

TEMPLETON DRAGON FUND INC
Form DEF 14A
April 21, 2017

Schedule 14A Information

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(A) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant [X]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant []

Check the appropriate box:

[] Preliminary Proxy Statement [] Confidential, for Use of the Commission

[X] Definitive Proxy Statement [] Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

[] Definitive Additional Materials

[] Soliciting Material under Section 240.14a-12

Templeton Dragon Fund, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 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:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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(3) Filing Party:

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TEMPLETON DRAGON FUND, INC.

IMPORTANT SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

These materials are for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Meeting”) scheduled for May 30, 2017, at 12 Noon, Eastern time. The enclosed materials discuss the proposals (the “Proposals” or each, a “Proposal”) to be voted on at the Meeting, and contain the Notice of Meeting, proxy statement and proxy card. A proxy card is, in essence, a ballot. When you vote your proxy, it tells us how you wish to vote on important issues relating to Templeton Dragon Fund, Inc. (the “Fund”). If you specify a vote on a Proposal, your proxy will be voted as you indicate. If you specify a vote on a Proposal, but not all Proposals, your proxy will be voted as specified on such Proposal and, on the Proposal for which no vote is specified, your proxy will be voted FOR such Proposal. If you simply sign, date and return the proxy card, but do not specify a vote on any Proposal, your proxy will be voted FOR the Proposals.

We urge you to spend a few minutes reviewing the Proposals in the proxy statement. Then, please fill out and sign the proxy card and return it to us so that we know how you would like to vote. When shareholders return their proxies promptly, the Fund may be able to save money by not having to conduct additional mailings.

We welcome your comments. If you have any questions, call Fund Information at (800) DIAL BEN[®]/342-5236.

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET VOTING

For your convenience, you may be able to vote by telephone or through the Internet, 24 hours a day. If your account is eligible, instructions are enclosed.

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TEMPLETON DRAGON FUND, INC.

NOTICE OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Meeting”) of Templeton Dragon Fund, Inc. (the “Fund”) will be held at the Fund’s offices, 300 S.E. 2^d Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1923 on May 30, 2017, at 12 Noon, Eastern time.

During the Meeting, shareholders of the Fund will vote on the following Proposals:

1. The election of four Directors of the Fund to hold office for the terms specified.
2. The ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Lori A. Weber

Vice President and Secretary

April 21, 2017

Please sign and promptly return the proxy card or voting instruction form in the enclosed self-addressed envelope regardless of the number of shares you own. If you have any questions, call Fund Information at (800) DIAL BEN®/342-5236.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE
SHAREHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 30, 2017**

The Fund’s Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, proxy statement and form of proxy are available on the Internet at <https://www.proxyonline.com/docs/dragon2017.pdf>. The form of proxy on the Internet site cannot be used to cast your vote.

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TEMPLETON DRAGON FUND, INC.

PROXY STATEMENT

INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING

Who is asking for my vote?

The Board of Directors of Templeton Dragon Fund, Inc. (the “Fund”), in connection with the Fund’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Meeting”), has requested your vote.

Who is eligible to vote?

Shareholders of record at the close of business on April 4, 2017, are entitled to be present and to vote at the Meeting or any adjourned Meeting. Each share of record is entitled to one vote (and a proportionate fractional vote for each fractional share) on each matter presented at the Meeting. The Notice of Meeting, the proxy statement, and the proxy card were first mailed to shareholders of record on or about April 21, 2017.

On what issues am I being asked to vote?

You are being asked to vote on two Proposals:

1. The election of four Directors of the Fund; and
2. The ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

How do the Fund’s Directors recommend that I vote?

The Directors unanimously recommend that you vote FOR the election of the four nominees for Director and FOR the ratification of the selection of PwC as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

How do I ensure that my vote is accurately recorded?

You may attend the Meeting and vote in person or you may complete and return the enclosed proxy card. If you are eligible to vote by telephone or through the Internet, instructions are enclosed.

Proxy cards that are properly signed, dated and received at or prior to the Meeting will be voted as specified. If you specify a vote on any of the Proposals, your proxy will be voted as you indicate. If you simply sign, date and return the proxy card, but do not specify a vote on either Proposal 1 or 2, your shares will be voted FOR the election of all nominees for Director and FOR the ratification of the selection of PwC as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

May I revoke my proxy?

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by forwarding a written revocation or a later-dated proxy to the Fund that is received by the Fund at or prior to the Meeting, or by attending the Meeting and voting in person.

What if my shares are held in a brokerage account?

If your shares are held by your broker, then in order to vote in person at the Meeting, you will need to obtain a “Legal Proxy” from your broker and present it to the Inspector of Election at the Meeting. Also, in order to revoke your proxy, you may need to forward your written revocation or a later-dated proxy card to your broker rather than to the Fund.

May I attend the Meeting in Person?

Shareholders of record at the close of business on April 4, 2017 are entitled to attend the Meeting. Eligible shareholders who intend to attend the Meeting in person will need to bring proof of share ownership, such as a shareholder statement or a letter from a custodian or broker-dealer confirming ownership, as of April 4, 2017 and a valid picture identification, such as a driver’s license or passport, for admission to the Meeting. Seating is very limited. Shareholders without proof of ownership and identification will not be admitted.

THE PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

How are nominees selected?

The Board of Directors of the Fund (the “Board” or the “Directors”) has a Nominating Committee consisting of Edith E. Holiday (Chairperson), J. Michael Luttig and Larry D. Thompson, none of whom is an “interested person” of the Fund as defined by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). Directors who are not interested persons of the Fund are referred to as the “Independent Directors,” and Directors who are interested persons of the Fund are referred to as the “Interested Directors.”

The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting candidates to serve as Directors and recommending such candidates (a) for selection and nomination as Independent Directors by the incumbent Independent Directors and the full Board; and (b) for selection and nomination as Interested Directors by the full Board. In considering a candidate’s qualifications, the Nominating Committee generally considers the potential candidate’s educational background, business or professional experience, and reputation. In addition, the Nominating Committee has established as minimum qualifications for Board membership as an Independent Director: (1) that such candidate be independent from relationships with the Fund’s investment manager and other principal service providers both within the terms and the spirit of the statutory independence requirements specified under the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder; (2) that such candidate demonstrate an ability and willingness to make the considerable time commitment, including personal attendance at Board meetings, believed necessary to his or her function as an effective Board member; and (3) that such candidate have no continuing relationship as a director, officer or board member of any U.S. registered investment company other than those within the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex or a closed-end business development company primarily investing in non-public entities. The Nominating Committee has not adopted any specific policy on the issue of diversity, but will take this into account, among other factors, in its consideration of new candidates to the Board.

