# **Municipal Market Update**

Week Ending February 23, 2018



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1. Macro Update



### **Global Macro Overview**

	Feb 23, 2018	Year End 2017 Level	YTD Change (%)		Feb. 23, 2018	Feb. 16, 2018	∆ Last Week	YTD Change (bps)
DJIA	25,310	24,719	2.4%	Treasury Ra	ites			
S&P 500	2,747	2,674	2.8%	5-Year	2.62%	2.63%	-1 bps	42 bps
FTSE	7,244	7,688	-5.8%	10-Year	2.88%	2.87%	1 bps	48 bps
Shanghai Composite	3,289	3,307	-0.5%	30-Year	3.16%	3.13%	3 bps	42 bps
. <u> </u>		<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>		02/16/18	02/23/18	Last Week Change	k Since Jan. 1, 2018
			2	MMD				
US Dollar / Euro	\$1.23	\$1.20	2.4%	10-Year	2.46%	2.45%	-1 bps	47 bps
Oil	\$63.55	\$60.42	5.2%	17-Year	2.82%	2.83%	1 bps	49 bps
			<u> </u>	18-Year	2.85%	2.86%	1 bps	49 bps
				LIBOR Swap	ps			
10-Year Bund Yield	0.65%	0.43%	22 bps	10-Year	2.90%	2.88%	-2 bps	49 bps
		104		17-Year	2.99%	2.97%	-2 bps	47 bps
10-Year Treasury Yield	2.88%	2.41%	47 bps	18-Year	3.00%	2.98%	-2 bps	46 bps
				* Figures rou	inded	-		
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Source: Thomson Reuters and Bloomberg as of February 23, 2018; figures are rounded.

1 Macro Update



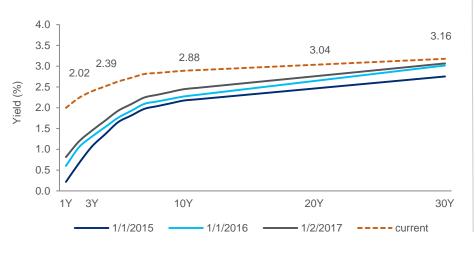
# **U.S. Rate Forecasts**

### 10-Year Treasury Yield Forecast

Citi forecasts a muted interest rate environment as we progress through the first half of 2018, while the street's is elevated



### US Treasury Yield Curve



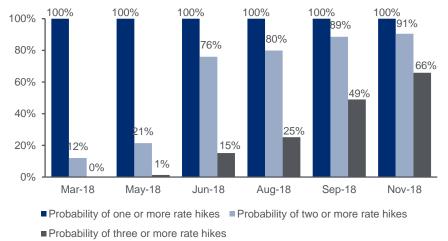
Investor are looking ahead to Fed Chair Powell's first Congressional appearance and for any clues on whether he anticipates 3 or 4 hikes this year

#### **Rate Forecasts**

5-Year Treasury	Current	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18	1Q19	2Q19
Citi's Forecast	2.62%	2.10%	2.25%	2.35%	2.40%	2.45%	2.50%
10-Year Treasury	Current	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18	1Q19	2Q19
Citi's Forecast	0.000/	2.50%	2.50%	2.55%	2.60%	2.70%	2.85%
Economists' Consensus	2.88%	2.75%	2.86%	2.95%	3.00%	3.15%	3.22%
30-Year Treasury	Current	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18	1Q19	2Q19
Citi's Forecast	0.400/	2.95%	2.95%	2.95%	2.95%	3.00%	3.10%
Economists' Consensus	3.16%	3.05%	3.20%	3.29%	3.40%	3.49%	3.59%
Fed Funds	Current	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18	1Q19	2Q19
Citi's Forecast	1 500/	1.75%	2.00%	2.25%	2.25%	2.50%	2.75%
Economists' Consensus	1.50%	1.75%	2.00%	2.25%	2.25%	2.50%	2.50%

### Expectations of Next Fed Increase in Rates

The market currently anticipates three more rate hikes in 2018, with the next hike likely to come in March



Source: Current rates and expectation of Fed hike as of February 23, 2018; Citi forecasts as of February 22, 2018; Bloomberg forecasts as of February 23, 2018.



# 2. Municipal Market Update



# **Municipal Market Update**

Treasuries and Municipals finished the week mixed as equities rallied on account of continued economic strength and confidence that the Fed won't rush to raise interest rates as the economy picks up momentum.

