NUVEEN REAL ESTATE INCOME FUND Form PRE 14A April 25, 2008

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant þ

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

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

Nuveen Real Estate Income Fund (JRS)

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

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- b No fee required.
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 - 2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
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 - 4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
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- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
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 - 1) Amount Previously Paid:
 - 2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - 3) Filing Party:
 - 4) Date Filed:

333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, Illinois 60606 (800) 257-8787 Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders June 30, 2008

, 2008

Nuveen New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (NAN) Nuveen New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund 2 (NXK) Nuveen New York Investment Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (NQN) Nuveen New York Municipal Value Fund, Inc. (NNY) Nuveen New York Performance Plus Municipal Fund, Inc. (NNP) Nuveen New York Quality Income Municipal Fund, Inc. (NUN) Nuveen New York Select Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (NVN) Nuveen Insured Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (NVG) Nuveen Insured Municipal Opportunity Fund, Inc. (NIO) Nuveen Insured Premium Income Municipal Fund 2 (NPX) Nuveen Insured Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (NQI) Nuveen Insured Tax-Free Advantage Municipal Fund (NEA) Nuveen Insured New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (NKO) Nuveen Insured New York Premium Income Municipal Fund, Inc. (NNF) Nuveen Insured New York Tax-Free Advantage Municipal Fund (NRK) Nuveen Premier Insured Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (NIF) Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (JCE) Nuveen Real Estate Income Fund (JRS) Nuveen Diversified Dividend and Income Fund (JDD) Nuveen Equity Premium and Growth Fund (JPG) Nuveen Equity Premium Advantage Fund (JLA) **Nuveen Equity Premium Income Fund (JPZ) Nuveen Equity Premium Opportunity Fund (JSN) Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund (JTP)** Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund 2 (JPS) **Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund 3 (JHP)** Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund (JTA) Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Dividend Growth Fund (JTD) Nuveen Global Government Enhanced Income Fund (JGG) Nuveen Global Value Opportunities Fund (JGV) Nuveen Multi-Currency Short-Term Government Income Fund (JGT) Nuveen Multi-Strategy Income and Growth Fund (JPC) Nuveen Multi-Strategy Income and Growth Fund 2 (JQC)

To the Shareholders of the Above Funds:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of each of Nuveen New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (New York Dividend), Nuveen New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund 2 (New York Dividend 2), Nuveen Insured Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (Insured Dividend Advantage), Nuveen Insured Premium Income Municipal Fund 2 (Insured Premium Income 2), Nuveen Insured Tax-Free Advantage Municipal Fund (Insured Tax-Free Advantage), Nuveen Insured New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (Insured New York Dividend), Nuveen Insured New York Tax-Free Advantage Municipal Fund (Insured New York Tax-Free), Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (Core Equity), Nuveen Real Estate Income Fund (Real Estate), Nuveen Diversified Dividend and Income Fund (Diversified Dividend), Nuveen Equity Premium and Growth Fund (Equity Premium), Nuveen Equity Premium Advantage Fund (Equity Premium Advantage), Nuveen Equity Premium Income Fund (Equity Premium Income), Nuveen Equity Premium Opportunity Fund (Equity Premium Opportunity), Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund (Quality Preferred), Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund 2 (Quality Preferred 2), Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund 3 (Quality Preferred 3), Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund (Tax-Advantaged), Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Dividend Growth Fund (Tax-Advantaged Dividend), Nuveen Global Government Enhanced Income Fund (Global Government), Nuveen Global Value Opportunities Fund (Global Value), Nuveen Multi-Currency Short-Term Government Income Fund (Multi-Currency), Nuveen Multi-Strategy Income and Growth Fund (Multi-Strategy) and Nuveen Multi-Strategy Income and Growth Fund 2 (Multi-Strategy 2), each a Massachusetts Business Trust, and Nuveen New York Investment Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (New York Investment Quality), Nuveen New York Municipal Value Fund, Inc. (New York Value), Nuveen New York Performance Plus Municipal Fund, Inc. (New York Performance Plus), Nuveen New York Quality Income Municipal Fund, Inc. (New York Quality), Nuveen New York Select Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (New York Select), Nuveen Insured Municipal Opportunity Fund, Inc. (Insured Municipal Opportunity), Nuveen Insured Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (Insured Quality), Nuveen Premier Insured Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (Premier Insured) and Nuveen Insured New York Premium Income Municipal Fund, Inc. (Insured New York Premium), each a Minnesota Corporation (individually, a Fund and collectively, the Funds), will be held [in the 31st Floor Conference Room] of Nuveen Investments, 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, on Monday, June 30, 2008, at a.m., Central time (for each Fund, an Annual Meeting), for the following purposes and to transact such other business, if any, as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Matters to Be Voted on by Shareholders:

