Interest Rates Used in Appropriations, Including PECO Executive Summary February 20, 2025

The Revenue Estimating Conference adopted a series of interest rates for use in the state budgeting process, including any bonding related to Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO). The adopted interest rates take into consideration current benchmark rates and market volatility.

The long-term interest rate is used for bond issues with maturity structures of 20 years or more. The Conference adopted a long-term interest rate of 5.40%, an increase of 15 basis points from the rate adopted in July 2024, after considering information provided by the Division of Bond Finance. The Division of Bond Finance recommends a range for the long-term interest rate based on a benchmark rate of 4.36% plus a spread of 71 basis points for volatility for an interest rate of 5.07% on the low end and a benchmark rate of 4.36% plus a spread of 140 basis points for volatility for an interest rate of 5.76% on the high end. The 5.40% adopted rate has a spread of 104 basis points over the benchmark rate.

Long-Term Interest Rate

Fiscal Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Interest Rate	5.40%	5.40%	5.40%	5.40%	5.40%

As recommended by the Division of Bond Finance in December 2019, the Conference discontinued the adoption of a short-term or variable interest rate forecast. The adopted short-term interest rate was previously used to calculate debt service on the outstanding Everglades variable rate bonds. Variable rate bonds were initially issued in 2006 and 2007. The last outstanding issue of Everglades VR 2007A&B Bonds has now been refunded with fixed-rate bonds and was called for redemption on December 4, 2019. The Division of Bond Finance has no plans to recommend the issuance of variable rate bonds in the future.

Finally, the Conference adopted interest rates for use by the Revenue Estimating Conference in its calculation of the Maximum Appropriations for Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO). The adopted interest rates take into consideration current benchmark rates and the February 2025 National Economic Estimating Conference forecast for the yield on municipal bonds – the Bond Buyer 20-Bond Index. The February forecast for the Bond Buyer 20-Bond Index indicated an increase in interest rates in all fiscal years. The Conference raised the rates in each fiscal year proportionally, allowing a spread of approximately 50 basis points above the new Bond Buyer 20-Bond Index.

Fiscal Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
Interest Rate - July 2024	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Interest Rate - July 2024	4.75%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%

PECO Bonds Interest Rate

Division of Bond Finance Interest Rate Calculations

February 20, 2025

Division of Bond Finance Calculation of Long-Term Interest Rate

Long-Term Interest Rate Information*								
Low End High E								
Current Estimated Long-Term Interest Rate ¹	4.36%	4.36%						
Plus: Volatility Spread ²	0.71%	1.40%						
Long-Term Interest Rate Range	5.07%	5.76%						

¹ Interest rate estimate for a 30-year bond issue based on 5% coupons and estimated yields and credit spreads as of February 13, 2025. Estimate represents the true interest cost, which factors in the cost of call optionality based on the market standard 10-year par call structure. Excludes costs of issuance and underwriter's discount, which would increase the true cost of borrowing.

² Two measures to have been used to calculate interest rate volatility; (1) TM3 Municipal Market Data ("MMD") 30-year AAA benchmark stated yield high-low range over the prior 12 months of 71 basis points and (2) Bond Buyer 11 GO Bond Index maximum annual change over the last 20 fiscal years of 140 basis points.

Long-Term Interest Rate:

The interest rate range noted above is based on the Division of Bond Finance's historical methodology that analyzes interest rate trends and volatility over the past 20 years and most recent 12-month period. Based on estimated yields and credit spreads as of February 13, 2025, the Division's methodology produces a range of 5.07% to 5.76% for the long-term interest rate.

Since the last conference in July 2024, municipal market rates have seen heightened volatility amid an overall increasing rate environment, as evidenced by the base rate used in the long-term interest rate range increasing by 0.23%. The municipal market saw record issuance in 2024, with tax-exempt supply growing 36% year-over-year and reaching approximately \$447 billion. Most of this supply was well received as demand for municipal bonds was strong, as evidenced by net inflows to municipal bond funds of over \$42 billion. But the market faced macroeconomic headwinds, with any positive impacts of the Federal Reserve cutting rates by a total of 1.00% from September through December offset by shifting expectations in the timing of future cuts, with the market coming to terms with the possibility that rates remain "higher for longer." Recent inflation prints have not shown progress towards the Federal Reserve's inflation target, and alongside a resilient economy, provide no justification for anticipating additional rate cuts in the near-term. Issuance has remained elevated to start 2025, with market participants viewing this as a result of the impact of inflation on the costs of construction projects and issuers pulling deals forward to avoid uncertainty around future US fiscal policy and the potential impacts of federal tax legislation (which could include the loss of tax-exemption for municipal bonds).

