



# OPEB ASSET ALLOCATION REVIEW

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

MAY, 2022

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# OPEB PLAN OVERVIEW

Asset-Liability Analysis

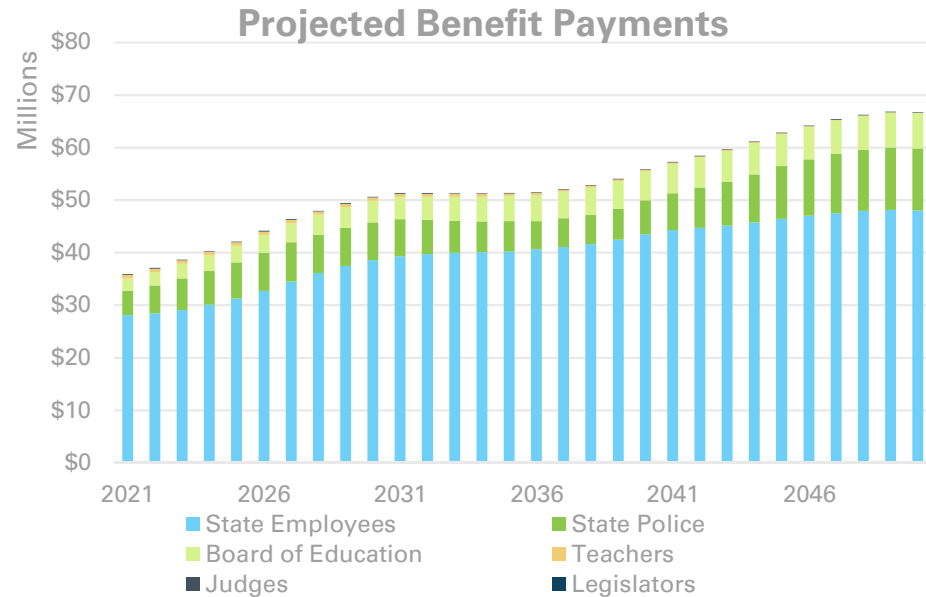
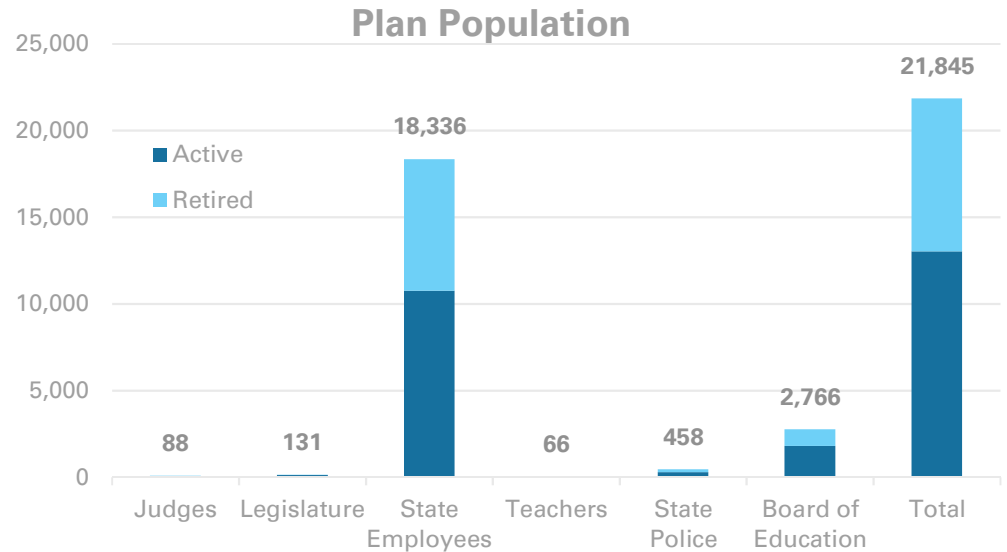


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# RHODE ISLAND OPEB

## PLAN CHARACTERISTICS

- **The OPEB plan consists of 6 subplans with varying levels of health benefits**
- **State Employees remain the main driver of OPEB liabilities**
  - Consists of 84% of all participants and 78% of all liabilities
- **As of July 1, 2021, the OPEB plan was 60.1% funded based on a 5% discount rate**
- **Unfunded liabilities are being amortized over 30 years with 15 years remaining**
  - OPEB plan is scheduled to be fully funded by 2038 under this method
- **Asset allocation approach has been simple with 65/35 US large cap equity and US aggregate bond targets**

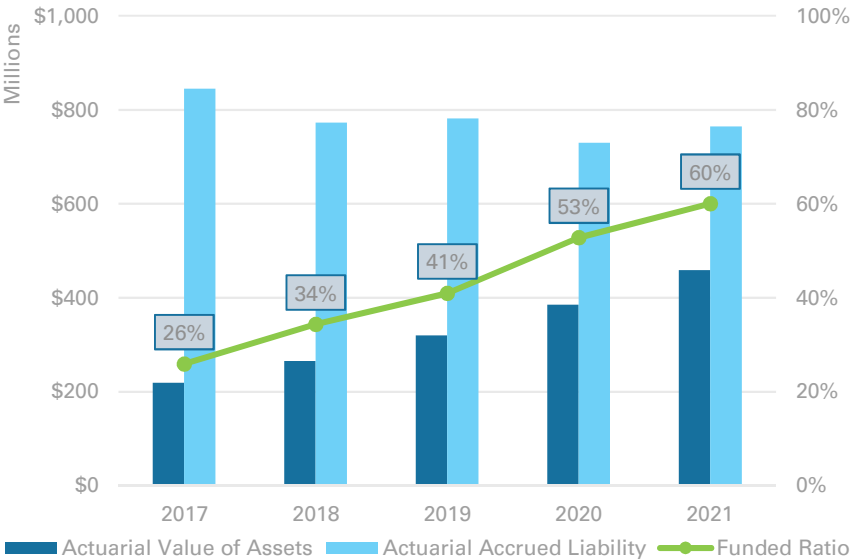


Notes: Plan population as of 7/1/2021  
Source: GRS

# RHODE ISLAND OPEB

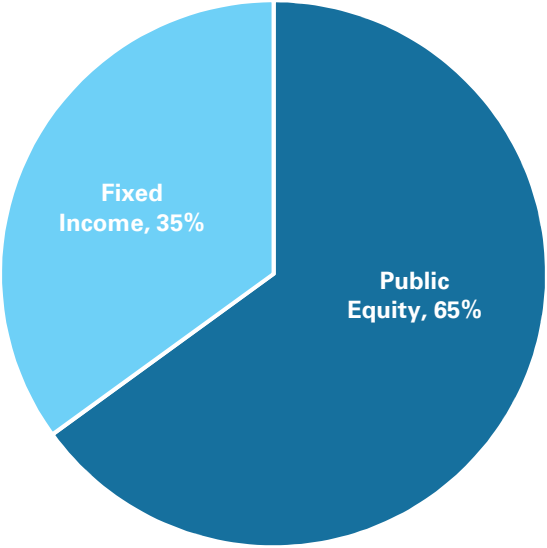
## PLAN RISK PROFILE

### Funded Status



<b>Expected Liability Growth<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>5.0%</b>
<b>Funded Status</b>	<b>60.1%</b>
<b>Hurdle Rate<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>8.3%</b>

### Asset Allocation<sup>1</sup>



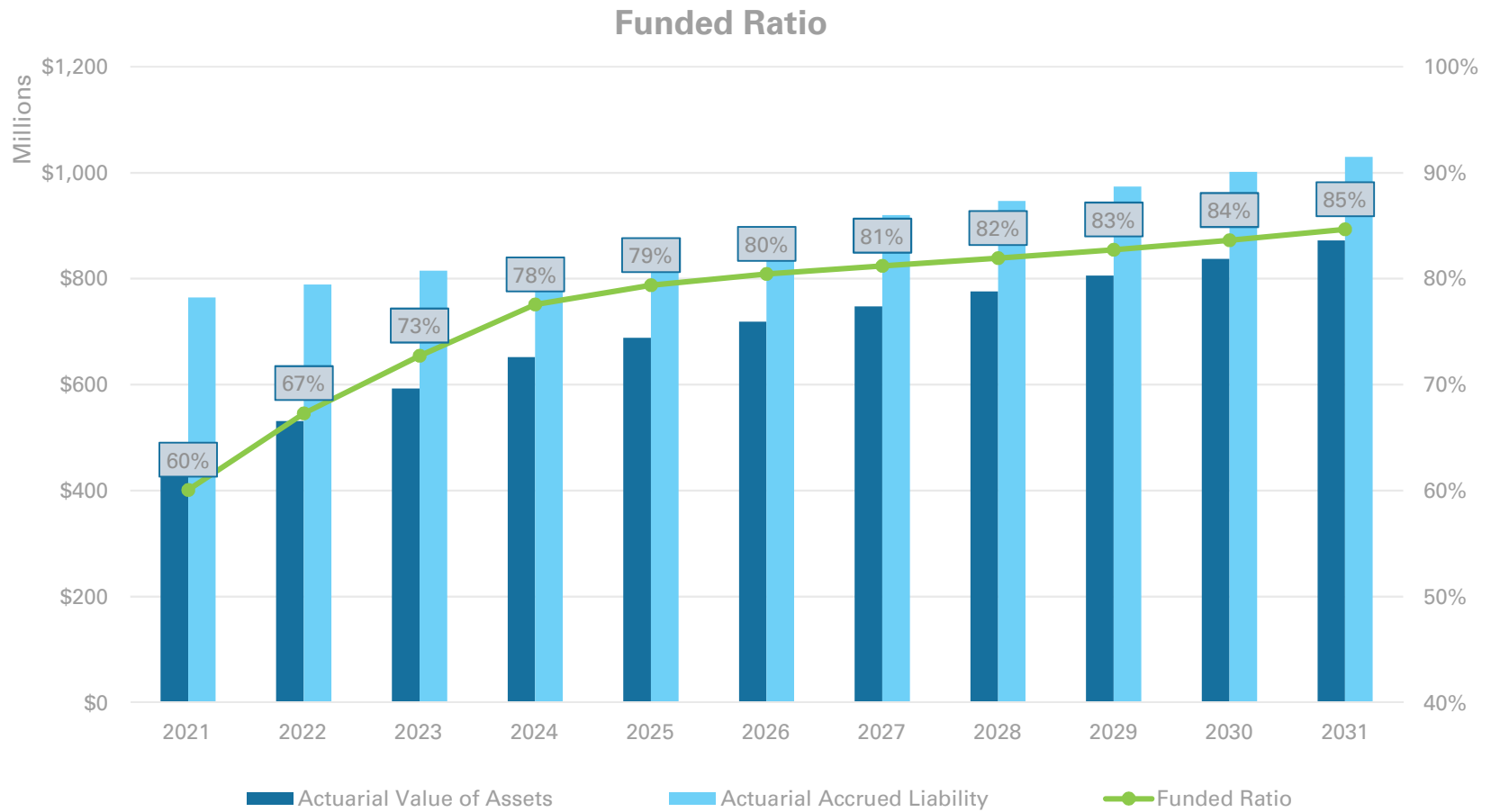
<b>Expected Return on Assets (10 years)</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
<b>Expected Return on Assets (30 years)</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>Asset Volatility</b>	<b>11.0%</b>

