

PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST  
Form PRE 14A  
October 26, 2006

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant / X /

Filed by a party other than the Registrant / /

**Check the appropriate box:**

/ X / Preliminary Proxy Statement  
/ / Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule  
14a-6(e) (2))  
/ / Definitive Proxy Statement  
/ / Definitive Additional Materials  
/ / Soliciting Material Pursuant to Sec. 240.14a-11(c) or Sec. 240.14a-12

**PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND**  
**PUTNAM MASTER INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST**  
**PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement,  
if other than Registrant)

I-1

---

**Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):**

/ X / No fee required

/ / Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rule 14a 6(i)(1) and 0-11

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction  
computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the  
amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it  
was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

/ / Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

/ / Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

I-2

---

## The proxy statement

### PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND PUTNAM MASTER INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST

This proxy statement can help you decide how you want to vote on important issues relating to your Putnam fund. When you complete and sign your proxy ballot, the Trustees of the funds will vote on your behalf exactly as you have indicated. If you simply sign the proxy ballot, it will be voted in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations on page[s] [ ] and [ ] of the proxy statement.

Please take a few moments and decide how you want to vote. When shareholders don't return their proxies in sufficient numbers, follow-up solicitations are required, which cost your fund money.

You can vote by returning your proxy ballots in the envelope provided. Or you can call our toll-free number, or go to the Internet. See your proxy ballot for the phone number and Internet address. If you have proxy related questions, please call 1-800-225-1581 or contact your financial advisor.

[PUTNAM INVESTMENTS LOGO]

I-3

---

### Table of contents

A Message from the Chairman	1
Notice of Shareholder Meeting	3
Trustees' Recommendations	[ ]
The Proposal	[ ]

Proposal 1   
Proposal 2   
  
Further Information About Voting and the Meeting   
Fund Information   
Exhibit A

**PROXY CARDS ENCLOSED**

If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-800-225-1581 or call your financial advisor.

I-4

---

**A Message from the Chairman**

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

[photo of John A. Hill]

I am writing to ask for your vote on important matters affecting your investment in the Putnam funds. While you are, of course, welcome to join us at your fund's meeting, most shareholders cast their vote by filling out and signing the enclosed proxy cards by calling or by voting via the Internet. We are asking for your vote on the following matters:

**Fixing the number of Trustees at 12 and electing your fund's nominees for Trustees**

Although Trustees do not manage fund portfolios, they play an important role in protecting fund shareholders, and are responsible for approving the fees paid to the fund's investment adviser and its affiliates, reviewing overall fund expenses, selecting the fund's auditors, monitoring conflicts of interest, overseeing the fund's compliance with federal securities laws and voting proxies for the fund's portfolio securities.

Your fund's Trustees have also in the past three years been at the forefront of reform efforts affecting the mutual fund industry, including ending the practice of directing fund brokerage commissions to brokers in connection with sales of fund shares, instituting measures to discourage excessive short-term trading in open-end funds and other initiatives to reduce shareholder expenses and improve fund disclosures.

The 12 nominees include one nominee not previously elected by shareholders, Kenneth R. Leibler. Information about his and the other nominees' backgrounds and other activities is included in this proxy statement.

**Converting your fund to an open-end investment company**

Your fund's governing documents require the fund to submit for shareholder vote a proposal to convert the fund to an open-end investment company if the fund's shares trade at a discount from net asset value over a specified time period. The Trustees recommend that shareholders vote against converting your fund. As discussed in this Proxy Statement, the Trustees believe that your fund's status as a closed-end fund offers potential investment benefits, including the ability to remain more fully invested in longer-term, higher-yielding securities. The Trustees do not believe that recent discount levels are currently a sufficient justification for abandoning the advantages of the closed-end structure through conversion to open-end status.

---

I'm sure that you, like most people, lead a busy life and are tempted to put this proxy aside for another day. Please don't. When shareholders do not vote their proxies, their fund may have to incur the expense of follow-up solicitations. All shareholders benefit from the speedy return of proxies.

Your vote is important to us. We appreciate the time and consideration I am sure you will give these important matters. If you have questions about any of these proposals, please call a Putnam customer services representative at 1-800-225-1581 or contact your financial advisor.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John A. Hill

-----  
John A. Hill, Chairman

I-5

---

**PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND  
PUTNAM MASTER INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST  
PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders**

**This is the formal agenda for your fund's shareholder meeting. It tells you what proposals will be voted on and the time and place of the meeting, in the event you attend in person.**

To the Shareholders of Putnam High Income Securities, Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust and Putnam Premier Income Trust:

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of your fund will be held on January 11, 2007 at 11:00 a.m., Eastern time, at the principal offices of the fund on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, to consider the following:

- 1. Fixing the number of Trustees at 12 and electing your fund's nominees for Trustees. See page[ ].**
- 2. Converting you fund to an open-end investment company**

By Judith Cohen, Clerk, on behalf of the Trustees  
John A. Hill, Chairman  
Jameson A. Baxter, Vice Chairman  
George Putnam, III, President

Charles B. Curtis  
Myra R. Drucker  
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.  
Paul L. Joskow  
Elizabeth T. Kennan  
Kenneth R. Leibler  
Robert E. Patterson  
W. Thomas Stephens  
Richard B. Worley

**We urge you to mark, sign, date, and mail the enclosed proxy in the postage-paid envelope provided or record your voting instructions by telephone or via the Internet so that you will be represented at the meeting.**

November \_\_, 2006

## Proxy Statement

I-6

---

**This document will give you the information you need to vote on the proposals. Much of the information is required under rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"); some of it is technical. If there is anything you don't understand, please contact us at our toll-free number, 1-800-225-1581, or call your financial advisor.**

### Who is asking for your vote?

The enclosed proxy is solicited by the Trustees of Putnam High Income Securities Fund, Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust and Putnam Premier Income Trust for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of each fund to be held on January 11, 2007, and, if your fund's meeting is adjourned, at any later meetings, for the purposes stated in the Notice of Annual Meeting (see (page ). The Notice of Annual Meeting, the proxy and the Proxy Statement are being mailed on or about November 20, 2006.