#### **Global Market Events:**

Gross Supply (\$B)<sup>2</sup>

\$433

2010

2010 to 2018 Estimate

\$380

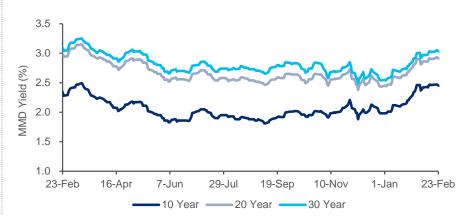
2012

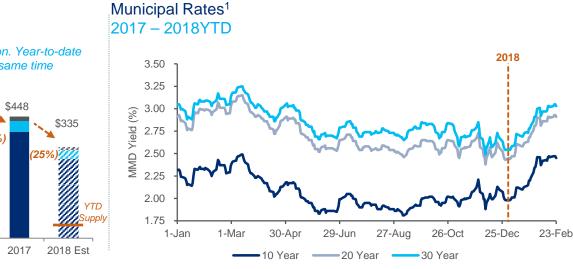
TF

2013

- **U.S. Markets:** Equities rallied as the S&P pushed above its 50-day moving average and posted its biggest gain in nearly three weeks. The Dow gained 1,119 points or 4.6% as the S&P rose 128 points or 4.88%
- 10-yr. TSY yields ended 1bp weaker then last week at 2.88%, as investors dissected the Fed's semiannual monetary policy report to Congress and grew confident that the Jerome Powell-led Fed won't rush to raise interest rates as the economy picks up steam
- The report indicated that the Fed sees the labor market at or beyond full employment, while some pockets of finance are showing signs of rising leverage and high valuation
- Minutes of the Fed's January meeting indicated confidence the economy is strengthening amid signs of rising inflation
- Volatility as measured by the VIX decreased from last week's 19.46 to finish at 16.49
- International Market Movements: Investors reacted to the European Central Bank's most recent meeting, which showed policy makers aren't yet ready to remove a pledge to expand its asset-buying program if needed. In the U.K., the pound gained after Prime Minister May won the backing of her divided cabinet to seek a trade deal with the EU
- Commodities: Oil gained for a second weekly increase supported by a surprise pullback in U.S. inventories, closing up 7.3% to \$63.55 per barrel

#### Municipal Market Data Yields<sup>1</sup> Trailing 12 Months





\$287 \$287 \$287 \$287 \$287 \$287 \$334 \$338, \$338, \$338, \$338, \$338, \$13% \$13% \$2%) \$2.50 \$2.50

2015

2016

AMT

Citi estimates a decrease of issuance in 2018 of ~25% to \$335bn. Year-to-date issuance now stands at ~\$32.5bn, around 43% lighter over the same time period last year

2014

Taxable

1. Thomson Reuters and Bloomberg, rates as of February 23, 2018. 2. SDC, includes private placements, excludes notes; 3. Lipper fund flows as of February 21, 2018.



3 Municipal Market Update

2011

### Upcoming Key Events and Economic Releases

February 2018									
M T W T F									
			1 Jobless Claims Cont' Claims Markit PMI Const' Spend	2 Nonfarm Pay Unemployment Factory Orders Durable Goods U of Mich Sent					
5 Markit PMI ISM Mfg	6 Trade Balance	7 Mortgage Apps	8 BoE Rate Decision Jobless Claims Cont' Claims	9 Wholesale Inv					
12	13	14 Mortgage Apps CPI Retail Sales	15 Empite Mfg Jobless Claims Cont' Claims Industrial Prod PPI	16 Housing Starts U of Mich Sent					
19 HOLIDAY President's Day	20	21 FOMC Meeting Minutes Mortgage Apps Markit PMI Ex Home Sales	22 Jobless Claims Cont' Claims Leading Index	23					
26 N Home Sales	27 Fed Chair Jerome Powell's Congressional Testimony Durable Goods Consumer Confidence	28 Mortgage Apps GDP Core PCE							

March 2018									
M T W T F									
			1 Personal Inc Personal Spend Jobless Claims Con't Claims	2 U of Mich Sent					
5 Markit PMI	6 Durable Goods	7 Mortgage Apps Trade Balance	8 Jobless Claims Con't Claims	9 Nonfarm Payroll Unemployment Wholesale Inv					
12	13 CPI	14 Mortgage Apps PPI Retail Sales	15 Empire Mfg Jobless Claims Con't Claims	16 Housing Starts Industrial Prod U of Mich Sent					
19	20	21 Mortgage Apps E Home Sales FOMC Rate Decision	22 Jobless Claims Con't Claims H Price Index Markit Mfg PMI BoE Rate Decision	23 Durable Goods N Home Sales					
26	27 Consumer Confidence	28 Mortgage Apps Wholesale Inv	29 Personal Inc Personal Spend Jobless Claims	30 U of Mich Sent					