Notes: <sup>1</sup>Expected risk and return is based on NEPC's Q1 2022 asset class assumptions; <sup>2</sup>Represents interest cost only because employer/member contributions cover normal cost; <sup>3</sup>Hurdle rate = Expected Liability Growth / Funded Status



# RHODE ISLAND OPEB

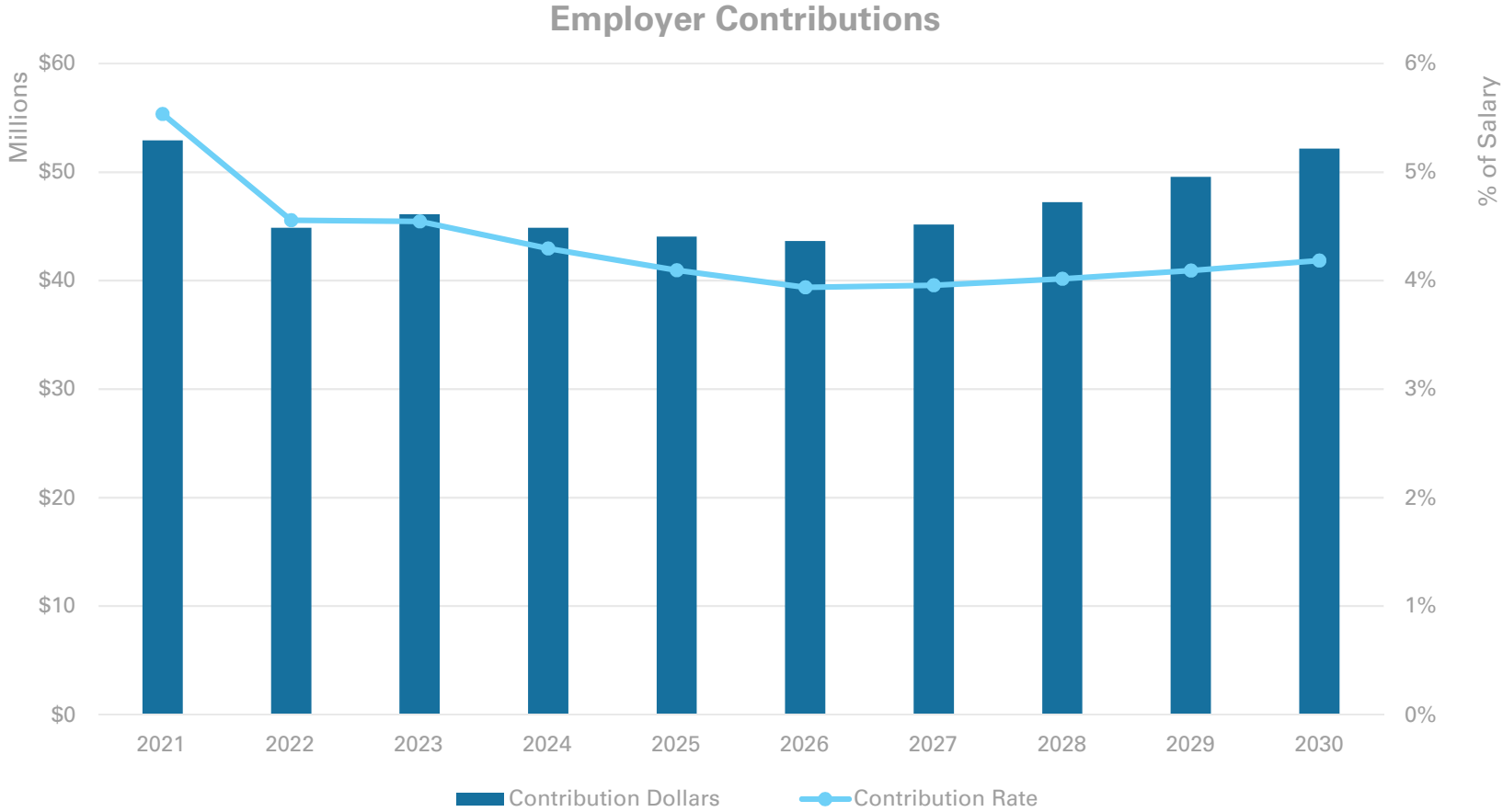
## 10-YR FUNDED STATUS PROJECTION



Notes: Plan population as of 7/1/2021 Source: GRS

# RHODE ISLAND OPEB

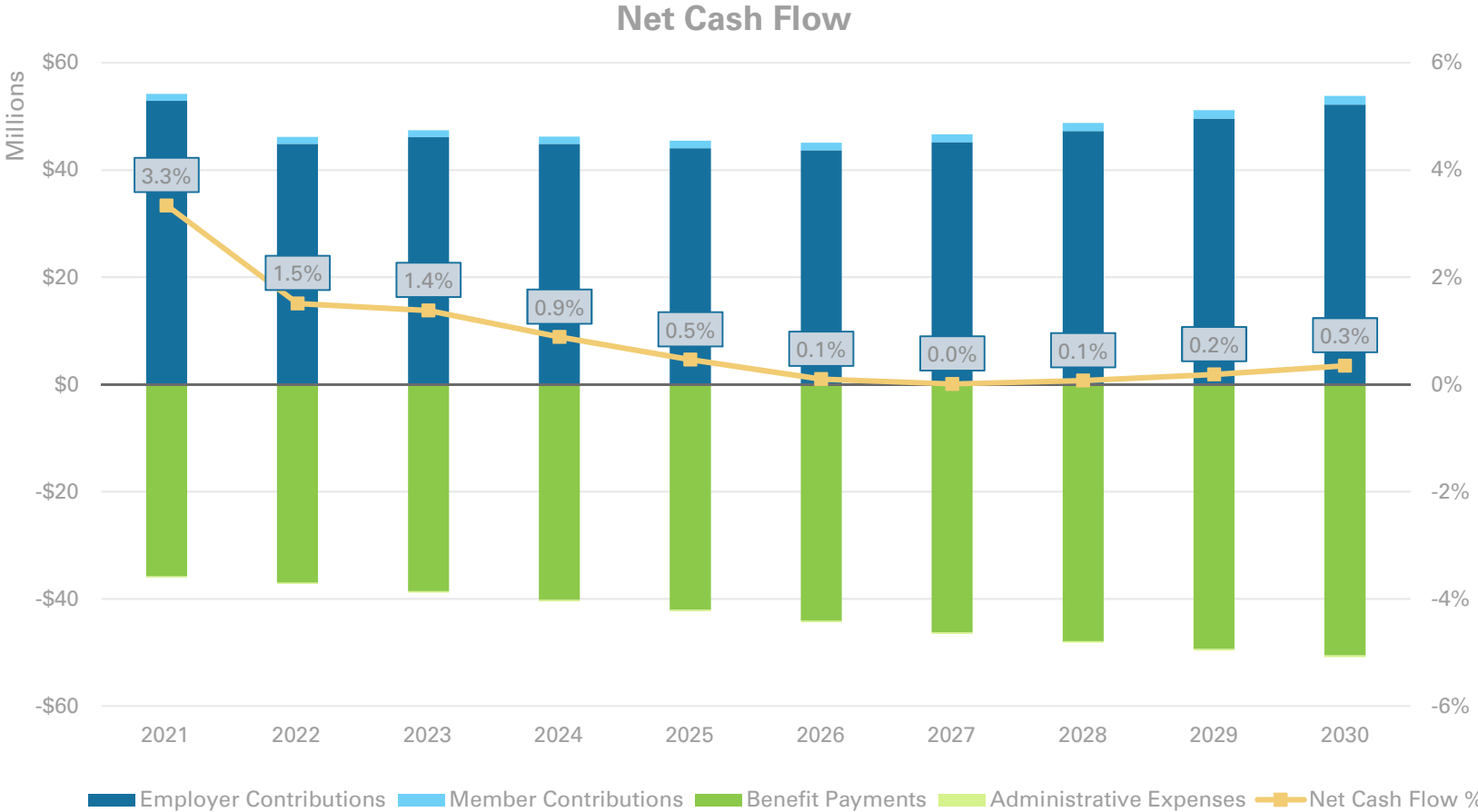
## 10-YR CONTRIBUTION PROJECTION



Notes: Plan population as of 7/1/2021 Source: GRS

# RHODE ISLAND OPEB

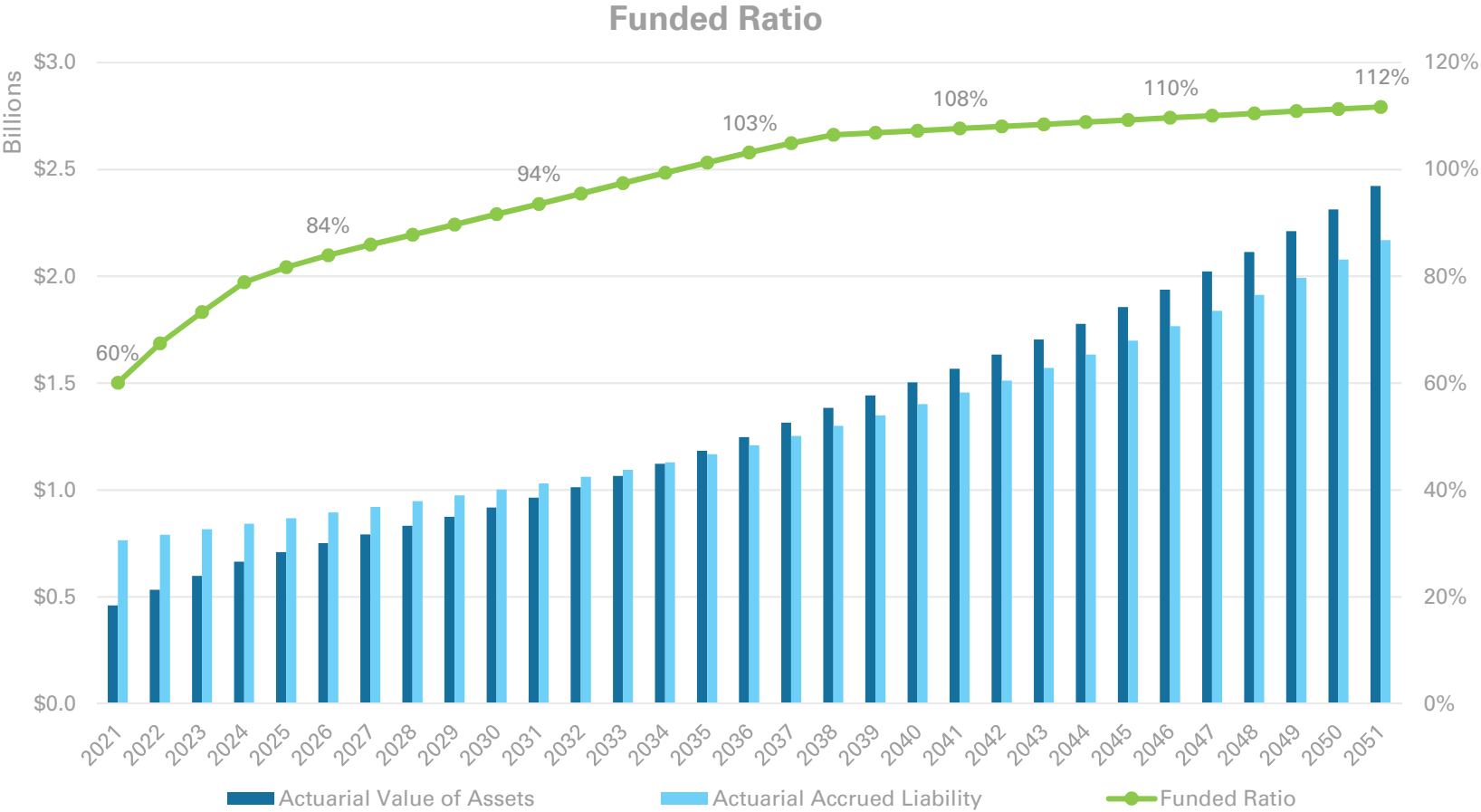
## 10-YR NET CASH FLOW



Notes: Plan population as of 7/1/2021 Source: GRS

# RHODE ISLAND OPEB

## 30-YR FUNDED STATUS PROJECTION



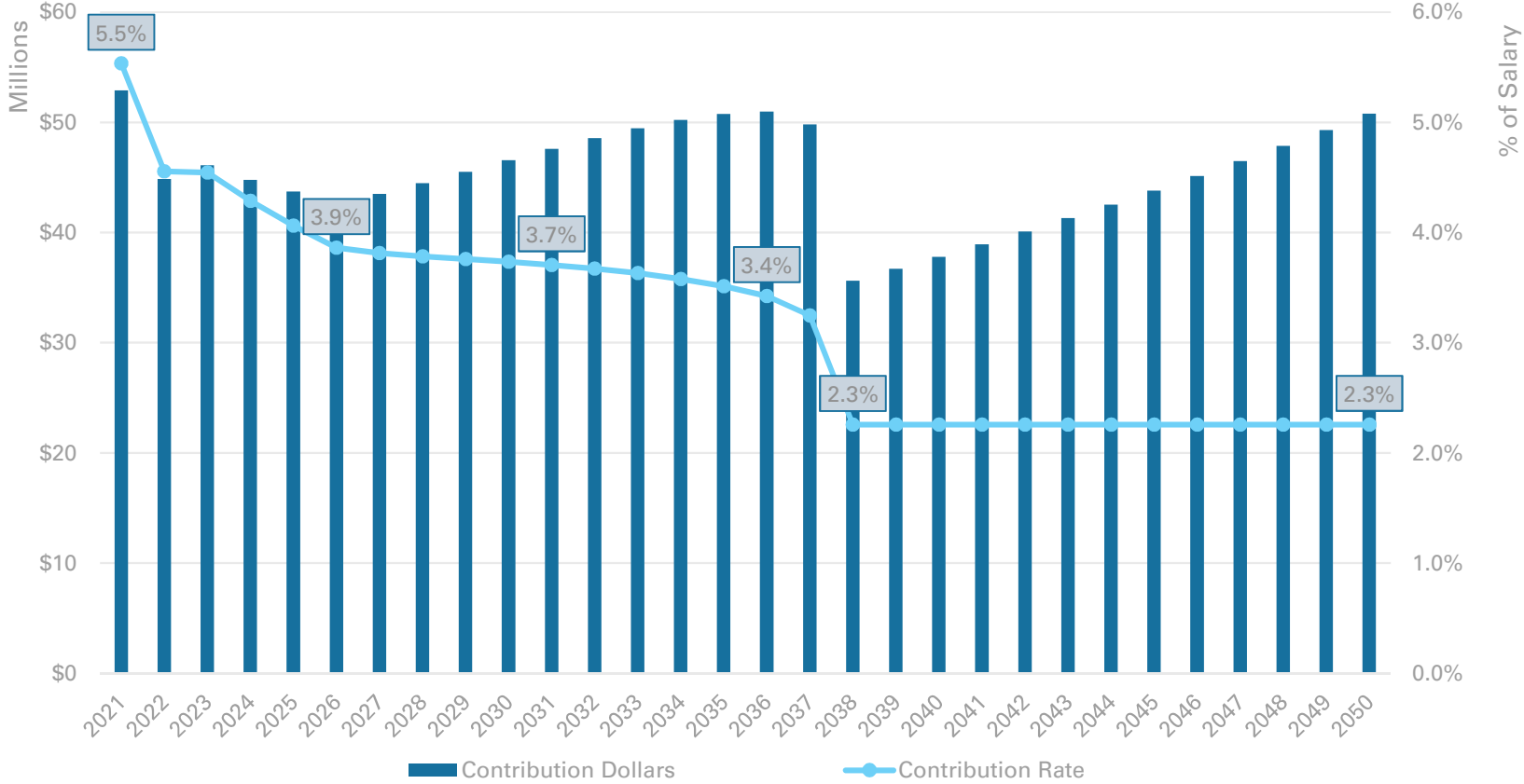
Notes: Plan population as of 7/1/2021 Source: GRS



# RHODE ISLAND OPEB

## 30-YR CONTRIBUTION PROJECTION

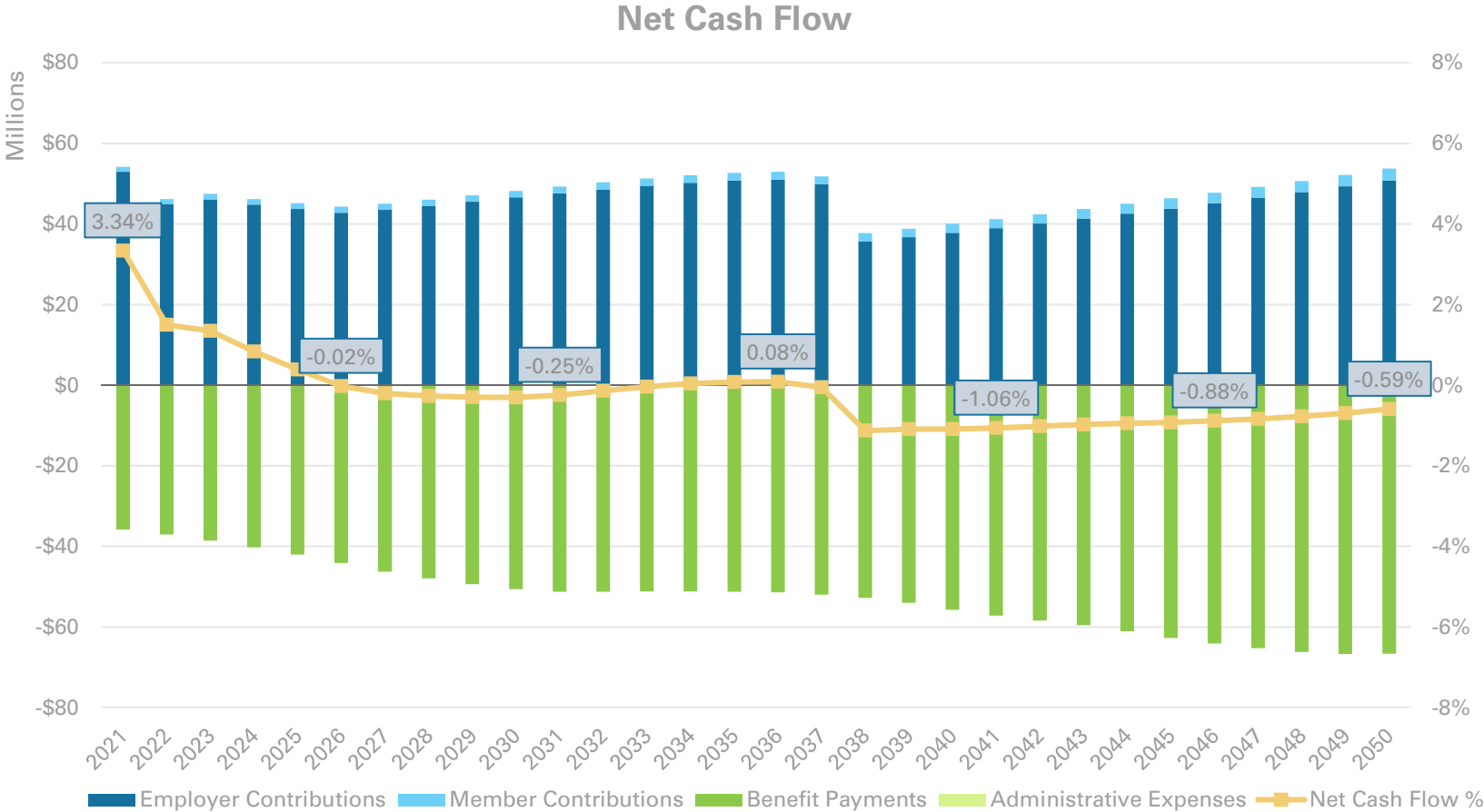
Employer Contributions



Notes: Plan population as of 7/1/2021 Source: GRS

# RHODE ISLAND OPEB

## 30-YR NET CASH FLOW



Notes: Plan population as of 7/1/2021 Source: GRS



# NEPC ASSET CLASS ASSUMPTIONS

Overview of NEPC Asset  
Class Assumptions



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# ASSET CLASS ASSUMPTIONS

## OVERVIEW

- **NEPC's capital market assumptions are available each quarter and currently reflect March 31, 2022 market data**
- **We encourage a neutral risk posture as our market outlook reflects more uncertainty surrounding economic growth and inflation dynamics**
