## River Oak Partners LLC Client Investment Policy Statement



### Prepared for:

### Prepared by:

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### Introduction

The purpose of an investment policy statement is to:

Establish objectives for structuring an investment proposal suitable to the longterm needs and risk tolerance of the Client.

Formulate policies for selecting appropriate and suitable investments within the framework of that structure.

Establish prudent procedures for monitoring and evaluating the performance of investments within the proposal and for addressing changes in policy.

This document identifies information that was gathered from the Client for purposes of formulating an investment proposal. The information sought from the Client addresses the Client's intentions and goals, and financial constraints that may impact the proposal. In addition, it identifies a target asset allocation of investment types and weightings that the investment proposal will endeavor to apply to meet the Client's long-term objectives. Finally, it proposes an agenda for reconsidering the overall structure for the plan, as well as security implementation decisions.

The investment policy statement is intended to communicate a philosophical approach to investing decisions. It is not, nor is it intended to be, a contract. It does not address legal responsibilities of either the Advisor or the Client, nor has it been reviewed or approved by an attorney. There is no guarantee that the goals identified in the investment policy statement will be achieved under the investment proposal prescribed. Morningstar is not part of this relationship.

## **Investment Philosophy**

We use a principles-based investment philosophy. We focus on tried and true principles, diversification, long term goal-oriented investing, risk management, fee management and tax mitigation. We work closely with clients to develop a goal oriented financial plan. This helps clients and advisors maintain a long-term view, targeting successful outcomes.

### **Principled Approach**

Long Term Goal Oriented Investing – There are countless studies suggesting how individual investor behavior gets in the way of achieving successful performance. It is often referred to as performance chasing, market timing etc. Basically, investors get into and out of markets at the wrong times. Either through chasing the latest hot investment or jumping out of markets during market sell offs. We focus on eliminating this kind of behavior using three strategies.

- 1. Portfolio Diversification Designing a well-diversified portfolio can reduce volatility, reducing investor anxiety during market fluctuations.
- State of the Art Risk Assessment Using quantitative risk assessment tools, allows us to pinpoint an investors risk tolerance. Once a risk number is established, we can design individualized portfolios that match an investors risk tolerance. This helps to better manage client expectations.
- 3. The Financial Plan Developing a detailed financial plan enables clients to invest with goals in mind. This reduces the tendency to measure short-term performance based on a snapshot in time and focus more on achieving long-term goals identified within the plan.

Portfolio Management – We aim to reduce investment costs, using portfolios designed around a mix of low-cost ETF's and Mutual Funds. We only pay the higher cost of active management where we feel it is warranted. Individual portfolios are designed around each plans specific risk profile. Portfolios are built using both quantitative and qualitative screens. We screen and monitor, historical performance, costs, fund management, modern portfolio theory metrics and independent third-party ratings and rankings. Once a portfolio is implemented, it is actively monitored, to insure conformity to the investment policy statement. Each financial plan and portfolio are built upon an investment policy statement, so each client fully understands the process.

Tax Mitigation - Taxes can be a significant headwind to investor performance. While we do not offer specific tax advice, we work with clients and their other advisors to minimize tax burdens.

## Values Based Investing or Socially Responsible Investing

For those clients that have an interest doing more with the money they invest, we can include an ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) overlay to the same principled investment approach discussed above.

Everyone's values and ideas about socially and environmentally sound investing in companies following good governance practices are different. To accomplish a consistent and cost-effective process for building and monitoring investments within our portfolios, we use outside 3rd party analysis to score the various investments used to build diversified portfolios. While no process can be perfect and serve every one's interests, we feel this offers the best and most cost-effective way to manage both our principled investment philosophy and serve clients interests.

Morningstar, a leading independent investment research company provides much of the research and data used in our analysis. "The Morningstar Sustainability Rating<sup>™</sup> for funds, allows investors to evaluate how well the companies in a fund's portfolio are managing the environmental, social, and governance -or ESG- factors relevant to their industries. It makes it possible to find sustainable funds even if they aren't specifically marketing themselves as products that support a socially responsible investing approach".