### How do your fund's Trustees recommend that shareholders vote on these proposals?

The Trustees recommend that you vote

- 1. FOR fixing the number of Trustees as proposed by the Board Policy and Nominating Committee and electing your fund's nominees for Trustees**
- 2. AGAINST converting your fund to an open-end investment company and authorizing certain related amendments to your fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust**

I-7

---

### Who is eligible to vote?

Shareholders of record at the close of business on October 16, 2006 are entitled to be present and to vote at the meeting or any adjourned meeting.

Each share is entitled to one vote. Shares represented by your duly executed proxy will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you sign the proxy, but don't fill in a vote, your shares will be voted in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations. If any other business is brought before your fund's meeting, your shares will be voted at the discretion of the persons designated on the proxy card.

Shareholders of each fund vote separately with respect to each proposal. The outcome of a vote affecting one fund does not affect any other fund.

## The Proposals

### I. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

#### Who are the nominees for Trustees?

The Board Policy and Nominating Committee of the Trustees of each fund makes recommendations concerning the nominees for Trustees of that fund. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee consists solely of Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) of your fund or of Putnam Investment Management, LLC, your fund's investment manager ("Putnam Management"). Those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of your fund or Putnam Management are referred to as "Independent Trustees" throughout this Proxy Statement.

## Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

The Board Policy and Nominating Committee of the Trustees of each fund recommends that the number of Trustees be fixed at 12 and that you vote for the election of the nominees described in the following pages. Each nominee is currently a Trustee of your fund and of the other Putnam funds.

The nominees for Trustees and their backgrounds are shown in the following pages. This information includes each nominee's name, year of birth, principal occupation(s) during the past 5 years, and other information about the nominee's professional background, including other directorships the nominee holds. Each Trustee oversees all of the Putnam funds and serves until the election and qualification of his or her successor, or until he or she sooner dies, resigns or is removed. The address of all of the Trustees is One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. At December 31, 2005, there were 108 Putnam funds.

**Jameson A. Baxter** (Born 1943), Trustee since 1994 and Vice Chairman since 2005

[Photo] Ms. Baxter is the President of Baxter Associates, Inc., a private investment firm that she founded in 1986.

I-8

---

Ms. Baxter serves as a Director of ASHTA Chemicals, Inc., Banta Corporation (a printing and digital imaging firm), Ryerson Tull, Inc. (a steel service corporation), the Mutual Fund Directors Forum, Advocate Health Care and BoardSource, formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards. She is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, Mount Holyoke College, having served as Chairman for five years and as a board member for thirteen years. Until 2002, Ms. Baxter was a Director of Intermatic Corporation (a manufacturer of energy control products).

Ms. Baxter has held various positions in investment banking and corporate finance, including Vice President and Principal of the Regency Group, and Vice President of and Consultant to First Boston Corporation. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College.

**Charles B. Curtis** (Born 1940), Trustee since 2001

[Photo] Mr. Curtis is President and Chief Operating Officer of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (a private foundation dealing with national security issues) and serves as Senior Advisor to the United Nations Foundation.

Mr. Curtis is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trustee Advisory Council of the Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University and serves as a Director of Edison International and Southern California Edison. Until 2003, Mr. Curtis was a member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council and the University of Chicago Board of Governors for Argonne National Laboratory. Prior to 2002, Mr. Curtis was a Member of the Board of Directors of the Gas Technology Institute and the Board of Directors of the Environment and Natural Resources Program Steering Committee, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Until 2001, Mr. Curtis was a member of the Department of Defense Policy Board and Director of EG&G Technical Services, Inc. (a fossil energy research and development support company).

From August 1997 to December 1999, Mr. Curtis was a Partner at Hogan & Hartson L.L.P., a Washington, D.C. law firm. Prior to May 1997, Mr. Curtis was Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy. He served as Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from 1977 to 1981 and has held positions on the staff of the U.S. Treasury Department, and the SEC.

I-9

---

**Myra R. Drucker** ( Born 1948),  
Trustee since 2004

[Photo]

Ms. Drucker is Chair of the Board of Trustees of Commonfund (a not-for-profit firm specializing in asset management for educational endowments and foundations), Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Sarah Lawrence College, and a member of the Investment Committee of the Kresge Foundation (a charitable trust). She is also a director of New York Stock Exchange LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the publicly-traded NYSE Group, Inc.. She is an advisor to Hamilton Lane LLC and RCM Capital Management (investment management firms).

Ms. Drucker is an ex-officio member of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Pension Managers Advisory Committee, having served as Chair for seven years and a member of the Executive Committee of the Committee on Investment of Employee Benefit Assets.