- **Higher interest rates lifted fixed income return assumptions and temper the outlook for equities given the expected valuation headwinds**
- **We encourage investors to hold a dedicated safe-haven fixed income allocation to be a source of portfolio liquidity and downside protection**
- **NEPC's expectation for inflation has increased over the near-term, but the long-term outlook reflects a subdued inflation environment**



# ASSET CLASS BUILDING BLOCKS

## METHODOLOGY

- **Asset models reflect current and forecasted market data to inform expected returns**
- **Systematic inputs are paired with a long-term trend to terminal values**
- **Model inputs are aggregated to capture key return drivers for each asset class**
- **Building block inputs will differ across asset class categories**



# INFLATION ASSUMPTIONS

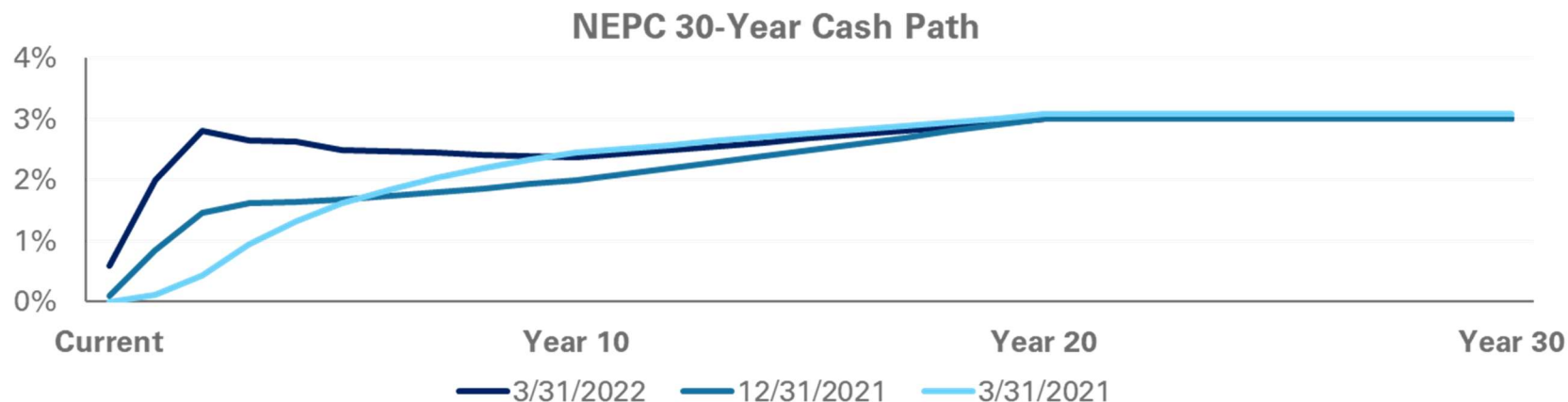
## OVERVIEW

- **Inflation is a key building block to develop asset class assumptions**
- **Inflation assumptions are model-driven and informed by multiple inputs for both the U.S. and global assets**
  - Includes forecasts from international organizations (e.g. IMF), local consumer and producer price indices, global interest rate curves, and break-even inflation expectations
- **NEPC’s U.S. expectations reflect stickier inflation over the near-term, but a stable inflation outlook over the long-term**
  - We anticipate continued volatility among inflation measures as market-based inflation expectations diverge from current consumer inflation metrics

