



The fund received a 4-star Overall Morningstar Rating as of 9/30/20 among 177 funds in the High Yield Muni category (Y shares, based on risk-adjusted returns)

**Portfolio Managers**

**Paul M. Drury, CFA**  
(industry since 1989)

**Garrett L. Hamilton, CFA**  
(industry since 2006)

**Objective**

The fund seeks high current income exempt from federal income tax.

**Morningstar category**

High Yield Muni

**Lipper category**

High Yield Municipal Debt

**Fund symbols**

Class A	PTHAX
Class B	PTHYX
Class C	PTCCX
Class R6	PTFRX
Class Y	PTFYX

**Number of holdings**

441

**Net assets**

\$827.18M

**Dividend frequency**

Monthly

**Top 10 state allocations**

IL	15.37%
NJ	7.03%
FL	6.95%
CA	6.11%
TX	6.07%
OH	5.39%
CO	4.55%
NY	3.98%
PA	3.83%
WI	3.33%

# Putnam Tax-Free High Yield Fund (PTFYX)

## Pursuing a high level of tax-free income

### Tax-advantaged income

The fund pursues above-average income free from federal income tax by investing in higher-yielding, lower-rated municipal bonds.

### Focus on performance

The portfolio managers select bonds that offer attractive return potential relative to risk and position the portfolio based on Putnam's fundamental research and risk management.

### Leading research

Members of Putnam's fixed-income organization have a range of skills to analyze the credit risk of below-investment-grade bonds and help build a well-diversified portfolio of tax-exempt bonds.

### Sector weightings

Health care	22.9%
Education	17.2
State debt	12.8
Land	8.7
Utilities	7.2
Tobacco	7.2
Local debt	5.6
Transportation	5.5
Other sectors	9.2
Cash and net other assets	3.7

### Portfolio quality

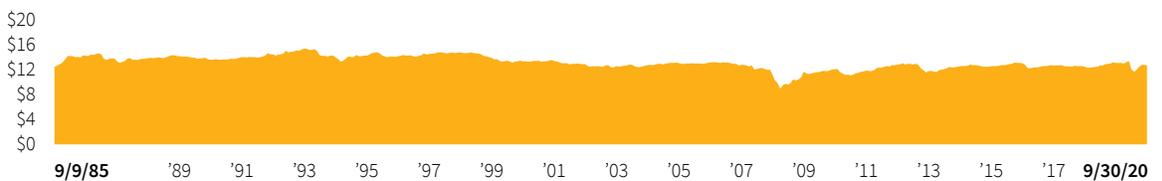
AAA	0.8%
AA	7.6
A	13.8
BBB	31.9
BB	13.9
B	2.3
Not rated	25.9
Cash and net other assets	3.7

The fund invests 54.1% of its assets in investment-grade tax-exempt bonds.

Allocations will vary over time. Due to rounding, percentages may not equal 100%.

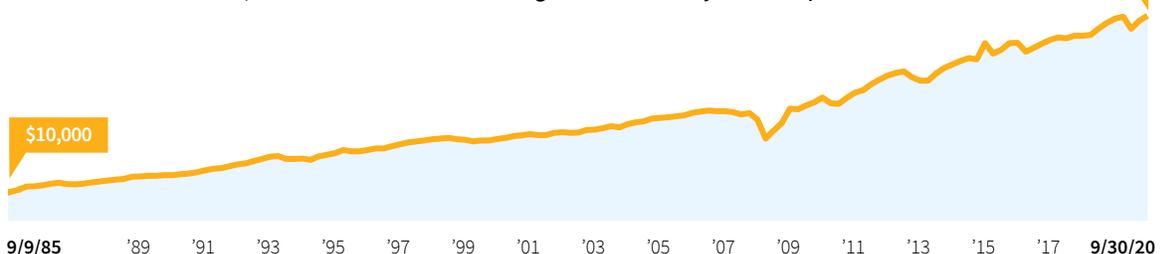
Credit qualities are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets. A bond rated BBB or higher (SP-3 or higher, for short-term debt) is considered investment grade. This chart reflects the highest security rating provided by one or more of Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch. Ratings may vary over time. Cash and net other assets, if any, represent the market value weights of cash, derivatives, and short-term securities in the portfolio. **The fund itself has not been rated by an independent rating agency.**

### Protecting investors' principal, the fund's net asset value has remained stable



### Growth of a \$10,000 investment

With dividends reinvested, the fund has returned an average of 5.8% annually since inception.



Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return will vary, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance of class Y shares assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. Class Y shares, available to investors through an asset-based fee program or for institutional clients, are sold without an initial sales charge and have no CDSC. Performance for class Y shares prior to their inception is derived from the historical performance of class B shares (inception 9/9/85), which have not been adjusted for the lower expenses; had they, returns would have been higher. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit putnam.com.

