

# Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF

## Prospectus

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FUND SYMBOL Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF  
PULT

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**Principal U.S. Listing Exchange:** NYSE Arca, Inc.

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### **Investment Category: Taxable Income**

**This prospectus explains what you should know about this fund before you invest. Please read it carefully.**

These securities have not been approved or disapproved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) nor has the SEC passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any statement to the contrary is a crime.

George Putnam Balanced Fund  
Putnam BDC Income ETF  
Putnam BioRevolution ETF  
Putnam California Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam Convertible Securities Fund  
Putnam Core Bond Fund  
Putnam Core Equity Fund  
Putnam Diversified Income Trust  
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation  
Balanced Fund  
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation  
Conservative Fund  
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation  
Equity Fund  
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation  
Growth Fund  
Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund  
Putnam Emerging Markets ex-China ETF  
Putnam ESG Core Bond ETF  
Putnam ESG High Yield ETF  
Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF  
Putnam Floating Rate Income Fund  
Putnam Focused Equity Fund  
Putnam Focused International  
Equity Fund  
Putnam Focused Large Cap Growth ETF  
Putnam Focused Large Cap Value ETF  
Putnam Global Health Care Fund  
Putnam Global Income Trust  
Putnam Global Technology Fund  
Putnam Government Money Market Fund  
Putnam High Yield Fund  
Putnam Income Fund  
Putnam Intermediate-Term Municipal  
Income Fund  
Putnam International Capital  
Opportunities Fund  
Putnam International Equity Fund  
Putnam International Value Fund  
Putnam Large Cap Growth Fund  
Putnam Large Cap Value Fund

Putnam Massachusetts Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam Minnesota Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam Money Market Fund  
Putnam Mortgage Opportunities Fund  
Putnam Mortgage Securities Fund  
Putnam Multi-Asset Income Fund  
Putnam New Jersey Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam New York Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam Ohio Tax Exempt Income Fund  
Putnam PanAgora ESG Emerging Markets  
Equity ETF  
Putnam PanAgora ESG International  
Equity ETF  
Putnam Pennsylvania Tax Exempt  
Income Fund  
Putnam Research Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2025 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2030 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2035 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2040 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2045 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2050 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2055 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2060 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage 2065 Fund  
Putnam Retirement Advantage  
Maturity Fund  
Putnam Short Duration Bond Fund  
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund  
Putnam Short-Term Municipal Income Fund  
Putnam Small Cap Growth Fund  
Putnam Small Cap Value Fund  
Putnam Strategic Intermediate  
Municipal Fund  
Putnam Sustainable Future ETF  
Putnam Sustainable Future Fund  
Putnam Sustainable Leaders ETF  
Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund

**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2025 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2030 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2035 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2040 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2045 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2050 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2055 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2060 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
2065 Fund**  
**Putnam Sustainable Retirement  
Maturity Fund**  
**Putnam Tax Exempt Income Fund**  
**Putnam Tax-Free High Yield Fund**  
**Putnam Ultra Short Duration Income Fund**

**Putnam Ultra Short MAC Series**  
**Putnam VT Core Equity Fund**  
**Putnam VT Diversified Income Fund**  
**Putnam VT Emerging Markets Equity Fund**  
**Putnam VT Focused International  
Equity Fund**  
**Putnam VT George Putnam Balanced Fund**  
**Putnam VT Global Asset Allocation Fund**  
**Putnam VT Global Health Care Fund**  
**Putnam VT Government Money Market Fund**  
**Putnam VT High Yield Fund**  
**Putnam VT Income Fund**  
**Putnam VT International Equity Fund**  
**Putnam VT International Value Fund**  
**Putnam VT Large Cap Growth Fund**  
**Putnam VT Large Cap Value Fund**  
**Putnam VT Mortgage Securities Fund**  
**Putnam VT Research Fund**  
**Putnam VT Small Cap Growth Fund**  
**Putnam VT Small Cap Value Fund**  
**Putnam VT Sustainable Future Fund**  
**Putnam VT Sustainable Leaders Fund**

On May 31, 2023, Franklin Resources, Inc. (“Franklin Resources”) and Great-West Lifeco Inc., the parent company of Putnam U.S. Holdings I, LLC (“Putnam Holdings”), announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement for a subsidiary of Franklin Resources to acquire Putnam Holdings in a stock and cash transaction.

As part of this transaction, Putnam Investment Management, LLC (“Putnam Management”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Putnam Holdings and investment manager to the Putnam family of funds (the “Putnam Funds”), would become an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources.

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of applicable regulatory approvals. Subject to such approvals and the satisfaction of these conditions, the transaction is currently expected to be consummated in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, consummation of the transaction will result in the automatic termination of the investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management and any related sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, where applicable. Therefore, the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Funds will be asked to approve a new investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management (and new sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, if applicable). If approved by the Board of Trustees, the new investment management contract will be presented to the shareholders of each Putnam Fund for their approval.

*Shareholders should retain this Supplement for future reference.*

## **Putnam ESG Core Bond ETF**

## **Putnam ESG High Yield ETF**

## **Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF**

Prospectuses dated January 18, 2023

Effective immediately, the first paragraph in the section *Fund distributions and taxes* is replaced in its entirety with the following:

The fund earns dividends, interest, and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments and distributes these gains (less any losses) as capital gain distributions. If you purchased your shares in the secondary market, your broker is responsible for distributing the income and capital gain distributions to you. The fund normally distributes any net investment income monthly and any net realized capital gains annually.

*Shareholders should retain this Supplement for future reference.*

# Fund summary

## Investment objective

Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF seeks as high a rate of current income as Putnam Investment Management, LLC (“Putnam Management”) believes is consistent with preservation of capital and maintenance of liquidity.

## Fees and expenses

The following tables describe the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy, hold and sell shares of the fund. **You may pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to financial intermediaries, which are not reflected in the tables and examples below.**

### Annual fund operating expenses

*(expenses you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)*

| Management fees | Distribution and service (12b-1) fees | Other expenses* | Total annual fund operating expenses |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 0.25%           | 0.00%                                 | 0.00%           | 0.25%                                |

+ Other expenses are based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year.

### Example

The following hypothetical example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other funds. It assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated and then, except as indicated, redeem all your shares at the end of those periods. It assumes a 5% return on your investment each year and that the fund’s operating expenses remain the same. Your actual costs may be higher or lower.

| 1 year | 3 years |
|--------|---------|
| \$26   | \$80    |

## Portfolio turnover

The fund pays transaction-related costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when the fund’s shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or the above example, affect fund performance. The fund’s portfolio turnover rate will be available after the fund completes its first fiscal year.

## Principal investment strategies

The fund invests in a diversified short duration portfolio of fixed-income securities comprised of investment-grade money market and other fixed-income securities, including U.S. dollar-denominated foreign securities of these types, with a focus on companies or issuers that Putnam Management, the fund’s investment manager,

believes meet relevant environmental, social or governance (“ESG”) criteria on a sector-specific basis (“ESG criteria”).

The fund’s investments may include obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities, which are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States (e.g., U.S. Treasury bonds and Ginnie Mae mortgage-backed bonds) or by only the credit of a federal agency or government-sponsored entity (e.g., Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac) mortgage-backed bonds), domestic corporate debt obligations, taxable municipal debt securities, securitized debt instruments (such as mortgage- and asset-backed securities), repurchase agreements, certificates of deposit, bankers acceptances, commercial paper (including asset-backed commercial paper), time deposits, Yankee Eurodollar securities and other money market instruments. The fund may also invest in U.S. dollar-denominated foreign securities of these types. Under normal circumstances, the effective duration of the fund’s portfolio will generally not be greater than one year. Effective duration provides a measure of a fund’s interest-rate sensitivity. The longer a fund’s duration, the more sensitive the fund is to shifts in interest rates. Under normal circumstances, the dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of the fund is not expected to exceed four years.

The fund may consider, among other factors, a company’s or issuer’s ESG criteria (as described below), credit, interest rate, liquidity and prepayment risks, as well as general market conditions, when deciding whether to buy or sell investments.

Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of the value of its net assets in fixed-income securities that meet Putnam Management’s ESG criteria. This policy is non-fundamental and may be changed only after 60 days’ notice to shareholders. Putnam Management may not apply ESG criteria to investments that are not subject to the fund’s 80% policy and such investments may not meet Putnam Management’s ESG criteria.

