





## INV 301:

# Best Practices for Investing Public Funds

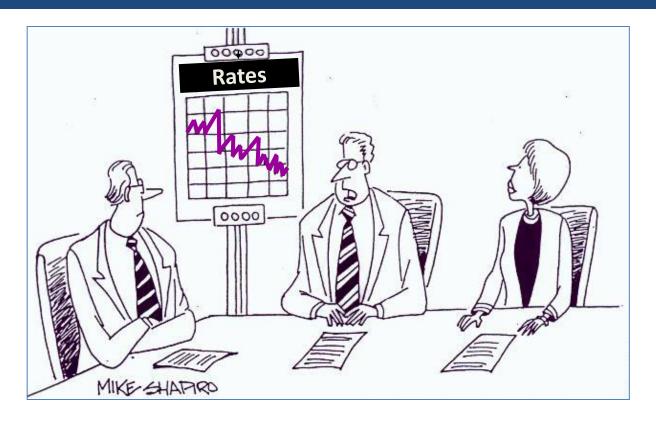
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### What to do?



"I think we're all in agreement that it's time to abandon the "waiting for a miracle strategy."

### Developing an Investment Program

As fiscal officers, you have the fiduciary responsibilities of:

- 1. Obey state laws
- 2. Establish Investment Policy Statement
- 3. Apply objectives as a "Prudent Person"
- 4. Be good stewards of taxpayers' money

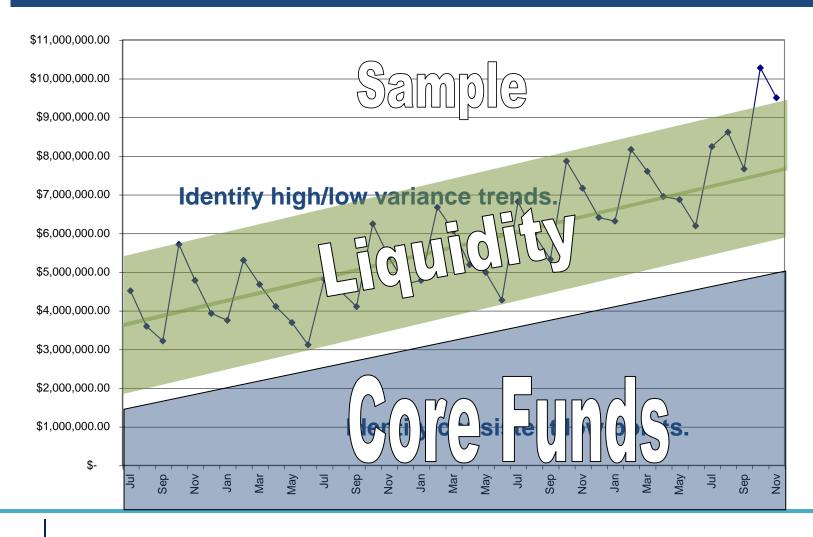
### **Best Practices**



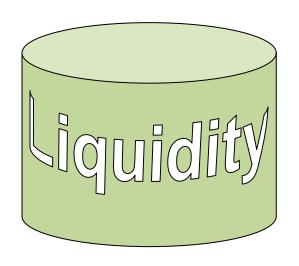
### Segment Funds

- Perform Cash Flow Analysis
  - Identify near term cash needs. Look at trends, high and low balances, seasonal patterns
- Liquidity Portfolio
  - Will be different for every entity
  - Typically invested in STAR OHIO/PLUS, bank accounts or other short-term investments
- Core/Reserve Portfolio
  - Invested longer-term and more diversified for potential higher interest earnings

