

California Debt & Investment Advisory Commission  
**Municipal Debt Essentials Seminar**

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**Current Short-Term Financing Options**  
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# Introduction: Short-Term Financing Options

- **What is “short-term”?**

- Short-term debt can have multiple meanings, but is most commonly viewed as debt that is money market fund eligible under SEC guidelines section 2(A)7.

- **For what purpose is short-term debt issued?**

- Cash flow financing

- Provide working capital to pay operating expenses
- Examples: tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANS), working capital notes

- Bridge financings

- Provide interim short-term financing for capital projects
- Examples: bond anticipation notes (BANs), commercial paper (CP)

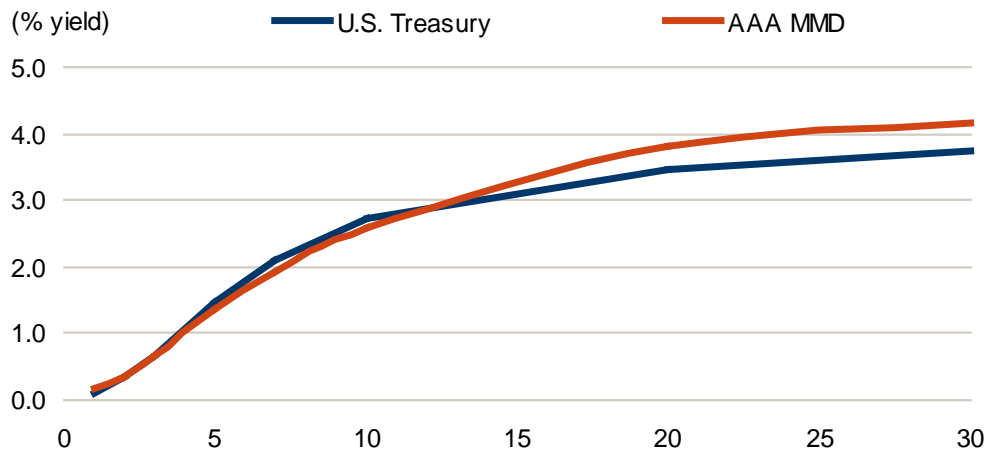
- Permanent financings

- Provide long-term project funding at short-term interest rates
- Examples: variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs), floating rate notes

# Short-Term Interest Rates Tend to Be Lower

## Illustrative Yield Curve

AAA-rated Municipal Market Data (MMD) Index vs. U.S. Treasury  
(As of September 23, 2013)



## Illustrative Rates by Maturity

	MMD	UST	MMD:UST
6-month	0.15%	0.05%	300.0%
1 year	0.18%	0.10%	180.0%
2 year	0.36%	0.35%	102.9%
5 year	1.35%	1.48%	91.2%
10 year	2.59%	2.72%	95.2%
30 year	4.17%	3.73%	111.80%
<i>SIFMA vs. U.S. government weekly repo</i>			100%
<i>SIFMA vs. 30-Day LIBOR</i>			35%

Source: Barclays Live, Thomson Reuters, and Bloomberg.