In evaluating investments for the fund, Putnam Management identifies relevant ESG criteria on a sector-specific basis using an internally developed materiality map, which is informed by the ESG issues identified by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board as material to companies or issuers within a particular industry. A materiality map provides a guide to understanding which ESG criteria are more or less important for a given sector or subsector; it includes those ESG criteria that may be reasonably likely to influence investment decision-making. Putnam Management constructs the materiality map by evaluating the significance of specified ESG criteria (i.e., board structure and composition, diversity, equity and inclusion, or climate change risk, among others) in specific industries (i.e., consumer, healthcare, financials, etc.), subsectors, or countries. Putnam Management then categorizes the relevance of each ESG criteria for each industry, subsector, or country. As part of this analysis, Putnam Management may utilize metrics and information such as emissions data, carbon intensity, sources of energy used for operations, water use and re-use, water generation, waste diversion from landfill, employee safety and diversity data, supplier audits, product safety, board composition, and incentive compensation structures. After evaluating these criteria, Putnam Management will assign each company or issuer, as applicable, a proprietary

ESG rating ranging from 1 to 4 (1 indicating the highest (best) ESG rating and 4 indicating the lowest (worst) ESG rating). In order to meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria for purposes of the above-referenced non-fundamental investment policy, a company or issuer must be rated 2 or 1 by Putnam Management. While Putnam Management may consider independent third-party data as a part of its analytical process, the portfolio management team performs its own independent analysis of issuers and does not rely solely on third-party screens.

The fund's approach to ESG investing incorporates fundamental research together with consideration of ESG criteria which may include, but are not limited to, those included in the following descriptions. Environmental criteria include, for example, a company's or issuer's carbon intensity and use of resources like water or minerals. ESG measures in this area might include plans to reduce waste, increase recycling, raise the proportion of energy supply from renewable sources, or improve product design to be less resource intensive. Social criteria include, for example, labor practices and supply chain management. ESG measures in this area might include programs to improve employee well-being, commitment to workplace equality and diversity, or improved stewardship of supplier relationships and working conditions. Corporate governance criteria include, for example, board composition and executive compensation, as well as bondholders' rights. ESG measures in this area might include improvements in board independence or diversity, or alignment of management incentives with the company's or issuer's strategic ESG objectives.

Putnam Management uses a sector-specific approach in evaluating investments. In the corporate credit sector, Putnam Management combines fundamental analysis with relevant ESG insights with a forward-looking perspective. Putnam Management believes that this approach contributes to a more nuanced assessment of an issuer's credit profile which offers potential opportunity to limit tail risk in credit portfolios (i.e., the risk that the price of a portfolio may decrease by more than three standard deviations from its current price) and ratings volatility. Putnam Management believes that securitized debt instruments present unique challenges in applying ESG criteria due to the presence of various asset types, counterparties involved, and the complex structure of the securitized debt market along with a lack of available ESG-related data. In evaluating securitized debt instruments for potential investment, Putnam Management takes a broad approach, analyzing both the terms of the transaction, including the asset type being securitized and structure of the securitization, as well as key counterparties. Opportunities are analyzed at the asset level within each securitization and each subsector to identify assets that meet relevant ESG thresholds. Additionally, in evaluating securitized debt instruments, Putnam Management analyzes relevant ESG criteria regarding the originator, servicers, or other relevant counterparties. In the sovereign debt sector, Putnam Management uses quantitative modeling and fundamental research to evaluate countries across a variety of ESG criteria (i.e., natural resource dependence and level of public corruption) and non-ESG criteria (i.e., global economic conditions, market valuations and technicals). Putnam Management believes that sovereign issuers with better ESG scores generally benefit from lower borrowing costs and that ESG criteria may

influence the perception of the credit risk of a country's debt. Countries are evaluated both on current ESG metrics and the extent of recent progress.

Putnam Management evaluates ESG considerations using independent third-party data (where available), and also uses company or issuer disclosures and public data sources. Putnam Management believes that ESG considerations are best analyzed in combination with a company's or issuer's fundamentals, including a company's or issuer's industry, location, strategic position, and key relationships.

In addition to bonds, the fund may also invest in other fixed-income instruments. In addition to the main investment strategies described above, the fund may make other types of investments, such as investments in hybrid and structured bonds and notes, and preferred securities that would be characterized as debt securities under applicable accounting standards and tax laws. The fund may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, certain foreign currency transactions and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes.

### **Principal investment risks**

- *ESG investing risk.* Investing with a focus on companies or issuers that meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria may result in the fund investing in certain types of companies, issuers, industries or sectors that the market may not favor. Conversely, investing in such companies or issuers may result in the fund foregoing investment in securities that outperform the fund's investments in certain environments. In evaluating an investment opportunity, Putnam Management may make investment decisions without the availability of optimal ESG-related data (which may be even less available with securitized debt instruments) or based on information and data that is incomplete or inaccurate. ESG metrics are not uniformly defined and applying such metrics involves subjective assessments. ESG scorings and assessments of issuers can vary across third-party data providers and may change over time. Putnam Management does not rely exclusively on third-party data providers in evaluating ESG criteria. ESG information from third-party data providers may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable, particularly with respect to companies in emerging market countries, which may adversely impact the investment process. The fund does not restrict its investments to "green bonds" (*i.e.*, U.S. dollar-denominated bonds designated as "green" by the Climate Bonds Initiative) and does not restrict investments based solely on "negative screens". In addition, a company's or issuer's business practices, products or services may change over time. As a result of these possibilities, among others, the fund may temporarily hold securities that are inconsistent with the fund's ESG investment criteria. Regulatory changes or interpretations regarding the definitions and/or use of ESG criteria could have a material adverse effect on the fund's ability to invest in accordance with its investment policies and/or achieve its investment objective, as well as the ability of certain classes of investors to invest in funds, such as the fund, whose strategies include ESG criteria. Because fixed-income investments generally represent a promise to pay principal and interest by an issuer, and not an ownership interest, and may involve complex structures, ESG-related investment considerations may



have a more limited impact on risk and return (or may have an impact over a different investment time horizon) relative to other asset classes, and this may be particularly true for shorter-term investments. In addition, holders of fixed-income investments do not typically have voting rights, unlike holders of equity investments who have the right to vote on issuer proposals, including ESG-related proposals.

- *Model Risk.* If the quantitative models or data that are used in managing the fund prove to be incorrect or incomplete, investment decisions made in reliance on the models or data may not produce the desired results and the fund may realize losses. Additionally, market movements are likely to change the risk levels and risk allocations of the fund. Investments made based on quantitative models may perform differently from the market as a whole.
- *Fluctuation of NAV and share price risk.* Shares may trade at a larger premium or discount to NAV than shares of other ETFs. The NAV of the fund will generally fluctuate with changes in the market value of the fund's holdings. The fund's shares can be bought and sold in the secondary market at market prices. Disruptions to creations and redemptions, the existence of extreme market volatility or potential lack of an active trading market for the fund's shares may result in the fund's shares trading significantly above (at a premium) or below (at a discount) NAV or the intraday value of the fund's holdings. In addition, in stressed market conditions or periods of market disruption or volatility, the market for fund shares may become less liquid in response to deteriorating liquidity in the markets for the fund's underlying portfolio holdings.
- *Trading issues risk.* The fund has no public trading history. There can be no assurance that an active trading market will develop or be maintained or that the market for fund shares will operate as intended, which could lead to the fund's shares trading at wider spreads and larger premiums and discounts to NAV than other actively managed ETFs. As a result, it may cost investors more to trade fund shares than shares of other ETFs. There is no guarantee that the fund will be able to attract market makers and authorized participants. Market makers and authorized participants are not obligated to make a market in the fund's shares or to submit purchase and redemption orders for creation units. The market prices of the fund's shares are expected to fluctuate, in some cases materially, in response to changes in the fund's NAV, the intraday value of the Fund's holdings and supply and demand for the fund's shares. Putnam Management cannot predict whether the fund's shares will trade above, below or at their NAV or the intraday value of the fund's holdings. During such periods, investors may incur significant losses if they sell shares.

The securities held by the fund may be traded in markets that close at a different time than the exchange on which the fund's shares are listed. Liquidity in those securities may be reduced after the applicable closing times. Accordingly, during the time when the exchange is open but after the applicable market closing, fixing or settlement times, bid-ask spreads on the exchange and the corresponding premium or discount to the shares' NAV may widen.

- *Large shareholder risk.* Certain accounts or affiliates of Putnam Management, including other funds advised by Putnam Management or third parties, may from time to time own (beneficially or of record) or control a substantial amount of the fund's

shares, including through seed capital arrangements. Such shareholders may at times be considered to control the fund. Dispositions of a large number of shares by these shareholders may adversely affect the fund's liquidity and net assets to the extent such transactions are executed directly with the fund in the form of redemptions through an authorized participant, rather than executed in the secondary market. These redemptions may also force the fund to sell securities, which may increase the fund's brokerage costs. To the extent these large shareholders transact in shares of the fund on the secondary market, such transactions may account for a large percentage of the trading volume on the exchange and may, therefore, have a material effect (upward or downward) on the market price of the fund's shares.