### **Analyze Cash Flow**



### **Objectives for Each Bucket**



#### **Objectives:**

**Safety** 

Liquidity

Return



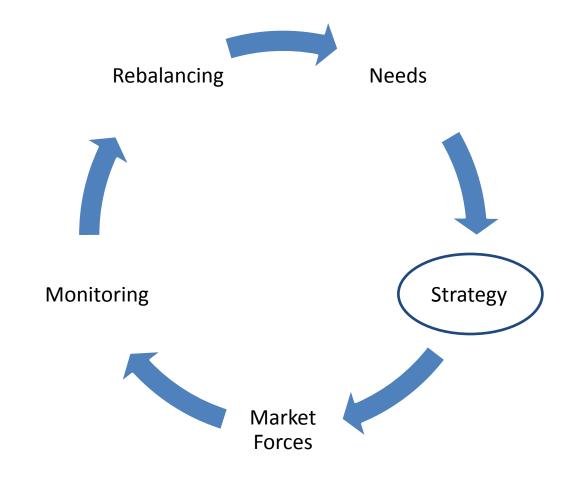
#### **Objectives:**

- No Principal Fluctuations
- Daily Liquidity
- Attain highest yield
- Benchmark: 3 Mos. T-Bill/ StarOhio

#### **Objectives:**

- Minimal Principal Fluctuations
- High Market Liquidity
- Maximize long-term returns
- Benchmark: 1-3 Yr. Govt. Index or
  1 Year moving avg. 2 Yr. CMT

### **Best Practices**



### Questions to consider

- What are the investment objectives?
- Are there any investment constraints?
  - Risk Tolerances of Entity
  - Investment Policy
  - Staff Experience
  - Needs of Funds

## Importance of strategy

- Provides discipline in managing risk
- Helps manage return expectations
- Establishes accountability
- Promotes communication

## What strategy works for you?

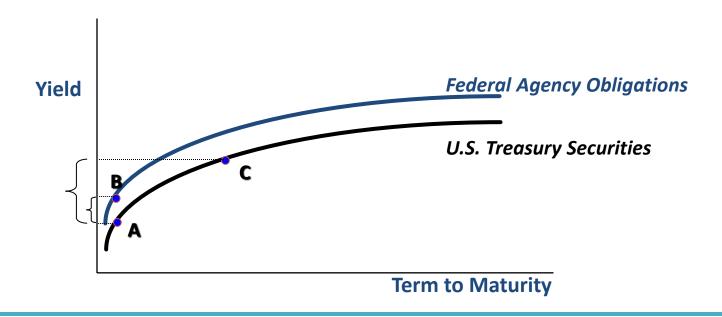
- Passive investment strategy
  - Buy/Hold
  - Less resources needed
- Active investment strategy
  - Investment portfolio evolves and is adjusted to meet current market and cash flow considerations
  - More resources needed
  - Time Consuming, Higher Costs

## Managing Risk

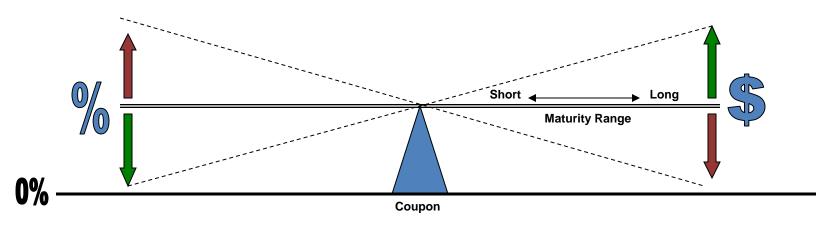
- Interest Rate/Reinvestment Risk/Market Risk
  - Weighted average maturity
  - Portfolio duration
    - More robust measure
  - Maturity structure
    - Ladder, Barbell, or Bullet
- Liquidity Risk
  - Diversification reduces overall risk

### **Factors to Consider**

 The average maturity of the portfolio is arguably the single greatest determinant of investment performance



### What are the risks?



#### **Interest Rate Risk**

Interest rate risk is greater in the earlier years, but is reduced with time.