- 1. To elect Members to the Board of Directors/Trustees (each a Board and each Director or Trustee a Board Member) of each Fund as outlined below:
 - a. For each Massachusetts Business Trust, except Core Equity, Equity Premium, Equity Premium Advantage, Equity Premium Income, Equity Premium Opportunity, Global Government, Global Value Multi-Currency, to elect four (4) Board Members.
 - i) two (2) Class II Board Members to be elected by the holders of Common Shares and FundPreferred shares for Quality Preferred, Quality Preferred 2, Quality Preferred 3, Real Estate, Diversified Dividend, Tax-Advantaged, Multi-Strategy and Multi-

Strategy 2; and Municipal Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares for each other Fund (collectively, Preferred Shares), voting together as a single class; and

- ii) two (2) Board Members to be elected by the holders of Preferred Shares only, voting separately as a single class.
- b. For Core Equity, Equity Premium, Equity Premium Advantage, Equity Premium Income, Equity Premium Opportunity, Global Government, Global Value and Multi-Currency to elect two (2) Class II Board Members and one (1) Class I Board Member.
- c. For each Minnesota Corporation, except New York Value, to elect eight (8) Board Members.
 - i) six (6) Board Members to be elected by the holders of Common Shares and Preferred Shares, voting together as a single class; and
 - ii) two (2) Board Members to be elected by the holders of Preferred Shares only, voting separately as a single class.
- d. For New York Value, to elect two (2) Class II Board Members and one (1) Class I Board Member.
- 2. To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for Core Equity.
- 3. To approve the elimination of fundamental investment policies and to approve a new fundamental investment policy for Insured New York Premium, Insured Premium Income 2, Insured Municipal Opportunity, Premier Insured, Insured Quality, New York Quality, New York Select, Insured New York Tax-Free, Insured Dividend Advantage, Insured Tax-Free Advantage, New York Investment Quality and Insured New York Dividend.
- 4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting. Shareholders of record at the close of business on May 2, 2008 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.

All shareholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. In order to avoid delay and additional expense and to assure that your shares are represented, please vote as promptly as possible, regardless of whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting. You may vote by mail, telephone or over the Internet. To vote by mail, please mark, sign, date and mail the enclosed proxy card. No postage is required if mailed in the United States. To vote by telephone, please call the toll-free number located on your proxy card and follow the recorded instructions, using your proxy card as a guide. To vote over the Internet, go to the Internet address provided on your proxy card and follow the instructions, using your proxy card as a guide.

Kevin J. McCarthy Vice President and Secretary 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, Illinois 60606 (800) 257-8787 **Joint Proxy Statement**

, 2008

This Joint Proxy Statement is first being mailed to shareholders on or about , 2008.