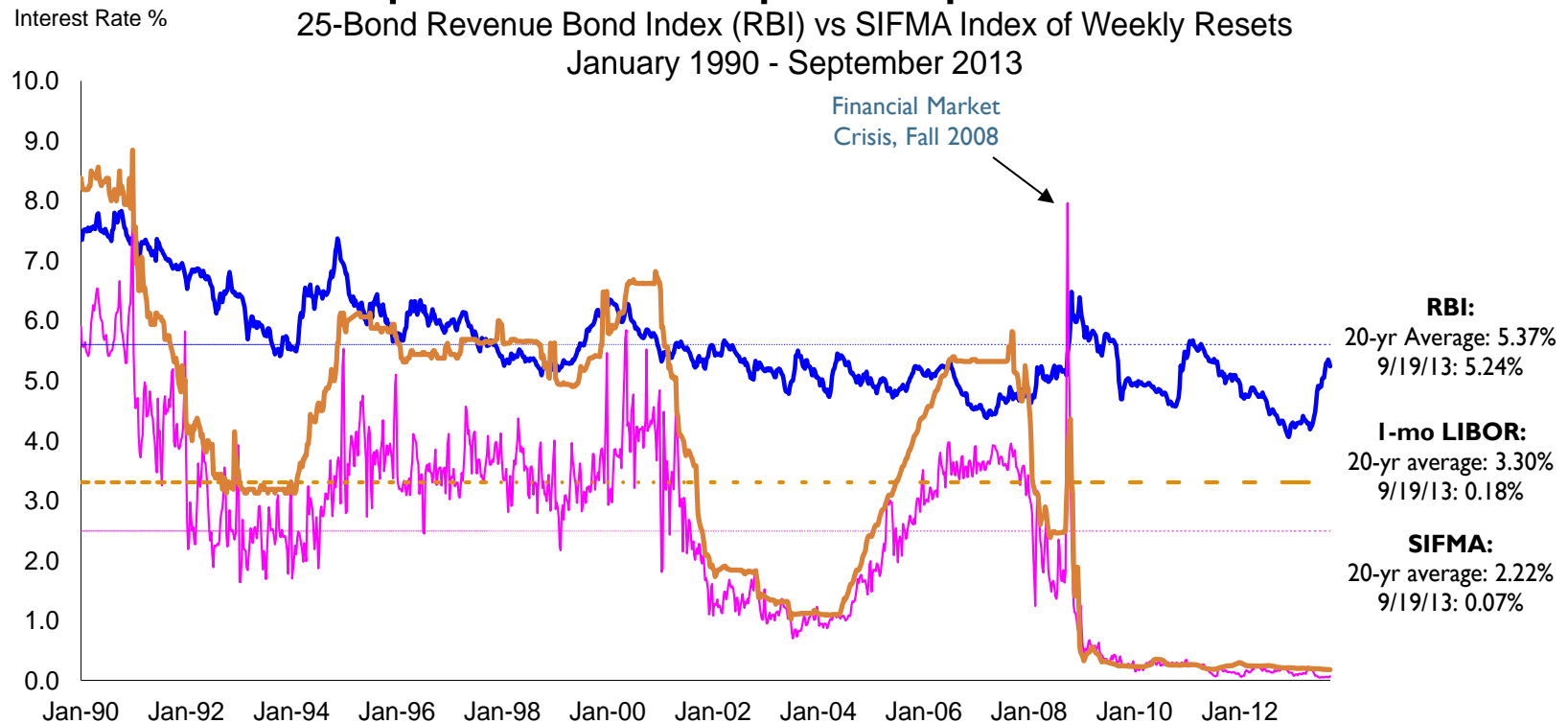
# Short- vs. Long-Term Interest Rates Over Time

*Spread between short and long maturities is particularly wide in current market*

## Comparative Tax-Exempt Municipal Interest Rates

25-Bond Revenue Bond Index (RBI) vs SIFMA Index of Weekly Resets

January 1990 - September 2013



Source: Bloomberg.

RBI: Long-Term Tax-Exempt Bonds Maturing in 30 Years with Average Rating of A1/A+. SIFMA: All bonds in Index must be tax-exempt, non-AMT, have \$10mm or more outstanding and the highest short-term rating by Moody's or S&P, and pay interest monthly calculated on an ACT/ACT basis, and interest rate resets occurring on Wednesdays.

# Why Issue Short-Term Debt?

- Issuing debt at the short end of the yield curve has historically produced the lowest interest cost over time
- Avoid locking-in long-term rates in unfavorable market conditions
- Align short-term or variable revenues with short-term or variable liabilities
- Increased flexibility relating to call features, par amount outstanding, and retaining a par valued structure
- Retain variable rate debt compatible with an outstanding swap

# Who Buys Short-Term Debt?

- **Money Market Funds**

- Must purchase securities that retain a NAV at par or a dollar price of \$1.00
  - Investors are typically willing to forego higher investment returns for the preservation of capital
- Seek high quality credits to preserve Net Asset Value (NAV)
- Regulations limit maturity or put feature to less than 397 days
  - Additional limits on credit quality and concentration of portfolio