Until August 31, 2004, Ms. Drucker was Managing Director and a member of the Board of Directors of General Motors Asset Management and Chief Investment Officer of General Motors Trust Bank. Ms. Drucker also served as a member of the NYSE Corporate Accountability and Listing Standards Committee and the NYSE/NASD IPO Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining General Motors Asset Management in 2001, Ms. Drucker held various executive positions in the investment management industry. Ms. Drucker served as Chief Investment Officer of Xerox Corporation (a technology and service company in the document industry), where she was responsible for the investment of the company's pension assets. Ms. Drucker was also Staff Vice President and Director of Trust Investments for International Paper (a paper, paper distribution, packaging and forest products company) and previously served as Manager of Trust Investments for Xerox Corporation. Ms. Drucker received a B.A. degree in Literature and Psychology from Sarah Lawrence College and pursued graduate studies in economics, statistics and portfolio theory at Temple University.

**John A. Hill** (Born 1942),  
Trustee since 1985 and Chairman since 2000

[Photo] Mr. Hill is Vice Chairman of First Reserve Corporation, a private equity buyout firm that specializes in energy investments in the diversified worldwide energy industry.

I-10

---

Mr. Hill is a Director of Devon Energy Corporation, TransMontaigne Oil Company and various private companies controlled by First Reserve Corporation, as well as Chairman of TH Lee, Putnam Investment Trust (a closed-end investment company advised by an affiliate of Putnam Management). He is also a Trustee of Sarah Lawrence College. Until 2005, he was a Director of Continuum Health Partners of New York.

Prior to acquiring First Reserve Corporation in 1983, Mr. Hill held executive positions in investment banking and investment management with several firms and with the federal government, including Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Deputy Director of the Federal Energy Administration. He is active in various business associations, including the Economic Club of New York, and lectures on energy issues in the United States and Europe. Mr. Hill holds a B.A. degree in Economics from Southern Methodist University and pursued graduate studies there as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

**Paul L. Joskow** (Born 1947), Trustee since 1997

[Photo] Dr. Joskow is the Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics

## Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

and Management, and Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Joskow serves as a Director of National Grid plc (a UK-based holding company with interests in electric and gas transmission and distribution and telecommunications infrastructure) and TransCanada Corporation (an energy company focused on natural gas transmission and power services). He also serves on the Board of Overseers of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Prior to February 2005, he served on the board of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (a non-profit research institution) and has been President of the Yale University Council since 1993. Prior to February 2002, he was a Director of State Farm Indemnity Company (an automobile insurance company), and prior to March 2000, he was a Director of New England Electric System (a public utility holding company).

Dr. Joskow has published five books and numerous articles on topics in industrial organization, government regulation of industry, and competition policy. He is active in industry restructuring, environmental, energy, competition and privatization policies □ serving as an advisor to governments and corporations worldwide. Dr. Joskow holds a Ph.D. and M. Phil from Yale University and B.A. from Cornell University.

I-11

---

**Elizabeth T. Kennan** ( Born 1938), Trustee since 1992

[Photo] Dr. Kennan is a Partner of Cambus-Kenneth Farm (thoroughbred horse and cattle breeding). She is President Emeritus of Mount Holyoke College.

Dr. Kennan served as Chairman and is now Lead Director of Northeast Utilities. She has served as Director on a number of other boards, including Bell Atlantic, Chastain Real Estate, Shawmut Bank, Berkshire Life Insurance, Kentucky Home Life Insurance and Talbots, Inc. She is a Trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, of Centre College and of Midway College in Midway, Kentucky. Until 2006, she was a member of The Trustees of Reservations. Dr. Kennan has served on the oversight committee of the Folger Shakespeare Library, as President of Five Colleges Incorporated, as a Trustee of Notre Dame University, and is active in various educational and civic associations.

As a member of the faculty of Catholic University for twelve years, until 1978, Dr. Kennan directed the post-doctoral program in Patristic and Medieval Studies, taught history and published numerous articles. Dr. Kennan holds a Ph.D. from the University of Washington in Seattle, an M.S. from St. Hilda's College at Oxford University and an A.B. from Mount Holyoke College. She holds several honorary doctorates.

**Kenneth R. Leibler** ( Born 1949), Trustee since 2006

[Photo] Mr. Leibler is founding Chariman of the Boston Options Exchange, the nation's newest electronic marketplace for the trading of derivative securities.

Mr. Leibler currently serves as a Trustee of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston. He is also lead director of Ruder Finn Group, a global communications and advertising firm. Since 2003, he has served as a director of the Optimum Funds group. Prior to October 2006, he served as a director of ISO New England, the organization responsible for the operation of the electric generation system in the New England states. Prior to 2000, he was a director of the Investment Company Institute in Washington, D.C.

Prior to January 2005, Mr. Leibler served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Boston Stock Exchange. Prior to January 2000, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Financial Companies, a

## Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

publicly traded diversified asset management organization. Prior to June 1990, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Stock Exchange (AMEX), the youngest person in Exchange history to hold the title of President. Prior to serving as Amex President, he held the position of Chief Financial Officer, and headed its management and marketing operations. Mr. Leibler graduated magna cum laude in economics from Syracuse University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

I-12

---

### **Robert E. Patterson** (Born 1945), Trustee since 1984

[Photo] Mr. Patterson is Senior Partner of Cabot Properties, L.P. and Chairman of Cabot Properties, Inc. (a private equity firm investing in commercial real estate)

Mr. Patterson serves as Chairman Emeritus and Trustee of the Joslin Diabetes Center and as a Director of Brandywine Trust Group, LLC. Prior to June 2003, he was a Trustee of the ea Education Association. Prior to December 2001, he was President and Trustee of Cabot Industrial Trust (a publicly traded real estate investment trust). Prior to February 1998, he was Executive Vice President and Director of Acquisitions of Cabot Partners Limited Partnership (a registered investment adviser involved in institutional real estate investments). Prior to 1990, he served as Executive Vice President of Cabot, Cabot & Forbes Realty Advisors, Inc. (the predecessor company of Cabot Partners).