When the Board has or expects to have a vacancy, the Nominating Committee receives and reviews information on individuals qualified to be recommended to the full Board as nominees for election as Directors, including any recommendations by “Qualifying Fund Shareholders” (as defined below). Such individuals are evaluated based upon the criteria described above. To date, the Nominating Committee has been able to identify,

and expects to continue to be able to identify, from its own resources an ample number of qualified candidates. The Nominating Committee, however, will review recommendations from Qualifying Fund Shareholders to fill vacancies on the Board if these recommendations are submitted in writing and addressed to the Nominating Committee at the Fund's offices and are presented with appropriate background material concerning the candidate that demonstrates his or her ability to serve as a Director, including as an Independent Director, of the Fund. A Qualifying Fund Shareholder is a shareholder who (i) has continuously owned of record, or beneficially through a financial intermediary, shares of the Fund having a net asset value of not less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) during the twenty-four month period prior to submitting the recommendation; and (ii) provides a written notice to the Nominating Committee containing the following information: (a) the name and address of the Qualifying Fund Shareholder making the recommendation; (b) the number of shares of the Fund which are owned of record and beneficially by the Qualifying Fund Shareholder and the length of time that the shares have been owned by the Qualifying Fund Shareholder; (c) a description of all arrangements and understandings between the Qualifying Fund Shareholder and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the recommendation is being made; (d) the name, age, date of birth, business address and residence address of the person or persons being recommended; (e) such other information regarding each person recommended by the Qualifying Fund Shareholder as would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") had the nominee been nominated by the Board; (f) whether the shareholder making the recommendation believes the person recommended would or would not be an "interested person" of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act; and (g) the written consent of each person recommended to serve as a Director of the Fund if so nominated and elected/appointed.

The Nominating Committee may amend these procedures from time to time, including the procedures relating to the evaluation of nominees and the process for submitting recommendations to the Nominating Committee.

The Board has adopted and approved a formal written charter for the Nominating Committee. A copy of the charter is attached as Exhibit A to this proxy statement.

Who are the nominees and Directors?

The Board is divided into three classes. Each class has a term of three years. Each year, the term of office of one class expires. This year, the terms of four Directors expire: Harris J. Ashton, Mary C. Choksi, J. Michael Luttig and Constantine D. Tseretopoulos. These individuals have been nominated for three-year terms, set to expire at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. These terms continue, however, until their successors are duly elected and qualified. All of the nominees are currently members of the Board and deemed to be Independent Directors. Mary C. Choksi is standing for election by the shareholders of the Fund for the first time. An incumbent Independent Director initially recommended Mary C. Choksi for consideration as a director of the Fund. In addition, all of the current nominees and Directors are also directors or trustees of other investment companies within the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex.

Interested Directors of the Fund hold director and/or officer positions with, or are principal stockholders of, Franklin Resources, Inc. ("Resources") and its affiliates. Resources is a publicly owned holding company, a principal stockholder of which is Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., who beneficially owned approximately 18.79% of its outstanding shares as of December 31, 2016. The shares deemed to be beneficially owned by Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. include certain shares held by a private charitable foundation or by his spouse, of which he disclaims

beneficial ownership. Resources, a global investment management organization operating as Franklin Templeton Investments, is primarily engaged, through various subsidiaries, in providing investment management, share distribution, transfer agent and administrative services to a family of investment companies. Resources is a New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) listed holding company (NYSE: BEN). Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., Chairman of the Board, Director and Vice President of the Fund, is the uncle of Gregory E. Johnson, a Director of the Fund. There are no other family relationships among the Directors or nominees for Director.

Each nominee currently is available and has consented to serve if elected. If any of the nominees should become unavailable, the designated proxy holders will vote in their discretion for another person or persons who may be nominated to serve as Directors.

In addition to personal qualities, such as integrity, in considering candidates for the Fund Board, the Nominating Committee seeks to find persons of good reputation whose experience and background evidence that such person has the ability to comprehend, discuss and critically analyze materials and issues presented, in exercising judgments and reaching informed conclusions relevant to fulfillment of a Fund Director’s duties and fiduciary obligations. Information on the business activities of the nominees and other Directors during the past five years and beyond appears below and it is believed that the specific background of each Director evidences such ability and is appropriate to his or her serving on the Fund’s Board. As indicated, Harris J. Ashton has served as a chief executive officer of a NYSE listed public corporation; Larry D. Thompson and Edith E. Holiday each have legal backgrounds, including high level legal positions with departments of the U.S. Government; David W. Niemiec has served as a chief financial officer of a major corporation; Ann Torre Bates has served as a chief financial officer of a major corporation and as a board member of a number of public companies; J. Michael Luttig has fifteen years of judicial experience as a Federal Appeals Court Judge; Robert E. Wade has over thirty years of experience as a practicing attorney; Constantine D. Tseretopoulos has professional and executive experience as founder and Chief of Staff of a hospital; Mary C. Choksi has an extensive background in asset management, including founding an investment management firm; and Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. and Gregory E. Johnson are both high ranking executive officers of Resources.

Listed below with the business activities of the nominees and Directors are their names and years of birth, their positions and length of service with the Fund and the number of portfolios in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex that they oversee.

Nominees for Independent Director to serve until 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Director*	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years
Harris J. Ashton (1932) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Director	Since 1994	142	Bar-S Foods (meat packing company) (1981–2010).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Director, RBC Holdings, Inc. (bank holding company) (until 2002); and President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, General Host Corporation (nursery and craft centers) (until 1998).

Mary C. Choksi (1950) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Director	Since October 2016	136	Avis Budget Group Inc. (car rental) (2007–present), Omnicom Group Inc. (advertising and marketing communications services) (2011–present) and H.J. Heinz Company (processed foods and allied products) (1998–2006).
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Senior Advisor, Strategic Investment Group (investment management group) (2015–present); director of various companies; and **formerly**, Founding Partner and Senior Managing Director, Strategic Investment Group (1987–2015); Founding Partner and Managing Director, Emerging Markets Management LLC (investment management firm) (1987–2011); and Loan Officer/Senior Loan Officer/Senior Pension Investment Officer, World Bank Group (international financial institution) (1977–1987).

J. Michael Luttig (1954) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Director	Since 2009	142	Boeing Capital Corporation (aircraft financing) (2006–2013).
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and member of the Executive Council, The Boeing Company (aerospace company) (2006–present); and **formerly**, Federal Appeals Court Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1991–2006).

Constantine D. Tseretopoulos (1954) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Director	Since 1998	26	None
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Physician, Chief of Staff, owner and operator of the Lyford Cay Hospital (1987–present); director of various nonprofit organizations; and **formerly**, Cardiology Fellow, University of Maryland (1985–1987); and Internal Medicine Resident, Greater Baltimore Medical Center (1982–1985).

Independent Directors serving until 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Director*	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years
Edith E. Holiday (1952) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Lead Independent Director	Director since 1996 and Lead Independent Director since 2007	142	Hess Corporation (exploration and refining of oil and gas) (1993–present), Canadian National Railway (railroad) (2001–present), White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd. (holding company) (2004–present), Santander Consumer USA Holdings, Inc. (consumer finance) (2016–present), RTI International Metals, Inc. (manufacture and distribution of titanium) (1999–2015) and H.J. Heinz Company (processed foods and allied products) (1994–2013).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Director or Trustee of various companies and trusts; and **formerly**, Assistant to the President of the United States and Secretary of the Cabinet (1990–1993); General Counsel to the United States Treasury Department (1989–1990); and Counselor to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and Public Liaison—United States Treasury Department (1988–1989).