Short-Term Interest Rate:

The State does not have any outstanding variable rate debt and there are no current plans for the issuance of additional variable rate debt. As a result, the Division has not produced a shortterm interest rate analysis for this conference.

^{*} The Division of Bond Finance has supplied the above interest rates to assist the REC in adopting official rates that would be used by State agencies for planning and budgetary purposes. There can be no assurance that actual interest rates for any particular bond issue will not exceed the rates shown above.

Long-Term Interest Rate Volatility Change in Bond Buyer 11 GO Bond Average Annual Interest Rates Last 20 Years

The largest year-over-year change in the annual average Bond Buyer GO Bond Index over the last 20 fiscal years is 140 basis points.



*Average calculated using absolute values of year-over-year changes.

Long-Term Interest Rate Volatility Change in 30-Year Benchmark AAA MMD Rate Last 12 Months

The 30-year benchmark AAA MMD interest rate ranged from a low of 3.40% to a high of 4.11% over the last 12 months, a difference of 71 basis points. These are stated yields assuming 5% coupons and do not factor the effect of call optionality (yield-to-maturity). Also excludes costs of issuance and underwriter's discount.



(BOLD font indicates forecasted values)

YIELD	Bond Buyer 2	0-Bond Index	Series 2025	Series 2026	Series 2027	Series 2028	Series 2029	Series 2030	Series 2031	Series 2032	Series 2033
	Jul 2024	Feb 2025	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	FY28-29	FY29-30	FY30-31	FY31-32	FY32-33	FY33-34
2025 Q3	3.56%	4.18%	4.75% Feb 2025								
2025 Q4	3.52%	4.19%	4.00% Jul 2024								
2026 Q1	3.48%	4.16%									
2026 Q2	3.46%	4.09%									
2026 Q3	3.45%	4.05%		4.50% Feb 2025							
2026 Q4	3.44%	4.03%		4.00% Jul 2024							
2027 Q1	3.43%	4.02%									
2027 Q2	3.42%	4.00%									
2027 Q3	3.41%	3.98%			4.50% Feb 2025						
2027 Q4	3.41%	3.98%			4.00% Jul 2024						
2028 Q1	3.40%	3.98%									
2028 Q2	3.40%	3.98%									
2028 Q3	3.40%	3.98%				4.50% Feb 2025					
2028 Q4	3.40%	3.98%				4.00% Jul 2024					
2029 Q1	3.40%	3.98%									
2029 Q2	3.40%	3.98%									
2029 Q3	3.40%	3.99%					4.50% Feb 2025				
2029 Q4	3.41%	3.99%					4.00% Jul 2024				
2030 Q1	3.41%	3.99%									
2030 Q2	3.41%	4.00%									
2030 Q3	3.41%	4.00%						4.50% Feb 2025			
2030 Q4	3.42%	4.00%						4.00% Jul 2024			
2031 Q1	3.43%	4.00%									
2031 Q2	3.43%	4.00%									
2031 Q3	3.44%	4.00%							4.50% Feb 2025		
2031 Q4	3.44%	4.00%							4.00% Jul 2024		
2032 Q1	3.45%	4.01%									
2032 Q2	3.45%	4.01%									
2032 Q3	3.46%	4.01%								4.50% Feb 2025	
2032 Q4	3.46%	4.01%								4.00% Jul 2024	
2033 Q1	3.47%	4.01%									
2033 Q2	3.48%	4.01%									
2033 Q3	3.48%	4.02%									4.50% Feb 2025
2033 Q4	3.49%	4.02%									4.00% Jul 2024
2034 Q1	3.49%	4.03%									
2034 Q2	3.50%	4.03%									

ADOPTED February 2025	4.75%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
2/20/2025									