- **Short-, Intermediate- and Long-Term Bond Funds**

- Have ability to purchase longer-dated maturities for particular funds
- Not subject to SEC Rule 2(a)7
- Preserve a fund's dollar price during periods of rising interest rates
- Increase liquidity

- **“Retail” Participation**

- Separately Managed Accounts (SMAs) act as retail aggregators
- Many short-term debt issues have \$100,000 denominations that limit direct participation

# RANs, TRANs and GANs

- **Tax Revenue or Grant Anticipation Notes (RANs or TRANs or GANs)**
  - Purpose: Used for cash flow or capital projects
  - Benefit: Smooth out inconsistent revenue streams like property tax receipts or grants
  - Risks: Short-term and fixed repayment require careful forecasting of future cash flow
  - Interest rate: Fixed at time of note sale
  - Requirements: Government Code and federal tax requirements
- **Example:**
  - City relies heavily on property tax receipts due in December and April while expenses are fairly evenly spread throughout year
  - With diminished reserves in current economic climate, cash flow shortfall peaks after early December payroll payment
  - TRAN proceeds bolster cash position in July to cover peak deficits in fall; balances are restored and funds are set aside to repay TRANs throughout winter and spring, before June TRAN maturity
  - Credit rating is based on predictability of revenues, accuracy of projections, expected liquidity (and alternatives) at maturity and ability to withstand less favorable results

# Commercial Paper

- **Commercial Paper (CP or TECP)**

- Purpose: may be used for capital projects or cash flow
- Benefit: offers flexibility to create template for borrowing program and then draw down project funds as needed with streamlined approvals
- Risks: rollover failure, interest rate fluctuations
- Maturity: less than 270 days; a true maturity
- Interest rate: set at time of CP draws
- Liquidity requirements: third-party (bank) liquidity or (rarely) self-liquidity

- ***Example:***

- Transportation authority with large capital program
- May use CP draws to fund interim, initial project funding
- One large, long-term financing issued to fund balance of project and pay off CP
- Credit rating based on credit quality of liquidity bank, not borrower



# Bond Anticipation Notes

- **Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs)**

- Purpose: capital projects
- Benefit: can provide seed financing in advance of a planned long-term financing
- Interest rate: fixed at time of note sale
- Requirements: statutory and tax limits
- Risks: subject to market conditions at time of sale, reissuance annually

- ***Example:***

- Sales tax authorization approved by voters but revenue collections begin in 2 years
- Transportation authority can issue BANs now to tap future debt capacity
- BANs are repaid with long-term financing after collections begin
- Credit ratings are based on expected terms of future take-out and assessment of future market access

# Variable Rate Debt: VRDOs

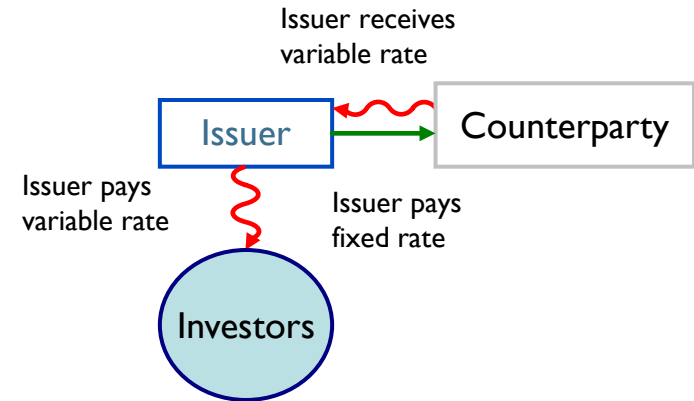
- **Variable Rate Demand Obligations (VRDOs or VRDBs)**