Larry D. Thompson (1945) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Director	Since 2005	142	The Southern Company (energy company) (2014–present; previously 2010–2012), Graham Holdings Company (education and media organization) (2011–present) and Cbeyond, Inc. (business communications provider) (2010–2012).
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Director of various companies; John A. Sibley Professor of Corporate and Business Law, University of Georgia School of Law (2015–present; previously 2011–2012); and **formerly**, Executive Vice President—Government Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, PepsiCo, Inc. (consumer products) (2012–2014); Senior Vice President—Government Affairs, General Counsel and Secretary, PepsiCo, Inc. (2004–2011); Senior Fellow of The Brookings Institution (2003–2004); Visiting Professor, University of Georgia School of Law (2004); and Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (2001–2003).

Interested Directors serving until 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Director*	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years
**Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. (1940) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Chairman of the Board, Director and Vice President	Chairman of the Board and Director since 2013 and Vice President since 1996	142	None

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Vice Chairman, Member—Office of the Chairman and Director, Franklin Resources, Inc.; Director, Franklin Advisers, Inc.; Senior Vice President, Franklin Advisory Services, LLC; and officer and/or director or trustee, as the case may be, of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of 42 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

**Gregory E. Johnson (1961) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Director	Since 2006	158	None
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Chairman of the Board, Member—Office of the Chairman, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Franklin Resources, Inc.; officer and/or director or trustee, as the case may be, of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of 44 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments; Vice Chairman, Investment Company Institute; and **formerly**, President, Franklin Resources, Inc. (1994–2015).

Independent Directors serving until 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Director*	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years
Ann Torre Bates (1958) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Director	Since 2008	42	Ares Capital Corporation (specialty finance company) (2010–present), United Natural Foods, Inc. (distributor of natural, organic and specialty foods) (2013–present), Allied Capital Corporation (financial services) (2003–2010), SLM Corporation (Sallie Mae) (1997–2014) and Navient Corporation (loan management, servicing and asset recovery) (2014–2016).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, NHP Incorporated (manager of multifamily housing) (1995–1997); and Vice President and Treasurer, US Airways, Inc. (until 1995).

David W. Niemiec (1949) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Director	Since 2005	42	Hess Midstream Partners LP (oil and gas midstream infrastructure) (April 2017).
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Advisor, Saratoga Partners (private equity fund); and **formerly**, Managing Director, Saratoga Partners (1998–2001) and SBC Warburg Dillon Read (investment banking) (1997–1998); Vice Chairman, Dillon, Read & Co. Inc. (investment banking) (1991–1997); and Chief Financial Officer, Dillon, Read & Co. Inc. (1982–1997).

Robert E. Wade (1946) 300 S.E. 2 nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Director	Since 2006	42	El Oro Ltd (investments) (2003–present).
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Attorney at law engaged in private practice (1972–2008) and member of various boards.

* We base the number of portfolios on each separate series of the U.S. registered investment companies within the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex. These portfolios have a common investment manager or affiliated investment manager, and also may share a common underwriter.

** Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. and Gregory E. Johnson are “interested persons” of the Fund as defined by the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act limits the percentage of interested persons that can comprise a fund’s board of directors. Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. is considered an interested person of the Fund due to his position as an officer, director and major shareholder of Resources, which is the parent company of the Fund’s investment manager, and his position with the Fund. Gregory E. Johnson is considered an interested person of the Fund due to his position as an officer, director and shareholder of Resources. Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. is the uncle of Gregory E. Johnson. The remaining Directors of the Fund are Independent Directors.

The following tables provide the dollar range of the equity securities of the Fund and of all U.S. registered funds in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex beneficially owned by the Directors as of April 4, 2017:

Independent Directors:

Name of Director	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund⁽¹⁾	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in all Funds in the Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex
Harris J. Ashton.....	\$1—\$10,000	Over \$100,000
Ann Torre Bates.....	None	Over \$100,000
Mary C. Choksi.....	None	Over \$100,000
Edith E. Holiday.....	\$1—\$10,000	Over \$100,000
J. Michael Luttig.....	\$10,001—\$50,000	Over \$100,000
David W. Niemiec.....	None	Over \$100,000
Larry D. Thompson.....	\$10,001—\$50,000	Over \$100,000
Constantine D. Tseretopoulos.....	None	Over \$100,000
Robert E. Wade.....	\$50,001—\$100,000	Over \$100,000

Interested Directors:

Name of Director	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund⁽¹⁾	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in all Funds in the Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex
Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.....	\$10,001—\$50,000	Over \$100,000
Gregory E. Johnson.....	None	Over \$100,000

⁽¹⁾ Dollar range based on NYSE closing price on April 4, 2017.

How often do the Directors meet and what are they paid?

The role of the Directors is to provide general oversight of the Fund's business and to ensure that the Fund is operated for the benefit of all of the Fund's shareholders. The Directors anticipate meeting at least five times during the current fiscal year to review the operations of the Fund and the Fund's investment performance, and will meet more frequently as necessary. The Directors also oversee the services furnished to the Fund by Templeton Asset Management

Ltd.—Hong Kong branch, the Fund’s investment manager (the “Investment Manager”), and various other service providers.

The Fund’s Independent Directors constitute the sole independent Board members of 14 investment companies in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex for which each Independent Director currently is paid a \$155,000 annual retainer fee, together with a \$7,000 per meeting fee for attendance at each regularly scheduled Board meeting, a portion of which fees are allocated to the Fund. To the extent held, compensation also may be paid for attendance at specially called Board meetings. The Fund’s Lead Independent Director is paid an annual supplemental retainer of \$25,000 for service to such investment companies, a portion of which is allocated to the Fund. Board members who serve on the Audit Committee of the Fund and such other investment companies receive a flat fee of \$3,000 per Audit Committee meeting attended in person and \$2,000 per Audit Committee telephonic meeting attended, a portion of which is allocated to the Fund. David W. Niemiec, who serves as Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Fund and such other investment companies, receives an additional fee of \$15,000 per year, a portion of which is allocated to the Fund. Members of a committee are not separately compensated for any committee meeting held on the day of a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, there were five meetings of the Board, six meetings of the Audit Committee, and three meetings of the Nominating Committee. Each Director then in office attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board and the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board on which the Director served. The Fund does not currently have a formal policy regarding Directors' attendance at the annual shareholders' meeting. No Directors attended the Fund's last annual meeting held on May 26, 2016.

Independent Directors are also reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with attending Board meetings. The Interested Directors and certain officers of the Fund who are shareholders of Resources are not compensated by the Fund for their services, but may be deemed to receive indirect remuneration due to their participation in management fees and other fees received by the Investment Manager and its affiliates from the funds in Franklin Templeton Investments. The Investment Manager or its affiliates pay the salaries and expenses of the officers and the Interested Directors. No pension or retirement benefits are accrued as part of Fund expenses.