#### **Reinvestment Risk**

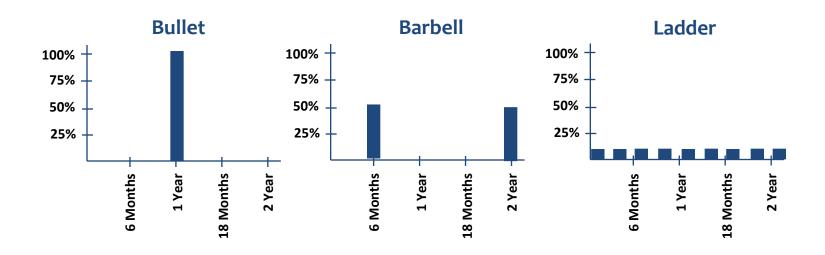
Reinvestment risk is greater over time, but is reduced in the earlier years.

#### **DURATION**

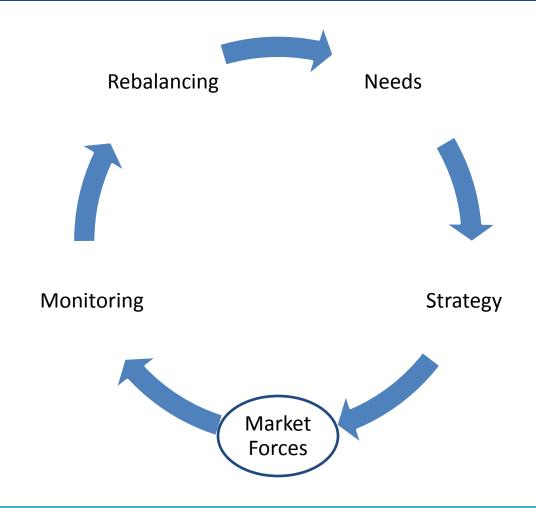
Duration is a measure of a bond's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates. It can be used to gauge the volatility of one bond compared with another.

## Portfolio Structuring

- There are numerous ways to achieve a specific target maturity.
- The optimal structure will depend on the shape of the yield curve



### **Best Practices**



## Factors Influencing Strategy

- Specific Entity Characteristics
  - Cash Flows
  - Risk Tolerances
  - Resources
  - Local politics

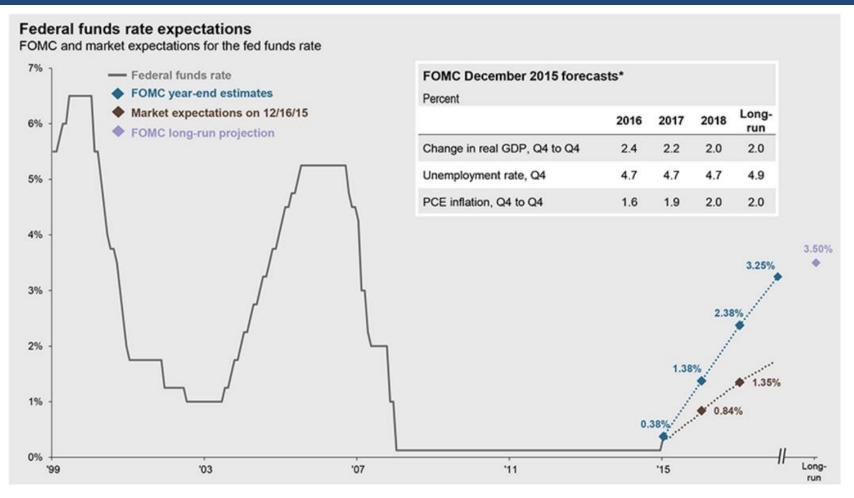
## Factors Influencing Strategy

- Economic Environment
  - Growth or slowing economy
  - Employment
  - Inflation
  - Monetary Policy
  - Fiscal Policy

## Factors Influencing Strategy

- Market Environment
  - Shape of yield curve
  - Interest rate expectations
  - Spread analysis
- Global environment
  - Economic
  - Markets
  - Geo-political