While we do not use Morningstar Sustainability Rating<sup>™</sup> ratings in our primary investment process, it is always a factor in the more subjective analysis that goes into selecting all portfolio constituents. If it is a primary concern to you, please note it below and we will weight it as a significant factor in your portfolio construction process. I would like to include "sustainability ratings" as a factor in my portfolio construction.

I would like to use "sustainability ratings "as a factor in my portfolio construction

I would like to find out more about "ESG "investing - watch video

To view IPS Holdings for ESG Portfolios (subject to change), request the supplemental page.

## **Client Objectives**

The Client's needs and constraints are critical factors in developing an appropriate long-term investment approach. It is our goal to have a good understanding of your purpose in engaging our services, your financial goals, your tolerance for risk, and the level of assets to be applied in the proposal. We also strive to understand your need for liquidity, including the possibility that you may require access to invested assets over time. Finally, because investment decisions should take tax considerations into account, we seek information on tax constraints. The information below summarizes our understanding of your goals and current financial situation

that will be considered in the investment proposal.

What is your goal for this investment?

Assuming normal market conditions, what would you expect from this investment over time?

Suppose the stock market performs unusually poorly over the next decade. What would you expect from this investment?

Which of these statements best describes your attitude about the next 3 years' performance of this investment?

Which of these statements best describes your attitude about the next 3 months' performance of this investment?

What is your current age?

When do you expect to start drawing income?

Risk Tolerance:	Portfolio Equity/Bonds	Risk #	Std Dev
	Very Conservative 30/70	35-50	6-9
Risk Score:	Conservative 40/60	50-60	7-10
	Moderate Cons 50/50	60-65	8-12
	Moderate 60/40	65-70	9-14
Tax Bracket:	Aggressive 70/30	70-80	11-15
	Very Aggressive 80/20	80-90	12-17