Nuveen New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (NAN) Nuveen New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund 2 (NXK) Nuveen New York Investment Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (NQN) Nuveen New York Municipal Value Fund, Inc. (NNY) Nuveen New York Performance Plus Municipal Fund, Inc. (NNP) Nuveen New York Quality Income Municipal Fund, Inc. (NUN) Nuveen New York Select Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (NVN) Nuveen Insured Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (NVG) Nuveen Insured Municipal Opportunity Fund, Inc. (NIO) **Nuveen Insured Premium Income Municipal Fund 2 (NPX)** Nuveen Insured Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (NQI) Nuveen Insured Tax-Free Advantage Municipal Fund (NEA) Nuveen Insured New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (NKO) Nuveen Insured New York Premium Income Municipal Fund, Inc. (NNF) Nuveen Insured New York Tax-Free Advantage Municipal Fund (NRK) Nuveen Premier Insured Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (NIF) Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (JCE) Nuveen Real Estate Income Fund (JRS) Nuveen Diversified Dividend and Income Fund (JDD) Nuveen Equity Premium and Growth Fund (JPG) Nuveen Equity Premium Advantage Fund (JLA) **Nuveen Equity Premium Income Fund (JPZ) Nuveen Equity Premium Opportunity Fund (JSN) Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund (JTP)** Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund 2 (JPS) **Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund 3 (JHP)** Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund (JTA) Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Dividend Growth Fund (JTD) **Nuveen Global Government Enhanced Income Fund (JGG)** Nuveen Global Value Opportunities Fund (JGV) Nuveen Multi-Currency Short-Term Government Income Fund (JGT)

Nuveen Multi-Strategy Income and Growth Fund (JPC) Nuveen Multi-Strategy Income and Growth Fund 2 (JQC)

General Information

This Joint Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors or Trustees (each a Board and collectively, the Boards, and each Director or Trustee a Board Member and collectively, the Board Members) of each of Nuveen New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (New York Dividend), Nuveen New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund 2 (New York Dividend 2), Nuveen Insured Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (Insured Dividend Advantage), Nuveen Insured Premium Income Municipal Fund 2 (Insured Premium Income 2), Nuveen Insured Tax-Free Advantage Municipal Fund (Insured Tax-Free Advantage), Nuveen Insured New York Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund (Insured New York Dividend), Nuveen Insured New York Tax-Free Advantage Municipal Fund (Insured New York Tax-Free), Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (Core Equity), Nuveen Real Estate Income Fund (Real Estate), Nuveen Diversified Dividend and Income Fund (Diversified Dividend), Nuveen Equity Premium and Growth Fund (Equity Premium), Nuveen Equity Premium Advantage Fund (Equity Premium Advantage), Nuveen Equity Premium Income Fund (Equity Premium Income), Nuveen Equity Premium Opportunity Fund (Equity Premium Opportunity), Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund (Quality Preferred), Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund 2 (Quality Preferred 2), Nuveen Quality Preferred Income Fund 3 (Quality Preferred 3), Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund (Tax-Advantaged), Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Dividend Growth Fund (Tax-Advantaged Dividend), Nuveen Global Government Enhanced Income Fund (Global Government), Nuveen Global Value Opportunities Fund (Global Value), Nuveen Multi-Currency Short-Term Government Income Fund (Multi-Currency), Nuveen Multi-Strategy Income and Growth Fund (Multi-Strategy) and Nuveen Multi-Strategy Income and Growth Fund 2 (Multi-Strategy 2), each a Massachusetts Business Trust, and Nuveen New York Investment Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (New York Investment Quality), Nuveen New York Municipal Value Fund, Inc. (New York Value), Nuveen New York Performance Plus Municipal Fund, Inc. (New York Performance Plus), Nuveen New York Quality Income Municipal Fund, Inc. (New York Quality), Nuveen New York Select Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (New York Select), Nuveen Insured Municipal Opportunity Fund, Inc. (Insured Municipal Opportunity), Nuveen Insured Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (Insured Quality), Nuveen Premier Insured Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (Premier Insured) and Nuveen Insured New York Premium Income Municipal Fund, Inc. (Insured New York Premium), each a Minnesota Corporation (individually, a Fund and collectively, the Funds), of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held in the 31st Floor Conference Room of Nuveen Investments, 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, on Monday, June 30, 2008, at a.m., Central time (for each Fund, an Annual Meeting and collectively, the Annual Meetings), and at any and all adjournments thereof.