Blue: US Economic Events | Light Blue: World Economic Events | Orange: Significant U.S. Monetary or Fiscal Event | Grey: Holiday



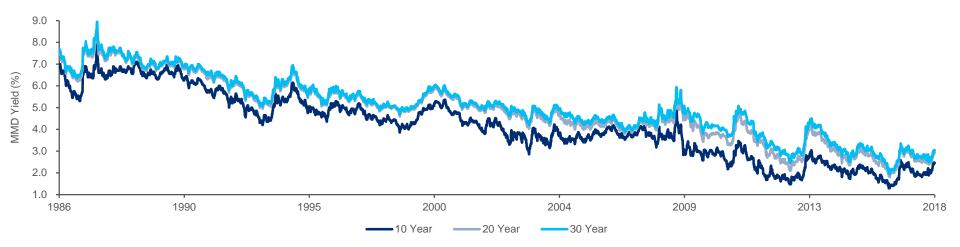
3. Ratios and Rates Update



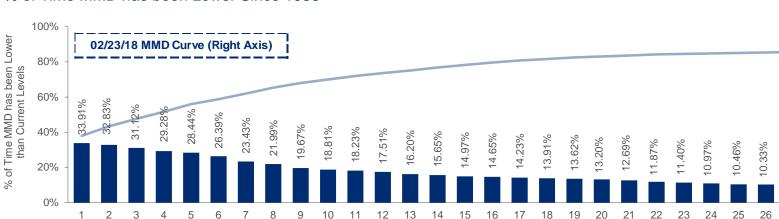
### MMD in Historical Context

MMD continues to trend near historic lows with the current rate environment attractive to issuers, especially on the long end of the curve.

AAA G.O. MMD Yields (June 1, 1986 - February 23, 2018)



Maturity



#### % of Time MMD has been Lower Since 1986

Source: Thomson Reuters, data as of February 23, 2018.



3.5

3.0

2.5

2.0

1.5

1.0

0.5

0.0

30

0.22%

27

0.20%

28 29

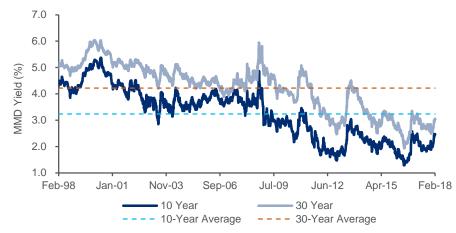
10.20% 10.20% Current MMD

(%)

### MMD and Volatility in a Historical Context

Municipal volatility has recently trended down from year-end 2017 highs surrounding tax reform as MMD continues to trade below historic averages.





#### 30-Year MMD Historical Annual Range<sup>1</sup>

	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Range
2009	3.81	5.08	127 bps
2010	3.67	4.85	118 bps
2011	3.44	5.08	164 bps
2012	2.47	3.57	110 bps
2013	2.69	4.51	182 bps
2014	2.75	4.20	145 bps
2015	2.50	3.36	86 bps
2016	1.93	3.35	142 bps
2017	2.49	3.25	76 bps
2018	2.54	3.05	51 bps

1. Thomson Reuters, data as of February 23, 2018.

	Feb. 23, 2018	Feb. 9, 2018	∆ Last 2-Week	YTD Change (%)
Treasury Rates				
5-Year	2.62%	2.52%	10 bps	42 bps
10-Year	2.88%	2.83%	5 bps	48 bps
30-Year	3.16%	3.14%	2 bps	42 bps
MMD				
5-Year	1.96%	1.92%	4 bps	28 bps
10-Year	2.45%	2.42%	3 bps	47 bps
30-Year	3.03%	2.97%	6 bps	49 bps
Yield Ratio (MM	MD / Treasury)	)		
5-Year	74.8%	76.2%	-1.4%	-1.6%
10-Year	85.1%	85.5%	-0.4%	2.6%
30-Year	95.9%	94.6%	1.3%	3.2%

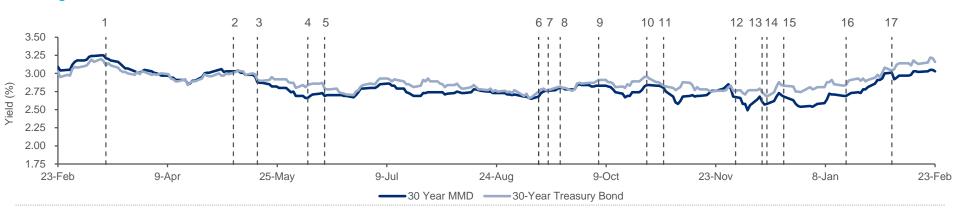




### **Tax-exempt Bond Rates Relative to Treasuries**

Treasury rates have exhibited abrupt movements in response to global economic headlines and announcements, with municipals moving in sympathy, but typically in a more muted fashion.