- *Authorized participant concentration risk.* Only an authorized participant may engage in creation and redemption transactions directly with the fund. The fund may have a limited number of financial institutions that act as authorized participants, none of which are obligated to engage in creation and/or redemption transactions. To the extent that those authorized participants do not engage in creation and redemption orders, there may be a significantly diminished trading market for fund shares or fund shares may trade at a discount (or premium) to NAV and possibly face trading halts and/or de-listing.
- *Cash transactions risk.* Unlike certain ETFs, the fund may effect creations and redemptions in cash or partially in cash. Therefore, it may be required to sell portfolio securities and subsequently recognize gains on such sales that the fund might not have recognized if it were to distribute portfolio securities in-kind. As such, investments in the fund's shares may be less tax-efficient than an investment in an ETF that distributes portfolio securities entirely in-kind.
- *Market risk.* The effects of inflation may erode the value of an investment in the fund over time. 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. The novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic and efforts to contain its spread are likely to negatively affect the value, volatility, and liquidity of the securities and other assets in which the fund invests and exacerbate other risks that apply to the fund. These effects could negatively impact the fund's performance and lead to losses on your investment in the fund.
- *Fixed-income investments risk.* The risks associated with fixed-income investments include interest rate risk, which is the risk that the value of the fund's investments is likely to fall if interest rates rise. Fixed-income investments are also subject to credit risk, which is the risk that the issuer of a fixed-income investment may default on payment of interest or principal. Credit risk is generally greater for debt not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, and interest rate risk is generally greater for longer-term debt. Fixed-income investments may be more susceptible to downgrades or defaults during economic downturns or other periods of economic stress. Mortgage-backed investments, unlike traditional debt investments, are also

subject to prepayment risk, which means that they may increase in value less than other bonds when interest rates decline and decline in value more than other bonds when interest rates rise. The fund may have to invest the proceeds from prepaid investments, including mortgage-backed investments, in other investments with less attractive terms and yields. The fund's investments in mortgage-backed securities, and in certain other securities and derivatives, may be or become illiquid.

- *Derivatives risk.* The fund's use of derivatives may increase the risks of investing in the fund by increasing investment exposure (which may be considered leverage) or, in the case of many over-the-counter instruments, because of the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions and the potential failure of the other party to the instrument to meet its obligations. The value of derivatives may move in unexpected ways due to unanticipated market movements, the use of leverage, imperfect correlation between the derivative instrument and the reference asset, or other factors, especially in unusual market conditions, and volatility in the value of derivatives could adversely impact the fund's returns, obligations and exposures. Derivatives are also subject to other risks, including liquidity risk (e.g., liquidity demands arising from the requirement to make payments to a derivative counterparty), operational risk (e.g., settlement issues or system failure), and legal risk (e.g., insufficient legal documentation or contract enforceability issues).
- *Portfolio turnover rate risk.* From time to time the fund may engage in frequent trading. Funds with high turnover may be more likely to realize capital gains that must be distributed to shareholders as taxable income. High turnover may also cause a fund to pay more brokerage commissions and to incur other transaction costs (including imputed transaction costs), which may detract from performance. The fund's portfolio turnover rate and the amount of brokerage commissions it pays and transaction costs it incurs will vary over time based on market conditions.
- *Management and operational risk.* There is no guarantee that the investment techniques, analyses, or judgments that Putnam Management applies in making investment decisions for the fund will produce the intended outcome or that the investments Putnam Management selects for the fund will perform as well as other securities that were not selected for the fund. Putnam Management, or the fund's other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could negatively impact the fund. The fund may not achieve its goal, and it is not intended to be a complete investment program.

An investment in the fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. It is important to understand that you can lose money by investing in the fund.

## **Performance**

Performance information will be available after the fund completes a full calendar year of operation.

## **Your fund’s management**

### **Investment advisor**

Putnam Investment Management, LLC

### **Portfolio managers**

#### **Joanne Driscoll**

Head of Short-Term Liquid Markets, portfolio manager of the fund since 2023

#### **Andrew Benson**

Portfolio Manager, portfolio manager of the fund since 2023

#### **Michael Lima**

Portfolio Manager, Analyst, portfolio manager of the fund since 2023

### **Sub-advisor**

Putnam Investments Limited\*

\* Though the investment advisor has retained the services of Putnam Investments Limited (PIL), PIL does not currently manage any assets of the fund.

## **Purchase and sale of fund shares**

Shares of the fund are listed and traded on an exchange, and individual fund shares may only be bought and sold in the secondary market through a broker or dealer at market price. These transactions, which do not involve the fund, are made at market prices that may vary throughout the day, rather than at net asset value (NAV). Shares of the fund may trade at a price greater than the fund’s NAV (premium) or less than the fund’s NAV (discount). An investor may incur costs attributable to the difference between the highest price a buyer is willing to pay to purchase shares (bid) and the lowest price a seller is willing to accept for shares (ask) when buying or selling fund shares in the secondary market (the “bid-ask spread”). Recent information, including information regarding the fund’s NAV, market price, premiums and discounts, and bid-ask spread, is available at [putnam.com](http://putnam.com).

## **Tax information**

The fund’s distributions will be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains unless you hold the shares through a tax-advantaged arrangement, in which case you will generally be taxed only upon withdrawal of monies from the arrangement.

## **Financial intermediary compensation**

The fund and its related companies may pay intermediaries, which may include banks, broker/dealers, or financial professionals, for the sale of fund shares and related services. Please bear in mind that these payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker/dealer or other intermediary to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your advisor or visit your advisor’s website for more information.

## Fund details

### Investment details

#### Investment objective

Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF seeks as high a rate of current income as Putnam Management believes is consistent with preservation of capital and maintenance of liquidity.

#### Principal investment strategies

The fund invests in a diversified short duration portfolio of fixed-income securities comprised of investment-grade money market and other fixed-income securities with a focus on companies or issuers that Putnam Management, the fund's investment manager, believes meet relevant ESG criteria.

The fund's investments may include obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities, which are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States (e.g., U.S. Treasury bonds and Ginnie Mae mortgage-backed bonds) or by only the credit of a federal agency or government-sponsored entity (e.g., Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage-backed bonds), domestic corporate debt obligations, taxable municipal debt securities, securitized debt instruments (such as mortgage- and asset-backed securities), repurchase agreements, certificates of deposit, bankers acceptances, commercial paper (including asset-backed commercial paper), time deposits, Yankee Eurodollar securities and other money market instruments. The fund may also invest in U.S. dollar-denominated foreign securities of these types. Under normal circumstances, the effective duration of the fund's portfolio will generally not be greater than one year. Effective duration provides a measure of a fund's interest-rate sensitivity. The longer a fund's duration, the more sensitive the fund is to shifts in interest rates. Under normal circumstances, the dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of the fund is not expected to exceed four years.

The fund may consider, among other factors, a company's or issuer's ESG criteria (as described below), credit, interest rate, liquidity and prepayment risks, as well as general market conditions, when deciding whether to buy or sell investments.

Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of the value of its net assets in fixed-income securities that meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria. This policy is non-fundamental and may be changed only after 60 days' notice to shareholders. Putnam Management may not apply ESG criteria to investments that are not subject to the fund's 80% policy and such investments may not meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria. These criteria are based on a proprietary materiality map that is informed by the ESG issues identified as material by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board. A materiality map provides a guide to understanding which ESG criteria are more or less important for a given sector or subsector; it includes those ESG criteria that may be reasonably likely to influence investment decision-making. Putnam Management constructs the materiality map by evaluating the significance of specified ESG criteria (i.e., board structure and composition,

diversity, equity and inclusion, or climate change risk, among others) in specific industries (i.e., consumer, healthcare, financials, etc.), subsectors, or countries. Putnam Management then categorizes the relevance of each ESG criteria for each industry, subsector, or country. After evaluating these criteria, Putnam Management will assign each company or issuer, as applicable, a proprietary ESG rating ranging from 1 to 4 (1 indicating the highest (best) ESG rating and 4 indicating the lowest (worst) ESG rating). In order to meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria for purposes of the above-referenced non-fundamental investment policy, a company or issuer must be rated 2 or 1 by Putnam Management. While Putnam Management may consider independent third-party data as a part of its analytical process, the portfolio management team performs its own independent analysis of issuers and does not rely solely on third-party screens.