Region	10-Year Inflation Assumption	30-Year Inflation Assumption
United States	2.7%	2.7%



# U.S. CASH EXPECTATIONS



- **Cash is a foundational input for all asset class return expectations**
  - Cash + risk premia is an input for long-term asset class return projections
- **Cash assumptions reflect inflation and real interest rates**
- **U.S. nominal rate forecasts reflect an aggressive rate hike path in the near-term, though long-term expectations remain subdued relative to history**



Sources: Bloomberg, FactSet, NEPC

# CORE ASSET CLASS RETURN ASSUMPTIONS

	Asset Class	03/31/22 10-Year Return	03/31/21 10-Year Return	Delta
	Cash	2.4%	1.3%	+1.1%
	U.S. Inflation	2.7%	2.3%	+0.4%
Equity	U.S. Large-Cap Equity	4.7%	5.1%	-0.4%
	Non-U.S. Developed Equity	5.6%	5.3%	+0.3%
	Emerging Market Equity	8.5%	7.4%	+1.1%
	Global Equity*	5.8%	5.8%	-
	Private Equity*	9.0%	9.0%	-
Fixed Income	U.S. Treasury Bond	2.6%	1.6%	+1.0%
	U.S. Aggregate Bond*	3.1%	2.1%	+1.0%
	U.S. TIPS	2.1%	1.7%	+0.4%
	U.S. High Yield Corporate Bond	4.5%	3.2%	+1.3%
	Private Debt*	7.3%	6.5%	+0.8%
Real Assets	Commodity Futures	1.7%	1.7%	-
	REIT	5.1%	5.0%	+0.1%
	Gold	3.9%	3.6%	+0.3%
	Real Estate - Core	4.8%	4.6%	+0.2%
	Private Real Assets - Infrastructure	5.4%	5.4%	-
Multi-Asset	60% S&P 500 & 40% U.S. Aggregate	4.3%	4.2%	+0.1%
	60% MSCI ACWI & 40% U.S. Agg.	5.1%	4.6%	+0.5%
	Hedge Fund*	5.0%	4.3%	+0.7%



\*Calculated as a blend of other asset classes



# OPEB ASSET ALLOCATION THOUGHTS



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# OPEB ASSET ALLOCATION

- **The historical OPEB asset allocation is reflective of a traditional 65/35 split between U.S. Equities and US Core Bonds**
  - While this provides a simplistic and liquid approach, it is not reflective of major market opportunities
- **In our review of the asset allocation, NEPC & Staff felt it prudent to further diversify the OPEB asset allocation and leverage the success of Pension investment framework and manager roster**
- **As such, NEPC & Staff recommend the Committee consider several key items:**
  - 1) Move towards a more diversified asset allocation and adopt the functional bucket framework of the Pension
  - 2) Think about leveraging the size, scale, and resources of the Pension to access asset classes and managers that would otherwise be unavailable



# OPEB ASSET ALLOCATION

		OPEB Policy	Mix A (Similar Return)	Mix B (Similar Risk)	Mix C (55% Growth)	Mix D (55% Growth)	Pension
Equity	Global Equity	0%	30%	40%	45%	45%	
	US Large Cap	65%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	<b>Public Growth</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>40%</b>
	<b>Private Growth</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>TOTAL GROWTH</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>55%</b>
Income	Equity Options	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	4.0%	
	Liquid Credit	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	4.0%	
	EMD (Blended)	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	4.0%	
	CLOs	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	4.0%	
	Private Credit	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	4.0%	5.0%	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Stability	<b>CPC</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>10%</b>
	Core Real Estate	0%	4%	4%	4%	4%	
	Private Real Assets (ex-Real Estate)	0%	0%	4%	4%	4%	
	<b>Inflation Protection</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>
	US Aggregate Bond	35%	50%	26%	21%	16%	
	<b>Volatility Protection</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>TOTAL STABILITY</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>33%</b>
		OPEB Policy	Mix A (Similar Return)	Mix B (Similar Risk)	Mix C (55% Growth)	Mix D (55% Growth)	Pension
	<b>Expected Return 10 yrs</b>	<b>4.41%</b>	<b>4.67%</b>	<b>5.59%</b>	<b>5.89%</b>	<b>6.01%</b>	<b>5.82%</b>
	<b>Expected Return 30 yrs</b>	<b>5.79%</b>	<b>5.55%</b>	<b>6.62%</b>	<b>6.97%</b>	<b>7.11%</b>	<b>6.88%</b>
	<b>Standard Dev</b>	<b>11.04%</b>	<b>7.94%</b>	<b>10.92%</b>	<b>12.45%</b>	<b>12.84%</b>	<b>12.69%</b>
	<b>Sharpe Ratio (10 years)</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.40</b>

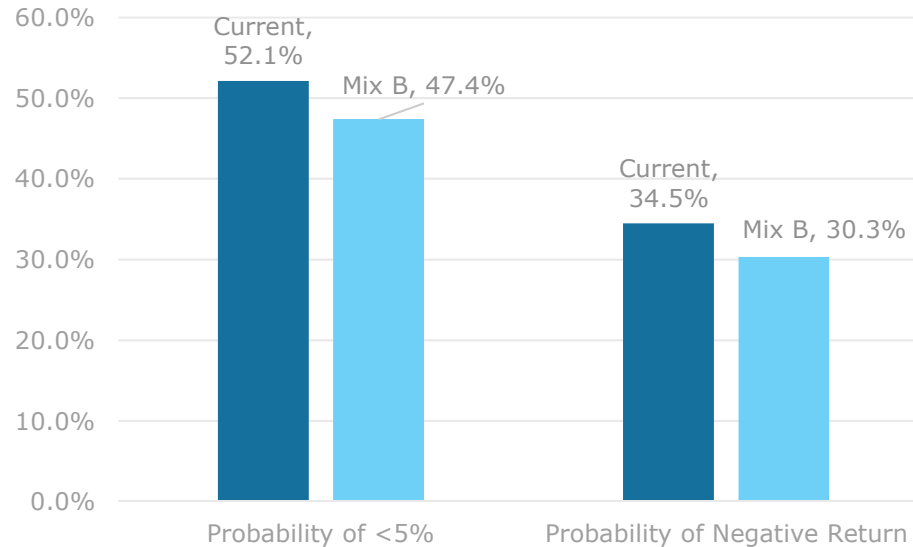
\*Equity options and CLOs are modeled using custom assumptions created by NEPC's Asset Allocation team



# CONSIDERATIONS

## IMPROVED RISK PROFILE

- **The expected risk/return of Mix B, relative to the existing OPEB asset allocation, remains compelling**
  - The risk profile of Mix B is slightly lower than the existing asset allocation but has a higher expected return
- **Moving from the existing asset allocation to Mix B would reduce the probability of falling short of the discount rate or producing negative returns**

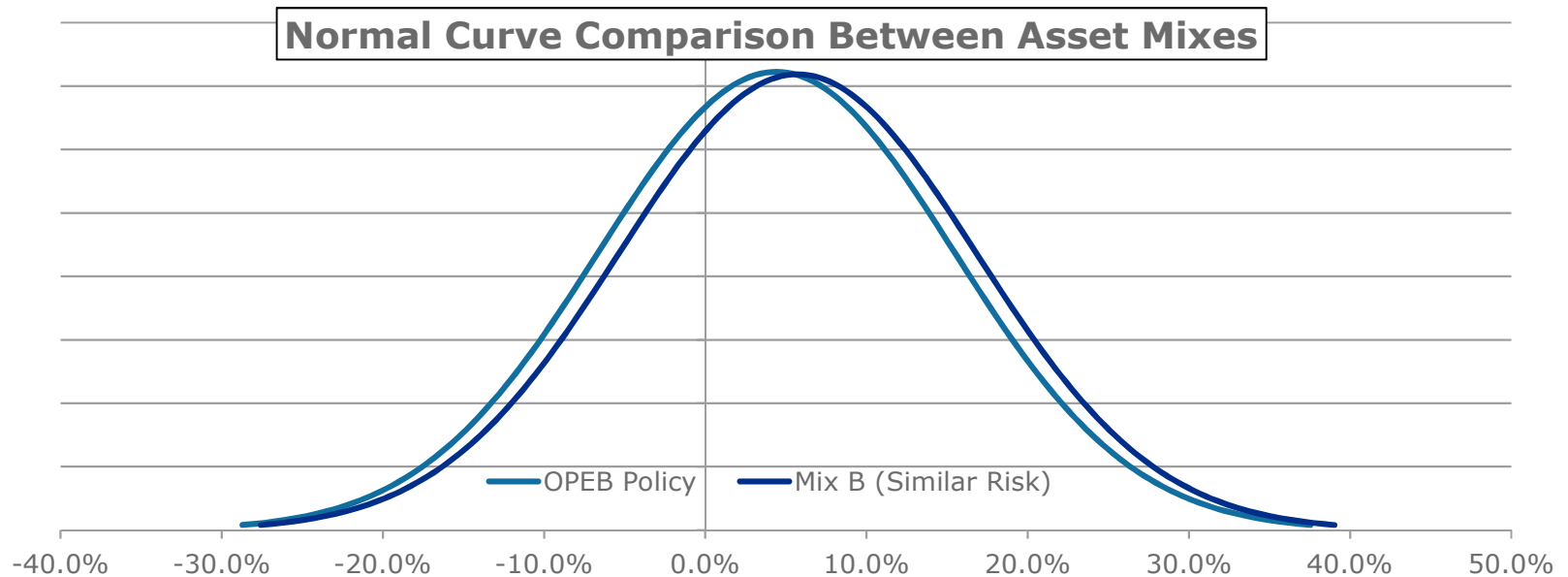


\*The probability of loss in any given year below the 5% discount rate is based on NEPC's Q1 asset allocation projections

