



**SETTING THE I&S TAX RATE AND  
THE TAX RATE CALCULATION WORKSHEET**

*TRANSPARENCY IN THE DARK*





# SETTING THE I&S TAX RATE AND THE TAX RATE CALCULATION WORKSHEET

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NOVEMBER 1, 2024

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# YOUR BUDGET DETERMINES THE I&S TAX RATE

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## Taxable Values

- Determine anticipated **final** net **“freeze adjusted”** taxable values, including protested and incomplete values
  - “Haircut” (e.g. 70-90%) ARB and Incomplete values at certification
  - Subtract Incremental TIF Values
  - Subtract Taxable Value of Tax Ceiling Accounts

## Additional Revenue Sources

- Delinquent Taxes, Penalties and Interest and Investment Income
- I&S Portion of Tax Ceiling Levy (Optional Homestead Exemptions for Over 65 and Disabled)
  - Total Revenue (M&O and I&S) Provided by the Appraisal District
  - Customary practice is to multiply the total revenue by the percentage of the total tax rate applicable to I&S

## Debt Service Fund Expenses

- Net tax-supported debt service
- Any paying agent fees or other bond-related expenses?



## PROBLEMS WITH THE TAX RATE WORKSHEET

- Remember, **your budget** determines the tax rate.
- The tax rate calculation worksheet is a tool, not a prescription.
  - Best viewed as a flawed **illustration** of tax rate construction for transparency purposes.

### 2024 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet Taxing Units Other Than School Districts or Water Districts

Form 50-856

Taxing Unit Name

Phone (area code and number)

Taxing Unit's Address, City, State, ZIP Code

Taxing Unit's Website Address

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Tax Code Section 26.04(c) requires an officer or employee designated by the governing body to calculate the no-new-revenue (NNR) tax rate and voter-approval tax rate for the taxing unit. These tax rates are expressed in dollars per \$100 of taxable value calculated. The calculation process starts after the chief appraiser delivers to the taxing unit the certified appraisal roll and the estimated values of properties under protest. The designated officer or employee shall certify that the officer or employee has accurately calculated the tax rates and used values shown for the certified appraisal roll or certified estimate. The officer or employee submits the rates to the governing body by Aug. 7 or as soon thereafter as practicable.

School districts do not use this form, but instead use Comptroller Form 50-859 *Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet, School District without Chapter 313 Agreements* or Comptroller Form 50-884 *Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet, School District with Chapter 313 Agreements*.

Water districts as defined under Water Code Section 49.001(1) do not use this form, but instead use Comptroller Form 50-858 *Water District Voter-Approval Tax Rate Worksheet for Low Tax Rate and Developing Districts* or Comptroller Form 50-860 *Developed Water District Voter-Approval Tax Rate Worksheet*.

The Comptroller's office provides this worksheet to assist taxing units in determining tax rates. The information provided in this worksheet is offered as technical assistance and not legal advice. Taxing units should consult legal counsel for interpretations of law regarding tax rate preparation and adoption.

# PROBLEMS WITH THE TAX RATE WORKSHEET

## Tax Ceilings

- The worksheet calls for removing the **ENTIRE** taxable value of accounts with tax ceilings.
- There is no mechanism to realize the revenue to be received from the frozen accounts.

## TIF Values

- Incremental TIF values are correctly subtracted from Certified Values.
- However, debt service taxes contributed to TIF accounts have been problematic for “excess debt collections.”

18. **Total current year taxable value on the current year certified appraisal roll today.** This value includes only certified values or certified estimate of values and includes the total taxable value of homesteads with tax ceilings (will deduct in Line 20). These homesteads include homeowners age 65 or older or disabled. <sup>11</sup>

A. **Certified values:**..... \$

B. **Counties:** Include railroad rolling stock values certified by the Comptroller’s office: ..... + \$

C. **Pollution control and energy storage system exemption:** Deduct the value of property exempted for the current tax year for the first time as pollution control or energy storage system property:..... - \$

D. **Tax increment financing:** Deduct the current year captured appraised value of property taxable by a taxing unit in a tax increment financing zone for which the current year taxes will be deposited into the tax increment fund. Do not include any new property value that will be included in Line 23 below. <sup>12</sup> ..... - \$

E. **Total current year value.** Add A and B, then subtract C and D.

\$

# PROBLEMS WITH THE TAX RATE WORKSHEET

## Protested or Incomplete Accounts

- Values for properties under ARB review or otherwise incomplete are prescribed, with a bias towards lower values.
- Some cities include the budgeted “haircut” values here.

