# Municipal Issuance from a Buyer's Perspective

Brian Regueiro – Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co.

Jacob Crouch – The Huntington National Bank

John Kolodey – The Huntington National Bank



### Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA)

- Elimination of Advance Refundings
  - Ohio Municipal Issuance down 36.9% YoY (2018 vs. 2017)
  - National Municipal Issuance down 20.9% YoY (2018 vs. 2017)
- Lowered Corporate Tax Rates
  - Cut from 35% to 21% (lowest rate since 1939)
- Caps on SALT deductions
  - Capped at \$10,000 per household

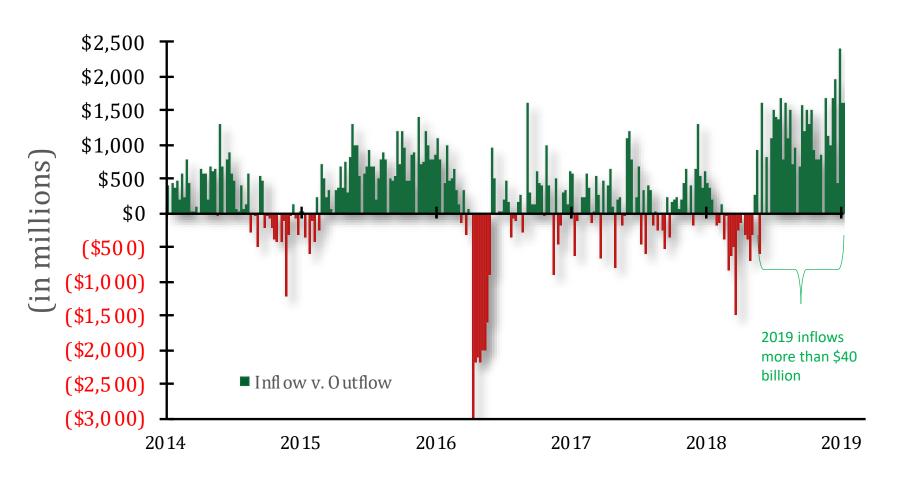


### TCJA Effects on the Market

- Highly taxed states have investors with increasing demand for tax-shelter
  - Due to SALT Deduction Caps
  - Retail Investors / SMA Buyers are flooding the municipal market in search of tax-free investments
  - Over \$40 billion of Municipal Fund inflows between Jan-Sep of 2019
- Limited supply of new tax-exempt municipal issuance
  - Driving down municipal yields relative to taxable US Treasury Bonds given high demand
- 30 Day Net Supply = New Issuance minus (Par Maturing + Par Called)
  - Currently negative as bonds maturing and being called are outweighing the new issuance



### Municipal Fund Weekly Inflows & Outflows





### **Buyer Impact**

- Net negative supply with increased demand has driven high-grade municipal tax-exempt yields lower
- SMA/Retail Buyers are heavily focused on bonds due within 10 years
- SMAs are beginning to be drawn towards taxable municipal issuance
  - Ratios of Treasuries to AAA Tax-Exempt are at lows not seen in a decade
- Banks are beginning to step back in to municipal holdings post-tax reform and bringing the 'bank-qualified' (small issuer) advantage for new-issues beyond 10 years.