- Purpose: Used for capital projects
- Benefit: Access rates on the short end of the yield curve, retain flexibility to pay off or restructure debt at any time
- Maturity: Principal amortization may be scheduled over the life of the bonds, typically 30 years, or structured as lump sum term maturity
- Interest rates: Variable rate may be reset daily, weekly, monthly or other periodic basis
  - Most VRDB debt issued has an investor 7 day optional put feature
  - Assuming 7-day reset mode, interest payments are made on a monthly basis
  - Remarketing agent resets the interest rate to achieve the lowest possible interest rate that preserves the \$1.00 price of the bonds
- Liquidity requirements: Third-party (bank) liquidity or self-liquidity which is only accessed in the event that the VRDBs cannot be remarketed at any rate up to the maximum rate permissible
- Risks: Bank liquidity provider downgrade or non renewal, subject to weekly interest rate fluctuations

# Interest Rate Swaps

## • Interest Rate Swaps

- Purpose: often used in combination with variable rate debt to limit interest rate risk, create a “synthetic” fixed interest rate
- Common structure: issuer issues variable rate debt, pays fixed-rate swap rate to counterparty, receives variable rate from counterparty
- Risks: Counterparty failure to perform, mismatch in basis of offsetting variable rate legs, liquidity renewal, termination events, etc.
- Termination: Typically requires payment to terminate swap
  - Termination payments can benefit either issuer or counterparty depending on value
  - Mark-to-market values and termination costs depend on swap terms and market conditions