19.	<p><b>Total value of properties under protest or not included on certified appraisal roll.</b> <sup>13</sup></p> <p><b>A. Current year taxable value of properties under protest.</b> The chief appraiser certifies a list of properties still under ARB protest. The list shows the appraisal district’s value and the taxpayer’s claimed value, if any, or an estimate of the value if the taxpayer wins. For each of the properties under protest, use the lowest of these values. Enter the total value under protest. <sup>14</sup>..... \$ <input type="text"/></p> <p><b>B. Current year value of properties not under protest or included on certified appraisal roll.</b> The chief appraiser gives taxing units a list of those taxable properties that the chief appraiser knows about but are not included in the appraisal roll certification. These properties also are not on the list of properties that are still under protest. On this list of properties, the chief appraiser includes the market value, appraised value and exemptions for the preceding year and a reasonable estimate of the market value, appraised value and exemptions for the current year. Use the lower market, appraised or taxable value (as appropriate). Enter the total value of property not on the certified roll. <sup>15</sup>..... + \$ <input type="text"/></p> <p><b>C. Total value under protest or not certified.</b> Add A and B. \$ <input type="text"/></p>	
20.	<p><b>Current year tax ceilings.</b> Counties, cities and junior colleges enter current year total taxable value of homesteads with tax ceilings. These include the homesteads of homeowners age 65 or older or disabled. Other taxing units enter 0. If your taxing unit adopted the tax ceiling provision in the prior year or a previous year for homeowners age 65 or older or disabled, use this step.<sup>16</sup></p>	\$ <input type="text"/>
21.	<p><b>Current year total taxable value.</b> Add Lines 18E and 19C. Subtract Line 20. <sup>17</sup></p>	\$ <input type="text"/>

# PROBLEMS WITH THE TAX RATE WORKSHEET

## “Debt” is More Ambiguous Than Necessary

- “Adjusted Debt” should be debt service payments (principal and interest) that will be paid from current-year I&S tax revenues.

<p>42.</p>	<p><b>Total current year debt to be paid with property taxes and additional sales tax revenue.</b> Debt means the interest and principal that will be paid on debts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) are paid by property taxes;</li> <li>(2) are secured by property taxes;</li> <li>(3) are scheduled for payment over a period longer than one year; and</li> <li>(4) are not classified in the taxing unit’s budget as M&amp;O expenses.</li> </ul> <p><b>A. Debt</b> also includes contractual payments to other taxing units that have incurred debts on behalf of this taxing unit, if those debts meet the four conditions above. Include only amounts that will be paid from property tax revenue. Do not include appraisal district budget payments. If the governing body of a taxing unit authorized or agreed to authorize a bond, warrant, certificate of obligation, or other evidence of indebtedness on or after Sept. 1, 2021, verify if it meets the amended definition of debt before including it here.<sup>28</sup></p> <p>Enter debt amount ..... \$ <input type="text"/></p> <p><b>B. Subtract unencumbered fund amount</b> used to reduce total debt. .... - \$ <input type="text"/></p> <p><b>C. Subtract certified amount spent from sales tax to reduce debt</b> (enter zero if none) ..... - \$ <input type="text"/></p> <p><b>D. Subtract amount paid</b> from other resources ..... - \$ <input type="text"/></p> <p><b>E. Adjusted debt.</b> Subtract B, C and D from A. .... \$ <input type="text"/></p>	
<p>43.</p>	<p><b>Certified prior year excess debt collections.</b> Enter the amount certified by the collector.<sup>29</sup></p>	<p>\$ <input type="text"/></p>
<p>44.</p>	<p><b>Adjusted current year debt.</b> Subtract Line 43 from Line 42E.</p>	<p>\$ <input type="text"/></p>



# PROBLEMS WITH THE TAX RATE WORKSHEET

## Prescribed Collection Percentage May Differ From Budget

- You are prescribed a collection percentage based upon:
  - A.) The tax collector’s estimate for the current year; and
  - B.) 3-year history.
- Cities should work with the county tax offices to understand the anticipated collection percentage.