The table below indicates the total fees paid to the Independent Directors by the Fund individually and by all of the funds in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex. These Directors also serve as directors or trustees of other funds in Franklin Templeton Investments, many of which hold meetings at different dates and times. The Directors and the Fund's management believe that having the same individuals serving on the boards of multiple funds in Franklin Templeton Investments enhances the ability of each fund to obtain, at a relatively modest cost to each separate fund, the services of high caliber, experienced and knowledgeable Independent Directors who can bring their experience and talents to, and effectively oversee the management of, several funds.

Name of Director	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund ⁽¹⁾	Total Compensation from Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex ⁽²⁾	Number of Boards within
			Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex on which Director Serves ⁽³⁾
Harris J.			
Ashton.....	\$ 7,430	\$ 493,000	40
Ann Torre			
Bates ⁽⁴⁾	7,556	523,000	18
Mary C.			
Choksi ⁽⁵⁾	1,727	354,168	39
Frank J.			
Crothers ⁽⁶⁾	2,552	68,060	N/A
Edith E.			
Holiday.....	7,603	533,000	40
J. Michael			
Luttig.....	7,435	510,000	40
David W.			
Niemiec.....	7,666	519,000	18
Frank A.			
Olson ⁽⁷⁾	6,098	413,456	N/A
Larry D.			
Thompson.....	7,419	506,000	40
	7,556	208,000	14

Constantine D. Tseretopoulos.....			
Robert E. Wade ⁽⁴⁾	7,419	574,000	18

(1) Compensation received for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

(2) Compensation received for the 12 months ended December 31, 2016.

(3) We base the number of boards on the number of U.S. registered investment companies in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex. This number does not include the total number of series or funds within each investment company for which the Board members are responsible. Franklin Templeton Investments currently includes 45 U.S. registered investment companies, with approximately 165 U.S. based funds or series.

- (4) Ms. Bates and Mr. Wade also are independent trustees of Franklin Mutual Series Funds and may, in the future, receive payments pursuant to a discontinued retirement plan that generally provides payments to independent board members who have served seven years or longer for such fund.
- (5) Ms. Choksi became a Director in October 2016.
- (6) Retired May 13, 2016.
- (7) Retired November 1, 2016.

Board members historically have followed a policy of having substantial investments in one or more of the funds in Franklin Templeton Investments, as is consistent with their individual financial goals. In February 1998, this policy was formalized through adoption of a requirement that each Board member invest one-third of the fees received for serving as a director or trustee of a Templeton fund (excluding committee fees) in shares of one or more Templeton funds (which may include the Fund) until the value of such investments equals or exceeds five times the annual retainer and regular Board meeting fees paid to such Board member. Investments in the name of family members or entities controlled by a Board member constitute fund holdings of such Board member for purposes of this policy, and a three-year phase-in period applies to such investment requirements for newly elected Board members. In implementing such policy, a Board member's fund holdings existing on February 27, 1998, were valued as of such date with subsequent investments valued at cost.

Who are the Executive Officers of the Fund?

Officers of the Fund are appointed by the Directors and serve at the pleasure of the Board. Listed below, for the Executive Officers, are their names, years of birth and addresses, as well as their positions and length of service with the Fund, and principal occupations during at least the past five years.

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served
Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.	Chairman of the Board, Director and Vice President	Chairman of the Board and Director since 2013 and Vice President since 1996

Please refer to the table "Interested Directors serving until 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders" for additional information about Mr. Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

Alison E. Baur (1964) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	Since 2012
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Deputy General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

Laura F. Ferguson (1962) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Chief Executive Officer— Finance and Administration	Since 2009
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Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Senior Vice President, Franklin Templeton Services, LLC; Vice President, Franklin Advisers, Inc. and Franklin Templeton Institutional, LLC; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.
Aliya S. Gordon (1973) Vice President and Assistant Secretary Since 2009
 One Franklin Parkway
 San Mateo, CA 94403-1906

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.
Steven J. Gray (1955) Vice President and Assistant Secretary Since 2009
 One Franklin Parkway
 San Mateo, CA 94403-1906

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; Vice President, Franklin Templeton Distributors, Inc. and Franklin Alternative Strategies Advisers, LLC; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.
Robert Lim (1948) Vice President— AML Compliance Since 2016
 One Franklin Parkway
 San Mateo, CA 94403-1906

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Vice President, Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC; Chief Compliance Officer, Franklin Templeton Distributors, Inc. and Franklin Templeton Investors Services, LLC; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.
Mark Mobius (1936) President and Chief Executive Officer— Investment Management Since 1994 and Chief Executive Officer—Investment Management since 2002
 17th Floor, The Chater House
 8 Connaught Road,
 Central Hong Kong

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Portfolio Manager of various Templeton advisory affiliates; Executive Chairman, Templeton Emerging Markets Group; and officer and/or director, as the case may be, of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of five of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.
Kimberly H. Novotny (1972) Vice President and Assistant Secretary Since 2013
 300 S.E. 2nd Street
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; Vice President and Corporate Secretary, Fiduciary Trust International of the South; Vice President, Templeton Investment Counsel, LLC; Assistant Secretary, Franklin Resources, Inc.; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.
Mark H. Otani (1968) Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer and Treasurer Since 2009
 One Franklin Parkway
 San Mateo, CA 94403-1906

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Treasurer, U.S. Fund Administration & Reporting, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of 14 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.
 Chief Compliance Officer Since 2013

Robert C. Rosselot (1960)
 300 S.E. 2nd Street
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Director, Global Compliance, Franklin Templeton Investments; Vice President, Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC; officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments; and **formerly**, Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments (2007–2013); and Secretary and Vice President, Templeton Group of Funds (2004–2013).

Karen L. Skidmore (1952)	Vice President and	Since 2009
One Franklin Parkway		
San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Assistant Secretary	

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

Navid J. Tofigh (1972)	Vice President and	Since 2015
One Franklin Parkway		
San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Assistant Secretary	

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

Craig S. Tyle (1960)	Vice President and	Since 2005
One Franklin Parkway		
San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Assistant Secretary	

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

General Counsel and Executive Vice President, Franklin Resources, Inc.; and officer of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

Lori A. Weber (1964)	Vice President and	Vice President since 2011 and
300 S.E. 2 nd Street		Secretary since 2013
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Secretary	

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:

Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; Assistant Secretary, Franklin Resources, Inc.; Vice President and Secretary, Templeton Investment Counsel, LLC; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

PROPOSAL 2: RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

How are independent auditors selected?

The Board has a standing Audit Committee currently comprised of David W. Niemiec (Chairman), Ann Torre Bates, J. Michael Luttig and Constantine D. Tseretopoulos, all of whom are Independent Directors and considered to be “independent” as that term is defined by the NYSE’s listing standards. The Audit Committee is responsible for the appointment, compensation and retention of the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm (“independent auditors”), including evaluating their independence, recommending the selection of the Fund’s independent auditors to the full Board, and meeting with such independent auditors to consider and review matters relating to the Fund’s financial reports and internal controls.

Which independent auditors did the Board select?

The Audit Committee and the Board have selected the firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) as the independent auditors for the Fund for the current fiscal year. PwC has examined and reported on the fiscal year-end financial statements dated December 31, 2016, and certain related SEC filings. You are being asked to ratify the Board’s selection of PwC for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. Services to be performed by the independent auditors include examining and reporting on the fiscal year-end financial statements of the Fund and certain related filings with the SEC.

