#### CDIAC

CALIFORNIA
DEBT AND
INVESTMENT
ADVISORY
COMMISSION

#### SESSION FIVE

# TAKING LEADERSHIP IN THE BOND MARKET: THE ISSUER'S ROLE

#### **JUSTIN MARLOWE PH.D.**

ENDOWED PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC FINANCE,
EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND
GOVERNANCE,
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

#### KIRAN JAIN

CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER, NEIGHBORLY

#### **COLIN MACNAUGHT**

FORMER ASSISTANT STATE TREASURER, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

#### **TIM SCHAEFER**

DEPUTY TREASURER, PUBLIC FINANCE, CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE

#### **COLIN MACNAUGHT**

FORMER ASSISTANT STATE TREASURER, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

#### MassDirect Notes

- In 2014, Massachusetts launched its MassDirect Notes (MDN) program
- The MDN program was created to be a dedicated way for retail investors to get regular, predictable access to new-issue bonds
- Bonds were sold on a near-continuous basis as part of a rolling offering
- Modeled on the corporate medium term note programs of large, blue chip companies like Caterpillar and Duke Energy
- Bonds were sold through an open-architecture electronic trading platform called TMC Bonds

#### MDN Program Details

- As part of the MDN program, bonds were offered for sale every day for the last two weeks of every month
- Bonds re-priced daily: yields adjusted based on changes to MMD, but spreads to MMD were maintained
- All of the bonds were state G.O.'s, fixed-rate securities, with maturities ranging from two to ten years
- The entire program was rated in advance by the rating agencies
- Bonds were assigned the state's regular CUSIPs, standard denominations, same ratings
- The program was sized at \$250 million and ran from March 2014 to July 2014

## Why Did We Develop This Program?

The MDN program was based on three goals to provide long-term benefits to taxpayers:

- I. To expand the investor base, particularly for retail investors, giving them dedicated access to the primary market
- II. To position the state to "get paid" for more transparency
- III. To price bonds daily through smaller bond sales, which would effectively plumb the market for true investor demand

#### I. Expanding the Investor Base for Retail

- The MDN program was more than just a typical retail order period on steroids
- It was a dedicated, daily, convenient program for retail investors
- The open-architecture nature of the electronic trading platform made it possible for any retail advisor anywhere in the country to place an order for a Mass. G.O.
- Open architecture MDN program vs. traditional underwriting:

Level 1: National Broker-Dealers

Level 2: Regional Broker-Dealers

Level 3: Independent & Other

#### II. "Getting Paid" for Transparency

- The ability to offer bonds in a rolling offering program was possible because of the state's enhanced disclosure program
- The state updated its information statement on a bi-monthly basis, whether it was selling bonds or not
- And it developed a dedicated investor website that was used to make voluntary filings on a regular basis
- Also, the use of an electronic trading platform provided investors with significantly more pre- and post-price transparency than a traditional financing
- Bonds were also sold and allotted on a first come, first serve basis
- Same day order confirmation for investors

#### III. Finding the Right Level of Demand

- Even for frequent issuers, it's incredibly hard to know where bonds should price on a given day
- The typical process of pricing bonds on a single day typically in a large transaction – makes it unlikely that supply and demand equal each other out
- The MDN program priced bonds every day, taking a dollar-cost averaging approach to pricing
- This reduced market risk, but more importantly, it removed the relative value buyer from the pricing
- No bonds were underwritten no supply was forced upon the market
- The daily pricing of small amounts of bonds plumbed the market for the true investor demand for Mass. G.O.'s, which led to a normalizing of pricing spreads

### **Pricing Spread Analysis**

- Prior to the launch of the program, MA looked at how short-dated MA
   G.O.'s had priced in the primary in previous transactions
- Analysis covered bond sales from 2008-2014
- Focused on spreads to MMD for new issue bonds with maturities of 2 years to 10 years
  - So no BABs, no taxable, no variable rate bonds included in the analysis

## **Pricing Spread Analysis Results**

 The wide range of spreads to MMD for short-dated, highly rated bonds was a big surprise and counter intuitive

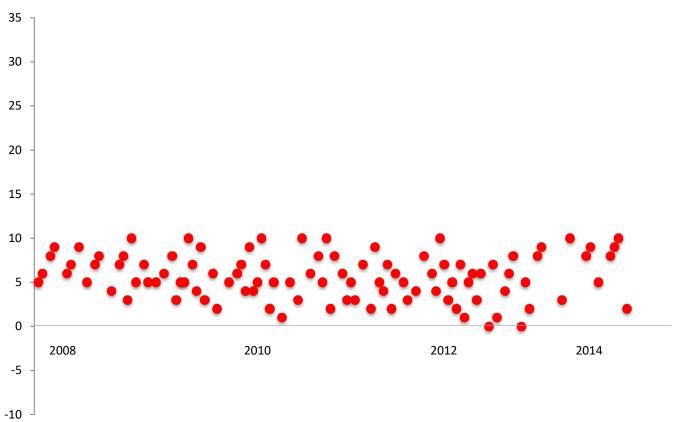
MA G.O.'s Historical Spread Analysis

in teres in sterical optical a final year				
	MAX	MIN	AVG	Hi/Low
Maturity	Spread	Spread	Spread	Range
1	15	-2	2	17
2	23	6	13	17
3	23	9	15	14
4	23	-5	14	28
5	25	-5	15	30
6	29	0	18	29
7	30	0	20	30
8	30	17	24	13
9	30	18	24	12
10	32	12	22	20