# **IPS Holdings – Subject to Change**

Name	Identifier	Morningstar Category	Analyst Rating	Quant Rating	<u>MS Rati</u>
AMG Yacktman I	YACKX	US Fund Large Value	-	_	
BlackRock 20/80 Target Allocation Instl	BICPX		-	Gold	
BlackRock 40/60 Target Allocation Instl	BIMPX	US Fund Allocation30% to 50%	-	Gold	
BlackRock 60/40 Target Allocation Instl	BIGPX		-	Gold	
BlackRock 80/20 Target Allocation Instl	BIAPX	US Fund Allocation70% to 85%	-	Gold	
BlackRock Advantage Small Cap Core Instl	BDSIX	US Fund Small Blend	-	Silver	
BlackRock Commodity Strategies Instl	BICSX	US Fund Commodities Broad	Silver	Silver	
BlackRock Mid-Cap Growth Equity Instl	CMGIX	US Fund Mid-Cap Growth	Silver	-	
BlackRock Multi-Asset Income Instl	BIICX	US Fund Allocation30% to 50%	Gold	-	
BlackRock Technology Opportunities Instl	BGSIX	US Fund Technology	Gold	-	
BlackRock Total Return Instl	MAHQX	US Fund Intermediate Core-Plus	Gold	-	
Dodge & Cox Global Stock I	DODWX	US Fund Global Large-Stock Value	Neutral	-	
ventide Gilead I	ETILX	US Fund Mid-Cap Growth	-	-	
idelity Advisor® Global Equity Inc I	FBUSX	US Fund Global Large-Stock Blend	Bronze	-	
idelity Advisor® Intl Capital App I	FCPIX	US Fund Foreign Large Growth	Silver	-	
idelity Advisor® Real Estate Income I	FRIRX		Bronze	-	
idelity Emerging Markets	FEMKX	US Fund Diversified Emerging Mkts	-	-	
First Trust Merger Arbitrage CI I	VARBX		Silver	-	
PMorgan Core Plus Bond I	HLIPX		Silver	-	
PMorgan Emerging Markets Equity I	JEMSX	US Fund Diversified Emerging Mkts	-	-	
PMorgan Equity Premium Income I	JEPIX		Silver	-	
IPMorgan Hedged Equity 2 I	JHQDX		Silver	-	
IPMorgan Hedged Equity 3 I	JHQTX		Silver	-	
IPMorgan Hedged Equity I	JHEQX		Neutral	-	
JPMorgan Income I	JMSIX		Silver	-	
PMorgan International Hedged Equity I	JIHIX		-	-	
IPMorgan Short Duration Core Plus I	JSDSX		-	_	
PMorgan Small Cap Blend I	JDSCX		Bronze	- Silver	
Janus Henderson Global Equity Income I	HFQIX		Bronze	-	
MFS Conservative Allocation I	MACIX		Bronze	-	
MFS Global Growth I	MWOIX	US Fund Global Large-Stock Growth		_	
		-		-	
MFS Growth Allocation A	MAGWX		Silver	-	
AFS Growth I	MFEIX		Silver	-	
AFS International Intrinsic Value I	MINIX		Bronze	-	
Neuberger Berman Real Estate I	NBRIX		Silver	-	
PGIM Global Total Return Z	PZTRX		Neutral	-	
PIMCO All Asset I2	PALPX		Gold	Bronze	
PIMCO Global Bond Opps (USD-Hdg) Instl	PGBIX	US Fund Global Bond-USD Hedged		-	
	PONPX		Gold	-	
T. Rowe Price QM US Small-Cap Gr Eq I	TQAIX		Bronze	-	
T. Rowe Price Spectrum Income	RPSIX		Gold	-	
F. Rowe Price Spectrum Mod Gr Allc	TRSGX		-	-	
ΓCW Short Term Bond I	TGSMX	US Fund Ultrashort Bond	-	Bronze	
Thornburg Limited Term Income Instl	THIIX		Gold	-	
Fidelity® Total Bond ETF	FBND	US Fund Intermediate Core-Plus	-	Neutral	
First Trust Capital Strength ETF	FTCS	US Fund Large Blend	-	Bronze	
First Trust Rising Dividend Achiev ETF	RDVY	•	Neutral	Silver	
First Trust Senior Loan ETF	FTSL	US Fund Bank Loan	-	Bronze	
JPMorgan Core Plus Bond ETF	JCPB	US Fund Intermediate Core-Plus	-	-	
IPMorgan Divers Ret US Mid Cp Eq ETF	JPME	US Fund Mid-Cap Blend	-	Neutral	
JPMorgan Divers Ret US Small Cap Eq ETF	JPSE	US Fund Small Blend	-	Neutral	
IPMorgan Diversified Return EMkts Eq ETF	JPEM	US Fund Diversified Emerging Mkts	-	Bronze	
JPMorgan Equity Premium Income ETF	JEPI	US Fund Derivative Income	-	Bronze	
IPMorgan Income ETF	JPIE	US Fund Multisector Bond	-	Gold	
IPMorgan Nasdaq Equity Premium Inc ETF	JEPQ	US Fund Derivative Income	-	Silver	
PMorgan Short Duration Core Plus ETF	JSCP	US Fund Short-Term Bond	-	-	
PMorgan US Aggregate Bond ETF	JAGG	US Fund Intermediate Core Bond	_	_	
IPMorgan Ultra-Short Income ETF	JPST	US Fund Ultrashort Bond	_	_	
Pacer Benchmark Data&Infras RE SCTR ETF	SRVR	US Fund Real Estate	-	_	
	ALTL	US Fund Large Value	-	-	
Pacer Lunt Large Cap Alternator ETF		-	-	- Silver	
SPDR® Portfolio Intmdt Term Trs ETF	SPTI		-	Silver	
Shares Core 1-5 Year USD Bond ETF	ISTB	US Fund Short-Term Bond	-	-	
Shares Core Aggressive Allocation ETF	AOA	US Fund Global Allocation	-	-	
Shares Core Dividend Growth ETF	DGRO	-	Silver	-	
Shares Core MSCI EAFE ETF	IEFA		Gold	Silver	
Shares Core MSCI Total Intl Stk ETF	IXUS		Gold	-	
Shares Core S&P 500 ETF	IVV	_	Gold	0	
Shares Core S&P Total US Stock Mkt ETF	ІТОТ	US Fund Large Blend	Gold	0	
Shares Core US Aggregate Bond ETF	AGG	US Fund Intermediate Core Bond	-	-	
Shares Global Tech ETF	IXN		Silver	0	
Shares MSCI EAFE Min Vol Factor ETF	EFAV	US Fund Foreign Large Blend	-	-	
Shares MSCI USA Mid-Cap Multifactor ETF	MIDF		Silver	0	
Shares MSCI USA Min Vol Factor ETF	USMV		Silver	-	
Shares MSCI USA Quality Factor ETF	QUAL	-	-	0	
-				0	
Shares Short Maturity Bond ETF	NEAR		- 0	0	
Cash-0.050%	Cash:0.05				