45.	<b>Current year anticipated collection rate.</b> A. Enter the current year anticipated collection rate certified by the collector. <sup>30</sup> ..... % B. Enter the prior year actual collection rate..... % C. Enter the 2022 actual collection rate. .... % D. Enter the 2021 actual collection rate. .... % E. If the anticipated collection rate in A is lower than actual collection rates in B, C and D, enter the lowest collection rate from B, C and D. If the anticipated rate in A is higher than at least one of the rates in the prior three years, enter the rate from A. Note that the rate can be greater than 100%. <sup>31</sup> ..... %	
46.	<b>Current year debt adjusted for collections.</b> Divide Line 44 by Line 45E.	\$ _____
47.	<b>Current year total taxable value.</b> Enter the amount on Line 21 of the <i>No-New-Revenue Tax Rate Worksheet</i> .	\$ _____
48.	<b>Current year debt rate.</b> Divide Line 46 by Line 47 and multiply by \$100.	\$ _____ /\$100



## “EXCESS DEBT COLLECTIONS”

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### What Exactly are Excess Collections?

*“Excess debt collections means the amount, if any, by which debt taxes collected in the preceding year exceeded the amount anticipated in the preceding year’s calculation of the voter-approval tax rate, as certified by the collector under Texas Property Tax Code Section 26.04(b).”*

	Debt Taxes Collected During Previous Fiscal Year
Less:	Prior Year’s “Current Year Debt Adjusted for Collections” (Line 46)
Equals:	<b>Equals Excess Debt Collections</b>

### Incentivized to Match “Adjusted Debt” with the Budget

- If calculated “adjusted debt” matches budgeted tax-supported bond payments and I&S tax revenue comes in equal to or less than budget, there will be no “excess collections” the next year, so long as I&S tax collections are properly recorded by the tax collector.
  - Delinquent Taxes: Are they recognized?
  - TIF Payments: Are I&S collections net of any TIF contributions?

## “LEVERS” YOU CAN PULL TO INFLUENCE THE WORKSHEET

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*Since the Comptroller’s worksheet is flawed, calculating the correct I&S tax rate generally requires manipulating data somewhere.*

### “Levers” to Pull Include:

- Self-Supporting Debt
- Early bond redemptions
- Paying agent fees or other bond-related expenses
- Budgeted ARB/Protested Values
- A Few Reminders:
  - It’s OK to allow the I&S tax rate to calculate incorrectly on the worksheet. Just make sure your budget is accurate.
  - There is no requirement to post the worksheet publicly and there is no “Tax Rate Calculation Police Force.”
  - “Excess Collections” can become a compounding problem, but on a stand-alone basis does not mean anything. Remember, the tax rate is based upon **your budget** – under levying is a much bigger problem than over collecting!

# QUESTIONS

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# MUNICIPAL ADVISOR DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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This disclosure statement (“Conflict Disclosures”) is provided by Hilltop Securities Inc. (“the Firm”) to disclose information regarding conflicts of interest and legal or disciplinary events of the Firm that are required to be disclosed to potential clients pursuant to MSRB Rule G-42(b) and (c)(ii).

## **PART A – Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest**

MSRB Rule G-42 requires that municipal advisors provide to their clients disclosures relating to any actual or potential material conflicts of interest, including certain categories of potential conflicts of interest identified in Rule G-42, if applicable.

**Material Conflicts of Interest** – The Firm makes the disclosures set forth below with respect to material conflicts of interest in connection with the Scope of Services under the Agreement with the Firm, together with explanations of how the Firm addresses or intends to manage or mitigate each conflict.

**General Mitigations** – As general mitigations of the Firm’s conflicts, with respect to all of the conflicts disclosed below, the Firm mitigates such conflicts through its adherence to its fiduciary duty to clients, which includes a duty of loyalty to clients in performing all municipal advisory activities for clients. This duty of loyalty obligates the Firm to deal honestly and with the utmost good faith with client and to act in the client’s best interests without regard to the Firm’s financial or other interests. In addition, because the Firm is a broker-dealer with significant capital due to the nature of its overall business, the success and profitability of the Firm is not dependent on maximizing short-term revenue generated from individualized recommendations to its clients but instead is dependent on long-term profitability built on a foundation of integrity, quality of service and strict adherence to its fiduciary duty. Furthermore, the Firm’s municipal advisory supervisory structure, leveraging our long-standing and comprehensive broker-dealer supervisory processes and practices, provides strong safeguards against individual representatives of the Firm potentially departing from their regulatory duties due to personal interests. The disclosures below describe, as applicable, any additional mitigations that may be relevant with respect to any specific conflict disclosed below.

