

June 27, 2025

Dear 403(b) Plan Sponsor or Third-Party Administrator,

Franklin Resources, Inc., operating as Franklin Templeton, acquired Putnam Investments on January 1, 2024. You are receiving this letter as a plan sponsor or third-party administrator for a 403(b) retirement plan currently or previously participating in the Putnam 403(b) plan with Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company, LLC (PFTC or Putnam) as custodian and Putnam Investor Services, LLC (PSERV) as recordkeeper and administrator. Effective on or around August 28, 2025 (the effective date), custodial responsibilities for this plan will transition to Franklin Templeton's Fiduciary Trust International of the South (FTIOS) and recordkeeping and administrative responsibilities will transfer to Aspire Financial Services, LLC (Aspire), a division of PCS Retirement, LLC.<sup>1</sup> Aspire, a leader in the 403(b) market, already administers existing Franklin Templeton 403(b) plans. This transition to FTIOS and Aspire will ensure consistent plan administration. Below is important information you need to know prior to the transition.

### **Revised custodial agreement and benefits**

FTIOS will assume all the custodial responsibilities and begin serving as the successor custodian on the effective date.<sup>2</sup> Please review the enclosed Franklin Templeton 403(b) Custodial Account Agreement Terms and Conditions (custodial agreement), which will govern the custodial services for participant 403(b) accounts as of the effective date. **Please update your Putnam payroll slot names to reflect Franklin Templeton as the provider.**

Here are some important and valuable changes we want to point out:

- Annual maintenance fee reduction to \$30 effective in 2026
- Roth 403(b) contributions (if the plan sponsor permits)
- Loans (if the plan sponsor permits)
- Expanding services to offer 457(b) plans (if the plan sponsor permits)

### **Recordkeeper transition to Aspire Retirement**

On the effective date, Aspire will assume recordkeeping and administrative responsibilities for the Putnam 403(b) plan. With this change, the last day to open and fund new plans through Putnam will be **August 20, 2025**.

### **Blackout period for account transactions<sup>3</sup>**

Please be advised that an account blackout period will occur from August 21–27, 2025, to facilitate a seamless transition. During this time, no investments can be directed (purchased) or diversified (exchanged) and no distributions can be obtained from the plan. Please note that participant assets will remain invested throughout this period. Full account access will be restored through Aspire on the next business day, August 28, 2025.

### **Plan access effective August 28, 2025**

You will receive a communication in July with all the details for servicing plans and accounts through Aspire, including the plan establishment guide, application and agreement and Aspire contact information. You will find information on how to remit payments directly to Aspire.

### **Participant communication**

In early July, your Putnam 403(b) participants will be notified in their second-quarter account statements about an upcoming change in custodian. A detailed letter, including the FTIOS custodial agreement and Aspire contact information, will follow in mid-July. **There is nothing that your participants are required to do in preparation for this transition.** Once their account transitions to Aspire, they will receive a welcome letter with instructions for online account access.

This transition will also pave the way for an enhanced investment menu upon the completion of the Putnam Investments transfer agent (TA) platform conversion to the Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC TA platform, which is targeted to be completed by the end of this calendar year 2025. Once this TA conversion is complete, it will unlock the ability to offer fund privileges—exchangeability, rights of accumulation, letters of intent, rights of reinstatement at NAV, among others—between Putnam and Franklin Templeton Funds.

For Putnam 403(b) plan participants that hold their investment in Class C shares, their Class C shares will be exchanged into Class A shares of the same fund on or around August 15, 2025.<sup>4</sup> This one-time exchange will not incur any sales or other charges. Participants with ongoing investments in Class C shares will have their future investments automatically switched to Class R shares of the same fund, which has lower overall expenses. Accounts that do not have an assigned financial professional will convert to load-waived Class A shares. Impacted participants will be sent a letter detailing this change during the week of July 21, 2025.

We strongly encourage you to review your plan's current investment lineup to identify any affected Putnam Funds. Once identified, please take appropriate steps to communicate these changes to impacted plan participants to ensure a smooth transition and minimize potential confusion or disruption.

We are genuinely excited about this transition and the enhanced user experience it will offer you and your clients. We are committed to making this transition as seamless as possible. If you have any questions, please call us at (800) 662-0019 or Aspire at (267) 534-2523.

Sincerely

Putnam Investor Services

Dates are subject to change

1. FTIOS, a subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc., is a Florida-based trust company regulated by the Florida Office of Financial Regulation.
2. FTIOS certifies that it is qualified to act as successor custodian, pursuant to section 408(n) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.
3. It is important that 403(b) participants review and consider the appropriateness of their current investments since they will be unable to make changes during the blackout period. For their long-term retirement security, they should consider the importance of a well-balanced and diversified investment portfolio, taking into account all their assets, income and investments.
4. Unless the plan sponsor selects another eligible share class.

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