Putnam Management believes that analysis of ESG criteria is best utilized in combination with a strong understanding of a company's or issuer's fundamentals (including a company's or issuer's industry, geography, strategic position, and key relationships). Relevant issues vary by sector, geography, asset class and specific company or issuer context. Therefore, the fund uses fundamental research of ESG criteria that is tailored to specific sectors, locations, asset classes and companies. Putnam Management's approach to ESG analysis is intertwined with its fundamental research process.

The fund's approach to ESG investing incorporates fundamental research together with consideration of ESG criteria. The integrated approach of the fund combines analysis of the growing body of ESG data and fundamental analysis and looks for companies or issuers that demonstrate strength on relevant ESG issues. ESG criteria that the fund may consider include:

- *Environmental criteria.* Environmental criteria include, for example, a company's or issuer's carbon intensity and use of resources like water or minerals.
  - ESG measures in this area might include plans to reduce waste, increase recycling, raise the proportion of energy supply from renewable sources, or improve product design to be less resource intensive.
- *Social criteria.* Social criteria include, for example, labor practices and supply chain management.
  - ESG measures in this area might include programs to improve employee well-being, commitment to workplace equality and diversity, or improved stewardship of supplier relationships and working conditions, and fair lending practices.
- *Corporate governance criteria.* Corporate governance criteria include, for example, board composition and executive compensation.
  - ESG measures in this area might include improvements in board independence or diversity, or alignment of management incentives with the company's or issuer's strategic ESG objectives and bondholder rights.

The fund's portfolio managers believe that these ESG criteria are relevant and material to long-term business fundamentals. Putnam Management also believes that a forward-looking consideration of ESG criteria in the investment process for the fund may result in a more nuanced assessment of an issuer's credit profile, which offers potential opportunity to limit ratings volatility as well as tail risk in credit portfolios (i.e., the risk that the price of a portfolio may decrease by more than three standard deviations from its current price). In addition, Putnam Management believes that the time horizon for ESG criteria varies by industry and can influence fundamental volatility.

Putnam Management uses a sector-specific approach in evaluating investments. In the corporate credit sector, Putnam Management combines fundamental analysis with relevant ESG insights with a forward-looking perspective. Putnam Management believes that securitized debt instruments present unique challenges in applying ESG criteria due to the presence of various asset types, counterparties involved, and the complex structure of the securitized debt market along with a lack of available ESG-related data. In evaluating securitized debt instruments for potential investment, Putnam Management takes a broad approach, analyzing both the terms of the transaction, including the asset type being securitized and structure of the securitization, as well as key counterparties. Opportunities are analyzed at the asset level within each securitization and each subsector to identify assets that meet relevant ESG thresholds. Additionally, in evaluating securitized debt instruments, Putnam Management analyzes relevant ESG criteria regarding the originator, servicers, or other relevant counterparties. In the sovereign debt sector, Putnam Management uses quantitative modeling and fundamental research to evaluate countries across a variety of ESG criteria (i.e., natural resource dependence and level of public corruption) and non-ESG criteria (i.e., global economic conditions, market valuations and technicals). Putnam Management believes that sovereign issuers with better ESG scores generally benefit from lower borrowing costs and that ESG criteria may influence the perception of the credit risk of a country's debt. Countries are evaluated both on current ESG metrics and the extent of recent progress.

Putnam Management uses company disclosures, non-governmental organization or government disclosures, public data sources, and independent third-party data as inputs into its analytical processes. While Putnam Management may consider independent third-party data as a part of its analytical process, the portfolio management team performs its own independent analysis of issuers and does not rely solely on third-party screens.

In addition to bonds, the fund may also invest in other fixed-income instruments, including loans. In addition to the main investment strategies described above, the fund may make other types of investments, such as investments in hybrid and structured bonds and notes, and preferred securities that would be characterized as debt securities under applicable accounting standards and tax laws. The fund may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, certain foreign currency transactions and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes although they do not represent a primary focus of the fund.

Shareholders should be aware that investments made by the fund and results achieved by the fund at any given time are not expected to be the same as those made by other funds for which Putnam Management acts as investment manager, including funds with names, investment objectives, and policies that are similar to the fund. The Trustees may change the fund's goal, investment strategies and other policies set forth in this prospectus without shareholder approval, except as otherwise provided in the prospectus or Statement of Additional Information ("SAI").

### **Principal investment risks**

The principal and certain additional risks of investing in the fund are described below. These risks and other factors may adversely affect the fund's NAV, market price and performance. When you sell your shares, they may be worth more or less than what you paid for them, which means that you could lose money as a result of your investment. An investment in the fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. The fund may not achieve its investment objective, and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. The fund's SAI contains additional information about the fund's investment policies and risks.

- *ESG investing risk.* Investing with a focus on companies or issuers that meet Putnam Management's ESG criteria may result in the fund investing in certain types of companies, issuers, industries or sectors that the market may not favor. Conversely, investing in such companies or issuers may result in the fund foregoing investment in securities that outperform the fund's investments in certain environments. In evaluating an investment opportunity, Putnam Management may make investment decisions without the availability of optimal ESG-related data (which may be even less available with securitized debt instruments) or based on information and data that is incomplete or inaccurate. ESG criteria are not uniformly defined and applying such factors involves subjective assessments. ESG scorings and assessments of issuers can vary across third-party data providers and may change over time. Putnam Management does not rely exclusively on third-party data providers in evaluating ESG criteria. ESG information from third-party data providers may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable, particularly with respect to companies in emerging market countries, which may adversely impact the investment process. The fund does not restrict its investments to "green bonds" (i.e., U.S. dollar-denominated bonds designated as "green" by the Climate Bonds Initiative) and does not restrict investments based solely on "negative screens". In addition, a company's or issuer's business practices, products or services may change over time. As a result of these possibilities, among others, the fund may temporarily hold securities that are inconsistent with the fund's ESG investment criteria. Regulatory changes or interpretations regarding the definitions and/or use of ESG criteria could have a material adverse effect on the fund's ability to invest in accordance with its investment policies and/or achieve its investment objective, as well as the ability of certain classes of investors to invest in funds, such as the fund, whose strategies include ESG criteria. There may be limitations with respect to availability of ESG data in certain sectors, as well as limited availability of investments with positive ESG



assessments in certain sectors. Putnam Management's evaluation of ESG criteria may change over time.

Because fixed-income investments generally represent a promise to pay principal and interest by an issuer, and not an ownership interest, and may involve complex structures, ESG-related investment considerations may have a more limited impact on risk and return (or may have an impact over a different investment time horizon) relative to other asset classes, and this may be particularly true for shorter-term investments. Third-party ESG data regarding fixed-income investments is generally less available than ESG data for equity investments. In addition, holders of fixed-income investments do not typically have voting rights, unlike holders of equity investments who have the right to vote on issuer proposals.

- *Model risk.* The fund uses proprietary models and data supplied by third parties. The fund uses models and data to, among other things, identify and assess trends and market opportunities and provide risk management insights. The fund regularly enhances and updates its models to reflect developing research, fundamental analysis, and access to new data. If the quantitative models or data used in managing the fund prove to be incorrect or incomplete, investment decisions made in reliance on the models or data may not produce the desired results and may cause the fund to underperform its benchmark or other funds with a similar investment goal, and the fund may realize losses. In addition, models may incorrectly forecast future behavior, leading to potential losses. Use of these models in unforeseen or certain low-probability scenarios (often involving a market disruption of some kind) also may result in losses for the fund.

All models require data. Some of the models that the fund may use are typically constructed based on historical data, and the success of these models is dependent largely on the accuracy and reliability of the supplied historical data. If incorrect data is entered into a model, the resulting output will be incorrect.

- *Fluctuation of NAV and share price risk.* Shares may trade at a larger premium or discount to NAV than shares of other ETFs. The NAV of the fund's shares will generally fluctuate with changes in the market value of the fund's holdings. The fund's shares are listed on an exchange and can be bought and sold in the secondary market at market prices. The market prices of shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV and supply and demand on the listing exchange. Although the arbitrage process is designed to permit the shares of the fund to trade at market prices that are at or close to NAV, it is possible that the market price and NAV will vary significantly. As a result, you may sustain losses if you pay more than the shares' NAV when you purchase shares or receive less than the shares' NAV when you sell shares, in the secondary market. During periods of disruptions to creations and redemptions, the existence of extreme market volatility, or lack of an active trading market for the fund's shares, the market price of fund shares is more likely to differ significantly from the fund's NAV or the intraday value of the fund's holdings. During such periods, you may be unable to sell your shares or may incur significant losses if you sell your shares. There are various methods by which investors can purchase and sell shares and various orders that may be placed. Investors should consult their financial

intermediary before purchasing or selling shares of the fund. Disruptions at market makers, authorized participants or market participants may also result in significant differences between the market price of the fund's shares and the fund's NAV. In addition, in stressed market conditions or periods of market disruption or volatility, the market for shares may become less liquid in response to deteriorating liquidity in the markets for the fund's underlying portfolio holdings.