Mr. Patterson practiced law and held various positions in state government and was the founding Executive Director of the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency. Mr. Patterson is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

### **W. Thomas Stephens** (Born 1942), Trustee since 1997

[Photo] Mr. Stephens is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Boise Cascade, L.L.C. (a paper, forest products and timberland assets company).

Until 2005, Mr. Stephens was a director of TransCanadaPipelines, Ltd. Until 2004, Mr. Stephens was a Director of Xcel Energy Incorporated (a public utility company), Quest Communications, and Norske Canada, Inc. (a paper manufacturer). Until 2003, Mr. Stephens was a Director of Mail-Well, Inc. (a diversified printing company). He served as Chairman of Mail-Well until 2001 and as CEO of MacMillan-Bloedel, Ltd. (a forest products company) until 1999.

Prior to 1996, Mr. Stephens was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Johns Manville Corporation. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas.

I-13

---

### **Richard B. Worley** (Born 1945), Trustee since 2004

[Photo] Mr. Worley is Managing Partner of Permit Capital LLC, an investment management firm.

Mr. Worley serves on the Executive Committee of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, is a Trustee of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (a philanthropic organization devoted to health care issues) and is a Director of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (a historical preservation organization). Mr. Worley also serves on the investment committees of Mount Holyoke College and World Wildlife Fund (a wildlife conservation organization).

## Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

Prior to joining Permit Capital LLC in 2002, Mr. Worley served as Chief Strategic Officer of Morgan Stanley Investment Management. He previously served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Investment Management and as a Managing Director of Morgan Stanley, a financial services firm. Mr. Worley also was the Chairman of Miller Anderson & Sherrerd, an investment management firm. Mr. Worley holds a B.S. degree from University of Tennessee and pursued graduate studies in economics at the University of Texas.

### Interested Trustees

---

**Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.\*** (Born 1948), Trustee since 2004

[Photo]

Mr. Haldeman is President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam, LLC (Putnam Investments). He is a member of Putnam Investments Executive Board of Directors and Advisory Council.

Prior to November 2003, Mr. Haldeman served as Co-Head of Putnam Investments Investment Division. Prior to joining Putnam Investments in 2002, Mr. Haldeman held executive positions in the investment management industry. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of Delaware Investments and President & Chief Operating Officer of United Asset Management. Mr. Haldeman was also a partner and director of Cooke & Bieler, Inc. (an investment management firm).

Mr. Haldeman currently serves as a Trustee of Dartmouth College and is a member of the Partners HealthCare Systems Investment Committee. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School. Mr. Haldeman is also a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder.

I-14

---

**George Putnam III\*** (Born 1951), Trustee since 1984 and President since 2000

[Photo]

Mr. Putnam is Chairman of New Generation Research, Inc. (a publisher of financial advisory and other research services), and President of New Generation Advisers, Inc. (a registered investment advisor to private funds). Mr. Putnam founded the New Generation companies in 1986.

Mr. Putnam is a Director of The Boston Family Office, LLC (a registered investment adviser). He is a Trustee of St. Mark's School and Shore Country Day School, and until 2002 was a Trustee of the Sea Education Association.

Mr. Putnam previously worked as an attorney with the law firm of Dechert LLP (formerly known as Dechert Price & Rhoads) in Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Business School, and Harvard Law School.

\*Nominees who are or may be deemed to be "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the fund, Putnam Management, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership (Putnam Retail Management) or Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., the parent company of Putnam Investments and its affiliated companies. Messrs. Putnam, III and Haldeman are deemed interested persons by virtue of their positions as officers of the funds, Putnam Management or Putnam Retail Management and as shareholders of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. Mr. Haldeman is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments. Mr. Putnam, III is the President of your fund and each of the other Putnam funds. The balance of the nominees are not "interested persons."

All the nominees except for Kenneth R. Leibler were elected by the shareholders of each fund on June 29, 2006. Mr. Leibler was elected to the Board of Trustees by vote of the Trustees on October 12, 2006.

Each Trustee serves until his or her successor is elected and qualified or until his or her earlier resignation, retirement at age 72, death or removal. Each of the nominees has agreed to serve as a Trustee, if elected. If any of the nominees is unavailable for election at the time of the meeting, which is not anticipated, the Trustees may vote for other nominees at their discretion, or the Trustees may fix the number of Trustees at fewer than 12 for your fund.

### **What are the Trustees' responsibilities?**

Your fund's Trustees are responsible for the general oversight of your fund's affairs and for assuring that your fund is managed in the best interests of its shareholders. The Trustees regularly review your fund's investment performance as well as the quality of other services provided to your fund and its shareholders by Putnam Management and its affiliates, including administration, custody, and shareholder servicing. At least annually, the Trustees review and evaluate the fees and operating expenses paid by your fund for these services and negotiate changes that they deem appropriate. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Trustees are assisted by an independent administrative staff and by your fund's auditors, independent counsel and other experts as appropriate, selected by and responsible to the Trustees.