The selection of PwC as the independent auditors for the Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, was recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board on February 28, 2017. PwC’s reports on the financial statements of the Fund for the fiscal years for which it has served as auditors did not contain an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion, nor were qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

The Audit Committee and the Board have been advised by PwC that neither PwC nor any of its members have any material direct or indirect financial interest in the Fund. Representatives of PwC are not expected to be present at the Meeting, but will have the opportunity to make a statement if they wish, and will be available should any matter arise requiring their presence.

AUDITOR INFORMATION

Audit Fees. The aggregate fees paid to PwC for professional services rendered by PwC for the audit of the Fund’s annual financial statements or for services that are normally provided by PwC in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements were \$51,049 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and \$51,017 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

Audit-Related Fees. The aggregate fees paid to PwC for assurance and related services rendered by PwC to the Fund that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit of the Fund’s financial statements and not reported under “Audit Fees” above were \$6,817 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and \$6,683 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. The services for which these fees were paid included attestation services.

In addition, the Audit Committee pre-approves PwC’s engagement for audit-related services to be provided to the Investment Manager and certain entities controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the

Investment Manager that provides ongoing services to the Fund, which engagements are reasonably related to the performance of the audit of the financial statements. For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016, and December 31, 2015, there were no fees paid to PwC for such services.

Tax Fees. There were no fees paid to PwC for professional services rendered by PwC to the Fund for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning (“tax services”) for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016, and December 31, 2015.

In addition, the Audit Committee pre-approves PwC’s engagement for tax services to be provided to the Investment Manager and certain entities controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investment Manager that provide ongoing services to the Fund, which engagements relate directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund. For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016, and December 31, 2015, there were no fees paid to PwC for such services.

All Other Fees. The aggregate fees paid for products and services provided by PwC to the Fund, other than the services reported above, were \$0 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and \$230 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. The services for which these fees were paid include review of materials provided to the Board in connection with the investment management contract renewal process.

In addition, the Audit Committee pre-approves PwC’s engagement for other services to be provided to the Investment Manager and certain entities controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investment Manager that provide ongoing services to the Fund, which engagements relate directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund. The fees for these services were \$0 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and \$10,053 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. The services for which these fees were paid include review of materials provided to the Board in connection with the investment management contract renewal process and certifying assets under management.

Aggregate Non-Audit Fees. The aggregate fees paid to PwC for non-audit services provided by PwC to the Fund or to the Investment Manager and to any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investment Manager that provides ongoing services to the Fund, which engagements relate directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund, were \$6,817 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and \$16,966 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. The aggregate non-audit fees for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, include the amounts shown under *Audit-Related Fees* (\$6,817); *Tax Fees* (\$0) (including services provided to the Investment Manager and its control entities (\$0)); and *All Other Fees* (\$0) (including services provided to the Investment Manager and its control entities (\$0)).

The Audit Committee has determined that the provision of the non-audit services that were rendered to the Investment Manager and to any entities controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investment Manager that provide ongoing services to the Fund is compatible with maintaining PwC’s independence.

Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures. As of the date of this proxy statement, the Audit Committee has not adopted written pre-approval policies and procedures within the meaning of Regulation S-X. As a result, all such services described above and provided by PwC must be directly pre-approved by the Audit Committee or by a designated member of the Audit Committee.

Audit Committee Charter. The Board has adopted and approved a formal written charter for the Audit Committee which sets forth the Audit Committee's responsibilities. A copy of the charter is attached as Exhibit B to this proxy statement.

As required by the charter, the Audit Committee reviewed the Fund's audited financial statements and met with management, as well as with PwC, the Fund's independent auditors, to discuss the financial statements.

Audit Committee Report. The Audit Committee received the written disclosures and the letter from PwC required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") regarding PwC's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee also received the report of PwC regarding the results of their audit. In connection with the Audit Committee's review of the financial statements and PwC's report, the members of the Audit Committee discussed with a representative of PwC, PwC's independence, as well as the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 1301, Communications with Audit Committees, issued by the PCAOB, including the following: PwC's responsibilities in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards; PwC's responsibilities for information prepared by management that accompanies the Fund's audited financial statements and any procedures performed and the results; the initial selection of, and whether there were any changes in, significant accounting policies or their application; management's judgments and accounting estimates; whether there were any significant audit adjustments; whether there were any disagreements with management; whether there was any consultation with other accountants; whether there were any major issues discussed with management prior to PwC's retention; whether the auditors encountered any difficulties in dealing with management in performing the audit; and PwC's judgments about the quality of the Fund's accounting principles.

Based on its review and discussions with management and PwC, the Audit Committee did not become aware of any material misstatements or omissions in the financial statements. Accordingly, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Fund's Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, for filing with the SEC.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

David W. Niemiec (Chairman)

Ann Torre Bates

J. Michael Luttig

Constantine D. Tseretopoulos

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Role in Risk Oversight. The Board, as a whole, considers risk management issues as part of its general oversight responsibilities throughout the year at regular Board meetings, through regular reports that have been developed by management in consultation with the Board and its counsel. These reports address certain investment, valuation and compliance matters. The Board also may receive special written reports or presentations on a variety of risk issues, either upon the Board's request or upon the Investment Manager's initiative. In addition, the Audit Committee of the Board meets regularly with the Investment Manager's internal audit group to review reports on their examinations of functions and processes within Franklin Templeton Investments that affect the Fund.

With respect to investment risk, the Board receives regular written reports describing and analyzing the investment performance of the Fund. In addition, the portfolio managers of the Fund meet regularly with the Board to discuss portfolio performance, including investment risk. To the extent that the Fund changes a particular investment strategy that could have a material impact on the Fund's risk profile, the Board generally is consulted with respect to such change. To the extent that the Fund invests in certain complex securities, including derivatives, the Board receives periodic reports containing information about exposure of the Fund to such instruments. In addition, the Investment Manager's investment risk personnel meet regularly with the Board to discuss a variety of issues, including the impact on the Fund of the investment in particular securities or instruments, such as derivatives and commodities, if applicable.

With respect to valuation, the Fund's administrator provides regular written reports to the Board that enable the Board to monitor the number of fair valued securities in the Fund's portfolio, the reasons for the fair valuation and the methodology used to arrive at the fair value. Such reports also include information concerning illiquid securities within the Fund's portfolio. The Board also reviews dispositional analysis information on the sale of securities that require special valuation considerations such as illiquid or fair valued securities. In addition, the Fund's Audit Committee reviews valuation procedures and results with the Fund's independent auditors in connection with the Committee's review of the results of the audit of the Fund's year-end financial statements.

With respect to compliance risks, the Board receives regular compliance reports prepared by the Investment Manager's compliance group and meets regularly with the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") to discuss compliance issues, including compliance risks. In accordance with SEC rules, the Independent Directors meet regularly in executive session with the CCO and the CCO prepares and presents an annual written compliance report to the Board. The Fund's Board adopts compliance policies and procedures for the Fund and approves these procedures for the Fund's service providers. The compliance policies and procedures are specifically designed to detect and prevent violations of the federal securities laws.