# CONSIDERATIONS

## BROADER OPPORTUNITY SET

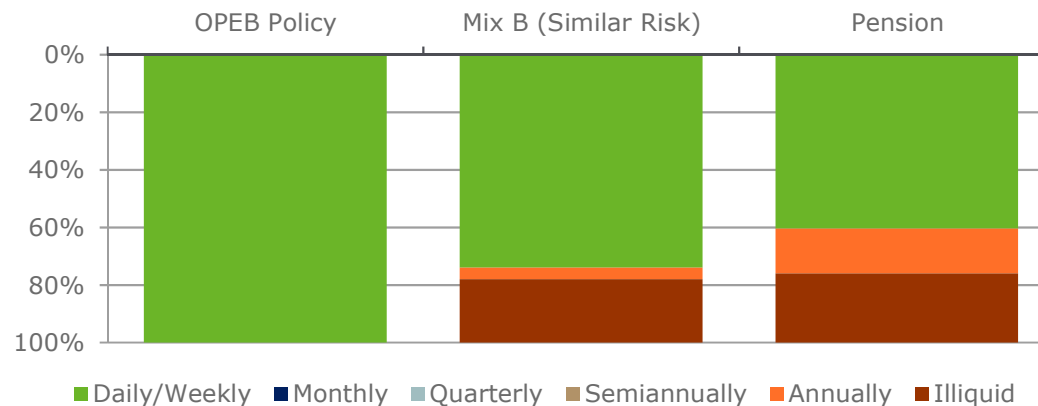
- **The current OPEB asset allocation takes a simplified approach and has a very limited opportunity set**
  - 65% US Large Cap Equity & 35% US Agg. Bond
- **While it may not show up meaningfully in standard deviation numbers, increasing the opportunity set across regions, market cap, and asset classes can help improve outcomes, particularly on the downside**



# CONSIDERATIONS

## ACCESSING PRIVATE MARKETS

- **NEPC believes that private markets will play a critical role in the success of investment programs given the current market environment**
  - We believe that the investment case for the use of private markets is clear but it's subject how much illiquidity the plan can take
- **The OPEBs positive cash flow can support the allocation to private markets and would exhibit a stronger liquidity profile relative to the Pension**



\*Liquidity is based on NEPC's standard liquidity categories for specific asset classes and may differ from the specific liquidity terms of managers



# CONSIDERATIONS

## ADDITIONAL DOWNSIDE PROTECTION

- **Of note, the recommended mixes do not include allocations to the Absolute Return and Crisis Protection Class (“CPC”) that are within the Pension**
  - Given the size of the OPEB, building out a direct absolute return portfolio could be challenging
  - The positive cash flow profile of the OPEB helps mitigate the need for a dedicated CPC allocation



# RECOMMENDATION

- **NEPC & Staff recommend the adoption of Mix B for the OPEB's asset allocation**
  - Mix B would help to further diversify the plan's asset allocation
  - In addition, it helps improve the plan's risk and return profile meaningfully
- **Mix C & D offer compelling opportunities and can be potential future considerations for the OPEB**
  - Mix C and D have meaningful allocations to private equity, private credit, and private real assets which will take time to ramp up to and build out
  - Revisiting the OPEB asset allocation annually will give us the opportunity to reassess these options again







# APPENDIX

## Public Equity



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# PUBLIC EQUITY ASSUMPTIONS

## OVERVIEW

- **Elevated inflation levels and expectations for tighter monetary policy suggest a more neutral equity risk posture**
  - With a more muted risk asset outlook, we recommend adding value exposure to U.S. large-cap equity and utilizing active global equity strategies
- **Equity valuation multiples are sensitive to higher nominal rates, though inflation can positively impact nominal revenue growth**
- **We recommend strategic asset allocation targets for emerging market equity reflect an overweight compared to the MSCI ACWI IMI**
  - The return assumption for emerging equity is highest among public equity and we recommend using non-U.S. developed equity as the funding source
- **NEPC encourages a strategic bias to small-cap with the use of active management relative to small-cap exposure in the MSCI ACWI IMI**



# PUBLIC EQUITY ASSUMPTIONS

## BUILDING BLOCKS

<b>Illiquidity Premium</b>	The return expected for assets with illiquidity risk
<b>Valuation</b>	Represents P/E multiple contraction or expansion relative to long-term trend
<b>Inflation</b>	Market-specific inflation based on country-level revenue exposure
<b>Real Earnings Growth</b>	Market-specific real growth based on a weighted-average of country revenue exposure and GDP growth
<b>Dividend Yield</b>	Income distributed to shareholders adjusted to reflect market trends

Asset Class	03/31/22 10-Yr Return	12-Month Change
U.S. Large-Cap Equity	4.7%	-0.4%
U.S. Small/Mid-Cap Equity	6.1%	+1.0%
U.S. Microcap Equity	7.0%	+1.6%
Non-U.S. Developed Equity	5.6%	+0.3%
Non-U.S. Developed Small-Cap Equity	6.7%	+1.4%
Emerging Market Equity	8.5%	+1.1%
Emerging Market Small-Cap Equity	7.8%	-0.2%
China Equity	9.6%	+2.4%
Hedge Fund - Equity	4.8%	+0.6%
Global Equity*	5.8%	-
Private Equity*	9.0%	-

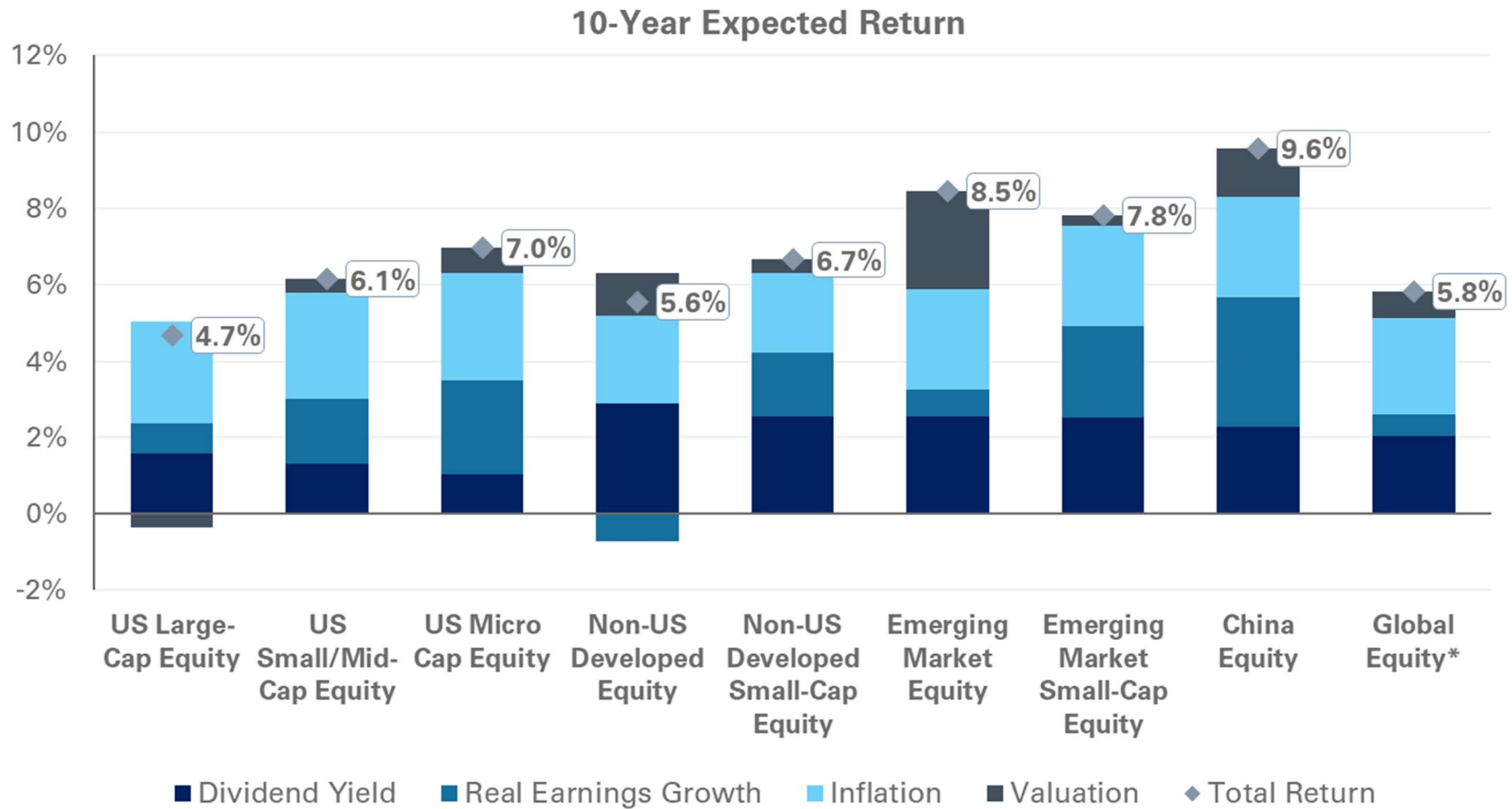
Source: NEPC

\*Calculated as a blend of other asset classes



# PUBLIC EQUITY

## BUILDING BLOCKS



Source: NEPC

\*Calculated as a blend of other classes





# APPENDIX

## Fixed Income



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# FIXED INCOME ASSUMPTIONS

## OVERVIEW

- **Fixed income return assumptions reflect a transition to tighter monetary policy to offset ongoing inflationary pressures**
- **We endorse a dedicated Treasury allocation for liquidity, downside protection, and fee savings, despite the muted return expectations**
- **Safe-haven fixed income exposure will differ by investor objective**
  - The fixed income asset-type and duration profile should reflect portfolio objectives, asset-liability glide path, and desire for capital efficiency
- **The use of return-seeking credit investments requires a more dynamic posture to manage shifts in credit spreads and market cycles**
  - A strategic blend of 50% high yield, 25% levered loans, and 25% blended EMD offers an improved strategic beta profile for return-seeking credit



# FIXED INCOME ASSUMPTIONS

## BUILDING BLOCKS

<b>Illiquidity Premium</b>	The return expected for assets with illiquidity risk
<b>Government Rates Price Change</b>	Change due to shifts in current yields relative to forecasted rates
<b>Credit Deterioration</b>	The average loss for credit assets due to defaults and recovery rates
<b>Spread Price Change</b>	Valuation change due to changes in credit spreads relative to long-term targets
<b>Credit Spread</b>	Yield premium provided by securities with credit risk
<b>Government Rates</b>	The yield attributed to sovereign bonds that do not have credit risk

Asset Class	03/31/22 10-Yr Return	12-Month Change
U.S. TIPS	2.1%	+0.4%
U.S. Treasury Bond	2.6%	+1.0%
U.S. Corporate Bond	4.0%	+1.1%
U.S. MBS	2.8%	+0.9%
U.S. High Yield Corporate	4.5%	+1.3%
U.S. Leveraged Loan	5.9%	+1.5%
EMD External Debt	5.2%	+1.3%
EMD Local Currency Debt	6.1%	+0.3%
Non-U.S. Govt. Bond	1.6%	+0.7%
U.S. Muni Bond (1-10 Year)	2.4%	+1.0%
U.S. High Yield Muni Bond	3.4%	+1.3%
Hedge Fund – Credit	5.2%	+1.0%
U.S. Aggregate Bond*	3.1%	+1.0%
Private Debt*	7.3%	+0.8%