**I. Affiliate Conflict.** The Firm, directly and through affiliated companies, provides or may provide services/advice/products to or on behalf of clients that are related to the Firm’s advisory activities. Hilltop Securities Asset Management (HSAM), a SEC-registered affiliate of the Firm, provides post issuance services including arbitrage rebate and treasury management. The Firm’s arbitrage team verifies rebate and yield restrictions on the investments of bond proceeds on behalf of clients in order to meet IRS restrictions. The treasury management division performs portfolio management/advisor services on behalf of public sector clients. The Firm, through affiliate Hilltop Securities Asset Management (HSAM), provides a multi-employer trust tailor-made for public entities which allows them to prefund Other Post-Employment Benefit liabilities. The Firm has a structured products desk that provides advice to help clients mitigate risk through investment management, debt management and commodity price risk management products. These products consist of but are not limited to swaps (interest rate, currency, commodity), options, repos, escrow structuring and other securities. Continuing Disclosure services provided by the Firm work with issuers to assist them in meeting disclosure requirements set forth in SEC rule 15c2-12. Services include but are not limited to ongoing maintenance of issuer compliance, automatic tracking of issuer’s annual filings and public notification of material events. The Firm administers government investment pools. These programs offer governmental entities investment options for their cash management programs based on the entities specific needs. The Firm and the aforementioned affiliate’s business with a client could create an incentive for the Firm to recommend to a client a course of action designed to increase the level of a client’s business activities with the affiliates or to recommend against a course of action that would reduce or eliminate a client’s business activities with the affiliates. This potential conflict is mitigated by the fact that the Firm and affiliates are subject to their own comprehensive regulatory regimes.

**II. PlainsCapital Bank Affiliate Conflict.** The Firm, directly and through affiliated companies, provides or may provide services/advice/products to or on behalf of clients that are related to the Firm’s advisory activities. Affiliate, PlainsCapital Bank, provides banking services to municipalities including loans and custody. The Firm and the aforementioned affiliate’s business with a client could create an incentive for the Firm to recommend to a client a course of action designed to increase the level of a client’s business activities with the affiliates or to recommend against a course of action that would reduce or eliminate a client’s business activities with the affiliates. This potential conflict is mitigated by the fact that the Firm and affiliates are subject to their own comprehensive regulatory regimes.



## MUNICIPAL ADVISOR DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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**III. Other Municipal Advisor or Underwriting Relationships.** The Firm serves a wide variety of other clients that may from time to time have interests that could have a direct or indirect impact on the interests of other clients. For example, the Firm serves as municipal advisor to other municipal advisory clients and, in such cases, owes a regulatory duty to such other clients just as it does to all its municipal advisory clients. These other clients may, from time to time and depending on the specific circumstances, have competing interests, such as accessing the new issue market with the most advantageous timing and with limited competition at the time of the offering. In acting in the interests of its various clients, the Firm could potentially face a conflict of interest arising from these competing client interests. In other cases, as a broker-dealer that engages in underwritings of new issuances of municipal securities by other municipal entities, the interests of the Firm to achieve a successful and profitable underwriting for its municipal entity underwriting clients could potentially constitute a conflict of interest if, as in the example above, the municipal entities that the Firm serves as underwriter or municipal advisor have competing interests in seeking to access the new issue market with the most advantageous timing and with limited competition at the time of the offering. None of these other engagements or relationships would impair the Firm's ability to fulfill its regulatory duties to any specific client.

**IV. Secondary Market Transactions in Client's Securities.** The Firm, in connection with its sales and trading activities, may take a principal position in securities, including securities of its clients, and therefore the Firm could have interests in conflict with a client with respect to the value of the client's securities while held in inventory and the levels of mark-up or mark-down that may be available in connection with purchases and sales thereof. In particular, the Firm or its affiliates may submit orders for and acquire a municipal advisory client's securities issued in an issue under a municipal advisory agreement from members of the underwriting syndicate, either for its own account or for the accounts of its customers. This activity may result in a conflict of interest with the client in that it could create the incentive for the Firm to make recommendations to the client that could result in more advantageous pricing of the client's bond in the marketplace. Any such conflict is mitigated by means of such activities being engaged in on customary terms through units of the Firm that operate independently from the Firm's municipal advisory business, thereby reducing the likelihood that such investment activities would have an impact on the services provided by the Firm to any client under a municipal advisory agreement.