The Investment Manager periodically provides an enterprise risk management presentation to the Board to describe the way in which risk is managed on a complex-wide level. The presentation covers such areas as investment risk, reputational risk, personnel risk, and business continuity risk.

Board Structure. Seventy-five percent or more of the Fund's Board members consist of Independent Directors who are not deemed to be "interested persons" by reason of their relationship with the Fund's management or otherwise as provided under the 1940 Act. While the Chairman of the Board is an interested person, the Board is also served by a Lead Independent Director. The Lead Independent Director, together with independent counsel, reviews proposed agendas for Board meetings and generally acts as a liaison with Fund management with respect to questions and issues raised by the Independent Directors. The Lead Independent Director also presides at separate meetings of Independent Directors held in advance of each scheduled Board meeting where various matters, including those being considered at such Board meeting, are discussed. It is believed such structure and activities assure that proper consideration is given at Board meetings to matters deemed important to the Fund and its shareholders.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND

The Investment Manager. The Investment Manager of the Fund is Templeton Asset Management Ltd.— Hong Kong Branch, a Singapore company with a branch office at The Chater House, 17th Floor, 8 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong. Pursuant to an investment management agreement, the Investment Manager manages the investment and reinvestment of Fund assets. The Investment Manager is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Resources.

The Administrator. The administrator of the Fund is Franklin Templeton Services, LLC (“FT Services”), with offices at 300 S.E. 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1923. FT Services is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Resources and an affiliate of the Investment Manager. Pursuant to a subcontract for administrative services, FT Services performs certain administrative functions for the Fund.

The Transfer Agent. The transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursement agent for the Fund is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, 6201 15th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

The Custodian. The custodian for the Fund is JPMorgan Chase Bank, 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017-2070.

Other Matters. The Fund’s latest audited financial statements and annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, are available free of charge. To obtain a copy, please call (800) DIAL BEN®/342-5236 or forward a written request to Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, P.O. Box 33030, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-8030.

Principal Shareholders. As of April 4, 2017, the Fund had 34,252,480 shares outstanding and total net assets of \$719,281,531.28. The Fund’s shares are listed on the NYSE (NYSE: TDF). From time to time, the number of shares held in “street name” accounts of various securities dealers for the benefit of their clients may exceed 5% of the total shares outstanding. To the knowledge of the Fund’s management, as of April 4, 2017, there were no other entities holding beneficially or of record more than 5% of the Fund’s outstanding shares, except as shown in the following table:

Name and Address of Beneficial Ownership	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Outstanding Shares
City of London Investment Group PLC.....	10,529,472 *	30.74 %
City of London Investment Management Company Limited		
77 Gracechurch Street		
London EC3U 0AS		
England		

* The nature of beneficial ownership is shared voting and dispositive power as reported on Form 13D, filed with the SEC on March 27, 2017.

Lazard Asset Management Limited.....	3,626,072 **	10.59 %
Lazard Asset Management LLC		

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, NY 10112

** The nature of beneficial ownership is sole voting and dispositive power as reported on Form 13G/A, filed with the SEC on February 10, 2017.

Name and Address of Beneficial Ownership	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Outstanding Shares
Wells Fargo & Company.....	2,848,146 ***	8.32 %
Wells Fargo & Company		
420 Montgomery Street		
San Francisco, CA 94163		

*** The nature of beneficial ownership is shared voting and dispositive power as reported on Form 13G, filed with the SEC on January 27, 2017.

In addition, to the knowledge of the Fund’s management, as of April 4, 2017, no nominee or Director of the Fund owned 1% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund, and the Directors and officers of the Fund owned, as a group, less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

Contacting the Board of Directors. If a shareholder wishes to send a communication to the Board, such correspondence should be in writing and addressed to the Board of Directors at the Fund’s offices, 300 S.E. 2^d Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1923, Attention: Secretary. The correspondence will be given to the Board for review and consideration.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING AND THE MEETING

Solicitation of Proxies. Your vote is being solicited by the Directors. The cost of soliciting proxies, including the fees of a proxy soliciting agent, is borne by the Fund. The Fund reimburses brokerage firms and others for their reasonable expenses in forwarding proxy material to the beneficial owners and soliciting them to execute proxies/voting instruction forms. In addition, the Fund may retain a professional proxy solicitation firm to assist with any necessary solicitation of proxies. The Fund expects that the solicitation would be primarily by mail, but also may include telephone, facsimile, electronic or other means of communication. If the Fund does not receive your proxy by a certain time, you may receive a telephone call from a proxy soliciting agent asking you to vote. If professional proxy solicitors are retained, it is expected that soliciting fees would be approximately \$5,000, plus expenses. The Fund does not reimburse Directors and officers of the Fund, or regular employees and agents of the Investment Manager involved in the solicitation of proxies. The Fund intends to pay all costs associated with the solicitation and the Meeting.

Voting by Broker-Dealers. The Fund expects that, before the Meeting, broker-dealer firms holding shares of the Fund in “street name” for their customers will request voting instructions from their customers and beneficial owners. If these instructions are not received by the date specified in the broker-dealer firms’ proxy solicitation materials, the Fund understands that current NYSE Rules permit the broker-dealers to vote on the Proposals on behalf of their customers and beneficial owners. Certain broker-dealers may exercise discretion over shares held in their name for which no instructions are received by voting these shares in the same proportion as they vote shares for which they received instructions.

Quorum. A majority of the Fund’s shares entitled to vote at the Meeting—present in person or represented by proxy—constitutes a quorum at the Meeting. The shares over which broker-dealers have discretionary voting power, the shares that represent “broker non-votes” (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have

discretionary voting power on a particular matter), and the shares whose proxies reflect an abstention on any item will all be counted as shares present and entitled to vote at the Meeting for purposes of determining whether the required quorum of shares exists.

Method of Tabulation. Provided a quorum is present or represented at the Meeting, Proposal 1, the election of Directors, requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a plurality of the Fund's shares present (in person or represented by proxy) and voting on the Proposal at the Meeting. Proposal 2, ratification of the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm, requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated as votes present at the Meeting, but will not be treated as votes cast and, therefore, will not be counted for purposes of obtaining approval of either proposal.

Adjournment. The holders of a majority of shares entitled to vote at the Meeting and present in person or by proxy, whether or not sufficient to constitute a quorum, or any officer present entitled to preside or act as Secretary of the Meeting may adjourn the Meeting. Such authority to adjourn the Meeting may be used in the event that a quorum is not present at the Meeting or in the event that a quorum is present but sufficient votes have not been received to approve the Proposals or to permit further solicitation of proxies or for any other reason consistent with Maryland law and the Fund's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. Unless otherwise instructed by a shareholder granting a proxy, the persons designated as proxies may use their discretionary authority to vote as instructed by management of the Fund on questions of adjournment and on any other proposals raised at the Meeting to the extent permitted by the SEC's proxy rules, including proposals for which management of the Fund did not have timely notice, as set forth in the SEC's proxy rules and the Fund's proxy statement for the 2016 annual meeting.