- Wider spreads tended to be associated with larger deals, with larger maturities, in negotiated financings
- However, not enough data points to be definitive

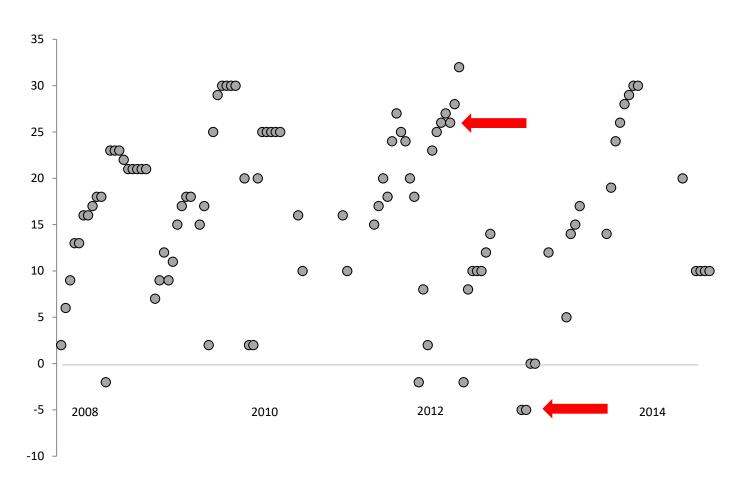
## **Pricing Spreads: Expected**



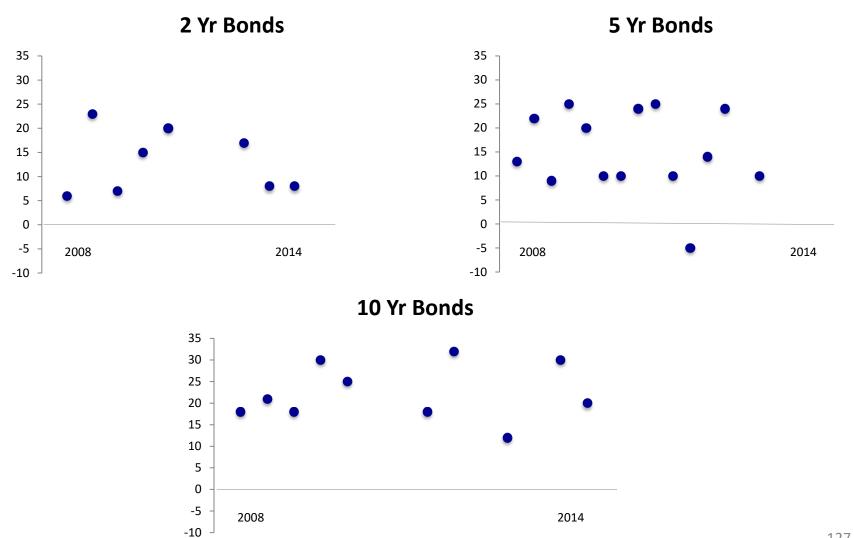


## **Pricing Spreads: Actual**

#### **Historical Pricing Spreads to MMD**



## **Pricing Spreads for Select Maturities**



#### Results

- The initial MDN period in 2014 included 9 weeks of sales, with the program selling out of bonds bonds ahead of schedule
- For the program, \$250 mm in bonds sold to retail, or \$6 million in bonds per day
- 1,080 individual orders from 44 different firms
- Average order size under \$250,000
- The small daily bond sales provided the state with real-time feedback on investor demand
- Over the course of the MDN program, the state used this real-time investor feedback to determine normal pricing spreads

#### **Key Take-Aways**

Electronic Trading Platforms can be used effectively by municipal issuers for new-issue financings, like they are in other markets