At least 75% of the trustees of your fund are required not to be "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of your fund or your fund's investment manager. These independent trustees, who are referred to in this proxy

I-15

---

statement as "Independent Trustees" must vote separately to approve all financial arrangements and other agreements with your fund's investment manager and other affiliated parties. The role of independent trustees has been characterized as that of a "watchdog" charged with oversight to protect shareholders' interests against overreaching and abuse by those who are in a position to control or influence a fund. Your fund's Independent Trustees meet regularly as a group in executive session. Ten of the 12 nominees for election as Trustee would be Independent Trustees.

**Board committees.** Your fund's Trustees have determined that the efficient conduct of your fund's affairs makes it desirable to delegate responsibility for certain specific matters to committees of the board. Certain committees (the Executive Committee, Distributions Committee, and Audit and Compliance Committee) are authorized to act for the Trustees as specified in their charters. The other committees review and evaluate matters specified in their charters and make recommendations to the Trustees as they deem appropriate. Each committee may utilize the resources of your fund's independent staff, counsel and auditors as well as other experts. The committees meet as often as necessary, either in conjunction with regular meetings of the Trustees or otherwise. The membership and chairperson of each committee are appointed by the Trustees upon recommendation of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee.

**Audit and Compliance Committee.** The Audit and Compliance Committee provides oversight on matters relating to the preparation of the fund's financial statements, compliance matters and Code of Ethics issues. This oversight is discharged by regularly meeting with management and the funds' independent registered public accounting firms and keeping current on industry developments. Duties of this Committee also include the review and evaluation of all matters and relationships pertaining to the funds' independent registered public accounting firms, including their independence. The members of your Committee include only Independent Trustees. Each member of the Committee is "independent" as defined in Sections 303.01(B)(2)(a) and (3) of the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and as defined in Section 121(A) of the listing standards of the American Stock Exchange. The Trustees have adopted a written charter for the Committee. The Audit and Compliance Committee's charter is available on the fund's web site at [https://content.putnam.com/individual\\_investor/pdf/committee\\_charter.pdf](https://content.putnam.com/individual_investor/pdf/committee_charter.pdf). Print copies of the charter are available free of charge upon request by calling 1-800-225-1581. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Patterson (Chairperson), Hill, Leibler and Stephens.

**Board Policy and Nominating Committee.** The Board Policy and Nominating Committee reviews policy matters pertaining to the operations of the Board of Trustees and its Committees, the compensation of the Trustees and their staff and the conduct of legal affairs for the funds. The Committee also oversees the voting of

## Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

proxies associated with portfolio investments of the Putnam funds, with the goal of ensuring that these proxies are voted in the best interest of the funds' shareholders.

The Committee evaluates and recommends all candidates for election as Trustees and recommends the appointment of members and chairs of each board committee. The Committee also identifies prospective nominees for election as trustee by considering individuals that come to its attention through current Trustees, Putnam Management or shareholders. Candidates properly submitted by shareholders (as described below) will be considered and evaluated on the same basis as candidates recommended by other sources. The Committee may, but is not required to, engage a third-party professional search firm to assist it in identifying and evaluating potential nominees.

When evaluating a potential candidate for membership on the Board of Trustees, the Committee considers the skills and characteristics that it feels would most benefit the Putnam funds at the time the evaluation is made. The Committee may take into account a wide variety of attributes in considering potential trustee candidates, including, but not limited to: (i) availability and commitment of a candidate to attend meetings, (ii) other board experience, (iii) relevant industry and related experience, (iv) educational background, (v) financial expertise, (vi) an assessment of the candidate's ability, judgment and expertise, (vii) an assessment of the perceived needs of the Board of Trustees and its committees at that point in time and (viii) the overall composition of the Board of Trustees. In connection with this evaluation, the Committee will determine whether to interview prospective nominees, and, if warranted, one or more members of the Committee, and other Trustees and representatives of the funds, as appropriate, will interview prospective nominees in person or by telephone. Once this evaluation is completed, the

I-16

---

Committee recommends such candidates as it determines appropriate to the Independent Trustees for nomination, and the Independent Trustees select the nominees after considering the recommendation of the Committee.

The Committee will consider nominees for trustee recommended by shareholders of a fund provided shareholders submit their recommendations by the date disclosed in the paragraph entitled "Date for receipt of shareholders' proposals for the next annual meeting," and provided the shareholders' recommendations otherwise comply with applicable securities laws, including Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act").

The Committee consists only of Independent Trustees. The Committee currently consists of Dr. Kennan (Chairperson), Ms. Baxter and Messrs. Hill and Patterson.

**Brokerage Committee.** The Brokerage Committee reviews the policies and procedures of the funds regarding the execution of portfolio transactions for the funds, including policies regarding: the selection of brokers and dealers to execute portfolio transactions; the establishment of brokerage commissions rates; and the generation and use of soft dollar credits. The Committee also oversees the implementation by Putnam Management of such policies and procedures. The Committee reviews periodic reports regarding payments made, the quality of execution obtained by the funds, and the value of research obtained by Putnam Management in connection with portfolio transactions on behalf of the funds. The Committee currently consists of Dr. Joskow (Chairperson), Ms. Drucker and Mr. Putnam.

**Contract Committee.** The Contract Committee reviews and evaluates, at least annually, all arrangements pertaining to (i) the engagement of Putnam Management and its affiliates to provide services to the funds, (ii) the expenditure of the funds' assets for distribution purposes pursuant to the distribution plans of the open-end funds and (iii) the engagement of other persons to provide material services to the funds, including in particular those instances where the cost of services is shared between the funds and Putnam Management and its affiliates or where Putnam Management or its affiliates have a material interest. The Committee recommends to the Trustees such changes in arrangements as it deems appropriate. After review and evaluation, the Committee recommends to the Trustees the proposed organization of new fund products and proposed structural changes to existing funds. Its oversight of the closed-end funds includes (i) investment performance, (ii) trading activity, (iii) determinations with respect to conversion of a closed-end fund to an open-end fund and (iv) other measures in response to address trading discounts, including share repurchase program. The Committee consists only of Independent Trustees. The Committee currently consists of Ms. Baxter (Chairperson), Messrs. Curtis and Worley

and Dr. Kennan.