The market price of shares during the trading day, like the price of any exchange-traded security, includes a "bid/ask" spread charged by the exchange specialist, market makers, or other participants that trade the particular security. In times of severe market disruption or volatility, the bid/ask spread can increase significantly. At those times, shares are most likely to be traded at a discount to NAV, and the discount is likely to be greatest when the price of shares is falling fastest, which may be the time that you most want to sell your shares.

- *Trading issues risk.* The fund has no public trading history. Although shares are listed on an exchange, there can be no assurance that an active trading market or requirements to remain listed will be met or maintained, or that the market for fund shares will operate as intended. If the market does not operate as intended, it could lead to the fund's shares trading at wider spreads and larger premiums and discounts to NAV than other actively managed ETFs, particularly during periods of market disruption or volatility. As a result, it may cost investors more to trade fund shares than shares of other ETFs.

Only an authorized participant may engage in creation or redemption transactions directly with the fund. There is no guarantee that the fund will be able to attract market makers and authorized participants. There are no obligations of market makers to make a market in the fund's shares or of authorized participants to submit purchase or redemption orders for Creation Units.

The market prices of the fund's shares are expected to fluctuate, in some cases materially, in response to changes in the fund's NAV, the intraday value of the fund's holdings and supply and demand for the fund's shares. Putnam Management cannot predict whether the fund's shares will trade above, below or at their NAV or the intraday value of the fund's holdings. During such periods, investors may incur significant losses if they sell shares.

The securities held by the fund may be traded in markets that close at a different time than the exchange on which the fund's shares are listed. Liquidity in those securities may be reduced after the applicable closing times. Accordingly, during the time when the exchange is open but after the applicable market closing, fixing or settlement times, bid-ask spreads on the exchange and the corresponding premium or discount to the shares' NAV may widen.

In addition, trading of shares in the secondary market may be halted, for example, due to activation of market-wide "circuit breakers." If trading halts or an unanticipated early closing of the listing exchange occurs, a shareholder may be unable to purchase or sell shares of the fund.

If the fund's shares are delisted from the listing exchange, Putnam Management may seek to list the fund shares on another market, merge the fund with another exchange-traded fund or traditional mutual fund, or redeem the fund shares at NAV.

Shares of the fund, similar to shares of other issuers listed on a stock exchange, may be sold short and are therefore subject to the risk of increased volatility and price decreases associated with being sold short.

- *Large shareholder risk.* Certain accounts or affiliates of Putnam Management, including other funds advised by Putnam Management or third parties, may from time to time own (beneficially or of record) or control a substantial amount of the fund's shares, including through seed capital arrangements. Such shareholders may at times be considered to control the fund. Dispositions of a large number of shares by these shareholders may adversely affect the fund's liquidity and net assets to the extent such transactions are executed directly with the fund in the form of redemptions through an authorized participant, rather than executed in the secondary market. These redemptions may also force the fund to sell securities, which may increase the fund's brokerage costs. To the extent these large shareholders transact in shares of the fund on the secondary market, such transactions may account for a large percentage of the trading volume on the exchange and may, therefore, have a material effect (upward or downward) on the market price of the fund's shares.
- *Authorized participant concentration risk.* Only authorized participants may engage in creation and redemption transactions directly with the fund. The fund may have a limited number of financial institutions that act as authorized participants, none of which are obligated to engage in creation and/or redemption transactions. Decisions by market makers or authorized participants to reduce their role with respect to market making or creation and redemption activities during times of market stress, or a decline in the number of authorized participants due to decisions to exit the business, bankruptcy, or other factors, could inhibit the effectiveness of the arbitrage process in maintaining the relationship between the underlying value of the fund's portfolio securities and the market price of fund shares. To the extent no other authorized participants are able to step forward to create or redeem, shares may trade at a discount (or premium) to NAV and possibly face delisting.
- *Cash transactions risk.* Unlike certain ETFs, the fund may effect creations and redemptions in cash or partially in cash. Therefore, it may be required to sell portfolio securities and subsequently recognize gains on such sales that the fund might not have recognized if it were to distribute portfolio securities in-kind. As such, investments in the fund's shares may be less tax-efficient than an investment in an ETF that distributes portfolio securities entirely in-kind.
- *Market risk.* The effects of inflation may erode the value of an investment in the fund over time. 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 (including perceptions about monetary policy, interest rates, inflation or the risk of default); government actions (including protectionist measures, intervention in

the financial markets or other regulation, and changes in fiscal, monetary or tax policies); geopolitical events or changes (including natural disasters, epidemics or pandemics, terrorism and war); and factors related to a specific issuer, geography, industry or sector. Foreign financial markets have their own market risks, and they may be more or less volatile than U.S. markets and may move in different directions. During a general downturn in financial markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value simultaneously. These and other factors may lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund's portfolio holdings. During those periods, the fund may experience high levels of shareholder redemptions, and may have to sell securities at times when it would otherwise not do so, and at unfavorable prices. These risks may be exacerbated during economic downturns or other periods of economic stress.

The novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic and efforts to contain its spread have negatively affected, and are likely to continue to negatively affect, the global economy, the economies of the United States and other individual countries, and the financial performance of individual issuers, sectors, industries, asset classes, and markets in significant and unforeseen ways. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant market volatility, exchange trading suspensions and closures, declines in global financial markets, higher default rates, and economic downturns and recessions, and these effects may continue for an extended period of time and may increase in severity over time. In addition, actions taken by governmental and quasi-governmental authorities and regulators throughout the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including significant fiscal and monetary policy changes, may affect the value, volatility, and liquidity of some securities and other assets. Given the significant uncertainty surrounding the magnitude, duration, reach, costs and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as actions that have been or could be taken by governmental authorities or other third parties, it is difficult to predict its potential impacts on the fund's investments. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic also are likely to exacerbate other risks that apply to the fund, including the risks disclosed in this prospectus, which could negatively impact the fund's performance and lead to losses on your investment in the fund.

- *Interest rate risk.* The values of money market and other fixed-income securities usually rise and fall in response to changes in interest rates. Interest rates can change in response to the supply and demand for credit, government and/or central bank monetary policy and action, inflation rates, and other factors. Declining interest rates generally result in an increase in the value of existing fixed-income securities, and rising interest rates generally result in a decrease in the value of existing fixed-income securities. Changes in a fixed-income security's value usually will not affect the amount of interest income paid to the fund, but will affect the value of the fund's shares. Interest rate risk is generally greater for investments with longer maturities. Under normal circumstances, the dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of the fund is not expected to exceed four years. Short-term investments may have lower yields than longer-term investments. As mentioned in the fund summary, under normal circumstances the effective duration of the fund's portfolio will generally not be greater than one year. Effective duration provides a measure of a fund's

interest-rate sensitivity. The longer a fund's duration, the more sensitive the fund is to shifts in interest rates. As a general rule, a 1% rise in interest rates means a 1% fall in value for every year of duration. Some investments that the fund purchases have an interest rate that changes based on a market interest rate and/or allow the holder to demand payment of principal and accrued interest before the scheduled maturity date. Putnam Management measures the maturity of these obligations using the relatively short period until the interest rate resets and/or payment could be demanded. Because the interest rate on these investments can change, these investments are unlikely to be able to lock in favorable longer-term interest rates.