On the matters coming before each Annual Meeting as to which a choice has been specified by shareholders on the proxy, the shares will be voted accordingly. If a properly executed proxy is returned and no choice is specified, the shares will be voted FOR the election of the nominees as listed in this Joint Proxy Statement, FOR the ratification of the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm for Core Equity and FOR the elimination of the fundamental investment policies and the approval of the new fundamental investment policy for Insured New York Premium, Insured Premium Income 2, Insured Municipal Opportunity, Premier Insured, Insured Quality, New York Quality, New York Select, Insured New York Tax-Free,

Insured Dividend Advantage, Insured Tax-Free Advantage, New York Investment Quality and Insured New York Dividend. Shareholders who execute proxies may revoke them at any time before they are voted by filing with that Fund a written notice of revocation, by delivering a duly executed proxy bearing a later date, or by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. Merely attending the Annual Meeting, however, will not revoke any previously submitted proxy.

The Board of each Fund has determined that the use of this Joint Proxy Statement for each Annual Meeting is in the best interest of each Fund and its shareholders in light of the similar matters being considered and voted on by the shareholders.

The following table indicates which shareholders are solicited with respect to each matter:

Matter		Common Shares	Preferred Shares ⁽¹⁾
1a(i).	For each Massachusetts Business Trust, election of two (2) Class II Board Members by all shareholders (except Core Equity, Equity Premium, Equity Premium Opportunity, Equity Premium Advantage, Equity Premium Income, Global Government, Global Value and Multi-Currency).	Х	Х
1a(ii).	For each Massachusetts Business Trust, election of two (2) Board Members by Preferred Shares only (except Core Equity, Equity Premium, Equity Premium Opportunity, Equity Premium Advantage, Equity Premium Income, Global Government, Global Value and Multi-Currency).		Х
1b.	For Core Equity, Equity Premium, Equity Premium Opportunity, Equity Premium Advantage, Equity Premium Income, Global Government, Global Value, and Multi-Currency, election of two (2) Class II Board Members and one (1) Class I Board Member by all shareholders.	Х	N/A
1c(i).	For each Minnesota Corporation, election of six (6) Board Members by all shareholders (except New York Value).	Х	Х
1c(ii).	For each Minnesota Corporation, election of two (2) Board Members by Preferred Shares only (except New York Value).		Х
1d.	For New York Value, election of two (2) Class II Board Members and one (1) Class I Board Member by all shareholders.	Х	N/A

2. For Core Equity, ratification of independent registered public X N/A accounting firm.

Matter		Common Shares	Preferred Shares ⁽¹⁾
3.	For Insured New York Premium, Insured Premium Income 2, Insured Municipal Opportunity, Premier Insured, Insured Quality, New York Quality, New York Select, Insured New York Tax-Free, Insured Dividend Advantage, Insured Tax-Free Advantage, New York Investment Quality and Insured New York Dividend, to approve the elimination of fundamental investment policies and to approve a new fundamental investment policy.	Х	Х

(1) FundPreferred shares for Real Estate, Diversified Dividend, Quality Preferred, Quality Preferred 2, Quality Preferred 3, Tax-Advantaged, Multi-Strategy and Multi-Strategy 2; and Municipal Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares (MuniPreferred) for each other Fund are referred to as Preferred Shares.

A quorum of shareholders is required to take action at each Annual Meeting. A majority of the shares entitled to vote at each Annual Meeting, represented in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum of shareholders at that Annual Meeting, except that for the election of the two Board Member nominees by holders of Preferred Shares of each Fund (with the exception of Core Equity, Equity Premium, Equity Premium Opportunity, Equity Premium Advantage, Equity Premium Income, Global Government, Global Value, Multi-Currency, and New York Value), 331/3% of the Preferred Shares entitled to vote and represented in person or by proxy will constitute a quorum. Votes cast by proxy or in person at each Annual Meeting will be tabulated by the inspectors of election appointed for that Annual Meeting. The inspectors of election will treat abstentions and broker non-votes (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees, typically in street name, 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) as present for purposes of determining a quorum.