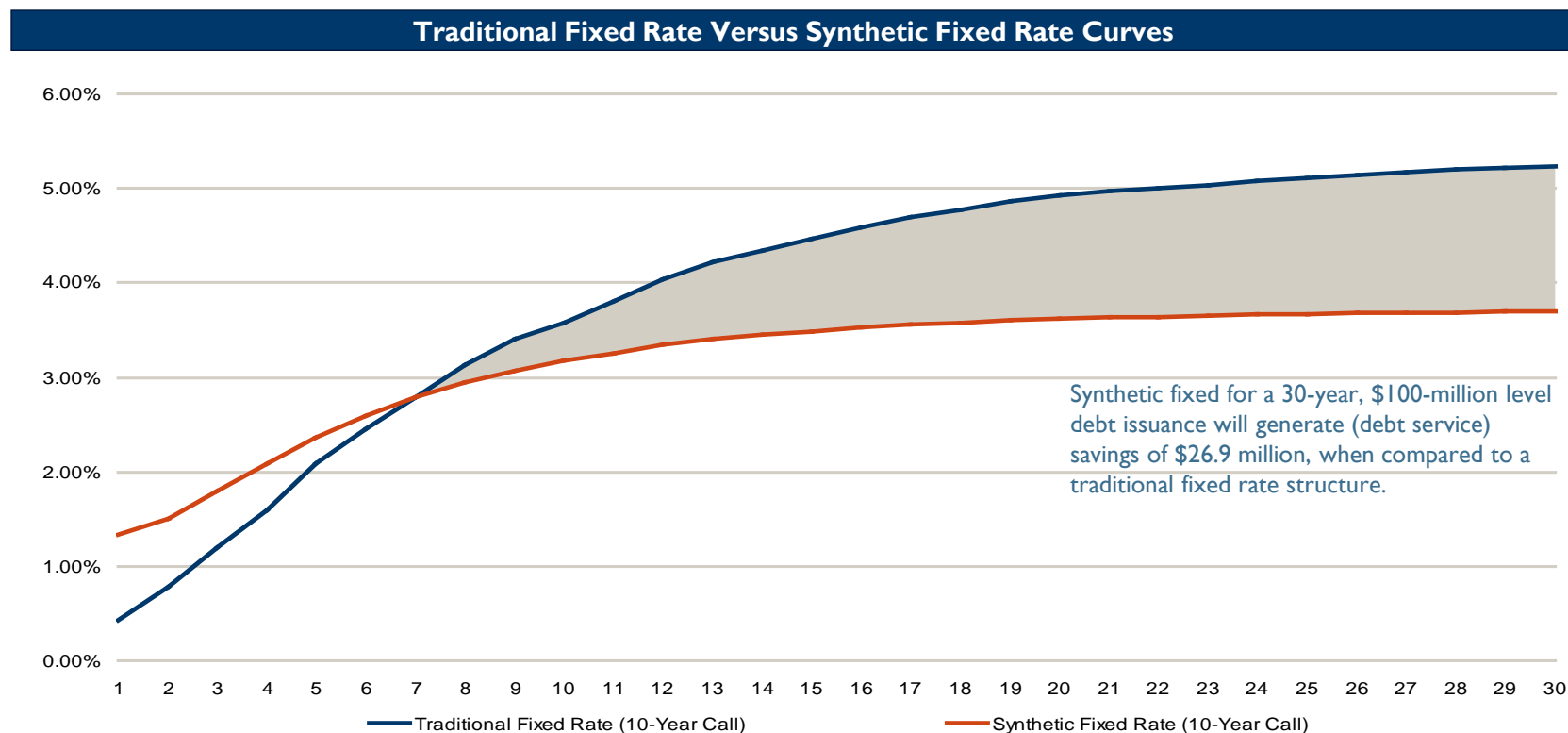


## • Interest Rate Caps, Locks, Floors

- Purpose: varying tools to mitigate interest rate risk with variable rate debt

# Traditional and Synthetic Fixed Rate Curves

*The yield benefit of synthetic fixed structure is significant for longer dated debt.*

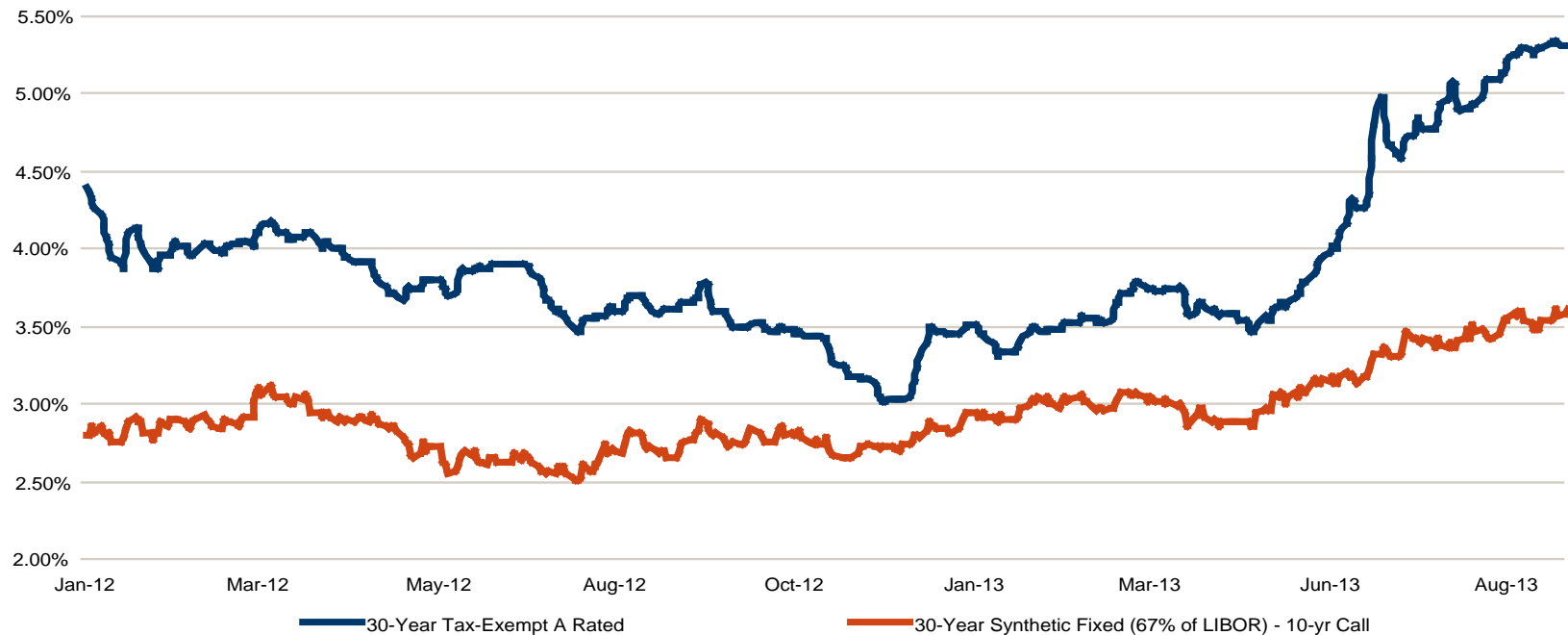


Synthetic fixed rate curve includes 70 bps for LOC cost, 5 bps for remarketing costs, and 25 bps for 10-year call option for comparison with traditional fixed rate debt. Savings of 126 bps, based on a calculated all-in TIC of 4.93% for traditional fixed rate and 3.66% for synthetic fixed rate issuance.