- *Credit risk.* Investors normally expect to be compensated in proportion to the risk they are assuming. Thus, debt of issuers with poor credit prospects usually offers higher yields than debt of issuers with more secure credit. Higher-rated investments generally have lower credit risk. The fund invests in investment-grade investments. These are rated at least BBB or its equivalent at the time of purchase by a nationally recognized securities rating agency or are unrated investments that Putnam Management believes are of comparable quality. The fund will not necessarily sell an investment if its rating is reduced after Putnam Management buys it. This means the fund may at times hold securities rated below-investment-grade (sometimes referred to as "junk bonds") if the rating for a security held by the fund is reduced to below-investment-grade. Investments rated below BBB or its equivalent are below-investment-grade in quality and may be considered speculative. This rating reflects a greater possibility that the issuers may be unable to make timely payments of interest and principal and thus default. If a default occurs, or is perceived as likely to occur, the value of the investment will usually be more volatile and is likely to fall. The value of a debt instrument may also be affected by changes in, or perceptions of, the financial condition of the issuer, borrower, counterparty, or other entity, or underlying collateral or assets, or changes in, or perceptions of, specific or general market, economic, industry, political, regulatory, geopolitical, environmental, public health, and other conditions. A default or expected default could also make it difficult for the fund to sell the investment at a price approximating the value Putnam Management had previously placed on it. Lower-rated debt usually has a more limited market than higher-rated debt, which may at times make it difficult for the fund to buy or sell certain debt instruments or to establish their fair values. Credit risk is generally greater for zero-coupon bonds and other investments that are issued at less than their face value and that are required to make interest payments only at maturity rather than at intervals during the life of the investment. Bond investments may be more susceptible to downgrades or defaults during economic downturns or other periods of economic stress, which can significantly strain the financial resources of many tax-exempt debt issuers. This may make it less likely that issuers can meet their financial obligations when due and may adversely impact the value of their bonds, which could negatively impact the performance of the fund. It is difficult to predict the level of financial stress and duration of such stress issuers may experience. Credit ratings are based largely on the issuer's historical financial condition and the rating agencies' investment analysis at the time of rating. The rating assigned to any particular investment does not necessarily reflect the issuer's current

financial condition and does not reflect an assessment of the investment's volatility or liquidity. Although Putnam Management considers credit ratings in making investment decisions, it performs its own investment analysis and does not rely only on ratings assigned by the rating agencies. Putnam Management's success in achieving the fund's goal may depend more on its own credit analysis when the fund buys lower-rated debt than when the fund buys investment-grade debt. The fund may have to participate in legal proceedings involving the issuer. This could increase the fund's operating expenses and decrease its net asset value. Although investment-grade investments generally have lower credit risk, they may share some of the risks of lower-rated investments. U.S. government investments generally have the least credit risk but are not completely free of credit risk. While some investments, such as U.S. Treasury obligations and Ginnie Mae certificates, are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, others are backed only by the credit of the issuer. Mortgage-backed securities may be subject to the risk that underlying borrowers will be unable to meet their obligations.

- *Prepayment risk.* Traditional debt investments typically pay a fixed rate of interest until maturity, when the entire principal amount is due. In contrast, payments on securitized debt instruments, including mortgage-backed and asset-backed investments, typically include both interest and partial payment of principal. Principal may also be prepaid voluntarily or as a result of refinancing or foreclosure. The fund may have to invest the proceeds from prepaid investments in other investments with less attractive terms and yields. Compared to debt that cannot be prepaid, mortgage-backed investments are less likely to increase in value during periods of declining interest rates and have a higher risk of decline in value during periods of rising interest rates. These investments may increase the volatility of the fund. Some mortgage-backed investments receive only the interest portion or the principal portion of payments on the underlying mortgages. The yields and values of these investments are extremely sensitive to changes in interest rates and in the rate of principal payments on the underlying mortgages. The market for these investments may be volatile and limited, which may make them difficult to buy or sell. Asset-backed securities are structured like mortgage-backed securities, but instead of mortgage loans or interests in mortgage loans, the underlying assets may include such items as motor vehicle installment sales or installment loan contracts, leases of various types of real and personal property and receivables from credit card agreements. Asset-backed securities are subject to risks similar to those of mortgage-backed securities.
- *Derivatives risk.* The fund may engage in a variety of transactions involving derivatives, such as futures, options, credit default, total return and interest rate swap contracts and to-be-announced (TBA) commitments. Derivatives are financial instruments whose value depends upon, or is derived from, the value of something else, such as one or more underlying investments, pools of investments, or indexes. The fund may make use of "short" derivatives positions, the values of which typically move in the opposite direction from the price of the underlying investment, pool of investments, index or currency. The fund may use derivatives both for hedging and non-hedging purposes. For example, the fund may use derivatives to increase or decrease the fund's exposure to long- or short-term interest rates (in the United States or abroad),

adjust the term of the fund's U.S. Treasury security exposure, adjust the fund's positioning on the yield curve (a line that plots interest rates of bonds having equal credit quality but differing maturity dates) or as a substitute for a direct investment in the securities of one or more issuers. However, the fund may also choose not to use derivatives based on Putnam Management's evaluation of market conditions or the availability of suitable derivatives. Investments in derivatives may be applied toward meeting a requirement to invest in a particular kind of investment if the derivatives have economic characteristics similar to that investment.

Derivatives involve special risks and may result in losses. The successful use of derivatives depends on Putnam Management's ability to manage these sophisticated instruments. Some derivatives are "leveraged," which means they provide the fund with investment exposure greater than the value of the fund's investment in the derivatives. As a result, these derivatives may magnify or otherwise increase investment losses to the fund. The risk of loss from certain short derivatives positions is theoretically unlimited. The value of derivatives may move in unexpected ways due to unanticipated market movements, the use of leverage, imperfect correlation between the derivative instrument and the reference asset, or other factors, especially in unusual market conditions, and volatility in the value of derivatives could adversely affect the fund's returns, obligations and exposures. Other risks arise from the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions. Derivatives may subject the fund to liquidity risk due to the obligation to make payments of margin, collateral, or settlement payments to counterparties. A liquid secondary market may not always exist for the fund's derivatives positions. In fact, certain over-the-counter instruments (investments not traded on an exchange) may not be liquid. Over-the-counter instruments also involve the risk that the other party to the derivative transaction may not be willing or able to meet its obligations with respect to the derivative transaction. The risk of a party failing to meet its obligations may increase if the fund has significant exposure to that counterparty. Derivative transactions may also be subject to operational risk, including due to documentation and settlement issues, system failures, inadequate controls and human error and legal risk due to insufficient documentation, insufficient capacity or authority of a counterparty, or legality or enforceability of the derivative contract. For further information about additional types and risks of derivatives, see Miscellaneous Investments, Investment Practices and Risks in the SAI.

- *Floating rate obligations risk.* The fund may purchase taxable floating rate notes for short-term cash management or other investment purposes. Floating rate notes are debt instruments that provide for periodic adjustments in the interest rate. The interest rate on these instruments may be reset daily, weekly or on some other reset period and may have a floor or ceiling on interest rate changes. The interest rate of a floating rate instrument may be based on a known lending rate, such as the Secured Overnight Financing Rate, and is reset whenever such rate is adjusted. Interest rate adjustments are designed to help stabilize the instrument's price or maintain a fixed spread to a predetermined benchmark. While this feature may protect against a decline in the instrument's market price when interest rates or benchmark rates rise,

it lowers the fund's income when interest rates or benchmark rates fall. The fund's income from its floating rate investments also may increase if interest rates rise. Floating rate obligations are less effective than fixed rate instruments at locking in a particular yield. Nevertheless, such obligations may fluctuate in value in response to interest rate changes if there is a delay between changes in market interest rates and the interest reset date for the obligation, or for other reasons. The fund's ability to receive payments of principal and interest and other amounts in connection with loans held by it will depend primarily on the financial condition of the issuer. The failure by the fund to receive scheduled interest or principal payments on a loan would adversely affect the income of the fund and would likely reduce the value of its assets, which would be reflected in a reduction in the fund's NAV.

Floating rate notes and bonds may have a stated maturity in excess of one year, but may have features that permit a holder to demand payment of principal plus accrued interest upon a specified number of days' notice. Frequently, such obligations are secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements provided by banks. If these obligations are not secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements, the fund's right to demand payment will be dependent on the ability of the issuer to pay principal and interest on demand. In addition, these obligations frequently are not rated by credit rating agencies and may involve heightened risk of default by the issuer. The issuer of such obligations normally has a corresponding right, after a given period, to prepay in its discretion the outstanding principal of the obligation plus accrued interest upon a specific number of days' notice to the holders. There is no assurance that the fund will be able to reinvest the proceeds of any prepayment at the same interest rate or on the same terms as those of the original instrument. The absence of an active secondary market for floating rate notes could make it difficult for the fund to dispose of the instruments, and the fund could suffer a loss if the issuer defaults or during periods in which the fund is not entitled to exercise its demand rights. When a reliable trading market for the floating rate instruments held by the fund does not exist and the fund may not demand payment of the principal amount of such instruments within seven days, the instruments may be deemed illiquid and therefore subject to the fund's limitation on investments in illiquid securities.

- *Foreign investments risk.* The fund may invest in foreign investments, although foreign investments do not represent a primary focus of the fund. Foreign investments involve certain special risks. For example, their values may decline in response to changes in currency exchange rates, unfavorable political and legal developments, unreliable or untimely information, and economic and financial instability. In addition, the liquidity of these investments may be more limited than for most U.S. investments, which means the fund may at times be unable to sell them at desirable prices. Foreign settlement procedures may also involve additional risks. These risks are generally greater in the case of developing (also known as emerging) markets, which typically have less developed legal and financial systems. There may be less publicly-available information, or less reliable publicly-available information, about foreign companies (including information related to companies' ESG practices),



particularly with respect to emerging market companies, than publicly-available information regarding U.S. companies. As a result, the fund's ability to evaluate a foreign company, including with respect to its ESG or sustainability practices, may be more limited than its ability to evaluate a U.S. company. Certain of these risks may also apply to some extent to U.S.-traded investments that are denominated in foreign currencies, investments in U.S. companies or issuers that are traded in foreign markets, or investments in U.S. companies or issuers that have significant foreign operations.