For each Fund, the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares present and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be required to elect the Board Members of that Fund. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the election of Board Members. For purposes of determining the ratification of the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm for Core Equity, the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of the Fund present and entitled to vote on the matter will be required. For purposes of determining the approval of the elimination of the fundamental investment policies and the approval of the new fundamental investment policy for Insured New York Premium, Insured Premium Income 2, Insured Municipal Opportunity, Premier Insured, Insured Quality, New York Quality, New York Select, Insured New York Tax-Free, Insured Dividend Advantage, Insured Tax-Free Advantage, New York Investment Quality and Insured New York Dividend, a change will only be consummated if approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of a Fund s common stock and preferred shares, each voting as a separate class, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act) as (a) 67% or more of the class shares present at the Annual Meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the class are present or represented by proxy; or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the class, whichever is less. For purposes of determining the ratification of the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm for Core Equity and the approval 5

of the elimination of the fundamental investment policies for Insured New York Premium, Insured Premium Income 2, Insured Municipal Opportunity, Premier Insured, Insured Quality, New York Quality, New York Select and Insured New York Tax-Free.

Preferred Shares held in street name as to which voting instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or persons entitled to vote as of one business day before the Annual Meeting, or, if adjourned, one business day before the day to which the Annual Meeting is adjourned, and that would otherwise be treated as broker non-votes may, pursuant to Rule 452 of the New York Stock Exchange, be voted by the broker on the proposal in the same proportion as the votes cast by all holders of Preferred Shares as a class who have voted on the proposal or in the same proportion as the votes cast by all holders of Preferred Shares of the Fund who have voted on that item. Rule 452 permits proportionate voting of Preferred Shares with respect to a particular item if, among other things, (i) a minimum of 30% of the Preferred Shares or shares of a series of Preferred Shares outstanding has been voted by the holders of such shares against such item. For the purpose of meeting the 30% test, abstentions will be treated as shares voted and, for the purpose of meeting the 10% test, abstentions will not be treated as shares voted against the item.

Those persons who were shareholders of record at the close of business on May 2, 2008 (the Record Date) will be entitled to one vote for each share held and a proportionate fractional vote for each fractional vote held. As of the Record Date, the shares of each Fund were issued and outstanding as follows:

Fund	Ticker Symbol ⁽¹⁾	Common Shares	Preferred Shares	
New York Dividend	NAN		Series F	2,760
New York Dividend 2	NXK		Series W	1,880
New York Investment Quality	NQN		Series M Series T Series F	960 2,400 2,400
New York Value	NNY		N/A	
New York Performance Plus	NNP		Series M Series T Series W Series F	1,600 800 2,000 572
New York Quality	NUN		Series M Series W Series TH	2,200 2,200 2,400

		Series F	1,080
New York Select	NVN	Series T Series W Series TH	1,720 2,400 3,600
Insured Dividend Advantage	NVG	Series M	3,160
		Series T Series TH	3,080 3,080

Fund	Ticker Symbol ⁽¹⁾	Common Shares	Preferred S	Shares
Insured Municipal Opportunity	NIO		Series M Series T Series W1 Series W2 Series TH1 Series TH2 Series F	$\begin{array}{c} 4,000\\ 4,000\\ 4,000\\ 3,200\\ 4,000\\ 4,000\\ 4,000\\ 4,000\end{array}$
Insured Premium Income 2	NPX		Series M Series T Series W Series TH Series F	2,080 2,200 2,080 2,200 2,196
Insured Quality	NQI		Series M Series T Series W Series TH Series F	2,600 2,600 2,600 2,320 2,600
Insured Tax-Free Advantage	NEA		Series T Series W	2,880 2,880
Insured New York Dividend	NKO		Series TH	2,440
Insured New York Premium	NNF		Series M Series T	1,320 1,280
Insured New York Tax-Free	NRK		Series TH	1,080
Premier Insured	NIF		Series W Series TH Series F	840 2,800 2,800
Core Equity	JCE		N/A	

Real Estate	JRS	Series M Series T Series W Series TH Series F	1,720 1,720 1,720 2,000 1,720
Diversified Dividend	JDD	Series T Series W	2,400 2,400
Equity Premium	JPG	N/A	
Equity Premium Advantage	JLA	N/A	
Equity Premium Income	JPZ	N/A	
Equity Premium Opportunity	JSN		