Morningstar Ratings

Gold

Silver

Bronze

#### Portfolio Design Criteria - General Fund selection parameters

Perf Rank in Category 3 yr Perf Rank in Category 5 yr Alpha Rank in Category 3 yr Sortino Rank in Category Expense Bear Mkt Rank % Morningstar Rating Investments limited to 15% in any fund Investments limited to 10% in any fund Minimum fund allocation 3% Morningstar Management Stewardship Top 25% Top 25% Top 25% Top 25% Bottom 50% Top 50% 3+ Stars Less than 5 yr history Less than 3 yr history Compensation, Ownership, Stewardship

### **Portfolio Monitoring**

The investment proposal developed is intended to reflect a long-term approach, potentially lasting until goals are achieved. However, your financial situation and goals may change, producing a need to reconsider this plan. At the same time, financial markets are unpredictable in the short-term, producing temptation to recklessly deviate from a solid long-term plan. The goal of setting a portfolio monitoring agenda is to create flexibility for revising a strategy when needed, while providing structure to discourage overreaction to normal short-term market events.

Perf Rank in Category 3 yr Perf Rank in Category 5 yr Alpha Rank in Category 3 yr Sortino Rank in Category 3 yr Expense Bear Mkt Rank Morningstar Rating Investments limited to 15% in any fund Investments limited to 10% in any fund Minimum fund allocation 3% ex cash Review Morningstar Management Stewardship Review Alpha / Fee Measures less than 0 Top 50% Top 50% Top 50% Bottom 50% Top 50% 3+ Stars Less than 5 yr history Less than 3 yr history Compensation, Ownership, Stewardship

### Asset Allocation

Asset allocation is to be revisited annually or when one of the following criteria occurs:

- When allocation falls out of defined range
- When client objectives or circumstances change
- When significant assets are added/removed from the plan

#### **Fund Review**

Fund selection will be revisited annually or when one of the following criteria occurs:

- When a fund does not meet category levels for 1, 3 & 5 yr periods with a neg alpha / feeratio and Bear Mkt Rank % falls to bottom 2 quartiles
- When a fund's Morningstar star rating is lowered below defined criterialevels
- When a fund experiences a significant management, style, or category change

### **Portfolio Selection and Monitoring Factors**

Performance Rank in Category – Performance is used to directly measure funds and monitored to ensure consistency within each category vs peers.

Alpha Rank in Category – Alpha can be used to measure the value added or subtracted by a portfolio manager.

Sortino Rank in Category – Sortino is an improved measure of risk adjusted returns vs Sharpe ratio.

Expenses – Lower costs diminish the hurdles to achieving investment results.

Bear Mkt Rank % - Downside resilience is a key to strong results via better risk characteristics.

Morningstar Ratings – Independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party research and rankings help in validating and monitoring our investment process.

Investment Guard Rails - Limiting portfolio investments helps with risk controls and diversification.

Management and Stewardship – We believe when managers interests are aligned with investors it leads to better outcomes.

### **ETF Selection**

Because ETF development is new, with evolving strategies, our screening process for portfolio inclusion and monitoring will not adhere to the same strict guidelines as funds.

Our current ETF selection and evaluation process will follow the same principled investment ideas stated in the IPS but will not have the same quantitative metrics for selection and monitoring. Instead we will rely on subjective analysis to weigh the benefits of ETFs within our portfolios. We will use ETFs in our portfolios where we deem appropriate, to effectively target asset classes, returns and manage risk profiles, to help clients achieve outcomes.

### **Client Acceptance Page**

I have read the Investment Policy Statement and affirm that it accurately reflects my personal needs and constraints and reflects an investment philosophy with which I feel comfortable.

Client Name	
Client Signature	
Date	
Client Name	
Client Signature	
Date	
Advisor Signature	
Date	



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