- *Liquidity and illiquid investments risk.* The fund may invest up to 15% of the fund's net assets in illiquid investments, which may be considered speculative and may be difficult to sell. The sale of many of these investments is prohibited or limited by law or contract. Some investments may be difficult to value for purposes of determining the fund's net asset value. Certain other investments may not have an active trading market due to adverse market, economic, industry, political, regulatory, geopolitical, environmental, public health, and other conditions, including investors trying to sell large quantities of a particular investment or type of investment, or lack of market makers or other buyers for a particular investment or type of investment. The fund may not be able to sell the fund's illiquid investments when Putnam Management considers it desirable to do so, or may be able to sell them only at less than their value.
- *Management and operational risk.* The fund is actively managed and its performance will reflect, in part, Putnam Management's ability to make investment decisions that seek to achieve the fund's investment objective. There is no guarantee that the investment techniques, analyses, or judgments that Putnam Management applies in making investment decisions for the fund will produce the intended outcome or that the investments Putnam Management selects for the fund will perform as well as other securities that were not selected for the fund. As a result, the fund may underperform its benchmark or other funds with a similar investment goal and may realize losses. In addition, Putnam Management, or the fund's other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could negatively impact the fund. Although service providers may have operational risk management policies and procedures and take appropriate precautions to avoid and mitigate risks that could lead to disruptions and operating errors, it may not be possible to identify all of the operational risks that may affect the fund or to develop processes and controls to completely eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects.
- *Portfolio turnover rate risk.* A fund with a high rate of portfolio turnover may be more likely to realize capital gains that must be distributed to shareholders as taxable income. A fund with a high rate of portfolio turnover may also pay more brokerage commissions and may be more likely to incur other transaction costs (including imputed transaction costs), which may detract from performance. The fund's portfolio turnover rate and the amount of brokerage commissions it pays and transactions costs it incurs will vary over time based on market conditions.

## Other investments

In addition to the main investment strategies described above, the fund may make other types of investments, such as investments in hybrid and structured bonds and notes, and preferred securities that would be characterized as debt securities under applicable accounting standards and tax laws. The fund may also invest in cash or cash equivalents, including money market instruments or short-term instruments such as commercial paper, bank obligations (e.g., certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances), repurchase agreements, and U.S. Treasury bills or other government obligations. The fund may also from time to time invest a portion of its cash balances in money market and/or short-term bond funds advised by Putnam Management or its affiliates. The percentage of the fund invested in cash and cash equivalents and such money market and short-term bond funds is expected to vary over time and will depend on various factors, including market conditions, purchase and redemption activity by fund shareholders, and Putnam Management's assessment of the cash level that is appropriate to allow the fund to pursue investment opportunities as they arise and to meet shareholder redemption requests. Large cash positions may dampen performance and may prevent the fund from achieving its goal. These practices may be subject to other risks, as described under Miscellaneous Investments, Investment Practices and Risks in the SAI.

## Temporary defensive strategies

In response to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions, Putnam Management may take temporary defensive positions, such as investing some or all of the fund's assets in cash and cash equivalents that differ from the fund's usual investment strategies. However, Putnam Management may choose not to use these temporary defensive strategies for a variety of reasons, even in very volatile market conditions. If Putnam Management does employ these strategies, the fund may miss out on investment opportunities and may not achieve its goal. Additionally, while temporary defensive strategies are mainly designed to limit losses, they may not work as intended.

## **Fund management**

### **Investment manager**

The Trustees have retained Putnam Management, which has managed mutual funds since 1937, to be the fund's investment manager, responsible for making investment decisions for the fund and managing the fund's other affairs and business.

The fund pays an annual all-inclusive management fee of 0.25% to Putnam Management based on the fund's average daily net assets. The management fee is calculated and accrued daily. The management fee covers all of the other expenses of the fund with limited exceptions.

Putnam Management's address is 100 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110.

Putnam Management has retained its affiliate PIL to make investment decisions for such fund assets as may be designated from time to time for its management by Putnam Management. PIL is not currently managing any fund assets. If PIL were to manage any fund assets, Putnam Management (and not the fund) would pay a quarterly sub-management fee to PIL for its services at the annual rate of 0.20% of the average NAV of any fund assets managed by PIL. PIL, which provides a full range of international investment advisory services to institutional clients, is located at 16 St James's Street, London, England, SW1A 1ER.

Pursuant to this arrangement, Putnam investment professionals who are based in foreign jurisdictions may serve as portfolio managers of the fund or provide other investment services, consistent with local regulations.

A discussion about the factors considered by the fund's Board of Trustees and its conclusions in approving the investment management and sub-advisory agreements for the fund will appear in the fund's annual report to shareholders for the period ended April 30, 2023.

### Portfolio managers

The officers of Putnam Management identified below are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the fund's portfolio.

| Portfolio managers | Joined fund | Employer                                   | Positions over past five years                                     |
|--------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Joanne Driscoll    | 2023        | <b>Putnam Management</b><br>1995 – Present | Head of Short Term Liquid Markets<br>Previously, Portfolio Manager |
| Andrew Benson      | 2023        | <b>Putnam Management</b><br>2008 – Present | Portfolio Manager<br>Previously, Trader                            |
| Michael Lima       | 2023        | <b>Putnam Management</b><br>1997 – Present | Portfolio Manager, Analyst<br>Previously, Analyst                  |

The SAI provides information about these individuals' compensation, other accounts managed by these individuals and these individuals' ownership of securities in the fund.

### Shareholder information

#### Valuation of fund shares

The price of the fund's shares is based on its NAV. The NAV per share of each class equals the total value of its assets, less its liabilities, divided by the number of its outstanding shares. Shares are only valued as of the scheduled close of regular trading on the NYSE each day the exchange is open.

The fund values its investments for which market quotations are readily available at market value. It values all other investments and assets at their fair value, which may differ from recent market prices. For example, the fund may value a stock traded on a U.S. exchange at its fair value when the exchange closes early or trading in the stock is suspended. It may also value a stock at fair value if recent transactions in the stock have been very limited or if, in the case of a security traded on a market that closes

before the NYSE closes, material information about the issuer becomes available after the close of the relevant market.

Market quotations are not considered to be readily available for many debt securities. These securities are generally valued at fair value on the basis of valuations provided by an independent pricing service approved by the fund's Trustees or dealers selected by Putnam Management. Pricing services and dealers determine valuations for normal institutional-size trading units of such securities using information with respect to transactions in the bond being valued, market transactions for comparable securities and various relationships, generally recognized by institutional traders, between securities. To the extent a pricing service or dealer is unable to value a security or provides a valuation that Putnam Management does not believe accurately reflects the security's fair value, the security will be valued at fair value by Putnam Management.

The fund translates prices for its investments quoted in foreign currencies into U.S. dollars at current exchange rates, which are generally determined as of 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time each day the NYSE is open. As a result, changes in the value of those currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar may affect the fund's NAV. Because foreign markets may be open at different times than the NYSE, the value of the fund's shares may change on days when shareholders are not able to buy or sell them. Many securities markets and exchanges outside the U.S. close before the close of the NYSE, and the closing prices for securities in those markets or exchanges may not reflect events that occur after the close but before the scheduled close of regular trading on the NYSE. As a result, the fund has adopted fair value pricing procedures, which, among other things, require the fund to fair value foreign equity securities if there has been a movement in the U.S. market, after the close of the foreign securities market, that exceeds a specified threshold that may change from time to time. If events materially affecting the values of the fund's foreign fixed-income investments occur between the close of foreign markets and the scheduled close of regular trading on the NYSE, these investments will also be valued at their fair value. As noted above, the value determined for an investment using the fund's fair value pricing procedures may differ from recent market prices for the investment.

### **Additional information about the fund**

The fund is an actively managed ETF. Like other ETFs, shares of the fund are generally purchased and redeemed in creation unit aggregations through authorized participants, shares of the fund are listed and traded on a stock exchange, and individual investors can purchase or sell shares in less than creation unit sizes and for cash in the secondary market through a broker.