**V. Broker-Dealer and Investment Advisory Business.** The Firm is dually registered as a broker-dealer and an investment advisor that engages in a broad range of securities-related activities to service its clients, in addition to serving as a municipal advisor or underwriter. Such securities-related activities, which may include but are not limited to the buying and selling of new issue and outstanding securities and investment advice in connection with such securities, including securities of the firm's municipal advisory clients, may be undertaken on behalf of, or as counterparty to, the client, personnel of the client, and current or potential investors in the securities of the client. These other clients may, from time to time and depending on the specific circumstances, have interests in conflict with those of the Firm's municipal advisory clients, such as when their buying or selling of the municipal advisory client's securities may have an adverse effect on the market for municipal advisory client's securities, and the interests of such other clients could create the incentive for the Firm to make recommendations to the municipal advisory client that could result in more advantageous pricing for the other clients. Furthermore, any potential conflict arising from the firm effecting or otherwise assisting such other clients in connection with such transactions is mitigated by means of such activities being engaged in on customary terms through units of the Firm that operate independently from the Firm's municipal advisory business, thereby reducing the likelihood that the interests of such other clients would have an impact on the services provided by the Firm to its municipal advisory clients.

**VI. Compensation-Based Conflicts.** Fees that are based on the size of the issue are contingent upon the delivery of the Issue. While this form of compensation is customary in the municipal securities market, this may present a conflict because it could create an incentive for the Firm to recommend unnecessary financings or financings that are disadvantageous to its clients, or to advise clients to increase the size of the issue. This conflict of interest is mitigated by the general mitigations described above.

Fees based on a fixed amount are usually based upon an analysis by the client and the Firm of, among other things, the expected duration and complexity of the transaction and the scope of municipal services to be performed by the Firm. This form of compensation presents a potential conflict of interest because, if the transaction requires more work than originally contemplated, the Firm may suffer a loss. Thus, the Firm may recommend less time-consuming alternatives, or fail to do a thorough analysis of alternatives. This conflict of interest is mitigated by the general mitigations described above.

# MUNICIPAL ADVISOR DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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Hourly fees are calculated with, the aggregate amount equaling the number of hours worked by Firm personnel times an agreed-upon hourly billing rate. This form of compensation presents a potential conflict of interest if the client and the Firm do not agree on a reasonable maximum amount at the outset of the engagement, because the Firm does not have a financial incentive to recommend alternatives that would result in fewer hours worked. This conflict of interest is mitigated by the general mitigations described above.

## **PART B – Disclosures of Information Regarding Legal Events and Disciplinary History**

MSRB Rule G-42 requires that municipal advisors provide to their clients certain disclosures of legal or disciplinary events material to its client's evaluation of the municipal advisor or the integrity of the municipal advisor's management or advisory personnel.

Accordingly, the Firm sets out below required disclosures and related information in connection with such disclosures.

**I. Material Legal or Disciplinary Event.** The Firm discloses the following legal or disciplinary events that may be material to Client's evaluation of the Firm or the integrity of the Firm's management or advisory personnel:

- For related disciplinary actions please refer to the Firm's BrokerCheck webpage.
- The Firm self-reported violations of SEC Rule 15c2-12: Continuing Disclosure. The Firm settled with the SEC on February 2, 2016. The firm agreed to retain independent consultant and adopt the consultant's finding. Firm paid a fine of \$360,000.
- The Firm settled with the SEC in matters related to violations of MSRB Rules G-23(c), G-17 and SEC rule 15B(c) (1). The Firm disgorged fees of \$120,000 received as financial advisor on the deal, paid prejudgment interest of \$22,400.00 and a penalty of \$50,000.00.
- The Firm entered into a Settlement Agreement with Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. Under the Settlement Agreement, the firm agreed to pay \$16.0 million to settle any and all claims in connection with The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation Job Creation Guaranty Program Taxable Revenue Bond (38 Studios, LLC Project) Series 2010, including the litigation thereto. The case, filed in 2012, arose out of a failed loan by Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. The firm's predecessor company, First Southwest Company, LLC, was one of 14 defendants. FirstSouthwest's engagement was limited to advising on the structure, terms, and rating of the underlying bonds. Hilltop settled with no admission of liability or wrongdoing.
- On April 30, 2019, the Firm entered into a Settlement Agreement with Berkeley County School District of Berkeley County, South Carolina. The case, filed in March of 2019, arose in connection with certain bond transactions occurring from 2012 to 2014, for which former employees of Southwest Securities, Inc., a predecessor company, provided financial advisory services. The Firm agreed to disgorge all financial advisory fees related to such bond transactions, which amounted to \$822,966.47, to settle any and all claims, including litigation thereto. Under the Settlement Agreement, the Firm was dismissed from the lawsuit with prejudice, no additional penalty, and with no admission of liability or wrongdoing.
- From July 2011 to October 2015, Hilltop failed to submit required MSRB Rule G-32 information to EMMA in connection with 122 primary offerings of municipal securities for which the Firm served as placement agent. During the period January 2012 to September 2015, the Firm failed to provide MSRB Rule G-17 letters to issuers in connection with 119 of the 122 offerings referenced above. From October 2014 to September 2015, the Firm failed to report on Form MSRB G-37 that it had engaged in municipal securities business as placement agent for 45 of these 122 offerings. This failure was a result of a misunderstanding by one branch office of Southwest Securities. Hilltop discovered these failures during the merger of FirstSouthwest and Southwest Securities and voluntarily reported them to FINRA. The Firm paid a fine of \$100,000 for these self-reported violations.
- In connection with a settlement on July 9, 2021, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission found that, between January 2016 and April 2018, the Firm bought municipal bonds for its own account from another broker-dealer and that, on occasion during that time period, the other broker-dealer mischaracterized the Firm's orders when placing them with the lead underwriter. The SEC found that, among other things, the Firm lacked policies and procedures with respect to how stock orders were submitted for new issues bonds to third parties, including the broker-dealer that mischaracterized the Firm's orders. The SEC found violations of MSRB Rules G-27, G-17, and SEC rule 15B(c)(1) and a failure to reasonably supervise within the meaning of Section 15(b)(4)(E) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Firm was censured and ordered to pay disgorgement of \$206,606, prejudgment interest of \$48,587 and a penalty of \$85,000.