# 30-Year MMD and 30-Year Treasury Trailing 12-Months



#### **Key Events Include**

- March 15, 2017: Fed raised rates by 25 bps, as expected, highlighting the strength in the economy. However, the Fed signaled that it still anticipates just 3 hikes this year, a dovish result for investors looking for a 4-hike signal
- 2) May 7, 2017: Emmanuel Macron beats Le Pen in French Election
- May 17, 2017: Justice Dept. appoints a special counsel to investigate possible connections between Trump's campaign and Russia
- 4) June 7, 2017: James Comey testifies before the Senate Intelligence Committee
- 5) June 14, 2017: U.S. Federal Reserve hikes rates 25bps as expected to 1.00% 1.25% and lays out balance sheet roll-off plan for later in 2017
- September 11, 2017: In response to North Korea's latest and most powerful nuclear test, the UN Security Council unanimously votes to adopt a watered-down U.S. draft resolution imposing new sanctions
- 7) September 15, 2017: The Dow Jones, S&P 500 and Nasdaq all reached milestones as the indices hit fresh closing highs
- 8) September 20, 2017: The Fed holds rates steady and suggests one more rate hike by the end of the year, while announcing plans to start reducing its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet in October

#### **Key Events Include**

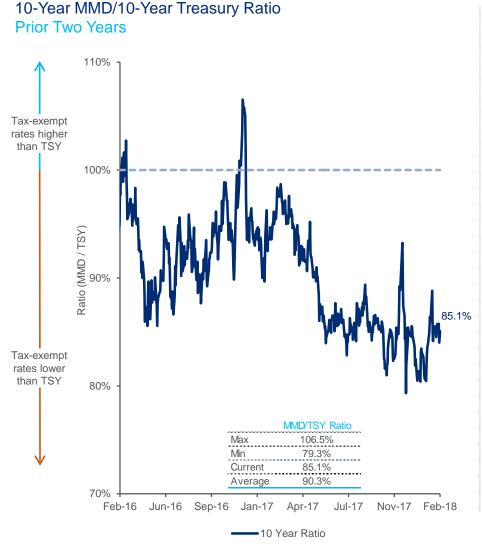
- 9) October 6, 2017: Hurricanes Harvey and Irma brought an end to a seven-year streak of positive U.S. payroll reports as 33K jobs were lost in September
- October 26, 2017: The ECB delivered a "dovish taper," announcing that they will buy €30bn worth of European bonds each month starting in January and ending in September; down from the current €60bn per-month pace
- 11) November 2, 2017: House Republicans release their tax reform bill, with significant implications for municipals
- 12) December 2, 2017: The Senate passed its tax bill by a 51-49 vote. The Senate's bill prohibits advance refundings but preserves private activity bonds
- 13) December 13, 2017: The Fed raises rates by 25bps, as expected, and raises its forecast for economic growth in 2018, while sticking with a projection of three hikes
- 14) December 15, 2017: The Conference Report of the Congressional Conference Committee for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is released. Among key muni provisions, the report spares PABs and eliminates advanced refundings without any transition
- 15) December 22, 2017: President Trump signs the final tax bill into law
- 16) January 17, 2018: The Dow breaks above 26k for the first time and books its quickest 1,000 point gain ever (7 sessions)
- 17) February 5, 2018: Global stocks pare gains and sell-off after the Dow loses more than 1,000 points

Source: Thomson Reuters and Bloomberg, data as of February 23, 2018.



## Tax-exempt Yields vs. Taxable Yields

Over the last two-weeks 10-Year Treasury yields weakened 5 bps as 10-Year Municipal yields weakened 3 bps. This has pushed ratios lower, with the 10-Year ratio finishing the week at 85.1%.





#### Tax Equivalent Rates Higher Tax Rates Make Municipals Attractive



Tax assumptions include: federal marginal tax bracket of 37% and the Affordable Care Act Tax of 3.8%, for a total federal tax assumption of 40.8%.

Source: Thomson Reuters and Bloomberg, data as of February 23, 2018.



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