They promote a far more transparent, issuer and investor friendly process

They can lead to significantly better pricing results for issuers

#### **Questions & Contact Information**

Colin MacNaught

colin@bondlink.com

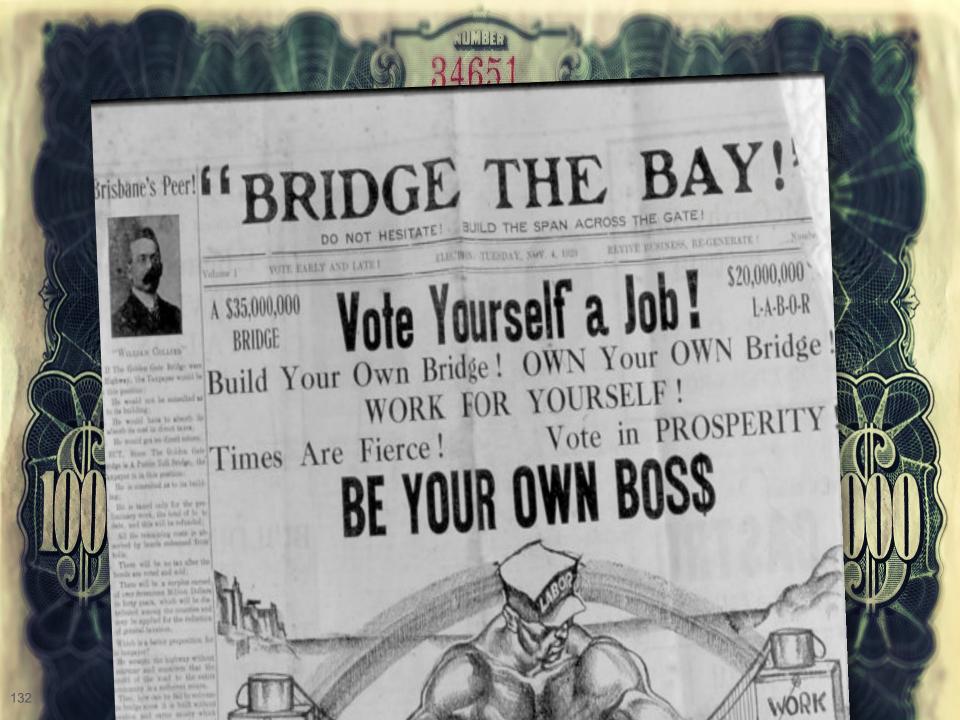


## THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT MARKETPLACE



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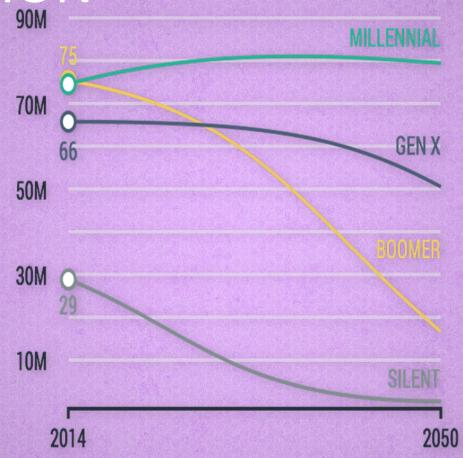
# Millennials Will Live In Cities Unlike Anything We've Ever Seen Before