# MUNICIPAL ADVISOR DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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- On August 14, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) entered into a settlement order with Hilltop Securities Inc. (“Hilltop”) to settle an administrative action finding that Hilltop failed to (1) maintain and preserve off-channel communications related to Hilltop’s broker-dealer business, as well as related to recommendations made or proposed to be made and advice given or proposed to be given with respect to Hilltop’s investment advisory business; and (2) reasonably supervise its personnel with a view to preventing or detecting certain of its personnel’s aiding and abetting violations of certain provisions of the federal securities laws. Hilltop admitted to the facts in the settlement order, acknowledged its conduct violated the federal securities laws, and agreed to: (a) a cease-and-desist order, (b) a censure, (c) payment of a civil monetary penalty in the amount of \$1,600,000, and (d) certain undertakings related to the retention of electronic communications.

**II. How to Access Form MA and Form MA-I Filings.** The Firm’s most recent Form MA and each most recent Form MA-I filed with the SEC are available on the SEC’s EDGAR system at Forms MA and MA-I. The SEC permits certain items of information required on Form MA or MA-I to be provided by reference to such required information already filed by the Firms in its capacity as a broker-dealer on Form BD or Form U4 or as an investment adviser on Form ADV, as applicable. Information provided by the Firm on Form BD or Form U4 is publicly accessible through reports generated by BrokerCheck at <http://brokercheck.finra.org> and the Firm’s most recent Form ADV is publicly accessible at the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov>. For purposes of accessing such BrokerCheck reports or Form ADV, click previous hyperlinks.

## **PART C – MSRB Rule G-10 Disclosure**

MSRB Rule G-10 covers Investor and Municipal Advisory Client education and protection. This rule requires that municipal advisors make certain disclosures to all municipal advisory clients. This communication is a disclosure only and does not require any action by the firm’s municipal advisory clients. The disclosures are noted below.

Hilltop Securities Inc. is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board as a Municipal Advisor.

You can access the website for the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board at [www.msrb.org](http://www.msrb.org)

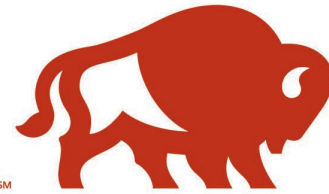
The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board has posted a municipal advisory client brochure. A copy of the brochure is attached to the memo. This link will take to you to the electronic version MA-Clients-Brochure.

## **PART D – Future Supplemental Disclosures**

As required by MSRB Rule G-42, this Municipal Advisor Disclosure Statement may be supplemented or amended, from time to time as needed, to reflect changed circumstances resulting in new conflicts of interest or changes in the conflicts of interest described above, or to provide updated information with regard to any legal or disciplinary events of the Firm. The Firm will provide Client with any such supplement or amendment as it becomes available throughout the term of the Agreement.



**Hilltop**Securities<sup>SM</sup>



Investment Banking Solutions