shorter durations.

**Weighted average effective maturity** is the average time to maturity of debt securities held in the fund.

**Weighted average yield to worst** is an average of the lowest potential yield that can be received on a bond without the issuer actually defaulting. The yield to worst is calculated by making worst-case scenario assumptions on the issue by calculating the returns that would be received if provisions, including prepayment, call or sinking fund, are used by the issuer.

**Yield curve** is a graph showing the comparative yields of securities in a particular class according to maturity. Securities on the long end of the yield curve have longer maturities.

### S&P Municipal Bond 1-5 Years Investment Grade 5% Max

**Pre-Refunded Index** represents the portion of the S&P Municipal Bond Investment Grade Index composed solely of investment-grade bonds (those with ratings higher than "BBB-"/"Baa3") with remaining maturities of between one and five years, 5% of which are pre-refunded. Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested in directly.

**S&P Municipal Bond Short Index** consists of bonds in the S&P Municipal Bond Index with a minimum maturity of six months and a maximum maturity of four years.

Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested in directly.

### Ratings and rating agencies

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