# MILLENNIALS: THE LARGEST GENERATION

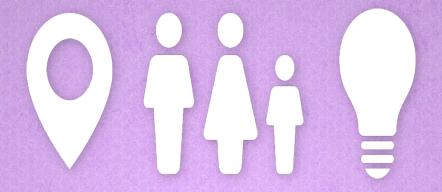


PROJECTED POPULATION BY GENERATION PEW RESEARCH CENTER - CENSUS 2014

# NOT ALL MILLENNIALS LIVE IN THEIR PARENTS' BASEMENT

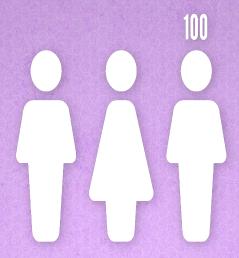


# SHAPED BY TECHNOLOGY "IN ALGORITHMS WE TRUST"

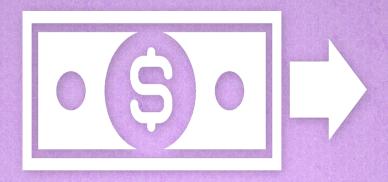


# VALUE COMMUNITY, FAMILY & CREATIVITY IN THE WORKPLACE





# 1 IN 3 MILLENNIALS WILL LIVE TO BE 100



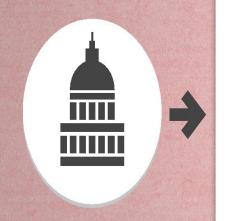
# LARGEST WEALTH TRANSFER IN HISTORY



# TORRATE SAN TONES

14@neighborly

## FREE TO EXCLUSIVE



#### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. | MARKETS

**CREDIT MARKETS** 

#### Muni Bond Costs Hit Investors in Wallet

Investors Pay Twice as Much for Municipal Debt as for Corporate Bonds

ву матт wirz March 10, 2014 7:44 р.m. ЕТ

#### **Big Money**

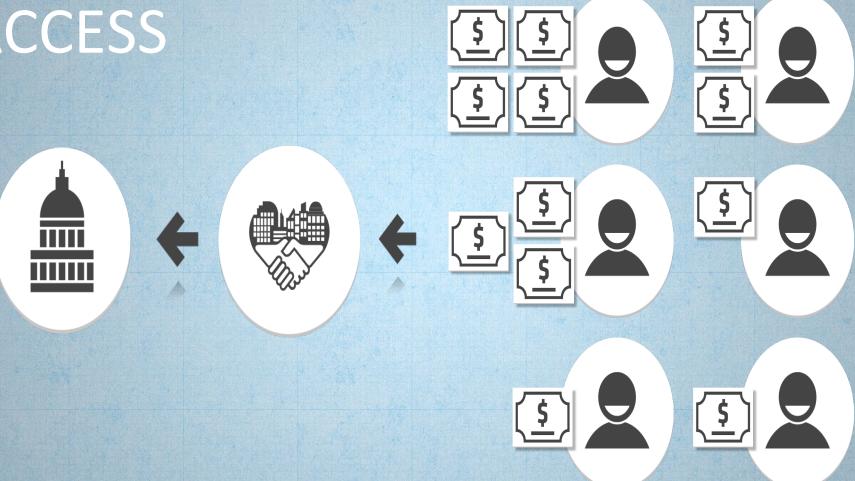
Mom-and-pop investors traded about \$915 billion in municipal bonds from 2009–13. But they are paying more to brokers for those investments than do purchasers of other types of U.S. securities.

Average broker profit on \$1,000 trade in 2013* \$20	Percentage of securities held by individual investors 50%		
15	40		
10	30 ···		



## SOLUTION: DEMOCRATIZE

**ACCESS** 

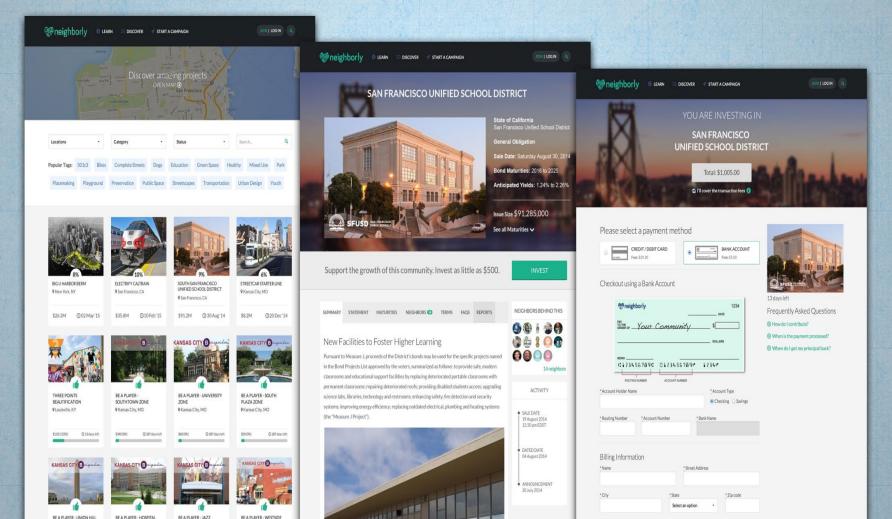


## SOUTON DEMORALEACES

1 FINDby Prace, Type, Yield

2 FEVEN

3 IN 185!



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## **Capital Markets**



September 28, 2015 1:09 pm

# Kenya launches bond sale via mobile phone

John Aglionby in Nairobi

Print Clip Comments

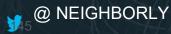


Kenya on Monday launched the world's first Treasury bond to be offered exclusively via mobile phone and slashed the minimum investment level in government debt, in a bid to stimulate public participation in the capital markets, raise money cheaply and boost the national savings rate.

Register

The Ks5bn (\$48m) five-year retail M-Akiba infrastructure bond is based on Kenya's innovative M-Pesa mobile money system, which allows mobile phone subscribers to send and save money and pay bills with a few clicks on their phone.

# CROWDFUNDING COMMUNITY FINANCE



# NEXT GENERATION COMMUNITY PROJECTS

PLAYGROUNDS LIBRARIES BIKE LANES PARKLETS

COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMUNITY SOLAR WIRELESS MESH NETWORKS

SKATE PARKS DISC GOLF PARKS MUNICIPAL DRIVERLESS FLEETS

OPEN SPACES DISTRIBUTED WATER RETENTION RESILIENCE RETROFITS

## WHAT ELSE?



# THANK YOU

"Anyone should be able to invest in anywhere"

"I want to save for retirement financially and socially"

"I want to invest directly in projects I care about"

"I want to invest in my community to help it become greener, healthier, more efficient..."