**Not FDIC insured  
May lose value  
No bank guarantee**

**Morningstar rankings**

(Y shares, based on total return)

1 year	29% (60/194)
3 years	31% (56/177)
5 years	35% (55/152)
10 years	34% (34/99)

**Total expense ratio**(Y shares)  
0.61%**Option adjusted duration**

9.21

**Duration to worst**

5.59

**Average stated maturity**

21.50

**Average effective maturity**

6.61

**AMT exposure**

5.63%

**Average effective maturity**

depends on the maturity of the underlying bonds within each fund. The longer the maturity, the greater the interest-rate risk.

**Average stated maturity** is determined based on the legal final maturity of a bond.

**Duration to worst** is the duration of a bond computed assuming the bond is called at the worst possible time and uses the date associated with the lowest yield. Depending on the interest-rate environment and structure of the bond, there may be scenarios in which the worst possible time for the bond to be paid off is the maturity date. Option adjusted duration is the modified duration of a bond after adjusting for any embedded optionality.

The Bloomberg (BBG) Barclays Municipal Bond Index is an unmanaged index of long-term fixed-rate investment-grade tax-exempt bonds. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Not all share classes are available on all platforms.

For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.

Putnam Retail Management  
FS042\_Y 323486 10/20

**Annual performance at net asset value (all distributions reinvested)**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 YTD
Y shares	11.0%	13.3%	-5.2%	13.9%	4.6%	1.1%	8.6%	1.3%	9.7%	0.5%
BBG Barclays Municipal Bond Index	10.7	6.8	-2.6	9.1	3.3	0.3	5.5	1.3	7.5	3.3

**Annualized total return performance**

Inception 1/2/08	Class Y shares	BBG Barclays Municipal Bond Index
1 year	1.41%	4.09%
3 years	4.26	4.28
5 years	4.58	3.84
10 years	5.21	3.99
Life of fund	5.75	6.34

**Attractive yield**

	Net asset value
Current 30-day SEC yield*	2.74%
Taxable equivalent†	4.63%

Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return will vary, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance of class Y shares assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. Class Y shares, available to investors through an asset-based fee program or for institutional clients, are sold without an initial sales charge and have no CDSC. Performance for class Y shares prior to their inception is derived from the historical performance of class B shares (inception 9/9/85), which have not been adjusted for the lower expenses; had they, returns would have been higher. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit [putnam.com](http://putnam.com).

\* Based only on investment income, calculated using the maximum offering price in accordance with SEC guidelines.

† Assumes a maximum 40.80% combined federal and state tax rate inclusive of the 3.80% Medicare surtax.

**Highlights of five-year performance periods (9/9/85–9/30/20)\***

Best 5-year return	Best period end date	Worst 5-year return	Worst period end date	Average 5-year return	% of 5-year periods with positive returns	Number of positive 5-year periods	Number of negative 5-year periods
11.23%	12/31/13	-2.32%	12/31/08	5.36%	98%	119	2

\* Based on annualized returns for quarterly rolling periods.

The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating," is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. Ratings do not take into account the effects of sales charges and loads. Putnam Tax-Free High Yield Fund received 3, 4, and 4 stars for the 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods among 177, 152, and 99 High Yield Muni funds, respectively.

Morningstar rankings for class Y shares are based on total return without sales charge relative to all share classes of funds with similar objectives as determined by Morningstar. Morningstar rankings may differ significantly from Morningstar's risk-adjusted star ratings. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Tax-free funds may not be suitable for IRAs and other non-taxable accounts.

**Consider these risks before investing:** Capital gains, if any, are taxed at the federal and, in most cases, state levels. For some investors, investment income may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax. Income from federally tax-exempt funds may be subject to state and local taxes. Bond investments are subject to interest-rate risk (the risk of bond prices falling if interest rates rise) and credit risk (the risk of an issuer defaulting on interest or principal payments). Interest-rate risk is generally greater for longer-term bonds, and credit risk is generally greater for below-investment-grade bonds. Unlike bonds, funds that invest in bonds have fees and expenses. The fund may invest significantly in particular segments of the tax-exempt debt market, making it more vulnerable to fluctuations in the values of the securities it holds than a more broadly invested fund. Interest the fund receives might be taxable. The value of investments in the fund's portfolio may fall or fail to rise over extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including general economic, political, or financial market conditions; investor sentiment and market perceptions; government actions; geopolitical events or changes; and factors related to a specific issuer, geography, industry, or sector. These and other factors may lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund's portfolio holdings. Our investment techniques, analyses, and judgments may not produce the outcome we intend. The investments we select for the fund may not perform as well as other securities that we do not select for the fund. We, or the fund's other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could have a negative effect on the fund. You can lose money by investing in the fund.

**Request a prospectus or a summary prospectus, if available, from your financial representative or by calling Putnam at 1-800-225-1581. These prospectuses include investment objectives, risks, fees, expenses, and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing.**