Shareholder Proposals. The Fund anticipates that its 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on or about May 30, 2018. A shareholder who wishes to submit a proposal for consideration for inclusion in the Fund's proxy statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must send such written proposal to the Fund's offices, at 300 S.E. 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1923, Attention: Secretary, so that it is received no later than December 22, 2017, in order to be included in the Fund's proxy statement and proxy card relating to that meeting and presented at the meeting.

A shareholder of the Fund who has not submitted a written proposal for inclusion in the Fund's proxy statement by December 22, 2017, as described above, may nonetheless present a proposal at the Fund's 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders if such shareholder notifies the Fund in writing, at the Fund's offices, of such proposal by March 7, 2018. If a shareholder fails to give notice by this date, then the persons designated as proxies for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders may exercise discretionary voting power with respect to any such proposal.

A shareholder proposal may be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders only if such proposal concerns a matter that may be properly brought before the meeting under applicable federal proxy rules and state law.

Submission of a proposal by a shareholder does not guarantee that the proposal will be included in the Fund's proxy statement or presented at the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Lori A. Weber

Vice President and Secretary

April 21, 2017

EXHIBIT A

TEMPLETON FUNDS NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHARTER

I. The Committee.

The Nominating Committee (the “Committee”) is a committee of, and established by, the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Fund (the “Board”). The Committee consists of such number of members as set by the Board from time to time and its members shall be selected by the Board. The Committee shall be comprised entirely of “independent members.” For purposes of this Charter, independent members shall mean members who are not interested persons of the Fund (“Disinterested Board members”) as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”).

II. Board Nominations and Functions.

1. The Committee shall make recommendations for nominations for Disinterested Board members on the Board to the incumbent Disinterested Board members and to the full Board. The Committee shall evaluate candidates’ qualifications for Board membership and the independence of such candidates from the Fund’s investment manager and other principal service providers. Persons selected must be independent in terms of both the letter and the spirit of the 1940 Act. The Committee shall also consider the effect of any relationships beyond those delineated in the 1940 Act that might impair independence, e.g., business, financial or family relationships with investment managers or service providers.

2. The Committee also shall evaluate candidates’ qualifications and make recommendations for “interested” members on the Board to the full Board.

3. The Committee may adopt from time to time specific, minimum qualifications that the Committee believes a candidate must meet before being considered as a candidate for Board membership and shall comply with any rules adopted from time to time by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission regarding investment company nominating committees and the nomination of persons to be considered as candidates for Board membership.

4. The Committee shall review shareholder recommendations for nominations to fill vacancies on the Board if such recommendations are submitted in writing and addressed to the Committee at the Fund’s offices. The Committee shall adopt, by resolution, a policy regarding its procedures for considering candidates for the Board, including any recommended by shareholders.

III. Committee Nominations and Functions.

The Committee shall make recommendations to the full Board for nomination for membership on all committees of the Board.

IV. Other Powers and Responsibilities.

1. The Committee shall meet at least once each year or more frequently in open or executive sessions. The Committee may invite members of management, counsel, advisers and others to

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attend its meetings as it deems appropriate. The Committee shall have separate sessions with management and others, as and when it deems appropriate.

2. The Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities, including authority to retain special counsel and other experts or consultants at the expense of the Fund.
3. The Committee shall report its activities to the Board and make such recommendations as the Committee may deem necessary or appropriate.
4. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Committee. The action of a majority of the members of the Committee present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the action of the Committee. The Committee may meet in person or by telephone, and the Committee may act by written consent, to the extent permitted by law and by the Fund's by-laws. In the event of any inconsistency between this Charter and the Fund's organizational documents, the provisions of the Fund's organizational documents shall be given precedence.
5. The Committee shall review this Charter at least annually and recommend any changes to the full Board.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT FOR CLOSED-END FUNDS ONLY

The Committee shall comply with any rules of any stock exchange, if any, applicable to nominating committees of closed-end funds whose shares are registered thereon.

EXHIBIT B

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON INVESTMENTS AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

I. The Committee.

The Audit Committee (“Committee”) is a committee of, and established by, the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Fund (the “Board”).¹ The Committee shall consist of such number of members as set by the Board from time to time, but in no event fewer than three (NYSE-listed Funds only), and its members shall be selected by the Board. The Committee shall be comprised entirely of members who satisfy the requirements for independence set out in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “1934 Act”) (“Disinterested Board members”).² Each member of the Committee must be financially literate, as such qualification is interpreted by the Board in its business judgment, or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Committee. At least one member of the Committee must be an “audit committee financial expert,” as determined by the Board and as defined in Item 3(b) of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) Form N-CSR. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board for its approval with respect to such audit committee financial expert determinations at least annually.

If a Committee member of an NYSE-listed Fund simultaneously serves on the audit committee of more than three public companies, the Board must determine that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such member to effectively serve on the Fund’s Committee. When a member serves on multiple boards in the same fund complex, such service will be counted as one board for these purposes (NYSE-listed Funds only).

II. Purposes of the Committee.

The function of the Committee is to assist Board oversight of the Fund’s financial statements and accounting and auditing processes, which shall include being directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm (“auditors”) engaged (including resolution of disagreements between management and the auditors regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Fund. It is management’s responsibility to prepare the Fund’s financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal controls. It is the auditors’ responsibility to express an opinion on the Fund’s financial statements, to plan and carry out an audit in accordance with the standards of the SEC and the Public Company

¹ This document serves as the Charter for the Committee of each U.S. registered investment company (a “Fund”) within Franklin Templeton Investments, and each series thereof as applicable, including certain Exchange-listed Funds included on Appendix A hereto.

² Each member of the Committee may not, other than in his or her capacity as a member of the Committee, the Board, or any other Board committee: (A) accept directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fee from the Fund or any subsidiary thereof, provided that, unless the rules of the applicable national securities exchange or national securities association provide otherwise, compensatory fees do not include the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with the Fund (provided that such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service); or (B) be an “interested

person” of the Fund as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

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Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) and to report directly to the Committee. It is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Fund’s financial statements are complete and in accordance with GAAP.

Consistent with such allocation of functions, the purposes of the Committee are:

- (a) To oversee the Fund’s accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and its internal controls, and to obtain, where it deems appropriate, reports on internal controls of service providers to the Fund;
- (b) To oversee or, as appropriate, assist Board oversight of the quality, objectivity and integrity of the Fund’s financial statements and the independent audit thereof;
- (c) To oversee or, as appropriate, assist Board oversight of the Fund’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements (primarily as they relate to the Fund’s accounting and financial reporting, internal control over financial reporting and independent audits);
- (d) To approve prior to appointment the engagement of the Fund’s auditors and, in connection therewith, to review and evaluate the auditors’ qualifications, independence and performance, taking into account the opinions of management;
- (e) To act as a liaison between the Fund’s auditors and the Board;
- (f) to prepare, or authorize the preparation of, the disclosure required by Item 407(d)(3)(i) of Regulation S-K (the “Audit Committee Report”) for inclusion in the Fund’s annual proxy statement (NYSE-and NYSE MKT-listed Funds only); and
- (g) To consider such other matters as it deems appropriate in carrying out its purpose and any other matters that may be assigned to it by the Board.