**Distributions Committee.** The Distributions Committee oversees all fund distributions. The Committee makes recommendations to the Trustees of the funds regarding the amount and timing of distributions paid by the funds, and approves such matters when the Trustees are not in session. The Committee also oversees the policies and procedures pursuant to which Putnam Management prepares recommended distributions, and meets regularly with representatives of Putnam Management to review the implementation of such policies and procedures. The Committee currently consists of Mr. Putnam, III (Chairperson), Ms. Drucker and Dr. Joskow.

**Executive Committee.** The functions of the Executive Committee are twofold. The first is to ensure that the funds' business may be conducted at times when it is not feasible to convene a meeting of the Trustees or for the Trustees to act by written consent. The Committee may exercise any or all of the power and authority of the Trustees when the Trustees are not in session. The second is to establish annual and ongoing goals, objectives and priorities for the Board of Trustees and to ensure coordination of all efforts between the Trustees and Putnam Management and its affiliates on behalf of the shareholders of the Putnam funds. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Hill (Chairperson), Curtis, Patterson and Putnam, III (*ex officio*), Dr. Joskow and Ms. Baxter.

**Investment Oversight Committees.** These Committees regularly meet with investment personnel of Putnam Management to review the investment performance and strategies of the funds in light of their stated investment objectives and policies. Investment Oversight Committee A currently consists of Mses. Drucker (Chairperson) and Baxter and Mr. Curtis. Investment Oversight Committee B currently consists of Drs. Joskow (Chairperson) and Kennan and Mr. Stephens. Investment Committee C currently consists of Messrs. Leibler (Chairperson), Patterson

I-17

---

and Putnam, III. Investment Oversight Committee D currently consists of Messrs. Worley (Chairperson), Haldeman and Hill.

**Investment Process Committee.** The Investment Process Committee complements the work of the Investment Oversight Committees by monitoring Putnam Management's investment philosophies, investment processes and investment personnel. The Committee reviews Putnam Management's research capabilities; risk management processes; recruiting, training and compensation of investment personnel; performance measurement; and portfolio construction. The Committee currently consists of Ms. Drucker (Chairperson), Dr. Joskow and Mr. Putnam, III.

**Marketing Committee.** The Marketing Committee oversees the marketing and sale of fund shares by Putnam Retail Management. The Committee reviews (i) services provided by Putnam Retail Management under its Distributor's Contracts with the open-end funds, (ii) sales charges imposed in connection with the sale of fund shares, (iii) expenditure of the funds' assets for distribution and shareholder services pursuant to distribution plans of the open-end funds, (iv) financial arrangements between Putnam Retail Management and financial intermediaries related to the sale of fund shares and (v) compliance by Putnam Retail Management with applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing the sale of fund shares. The Committee also exercises general oversight of marketing and sales communications used by Putnam Retail Management in connection with the sale of fund shares. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Curtis (Chairperson) and Worley, Ms. Baxter and Dr. Kennan.

**Pricing Committee.** The Pricing Committee oversees the implementation of your fund's policies and procedures for achieving accurate and timely pricing of the fund's shares, including oversight of fair value determinations of individual securities made by Putnam Management or other designated agents of your fund. The Committee oversees compliance by money market funds with Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act, interfund transactions pursuant to Rule 17a-7 under the 1940 Act, and the correction of occasional pricing errors. The Committee also receives reports on various matters including reports on the liquidity of portfolio securities. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Stephens (Chairperson), Hill, Leibler and Patterson.

**Shareholder Communications and Relations Committee.** The Shareholder Communications and Relations Committee reviews certain communications sent to fund shareholders, including shareholder reports, prospectuses, proxy statements and other materials. The Committee oversees the policies and procedures

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

pursuant to which such shareholder communications are prepared, and the implementation by Putnam Management of such policies and procedures. The Committee reviews periodic reports regarding the costs to the funds of preparing and distributing such communications. The Committee also reviews periodic reports regarding comments and suggestions received with respect to such communications. The Committee currently consists of Mr. Putnam, III (Chairperson), Ms. Drucker and Dr. Joskow.

**How large a stake do the Trustees and nominees have in the Putnam family of funds?**

The Trustees allocate their investments among the Putnam funds based on their own investment needs. The table below shows the number of shares beneficially owned by each nominee for Trustees other than Kenneth R. Leibler and the value of each nominee's holdings in each fund and in all of the Putnam funds as of September 30, 2006. Mr. Leibler, who joined the Board of Trustees on October 12, 2006, owned no shares of these funds as of September 30, 2006. As a group, the Trustees owned shares of the Putnam funds valued at approximately \$90 million as of September 30, 2006.