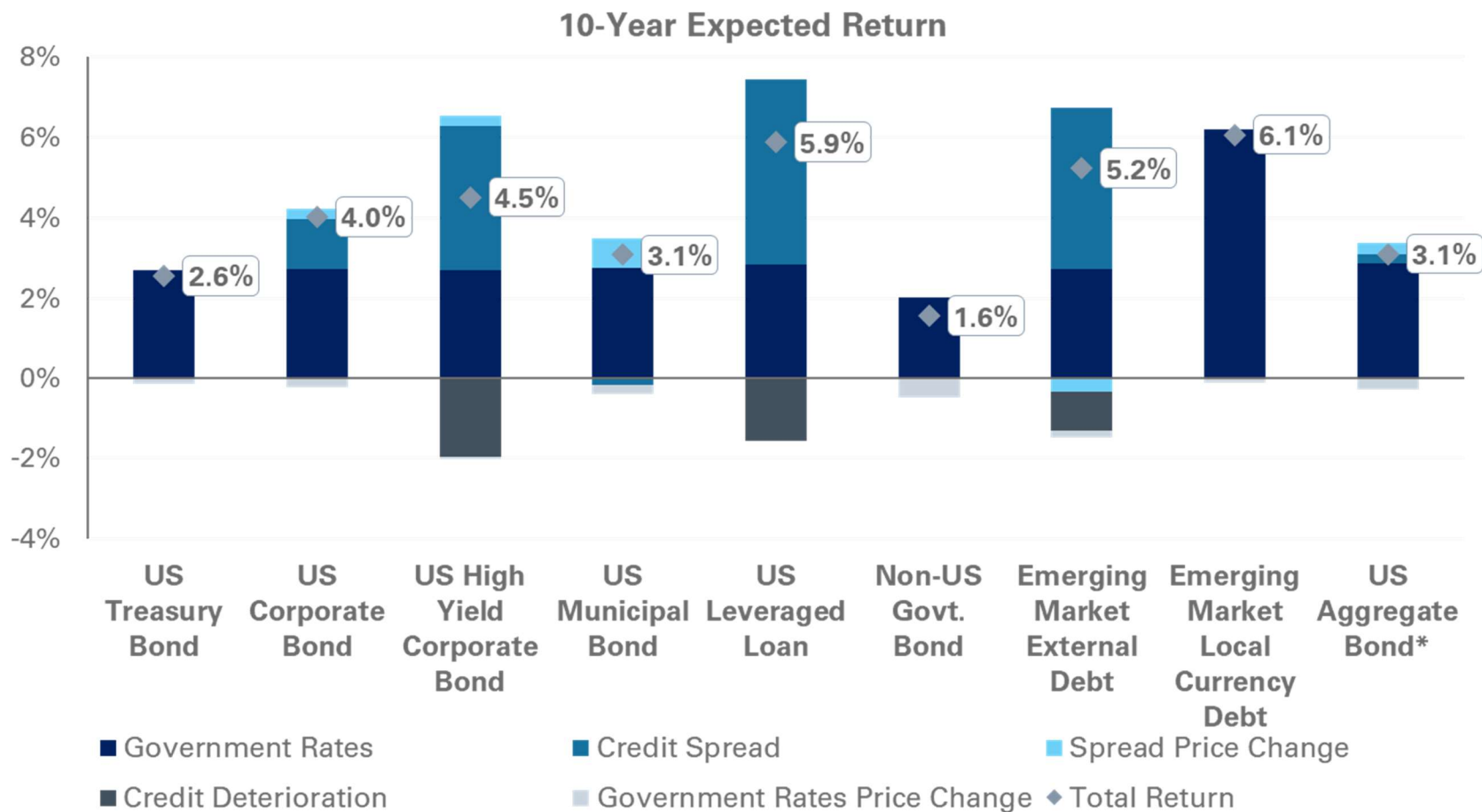
Source: NEPC

\*Calculated as a blend of other asset classes



# FIXED INCOME

## BUILDING BLOCKS



Source: NEPC  
 \*Calculated as a blend of other classes

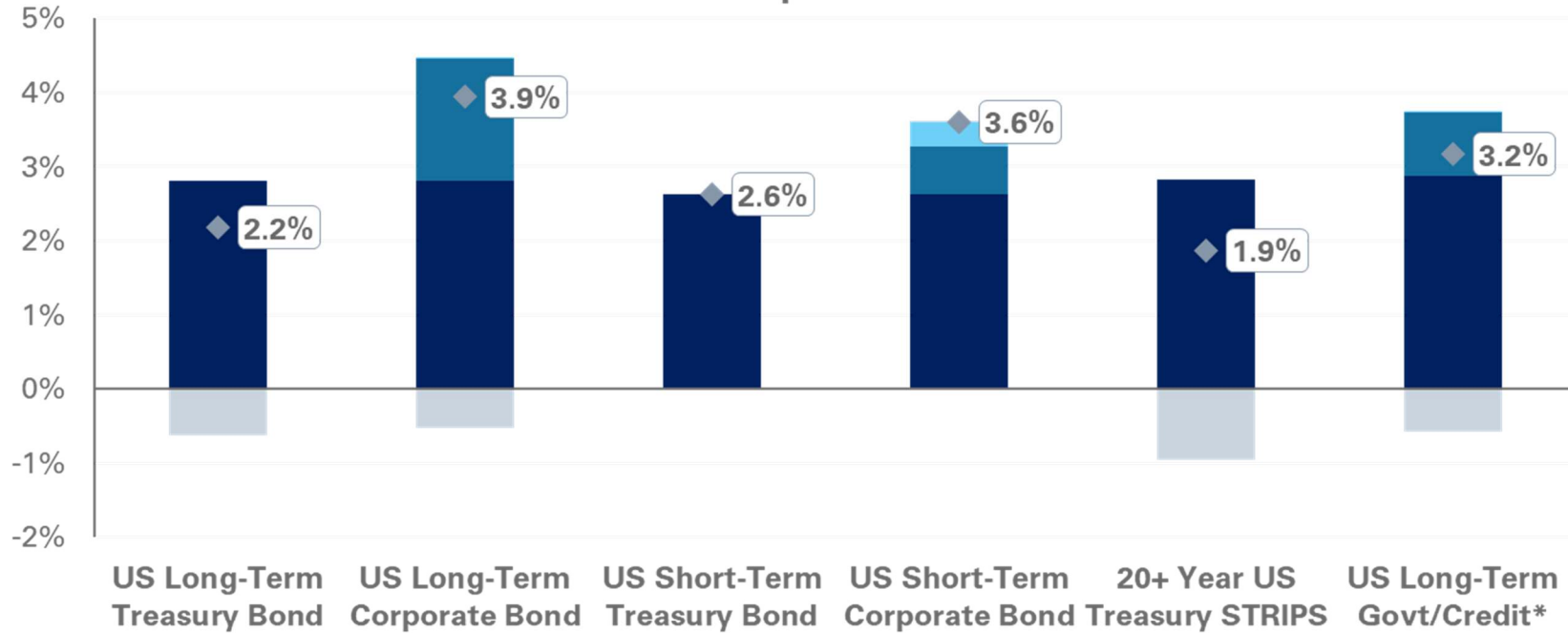




# FIXED INCOME

## BUILDING BLOCKS

10-Year Expected Return



■ Government Rates     
 ■ Credit Spread     
 ■ Spread Price Change  
■ Credit Deterioration     
 ■ Government Rates Price Change     
 ◆ Total Return

Source: NEPC  
 \*Calculated as a blend of other classes





# APPENDIX

## Real Assets



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# REAL ASSET ASSUMPTIONS

## OVERVIEW

- **The strategic outlook for real assets reflects a high level of uncertainty due to the elevated near-term inflation environment**
- **Real assets offer a meaningful portfolio diversification benefit, but are sensitive to a wide range of potential inflation scenarios**
- **Real assets exhibit different betas to inflation and each asset class is exposed to various economic factors**
  - Diversification and correlation benefits are helpful to a portfolio but must be carefully considered relative to the expected risk premium
- **Inflation-sensitivity and portfolio objectives influence an investor's strategic allocation to real assets**
  - We recommend private markets to meet strategic real asset allocation targets
  - Relative to portfolio objectives, we prefer the use of public market strategies to mitigate short-term inflation risks



# REAL ASSET ASSUMPTIONS

## BUILDING BLOCKS

<b>Illiquidity Premium</b>	The return expected for assets with illiquidity risk
<b>Valuation</b>	The change in price of the asset moving to a terminal value or real average level
<b>Inflation</b>	Based on the inflation path as defined by breakeven-inflation rates and NEPC assumptions
<b>Growth</b>	Market-specific real growth based on a weighted-average of country-level revenue exposure and GDP growth
<b>Real Income</b>	The inflation-adjusted income produced by the asset

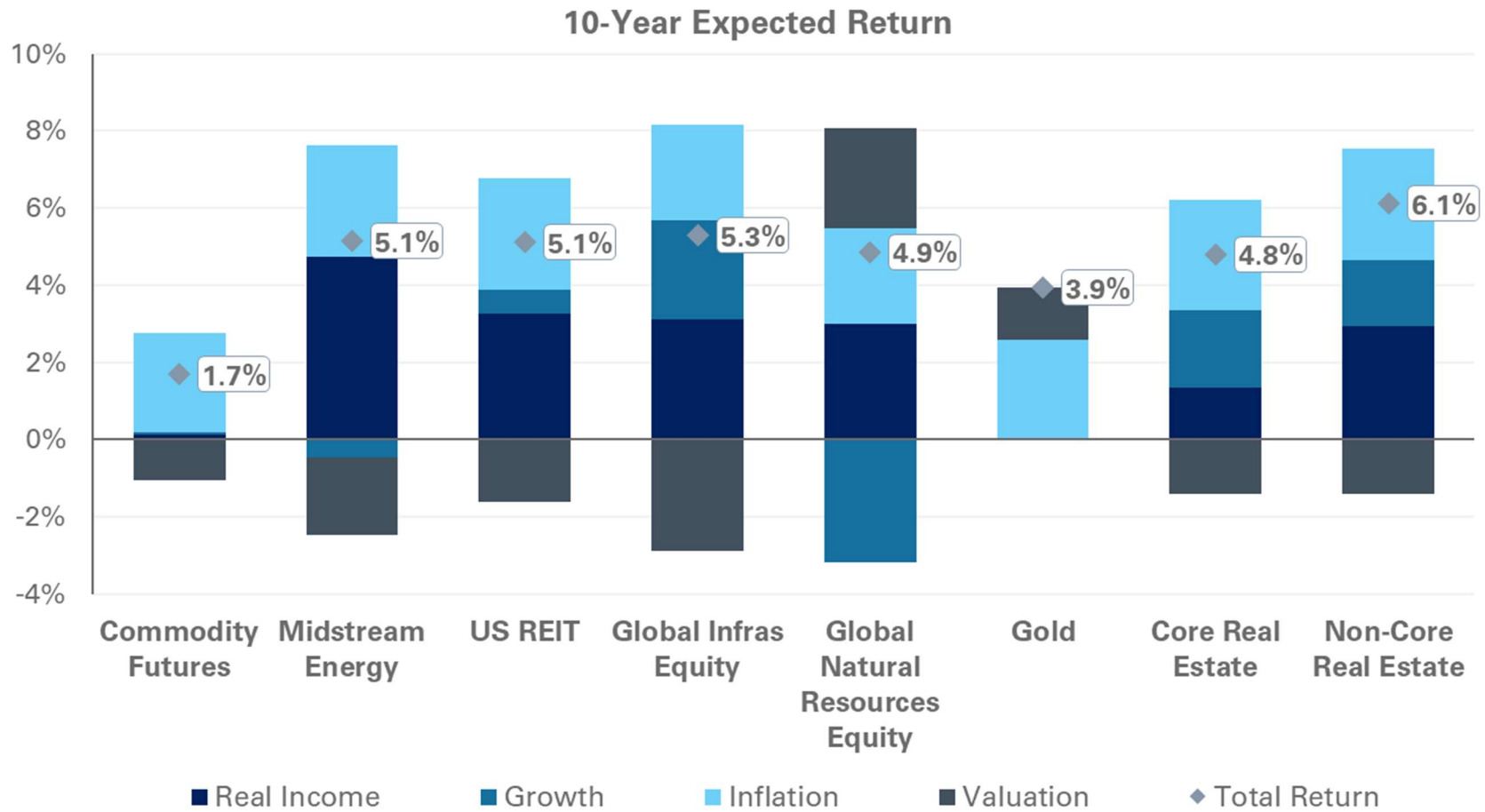
Asset Class	03/31/22 10-Yr Return	12-Month Change
Commodity Futures	1.7%	-
Midstream Energy	5.1%	-1.5%
REIT	5.1%	0.1%
Global Infrastructure Equity	5.3%	-0.2%
Global Natural Resources Equity	4.9%	-0.7%
Gold	3.9%	0.3%
Real Estate - Core	4.8%	0.2%
Real Estate – Non-Core	6.1%	0.4%
Private Debt - Real Estate	5.2%	0.7%
Private Real Assets - Natural Resources	7.1%	-0.4%
Private Real Assets - Infrastructure	5.4%	-