# “All-in Cost” Benefit of Synthetic Fixed Rate Debt

*The benefit of synthetic fixed vs. traditional fixed of approximately 170 bps is greater than it has been in recent history.*

**Indicative 30-Year Tax-Exempt Fixed Rate Bonds Versus Synthetic Fixed (67% of LIBOR Swap) <sup>1</sup>**



Synthetic fixed structure provides market access, which is just as critical as price

Source: Thomson Reuters

Synthetic fixed rate curve includes 70 bps for LOC cost, 5 bps for remarketing costs, and 25 bps for 10 year call option for comparison with traditional fixed rate debt.

# VRDB Liquidity Requirements

- **Liquidity is necessary for traditional VRDBs**
  - VRDOs generally have a “demand” or “put” feature that is shorter than the final maturity date
  - Investors have the option to exercise a “put” on all or a portion of the VRDBs they own on any business day for settlement (typically) in 7 calendar days.
  - In addition to setting rates, the remarketing agent is responsible for attempting to find new investors to purchase the VRDBs when optional puts occur
  - If no investors can be found the liquidity facility will be drawn on to purchase the VRDBs that we unable to be remarketed or “failed”
  - Unremarketed VRDBs become bank bonds are subject to principal acceleration and formulaic step up rates that can be significantly different from VRDB market rates
- **Standby purchase agreement (SBPA)**
  - Provides liquidity to repay an investor who wants to liquidate his/her holdings (exercise the “put”) when another investor can’t immediately be found
  - Can be terminated in certain circumstances if issuer’s credit deteriorates
- **Direct-pay letter of credit (LOC)**
  - Provides liquidity and credit enhancement to ensure repayment of debt service in certain circumstances
  - Irrevocable commitment through term of agreement

# Update on the Liquidity Landscape

*Short-term market for credit enhancement remains scarce*

- There are fewer banks offering credit/liquidity than prior to 2008
  - Major providers: Bank of America, Barclays, JP Morgan, US Bank, Wells Fargo,
  - Other providers: Bank of the West, City National, Northern Trust, RBC, Sumitomo, State Street, BNY Mellon, Bank of Tokyo/Union Bank, and Mizuho
  - Capacity and saturation pressures mounting

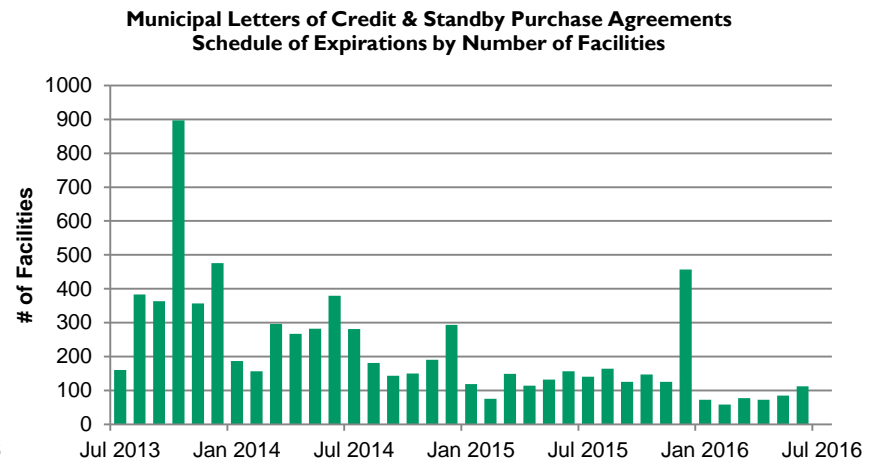
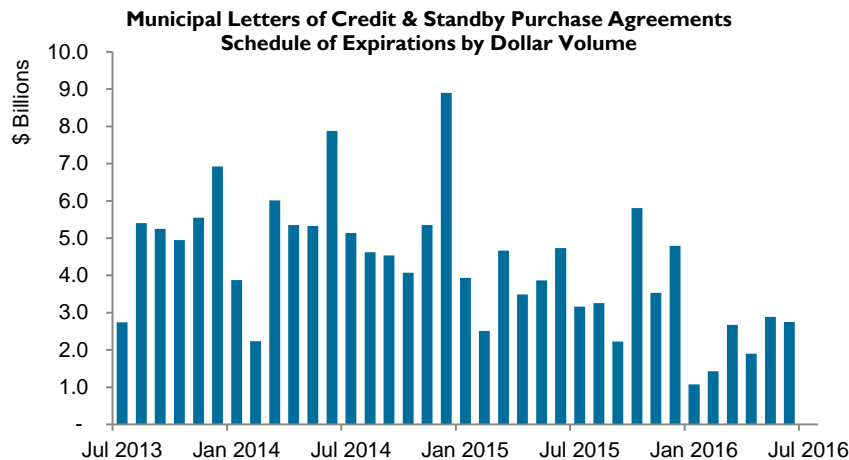
## Changing Credit Enhancement Landscape (by Sum of Outstanding Size)