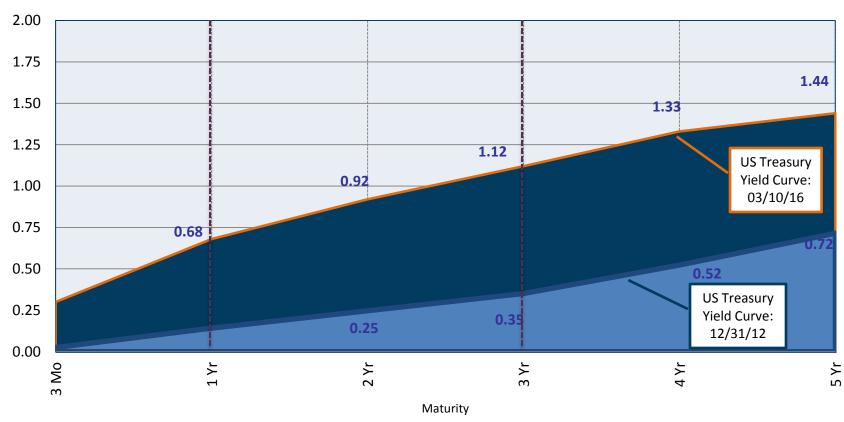
### The Fed and Interest Rates



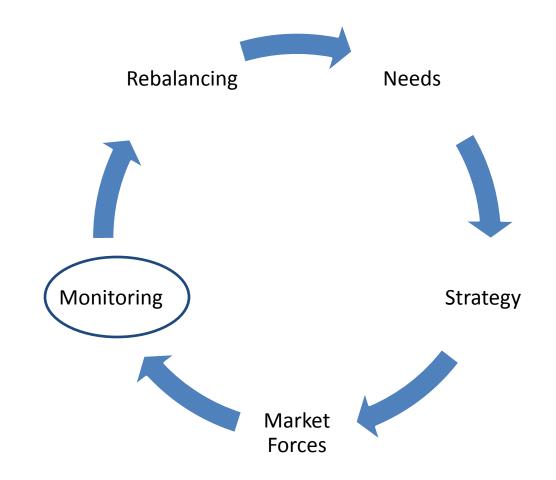
Source: FactSet, Federal Reserve, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Feb. 29, 2016

### **Yield Curve**

US Treasury 0 - 5 Yr. Yield Curve Shift 12/31/12 vs 03/10/16



### **Best Practices**



## Monitoring the Portfolio

- Compliance monitoring
  - Have investment laws changed?
- Investment reporting
  - Proper accounting and tracking
  - How is overall portfolio performing?
  - Promotes accountability

### **Qualitative Review**

- The entity's objectives have been met.
- Consistent investment approach has been followed.
- Execution reporting and/or other services have been supplied.
- Firm's personnel structure is unchanged.
- Advisor has maintained an appropriate level of client contact and communication.

Source: An Introduction to Investment Advisers for State and Local Governments – Sophia Anastopoulos

### **Quantitative Measurements**

#### Performance Benchmarks

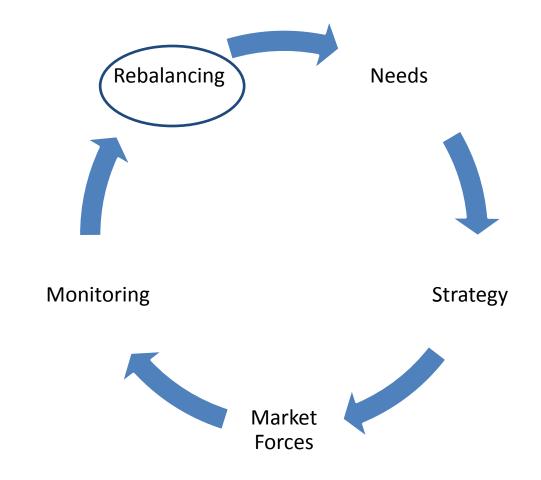
- Short-term funds vs. benchmark
- Longer-term funds vs. benchmark

### Reporting Requirements

- Summary of portfolio holdings
- Investment performance report
- Maturity/Duration indicators
- Transaction summary
- Mark-to-Market report

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### **Best Practices**



## Rebalancing the Portfolio

- Why rebalance the portfolio?
  - Cash flow changes
  - Market forces
  - Increase interest earning potential
  - Reduce interest rate risk
  - Political factors

## **Questions for Today?**