I-18

---

**Putnam High Income Securities Fund**

---

<b>Name of Nominee</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Putnam High Income Securities Fund Shares Owned</b>	<b>Shares Beneficially Owned</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares Held in all of the Putnam Funds</b>
Jameson A. Baxter	\$10,001 - \$50,000	1,619.792	over \$100,000
Charles B. Curtis	\$1 - \$10,000	393.794	over \$100,000
Myra R. Drucker	\$1 - \$10,000	351.679	over \$100,000
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.	\$1 - \$10,000	841	over \$100,000
John A. Hill	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	71,193.838	over \$100,000
Paul L. Joskow	\$1 - \$10,000	334.178	over \$100,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan	\$1 - \$10,000	451.380	over \$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1 - \$10,000	1,084.356	over \$100,000
George Putnam, III	\$10,001 - \$50,000	1670	over \$100,000
W. Thomas Stephens	\$1 - \$10,000	334.178	over \$100,000
Richard B. Worley	\$1 - \$10,000	334	over \$100,000

---

**Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust**

---

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

<b>Name of Nominee</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust Shares Owned</b>	<b>Shares Beneficially Owned</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares Held in all of the Putnam Funds</b>
Jameson A. Baxter	\$1 - \$10,000	461.972	over \$100,000
Charles B. Curtis	\$1 - \$10,000	118.704	over \$100,000
Myra R. Drucker	\$1 - \$10,000	104.309	over \$100,000
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.	\$1 - \$10,000	510	over \$100,000
John A. Hill	\$1 - \$10,000	436.985	over \$100,000
Paul L. Joskow	\$1 - \$10,000	100	over \$100,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan	\$1 - \$10,000	270.436	over \$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1 - \$10,000	587	over \$100,000
George Putnam, III	\$10,001 - \$50,000	2,178	over \$100,000
W. Thomas Stephens	\$1 - \$10,000	100	over \$100,000
Richard B. Worley	\$1 - \$10,000	100	over \$100,000

**Putnam Premier Income Trust**

<b>Name of Nominee</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Putnam Premier Income Trust Shares Owned</b>	<b>Shares Beneficially Owned</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares Held in all of the Putnam Funds</b>
Jameson A. Baxter	\$1 - \$10,000	496.412	over \$100,000
Charles B. Curtis	\$1 - \$10,000	241.639	over \$100,000
Myra R. Drucker	\$1 - \$10,000	210.069	over \$100,000
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.	\$1 - \$10,000	1,005	over \$100,000
John A. Hill	\$10,001 - \$50,000	3,645.613	over \$100,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

Paul L. Joskow	\$1 - \$10,000	201.176	over \$100,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan	\$1 - \$10,000	292.060	over \$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1 - \$10,000	803.529	over \$100,000
George Putnam, III	\$10,001 - \$50,000	2,505	over \$100,000
W. Thomas Stephens	\$1 - \$10,000	201.176	over \$100,000

I-19

Richard B. Worley	\$1 - \$10,000	201	over \$100,000
-------------------	----------------	-----	----------------

At September 30, 2006, the Trustees and officers of these three funds as a group owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each fund on that date.

**What are some of the ways in which the Trustees represent shareholder interests?**

Among other ways, the Trustees seek to represent shareholder interests:

- by carefully reviewing your fund's investment performance on an individual basis with your fund's investment team;
- by carefully reviewing the quality of the various other services provided to the funds and their shareholders by Putnam Management and its affiliates;
- by discussing with senior management of Putnam Management steps being taken to address any performance deficiencies;
- by reviewing in depth the fees paid by each fund and by negotiating with Putnam Management to ensure that such fees remain reasonable and competitive with those of comparable funds, while at the same time providing Putnam Management sufficient resources to continue to provide high quality services in the future;
- by reviewing brokerage costs and fees, allocations among brokers, soft dollar expenditures and similar expenses of the fund;
- by monitoring potential conflicts of interest between the funds and Putnam Management and its affiliates to ensure that the funds continue to be managed in the best interests of their shareholders; and
- by monitoring potential conflicts among funds managed by Putnam to ensure that shareholders continue to realize the benefits of participation in a large and diverse family of funds.

**How can shareholders communicate with the Trustees?**

The Board of Trustees provides a process for shareholders to send communications to the Trustees. Shareholders may direct communications to the Board of Trustees as a whole or to specified individual Trustees by submitting them in writing to the following address:

The Putnam Funds

Attention: ☐Board of Trustees☐ or any specified Trustee(s)

One Post Office Square

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Written communication must include the shareholder's name, be signed by the shareholder, refer to the Putnam fund(s) in which the shareholder holds shares and include the class and number of shares held by the shareholder as of a recent date.

The Office of the Trustees will respond to all correspondence sent to Trustees. Due to the volume of correspondence, all communications are not sent directly to the Trustees; the correspondence is reviewed, summarized and presented to Trustees on a periodic basis.

I-20

**How often do the Trustees meet?**

The Trustees meet each month (except August) over a two-day period to review the operations of your fund and of the other Putnam funds. A portion of these meetings is devoted to meetings of various committees of the board that focus on particular matters. Each Trustee generally attends at least two formal committee meetings during each regular meeting of the Trustees. In addition, the Trustees meet in small groups with Chief Investment Officers, Portfolio Leaders and Portfolio Members to review recent performance and the current investment climate for selected funds. These meetings ensure that each fund's performance is reviewed in detail at least twice a year. The committees of the board, including the Executive Committee, may also meet on special occasions as the need arises. During calendar year 2005, the average Trustee participated in approximately 55 committee and board meetings.