2011			2013		
Top 10 Credit Enhancers	Total (\$ in mm)	Market Share	Top 10 Credit Enhancers	Total (\$ in mm)	Market Share
1 JP Morgan Chase	39,819.9	12.9%	1 JP Morgan Chase	31,489.5	14.7%
2 Bank of America	38,719.6	12.5%	2 Self Liquidity	31,489.5	10.8%
3 Fannie / Freddie / FHLB	37,523.8	12.1%	3 Fannie / Freddie / FHLB	23,147.6	9.9%
4 Wells Fargo	20,141.4	6.5%	4 US Bank	21,113.6	9.6%
5 US Bank	13,856.5	4.5%	5 Wells Fargo	20,516.4	8.0%
6 Self Liquidity	11,640.7	3.7%	6 Bank of America	17,018.0	7.6%
7 Helaba	7,344.7	2.4%	7 PNC Bank	16,174.8	3.1%
8 PNC Bank	7,327.3	2.4%	8 TD Bank	6,626.2	3.0%
9 RBC Bank	6,739.5	2.2%	9 Barclays	6,421.0	2.3%
10 TD Bank	5,783.1	1.9%	10 Bank of NY Mellon	4,917.2	2.0%

Source: Thomson Reuters (As of September 2013).

# Changing Liquidity Regulation and Pricing

- New regulatory pressures
  - Money market reforms: Prime funds potentially switching to a floating NAV
  - Basel III reforms: Higher capital requirements for banks, higher cost
- Municipal asset class is viewed favorably by most banks leading to sufficient supply of bank facilities at a competitive cost to issuers.





# Alternative Variable Structures

*Floating rate notes often become more attractive when bank facility pricing increases.*