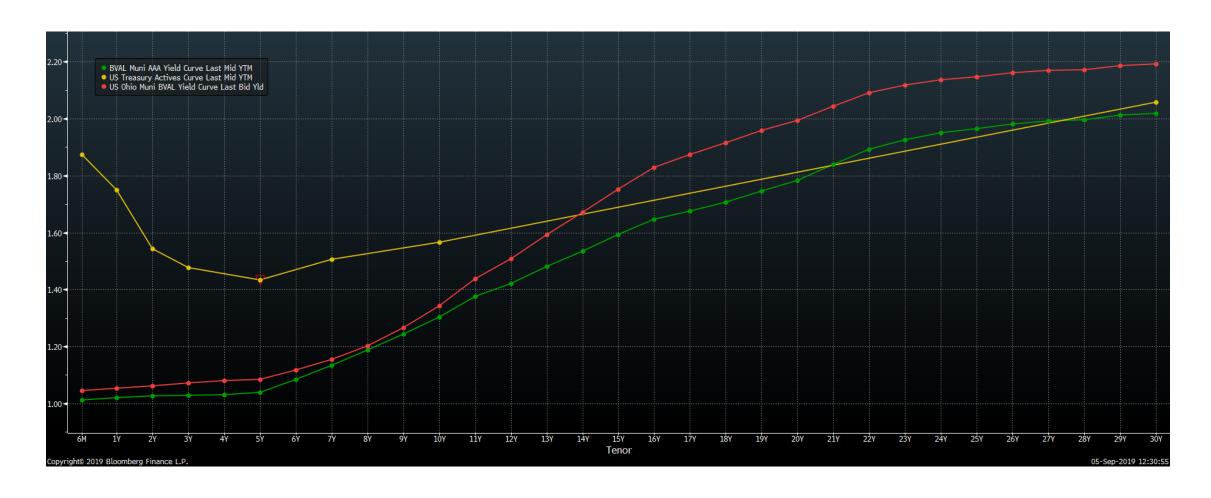
### Advance Refunding Dynamics

- If tax-exempt advance refundings were made permissible again, today's market yields would be ideal to mitigate Negative Arbitrage.
  - Investment Rate = Borrowing Cost
- Given the slope of the taxable yield curve, we are starting to see taxable advance refundings.

- Reinvestment Rates (investment rate for escrow) are higher:
  - 2-Year Treasury Sept. 2019 = 1.50%
  - 2-Year Treasury Sept. 2017 = 1.34%
- Municipal Rates (borrowing rate for new issuance) are lower:
  - 10-Year Municipal Sept. 2019 = 1.22%
  - 10-Year Municipal Sept. 2017 = 1.88%



### AAA Muni, Ohio Muni & UST Yield Curves





### 10-Year Municipal vs. 2-Year Treasury Yields



### Municipal Market Overview

Short Term Rates (%)	9/3/2019	1-Wk Chg	5Yr Avg	5Yr High	5Yr Low
SIFMA Index	1.35	-1 bps	0.75	2.30	0.01
1-Month LIBOR	2.11	-6 bps	1.09	2.52	0.15
SIFMA/LIBOR Ratio	63.92	+1%	59.31	165.5	2.31
Federal Funds Target (Mid)	2.13	+0 bps	0.98	2.38	0.13
Long Term Rates (%)	9/3/2019	1-Wk Chg	5Yr Avg	5Yr High	5Yr Low
AAA 2 Year	1.01	+3 bps	1.04	2.11	0.31
AAA 5 Year	1.03	+2 bps	1.45	2.34	0.79
AAA 10 Year	1.22	-1 bps	2.05	2.77	1.21
AAA 30 Year	1.84	-3 bps	2.83	3.46	1.83
Bond Buyer Index 20 GO	2.97	-10 bps	3.67	4.37	2.80
Bond Buyer Revenue Index	3.45	-10 bps	4.08	4.90	2.98
30-Day Visible Supply (\$mm)	15,213	-1,686	10,007	26,856	2,339
Municipal Bond Fund Flow (\$mm)	1,630	-180	329	2,400	-4,533

Long Term Taxable (%)	9/3/2019	1-Wk Chg	5Yr Avg	5Yr High	5Yr Low
US Treasury 2 Year Note	1.46	-6 bps	1.41	2.97	0.31
US Treasury 5 Year Note	1.34	-4 bps	1.89	3.09	0.94
US Treasury 10 Year Note	1.47	-0 bps	2.30	3.24	1.36
US Treasury 30 Year Bond	1.95	+0 bps	2.86	3.45	1.95
MMD / Treasury Ratios (%)	9/3/2019	1-Wk Chg	5Yr Avg	5Yr High	5Yr Low
2 Year Spot	69.18	+5%	77.65	114.52	56.28

+4%

-1%

76.97

99.05

104.90

106.94

113.53

60.26

70.93

83.69

76.81

83.04

94.20

5 Year Spot

10 Year Spot

30 Year Spot



Differences Between Public and Private Placements

<u>Public Bond Offering</u> – A District Sells it's Bonds to an Underwriter who Resells the Bonds to Retail or Institutional Investors on Established Securities Markets.