Source: NEPC

\*Calculated as a blend of other asset classes



# REAL ASSET BUILDING BLOCKS



Source: NEPC



# APPENDIX

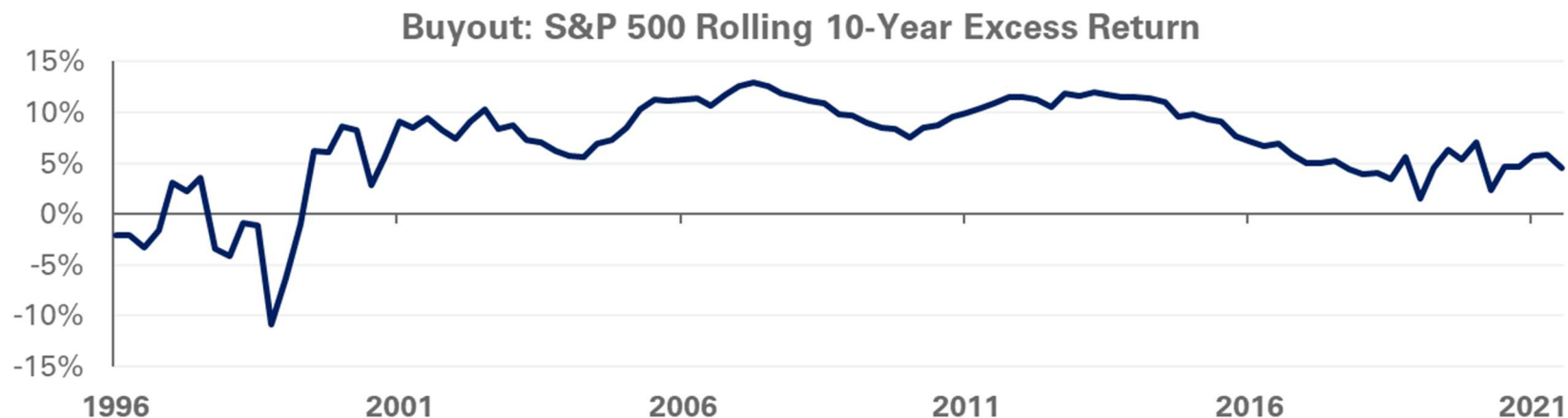
## Alternative Assets



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# ALTERNATIVE ASSETS

## METHODOLOGY



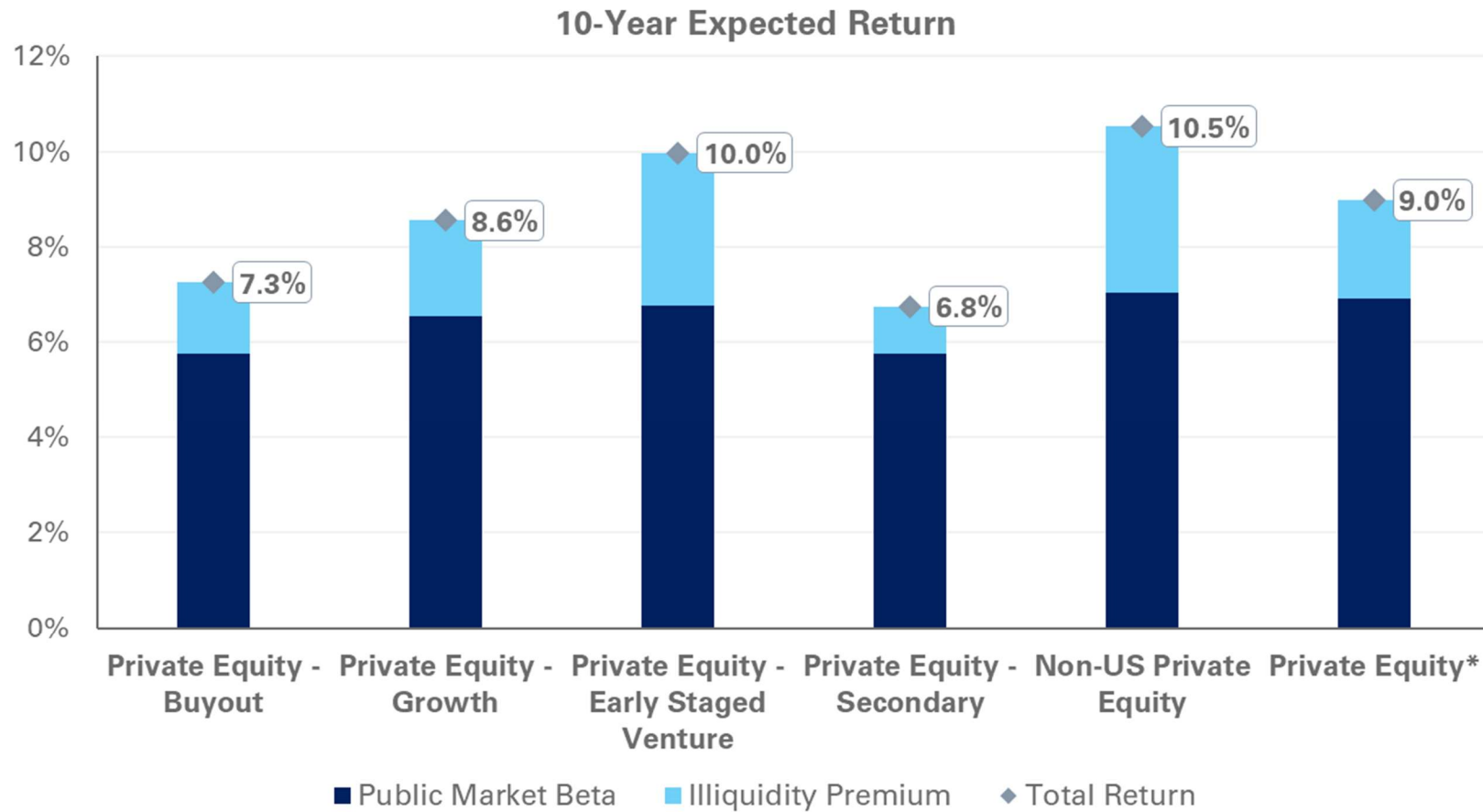
- **Private market assumptions are constructed from betas to public markets with an added illiquidity premia**
  - Historically, the observed illiquidity premium has been a significant component driving private market returns
- **Hedge fund assumptions are constructed from betas to public markets with an added alpha assumption**



Sources: Thomson One, S&P, FactSet

# PRIVATE EQUITY

## BUILDING BLOCKS



Source: NEPC

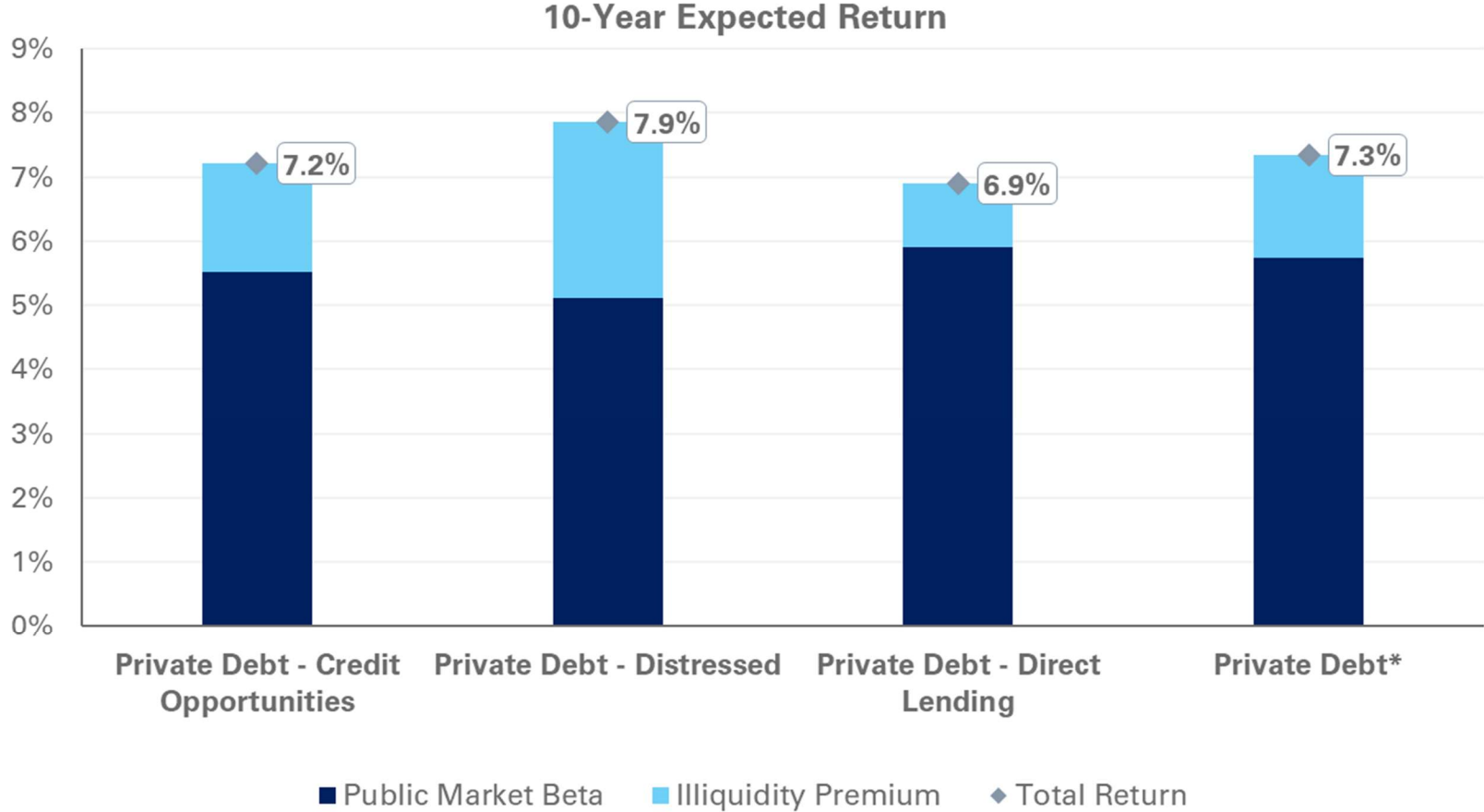
\*Private Equity is a derived composite of 34% U.S. Buyout, 34% U.S. Growth, 8.5% U.S. Secondary, 8.5% U.S. Venture, 15% Non-U.S. PE