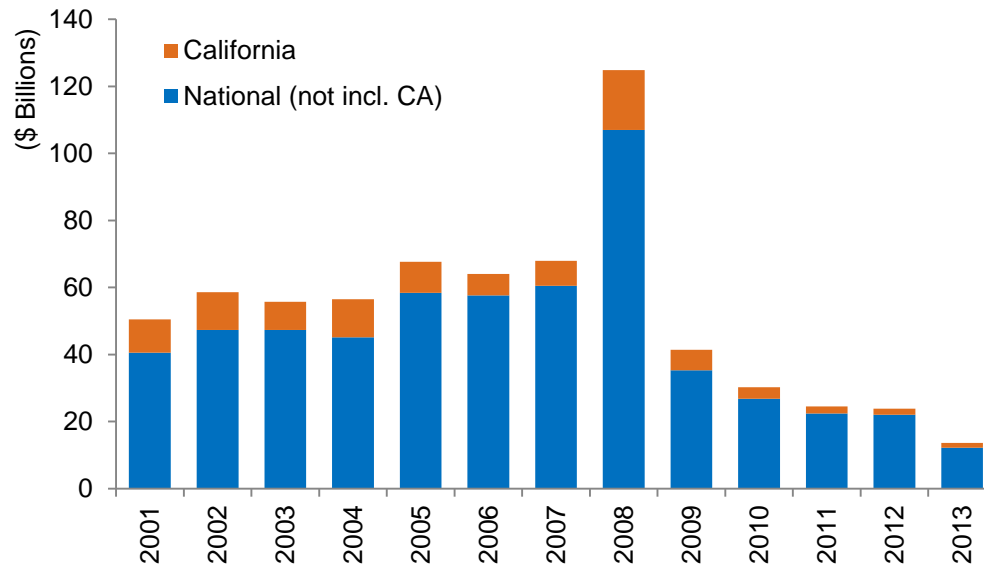
- **Floating Rate Notes (FRNs)**

- Benefit: Can be used to create or retain variable rate debt without third-party bank liquidity
- Rollovers: Requires a reissuance on each maturity date that can be costly and time consuming for issuers
- Interest rates: Set at a fixed spread to variable weekly index (i.e. SIFMA or LIBOR)
- Liquidity requirements: No liquidity required, essentially “self-liquidity” until maturity or put date
- Risks: Exposure to future short-term yields, market access and interest rate risk at maturity
- Structuring considerations: Amortization, put timing, call features, target investors, matches well with swaps
- Price: May or may not trade at par in the secondary market which limits primary market demand when spreads contract
- Considerations: Most FRN demand is 3-years or shorter which compares to the length of most bank facilities

# Variable Rate Demand Bond Issuance Volume

*Diminished volume of issuance and outstanding variable rate debt.*

**Municipal Variable Rate Issuance**  
2001-2013 (YTD)

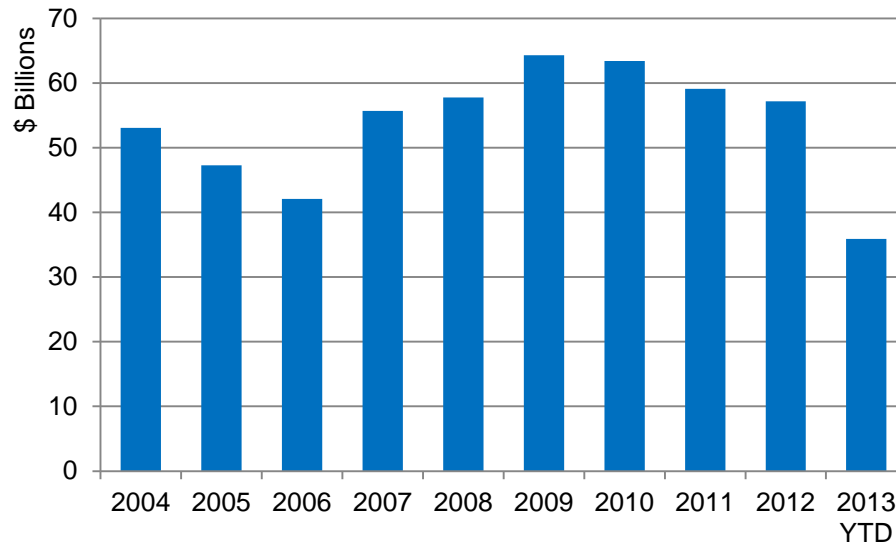


**California 2013 variable rate issuance down 77% from 2009**

- ◆ 2013: 17 issues totaling \$1.37 billion
- ◆ 2009: 82 issues totaling \$6.08 billion

# Fixed Rate Note Issuance Volume

**National Municipal Fixed Rate Note Issuance  
2004-2013 (YTD)**



## **California Issuance Volume Down**

- ◆ 25% decrease in 2013 YTD over 2009
- ◆ 2013 YTD: 72 issues totaling \$12.7 billion
- ◆ 2009: 100 issues totaling \$17.1 billion

## **TRAN issuance**

- ◆ Increased in 2010 due to financial pressures
- ◆ Season peaks in summer

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