 Investors will often Base Investment Decisions on the Public Debt Rating.



Differences Between Public and Private Placements

<u>Direct Purchase/Private Placement</u> - A District Places it's Bonds/Notes Directly with a Bank or Other Financial Institution.

- Banks are Required to Complete Their Own Independent Analysis
- Ongoing Credit Surveillance as With any Other Commercial Loan is required



Important Considerations Impacting a Bank's Decision

- Typically Hold Until Maturity
- Interest Rate Risk
- Term and Repayment Structure

- Customer vs Non-Customer
- Pledge and Source of Repayment: How is it repaid?
- Concentrations in Certain Areas or Sectors
- Reputational Risk



#### **Deal Discussion**

OPTION A	OPTION B
Par Amount: \$2,500,000	Par Amount: \$2,500,000
Customer	Non-Customer
Lease/Lease-Back (Ground Lease)	LTGO
15 Years	25 Years
No credit rating	AA
9 Year No Call Option	Callable at Anytime
New Treasurer	Biggest employer just announced closure



#### **Deal Discussion**

OPTION A	OPTION B
Par Amount: \$2,500,000	Par Amount: \$5,000,000
Customer	Customer
Lease/Lease-Back (Ground Lease)	LTGO
15 Years	10 Years
No credit rating	A-
Callable after 10 years	Non-Callable
Established management team	Growing significantly



The Credit Assessment Process

All Commercial Banks Lending Activity is Monitored by Regulators.

- A Bank's Credit Policy Will Define:
  - What Loan Types are Acceptable.
  - What Credit Profiles are Desirable . . . . and Those that are Less So.
  - A Bank's Credit Assessment Process Will Evaluate the Loan Request vis-à-vis the Desired Profile.



The Credit Assessment Process

#### 1. The Loan Request

- Pledge, Term, Source of Repayment
- Repayment Analysis Debt Service Coverage Ratio

#### 2. Underlying Economics of the Issuer's Service Area . . .

- Characteristics and Nature of the Local Economy
- Composition: Urban, Suburban, Agricultural, Rural
- Diverse or Concentrated Economy
- Population Attributes
- Tax Base



The Credit Assessment Process

- 3. Financial Performance / Financial Statements
  - Operating Statement Trends
    - Revenues, Expenses, Fiscal Balance
  - Balance Sheet Trends
    - Liquidity
    - Fixed Asset Trends
    - Leverage: Funded Debt and Other Obligations
    - Fund Balances and Other Reserves



Important Considerations Impacting a Bank's Decision

	Entity 1	Entity 2	Entity 3
Revenue			
Taxes	20,414	320	18,277
Intergovernmental	13,317	612	5,374
Services	4,528	9,350	2,544
Other Revenues	1,813	211	8,816
Total Revenue	40,072	10,493	35,011
Expenditures			
General Government	30,632	750	10,650
Public Safety	-	7,488	647
Capital Outlay	1,086	505	1,323
Debt Service	-	2,923	-
Other	4,251	883	1,786
Total Expenditures	35,970	12,548	14,406
Excess of Revenues/Expenditures	4,102	(2,055)	20,606
Other Sources (Uses)	(1,278)	1,264	(16,145)
Net Change in Fund Balance	2,824	(791)	4,461
Fund Balance Beginning	9,198	1,094	18,280
Fund Balance Ending Fund Balance as % of Expenditures	12,022 33.4%	303 2.4%	22,741 157.9%



The Credit Assessment Process

- 4. Management Assessment
- 5. Material Litigation
- 6. Review of Current Events

7. Credit Decision



## QUESTIONS?