In addition, the Committee shall serve as the Fund’s Qualified Legal Compliance Committee (“QLCC”) pursuant to Section 205 of the SEC’s Standards of Professional Conduct for Attorneys Appearing and Practicing before the Commission in the Representation of an Issuer (the “Standards”). In this capacity, the Committee is required to adopt and maintain written procedures for the confidential receipt, retention and consideration of any report of evidence of a material violation. “Evidence of a material violation” means credible evidence, based upon which it would be unreasonable, under the circumstances, for a prudent and competent attorney not to conclude that it is reasonably likely that a material violation of an applicable U.S. federal or state securities law, a material breach of fiduciary (or similar) duty to the Fund arising under U.S. federal or state law, or a similar material violation of any U.S. federal or state law has occurred, is ongoing, or is about to occur.

III. Powers and Duties.

The Committee shall have the following powers and duties to carry out its purposes:

- (a) To select the auditors, subject to approval both by the Board and by a separate vote of the Disinterested Board members, and, in connection therewith, to evaluate the independence and qualifications of the auditors in accordance with applicable federal securities laws and regulations and the rules and standards of the PCAOB.

(b) To be directly responsible for approving the services to be provided by, and the compensation of, the auditors, including:

(i) pre-approval of all audit and audit related services;

(ii) pre-approval of all non-audit related services to be provided to the Fund by the auditors;

(iii) pre-approval of all non-audit related services to be provided by the auditors to the Fund's investment adviser or to any entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the Fund's investment adviser and that provides ongoing services to the Fund where the non-audit services relate directly to the operations or financial reporting of the Fund; and

(iv) if deemed necessary or appropriate, as an alternative to Committee pre-approval of services to be provided by the auditors, as required by paragraphs (ii) and (iii) above:

(A) establishment by the Committee of policies and procedures to pre-approve such services, provided the policies and procedures are detailed as to the particular service and the Committee is informed of each service and such policies and procedures do not include delegation of audit committee responsibilities, as contemplated under the 1934 Act), to management; or

(B) delegation by the Committee to one or more designated members of the Committee who are Disinterested Board members of authority to pre-approve such services, provided the Committee is informed of the decisions of any member pursuant to such delegated authority no later than its next scheduled meeting;

subject, in the case of (ii) through (iv), to any waivers, exceptions or exemptions that may be available under applicable law or rules.

(c) To meet with the auditors, including private meetings, as necessary to (i) review the arrangements for and scope of the annual audit and any special audits; (ii) discuss any matters or concerns relating to the Fund's financial statements, including any recorded and/or unrecorded adjustments to such statements recommended by the auditors, or other results of audits; (iii) consider the auditors' comments with respect to the Fund's financial, accounting and reporting policies, procedures and internal controls and management's responses thereto; and (iv) to review the form of opinion the auditors propose to render.

(d) To meet to review and discuss the Fund's annual audited financial statements with management and the auditors, including reviewing the Fund's disclosures under "Management's Discussion of Fund Performance" ("MDFP") in its annual shareholder report (All Funds). To meet to review and discuss the Fund's semi-annual financial statements with management, including reviewing the Fund's MDFP disclosures in its semi-annual shareholder report, as applicable (NYSE-listed Funds and New Jersey/Alternative Strategies Funds only). Such meetings may be telephonic.

(e) To consider the effect upon the Fund of any changes in accounting principles or practices proposed by management or the auditors.

(f) To receive and consider reports from the auditors:

(i) as required by generally accepted accounting standards, including Auditing Standard ("AS") No. 1301 (Communications with Audit Committees) (formerly, AS No. 16);

- (ii) annually and by update as required by SEC Regulation S-X, regarding:
 - (A) all critical accounting policies and practices of the Fund to be used;
 - (B) all alternative treatments within GAAP for policies and practices related to material items that have been discussed with management of the Fund, including ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the auditors;
 - (C) other material written communications between the auditors and management of the Fund, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences; and
 - (D) all non-audit services provided to any entity in an investment company complex, as defined in SEC Regulation S-X, that were not pre-approved by the Committee pursuant to SEC Regulation S-X;
- (iii) at least annually regarding the auditors' internal quality-control procedures; and
- (iv) at least annually regarding any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the auditors, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the auditors, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues.
- (g) To review (i) major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the Fund's selection or application of accounting principles, and major issues as to the adequacy of the Fund's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies; and (ii) analyses prepared by management and/or the auditors setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the financial statements.
- (h) In considering the independence of the auditors:
 - (i) at least annually to receive from the auditors a formal written statement, and other reports as necessary, describing all relationships between the auditors and the Fund, the Fund's investment adviser and service providers, and other entities advised or serviced by, including any entities controlling, controlled by or under common control with, the investment adviser or any other service providers to the Fund that, in the auditors' judgment, could be thought to bear upon the auditors' independence;
 - (ii) to receive and consider, if applicable, periodic reports from the auditors regarding whether the provision of non-audit services (including tax services) is compatible with maintaining the auditors' independence;
 - (iii) to request from the auditors a written affirmation that they are independent auditors under the federal securities laws and standards adopted by the PCAOB; and
 - (iv) to discuss with the auditors any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity, impartial judgment, and independence of the auditors and for taking, or recommending that the Board take, appropriate action to oversee the independence of the auditors.

- (i) To require that the auditors regularly provide timely information to the Committee with respect to new rules and pronouncements by applicable regulatory and accounting standards agencies, along with an explanation of how such developments may affect the Fund's financial statements and accounting principles and practices.
- (j) To review the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, on the financial statements of the Fund.
- (k) To consider any reports of audit problems or difficulties that may have arisen during the course of the audit, including any limitations of the scope of the audit, and management's response thereto.
- (l) To review communications from the Fund's Chief Executive Officer—Finance and Administration, and Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer concerning (i) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Fund's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and (ii) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Fund's internal controls over financial reporting, and to review requested communications from management for any other purposes the Committee deems appropriate.
- (m) In connection with the preparation of the Audit Committee Report (NYSE and NYSE MKT-listed Funds only):
 - (i) to review and discuss the audited financial statements of the Fund with management;
 - (ii) to discuss with the auditors the matters required to be discussed by the statement on AS No. 16, as amended;
 - (iii) to receive the written disclosures and the letter(s) from the auditors required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the auditor's communications with the Committee concerning independence (referred to in paragraph (h) above), and discuss with the auditors the auditor's independence; and
 - (iv) based on the review and discussions referred to in paragraphs (i) through (iii) above, to recommend to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Fund's annual report on Form N-CSR for the last fiscal year for filing with the SEC.
- (n) To review and discuss, as appropriate, the Fund's earnings press releases (including the type and presentation of information to be included therein, paying particular attention to any use of "pro forma," or "adjusted" non-GAAP, information), as well as any financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. (NYSE-listed Funds only)
- (o) To review and discuss the Fund's processes with respect