# PRIVATE DEBT

## BUILDING BLOCKS

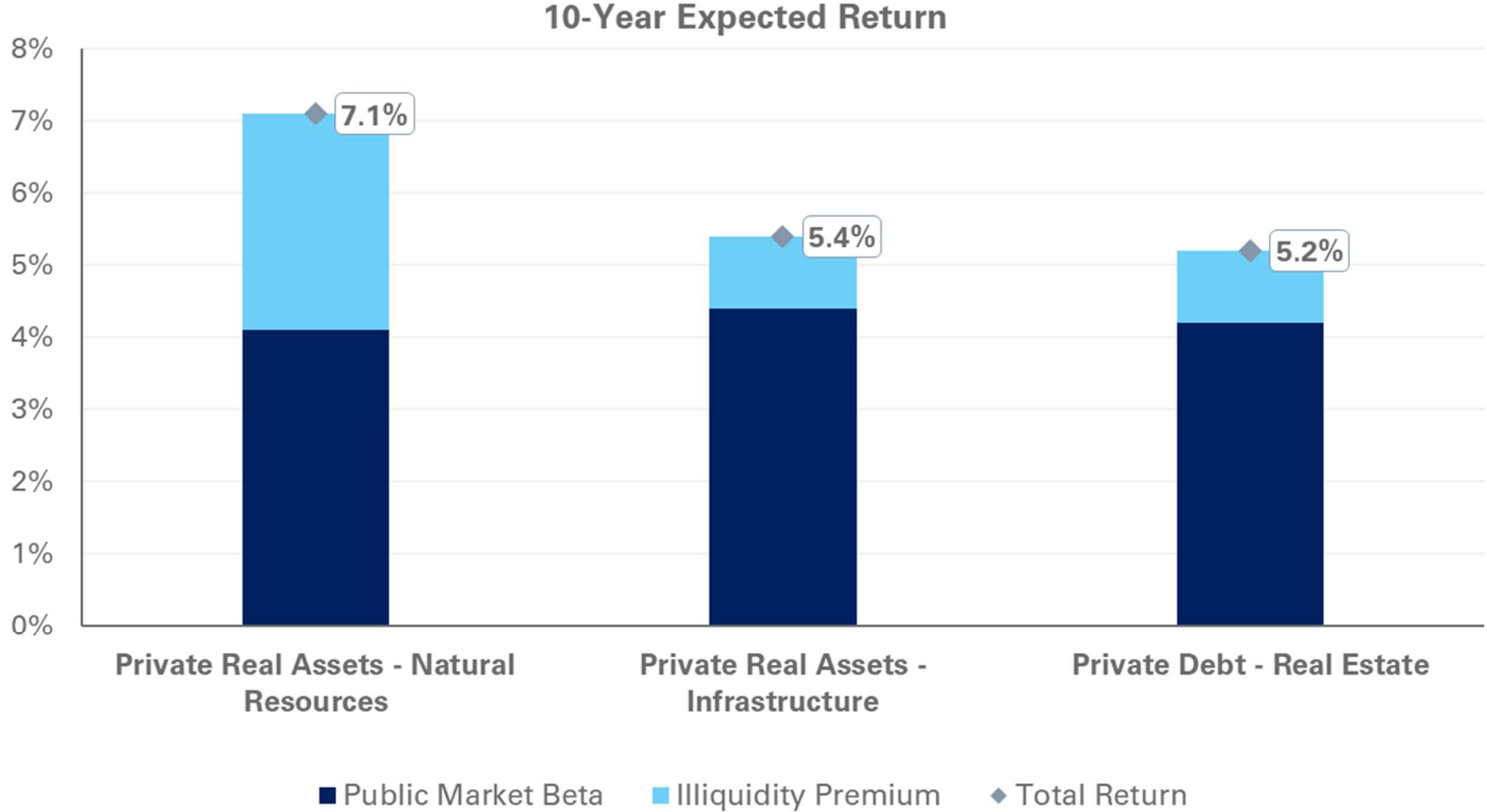


Source: NEPC

\*Private Debt is a derived composite of 25% Mezzanine, 25% Distressed, 50% Direct Lending



# PRIVATE REAL ASSET BUILDING BLOCKS



Source: NEPC



# APPENDIX

## Assumptions



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# 10-YEAR RETURN FORECASTS

## EQUITY

Geometric Expected Return			
Asset Class	03/31/2022	03/31/2021	Delta
U.S. Large-Cap Equity	4.7%	5.1%	-0.4%
U.S. Small/Mid-Cap Equity	6.1%	5.1%	+1.0%
Non-U.S. Developed Equity	5.6%	5.3%	+0.3%
Non-U.S. Developed Equity (USD Hedge)	5.8%	5.5%	+0.3%
Non-U.S. Developed Small-Cap Equity	6.7%	5.3%	+1.4%
Emerging Market Equity	8.5%	7.4%	+1.1%
Emerging Market Small-Cap Equity	7.8%	8.0%	-0.2%
Hedge Fund - Equity	4.8%	4.2%	+0.6%
Private Equity - Buyout	7.3%	7.4%	-0.1%
Private Equity - Growth	8.6%	8.5%	+0.1%
Private Equity - Early Stage Venture	10.0%	9.9%	+0.1%
Private Equity - Secondary	6.8%	6.9%	-0.1%
Non-U.S. Private Equity	10.5%	10.4%	+0.1%
China Equity	9.6%	7.2%	+2.4%
U.S. Microcap Equity	7.0%	5.4%	+1.6%
Global Equity*	5.8%	5.8%	-
Private Equity*	9.0%	9.0%	-



\*Calculated as a blend of other asset classes

# 10-YEAR RETURN FORECASTS

## SAFE-HAVEN FIXED INCOME

Geometric Expected Return			
Asset Class	03/31/2022	03/31/2021	Delta
Cash	2.4%	1.3%	+1.1%
U.S. TIPS	2.1%	1.7%	+0.4%
U.S. Treasury Bond	2.6%	1.6%	+1.0%
U.S. Corporate Bond	4.0%	2.9%	+1.1%
U.S. Corporate Bond - AAA	3.3%	2.3%	+1.0%
U.S. Corporate Bond - AA	3.3%	2.4%	+0.9%
U.S. Corporate Bond - A	3.7%	2.6%	+1.1%
U.S. Corporate Bond - BBB	4.3%	3.2%	+1.1%
U.S. Mortgage-Backed Securities	2.8%	1.9%	+0.9%
U.S. Securitized Bond	3.6%	2.4%	+1.2%
U.S. Collateralized Loan Obligation	4.2%	2.8%	+1.4%
U.S. Municipal Bond	3.1%	1.4%	+1.7%
U.S. Municipal Bond (1-10 Year)	2.4%	1.4%	+1.0%
U.S. Taxable Municipal Bond	3.7%	3.0%	+0.7%



# 10-YEAR RETURN FORECASTS

## SAFE-HAVEN FIXED INCOME

Geometric Expected Return			
Asset Class	03/31/2022	03/31/2021	Delta
Non-US Government Bond	1.6%	0.9%	+0.7%
Non-US Government Bond (USD Hedge)	1.8%	1.1%	+0.7%
Non-US Inflation-Linked Bond (USD Hedge)	1.4%	0.6%	+0.8%
U.S. Short-Term TIPS (1-3 Year)	2.1%	1.4%	+0.7%
U.S. Short-Term Treasury Bond (1-3 Year)	2.6%	1.4%	+1.2%
U.S. Short-Term Corporate Bond (1-3 Year)	3.6%	2.3%	+1.3%
U.S. Intermediate-Term TIPS (3-10 Year)	2.3%	1.7%	+0.6%
U.S. Intermediate-Term Treasury Bond (3-10 Year)	2.7%	1.6%	+1.1%
U.S. Intermediate-Term Corporate Bond (3-10 Year)	4.3%	3.0%	+1.3%
U.S. Long-Term Treasury Bond (10-30 Year)	2.2%	1.9%	+0.3%
U.S. Long-Term TIPS (10-30 Year)	1.9%	2.0%	-0.1%
U.S. Long-Term Corporate Bond (10-30 Year)	3.9%	3.1%	+0.8%
20+ Year U.S. Treasury STRIPS	1.9%	1.7%	+0.2%
10 Year U.S. Treasury Bond	2.7%	2.0%	+0.7%
10 Year Non-U.S. Government Bond (USD Hedge)	0.8%	0.1%	+0.7%
U.S. Aggregate Bond*	3.1%	2.1%	+1.0%



\*Calculated as a blend of other asset classes

# 10-YEAR RETURN FORECASTS

## RETURN-SEEKING CREDIT

Geometric Expected Return			
Asset Class	03/31/2022	03/31/2021	Delta
U.S. High Yield Corporate Bond	4.5%	3.2%	+1.3%
U.S. Corporate Bond - BB	5.3%	4.2%	+1.1%
U.S. Corporate Bond - B	4.8%	3.4%	+1.4%
U.S. Corporate Bond - CCC/Below	-1.4%	-3.2%	+1.8%
U.S. Short-Term High Yield Corp Bond (1-3 Year)	3.6%	2.5%	+1.1%
U.S. Leveraged Loan	5.9%	4.4%	+1.5%
Emerging Market External Debt	5.2%	3.9%	+1.3%
Emerging Market Local Currency Debt	6.1%	5.8%	+0.3%
U.S. High Yield Securitized Bond	5.6%	3.3%	+2.3%
U.S. High Yield Collateralized Loan Obligation	6.5%	5.1%	+1.4%
U.S. High Yield Municipal Bond	3.4%	2.1%	+1.3%
Hedge Fund - Credit	5.2%	4.2%	+1.0%
Private Debt - Credit Opportunities	7.2%	6.3%	+0.9%
Private Debt - Distressed	7.9%	7.4%	+0.5%
Private Debt - Direct Lending	6.9%	5.9%	+1.0%
Private Debt*	7.3%	6.5%	+0.8%



\*Calculated as a blend of other asset classes

# 10-YEAR RETURN FORECASTS

## REAL ASSETS

Geometric Expected Return			
Asset Class	03/31/2022	03/31/2021	Delta
Commodity Futures	1.7%	1.7%	-
Midstream Energy	5.1%	6.6%	-1.5%
REIT	5.1%	5.0%	+0.1%
Global Infrastructure Equity	5.3%	5.5%	-0.2%
Global Natural Resources Equity	4.9%	5.6%	-0.7%
Gold	3.9%	3.6%	+0.3%
Real Estate - Core	4.8%	4.6%	+0.2%
Real Estate - Non-Core	6.1%	5.7%	+0.4%
Private Debt - Real Estate	5.2%	4.5%	+0.7%
Private Real Assets - Natural Resources	7.1%	7.5%	-0.4%
Private Real Assets - Infrastructure	5.4%	5.4%	-





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