The number of times each committee met during your fund's last fiscal year is shown in the table below:

Putnam High Income Securities Fund

Fiscal year ended August 31, 2006

Audit and Compliance Committee*	12
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	11
Brokerage Committee**	7
Contract Committee	13
Distributions Committee	11
Executive Committee	2
Investment Oversight Committees	38
Marketing Committee***	8
Pricing Committee*	12
Shareholder Communications and Relations Committee***	8

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

---

Investment Process Committee****	7
----------------------------------	---

---

Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust  
Fiscal year ended September 30, 2006

---

Audit and Compliance Committee*	13
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	11
Brokerage Committee**	7
Contract Committee	13
Distributions Committee	11
Executive Committee	2
Investment Oversight Committees	38
Marketing Committee***	8
Pricing Committee*	13
Shareholder Communications and Relations Committee***	8
Investment Process Committee****	8

---

Putnam Premier Income Trust  
Fiscal year ended July 31, 2006

---

Audit and Compliance Committee*	11
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	11
Brokerage Committee**	7

---

I-21

---

Contract Committee	13
Distributions Committee	11

---

Executive Committee	2
Investment Oversight Committees	38
Marketing Committee***	8
Pricing Committee*	11
Shareholder Communications and Relations Committee***	8
Investment Process Committee****	7

\* Effective January 2006, the responsibilities of the Audit and Pricing Committee were divided between two separate committees, the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Pricing Committee. The number of meetings shown represents the number of meetings held by the former combined Audit and Pricing Committee prior to the formation of the new committees and by the relevant new committee after its formation.

\*\* Effective January 2006, the Brokerage and Custody Committee was renamed the Brokerage Committee.

\*\*\* Effective January 2006, the responsibilities of the Communication, Service and Marketing Committee were divided between two separate committees, the Marketing Committee and the Shareholder Communications and Relations Committee. The number of meetings shown represents the number of meetings held by the former combined Communication, Service and Marketing Committee prior to the formation of the new committees and by the relevant new committee after its formation.

\*\*\*\*The Investment Process Committee began meeting in January 2006.

Your fund does not have a policy with respect to Trustee attendance at shareholder meetings. Although your fund's Trustees did not attend the last annual meeting of your fund, they were represented at the meeting by their staff.

### What are the Trustees paid for their services?

Each Independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual retainer fee and additional fees for each Trustees' meeting attended, for attendance at industry seminars and for certain compliance-related services. Independent Trustees who serve on board committees receive additional fees for attendance at certain committee meetings and for special services rendered in that connection. Independent Trustees also are reimbursed for costs incurred in connection with their services, including costs of travel, seminars and educational materials. All of the current Independent Trustees of the fund are Trustees of all the Putnam funds and receive fees for their services. Mr. Putnam, III also receives the foregoing fees for his services as Trustee.

The Trustees periodically review their fees to ensure that such fees continue to be appropriate in light of their responsibilities as well as in relation to fees paid to trustees of other mutual fund complexes. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee, which consists solely of Independent Trustees of the fund, estimates that committee and Trustee meeting time, together with the appropriate preparation, requires the equivalent of at least three business days per Trustee meeting. The following table shows the year each Trustee became a Trustee of the Putnam funds and the fees paid to each Trustee by your fund for its most recent fiscal year and the fees paid to each Trustee by all of the Putnam funds during calendar year 2005:

<b>Trustees/Year</b>	<b>Aggregate compensation from the fund</b>	<b>Retirement benefits accrued as part of fund expenses</b>	<b>Estimated annual benefits from all Putnam funds upon retirement(1)</b>	<b>Total compensation from all funds(2)</b>
Jameson A. Baxter/1994(4)	\$1,612	\$590	\$110,500	\$237,250
Charles B. Curtis/2001	1,546	883	113,900	231,500
Myra R. Drucker/2004(4)	1,507	N/A	N/A	224,250
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr./2004	0	N/A	N/A	0
John A. Hill/1985(4)(5)	2,285	814	161,700	422,813
Paul L. Joskow/1997(4)	1,559	536	113,400	228,500
Elizabeth T. Kennan/1992(4)	1,609	750	108,000	229,250
Kenneth R. Leibler/2006 (7)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
John H. Mullin, III/1997(4)(6)	1,265	650	107,400	222,000
Robert E. Patterson/1984	1,571	450	106,500	222,000
George Putnam, III/1984(5)	1,725	409	130,300	262,750
W. Thomas Stephens/1997(4)	1,474	628	107,100	211,250
Richard B. Worley/2004	1,545	N/A	N/A	218,750

I-23

**Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust****COMPENSATION TABLE**

<b>Aggregate compensation from</b>	<b>Retirement benefits accrued</b>	<b>Estimated annual benefits from all</b>	<b>Total</b>
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	---	--------------

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form PRE 14A

<b>Trustees/Year</b>	<b>the fund</b>	<b>as part of fund expenses</b>	<b>Putnam funds upon retirement(1)</b>	<b>fun</b>
Jameson A. Baxter/1994(4)	\$2,150	\$790	\$110,500	\$23
Charles B. Curtis/2001	2,062	1,169	113,900	231
Myra R. Drucker/2004(4)	2,010	N/A	N/A	224
Charles E. Haldeman, Jr./2004	0	N/A	N/A	0
John A. Hill/1985(4)(5)	3,046	1,089	161,700	422
Paul L. Joskow/1997(4)	2,080	708	113,400	228
Elizabeth T. Kennan/1992(4)	2,146	1,003	108,000	229
Kenneth R. Leibler/2006 (7)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
John H. Mullin, III/1997(4)(6)	1,687	874	107,400	220
Robert E. Patterson/1984	2,095	603	106,500	222
George Putnam, III/1984(5)	2,300	549	130,300	262
W. Thomas Stephens/1997(4)	1,966	839		