#### Derivative actions

The fund is a series of Putnam ETF Trust (the Trust). The Trust's Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust imposes certain conditions on derivative actions that are not otherwise required by law, including, in the case of any claim not arising under the federal securities laws, a requirement that the holders of

10% or more of the total outstanding shares of the applicable fund join the request to commence the action. Although these conditions are intended to permit legitimate inquiries and claims while avoiding the time, expense, distraction, and other harm that can be caused to a fund or its shareholders as a result of spurious shareholder demands and derivative actions, they may make it more difficult or costly for fund shareholders to bring derivative actions on behalf of the Trust.

### **Buying and selling shares in the secondary market**

Shares of the fund are listed and traded on an exchange, and individual fund shares may only be bought and sold in the secondary market through a broker. The fund does not impose any minimum investment for shares of the fund purchased on an exchange. These transactions are made at market prices that may vary throughout the day and may be greater than the fund's NAV (premium) or less than the fund's NAV (discount). As a result, you may pay more than NAV when you purchase shares, and receive less than NAV when you sell shares, in the secondary market. If you buy or sell shares in the secondary market, you will generally incur customary brokerage commissions and charges and you may also incur the cost of the spread between the price at which a dealer will buy fund shares and the somewhat higher price at which a dealer will sell shares. Due to such commissions and charges and spread costs, frequent trading may detract significantly from investment returns.

The fund is designed to offer investors an investment that can be bought and sold frequently in the secondary market without impact on the fund, and such trading activity is designed to enable the market price of fund shares to remain at or close to NAV. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees has not adopted policies and procedures designed to discourage excessive or short-term trading by these investors.

The fund accommodates frequent purchases and redemptions of creation units by authorized participants and does not place a limit on purchases or redemptions of creation units by these investors. The fund reserves the right, but does not have the obligation, to reject any purchase or redemption transaction (subject to legal and regulatory limits regarding redemption transactions) at any time. In addition, the fund reserves the right to impose restrictions on disruptive, excessive, or short-term trading.

### **Precautionary notes**

#### Note to registered investment companies

Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act restricts investments by registered investment companies in the securities of other investment companies, including shares of the fund. Registered investment companies are permitted to invest in the fund beyond the limits set forth in Section 12(d)(1), subject to certain terms and conditions, including that such investment companies enter into an agreement with the fund.

### Note to authorized participants regarding continuous offering

Certain legal risks may exist that are unique to authorized participants purchasing creation units directly from the fund. Because new creation units may be issued on an ongoing basis, at any point a “distribution,” as such term is used in the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act), could be occurring. As a broker-dealer, certain activities that you perform may, depending on the circumstances, result in your being deemed a participant in a distribution, in a manner which could render you a statutory underwriter and subject you to the prospectus delivery and liability provisions of the Securities Act.

For example, you may be deemed a statutory underwriter if you purchase creation units from the fund, break them down into individual fund shares, and sell such shares directly to customers, or if you choose to couple the creation of a supply of new fund shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for fund shares. A determination of whether a person is an underwriter for purposes of the Securities Act depends upon all of the facts and circumstances pertaining to that person’s activities, and the examples mentioned here should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a categorization as an underwriter.

Dealers who are not “underwriters” but are participating in a distribution (as opposed to engaging in ordinary secondary market transactions), and thus dealing with shares as part of an “unsold allotment” within the meaning of Section 4(a)(3)(C) of the Securities Act, will be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. As a result, you should note that dealers who are not underwriters but are participating in a distribution (as opposed to engaging in ordinary secondary market transactions) and thus dealing with the shares that are part of an overallotment within the meaning of Section 4(a)(3)(A) of the Securities Act would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act. Firms that incur a prospectus-delivery obligation with respect to shares of the fund are reminded that, under Rule 153 under the Securities Act, a prospectus delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Act owed to an exchange member in connection with a sale on an exchange is satisfied by the fact that the prospectus is available at the exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is only available with respect to transactions on an exchange.

Certain affiliates of the fund may purchase and resell fund shares pursuant to this prospectus.

### Note to secondary market investors

The Depository Trust Company (DTC), a limited trust company and securities depository that facilitates the clearance and settlement of trades for its participating banks and broker-dealers, has executed an agreement with Foreside Fund Services,

LLC (Foreside), the Fund's distributor. DTC, or its nominee, is the registered owner of all outstanding shares of the fund. Putnam Management will not have any record of your ownership. Your ownership of shares will be shown on the records of DTC and the DTC participant broker through which you hold the shares. Your broker will provide you with account statements, confirmations of your purchases and sales, and tax information. Your broker will also be responsible for distributing income and capital gain distributions and for sending you shareholder reports and other information as may be required.

### **Costs associated with creations and redemptions**

The fund generally imposes a creation transaction fee and a redemption transaction fee to offset transfer and other transaction costs associated with the issuance and redemption of creation units of shares. Information about the procedures regarding creation and redemption of creation units and the applicable transaction fees is included in the SAI.

### **Distribution plans and payments to intermediaries**

#### **Principal distributor**

Foreside distributes creation units for the fund on an agency basis, does not maintain a secondary market in shares of the fund, and has no role in determining the investment policies of the fund or the securities that are purchased or sold by the fund. Foreside is not affiliated with Putnam Management, PIL, or any other service provider for the fund.

Foreside's address is Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101.

Intermediaries may receive from Putnam Management, Foreside, and/or their respective affiliates compensation for providing recordkeeping and administrative services, as well as other retirement plan expenses, and compensation for services intended to result in the sale of fund shares. These payments are described in more detail in this section and in the SAI.

#### **Distribution and service plan**

The fund has adopted a distribution and service plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act that authorizes the fund to pay distribution fees in connection with the sale and distribution of its shares and service fees in connection with the provision of ongoing shareholder support services. No Rule 12b-1 fees are currently paid by the fund, and there are no current plans to impose these fees. However, in the event Rule 12b-1 fees are charged in the future, because these fees are paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, these fees will increase the cost of your investment in the fund.

No dealer, sales representative, or any other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations, other than those contained in this prospectus and in the related SAI, in connection with the offer contained in this

prospectus. If given or made, such other information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the fund or Foreside. This prospectus and the related SAI do not constitute an offer by the fund or by Foreside to sell shares of the fund to or to buy shares of the fund from any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer.

### **Payments to intermediaries**

Investors may purchase shares of the fund on an exchange through intermediaries (including any broker, intermediary, bank, bank trust department, registered investment advisor, financial planner, retirement plan administrator and any other institution that offers shares of the fund to its customers). In addition to distribution and service plans, Putnam Management and its affiliates may make payments to intermediaries that do not increase your fund expenses, as described below.

Putnam Management and its affiliates also pay additional compensation to selected intermediaries in recognition of their marketing support and/or program servicing (each of which is described in more detail below). These payments may create an incentive for an intermediary firm or its representatives to recommend or offer shares of the fund or other Putnam funds to its customers. These additional payments are made by Putnam Management and its affiliates and do not increase the amount paid by you or the fund as shown under Fund summary — Fees and expenses. The additional payments to intermediaries by Putnam Management and its affiliates are generally based on one or more of the following factors: average net assets of a fund attributable to that intermediary, sales or net sales of a fund attributable to that intermediary, or reimbursement of ticket charges (fees that an intermediary firm charges its representatives for effecting transactions in fund shares), or on the basis of a negotiated lump sum payment for services provided.

*Marketing support payments* are generally available to most intermediaries engaging in significant sales of Putnam fund shares. These payments are individually negotiated with each intermediary firm, taking into account the marketing support services provided by the intermediary, including business planning assistance, educating intermediary personnel about the Putnam funds and shareholder financial planning needs, placement on the intermediary's preferred or recommended fund company list, access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the intermediary, market data, as well as the size of the intermediary's relationship with Putnam Management.

*Program servicing payments*, which are paid in some instances to intermediaries in connection with investments in the fund through intermediary platforms and other investment programs. These payments are made for program or platform services provided by the intermediary, including shareholder recordkeeping, reporting, or transaction processing, as well as services rendered in connection with intermediary platform development and maintenance, fund/investment selection and monitoring, or other similar services.



You can find a list of all intermediaries to which Putnam made marketing support and/ or program servicing payments in the SAI, which is on file with the SEC and is also available on Putnam's website at putnam.com. You can also find other details in the SAI about the payments made by Putnam Management and its affiliates and the services provided by your intermediary. Your intermediary may charge you fees or commissions in addition to those disclosed in this prospectus. You can also ask your intermediary about any payments it receives from Putnam Management and its affiliates and any services your intermediary provides, as well as about fees and/or commissions it charges.

### **Other payments**

Putnam Management and its affiliates may make other payments (including payments in connection with educational seminars or conferences) or allow other promotional incentives to intermediaries to the extent permitted by SEC and NASD (as adopted by FINRA) rules and by other applicable laws and regulations.

### **Fund distributions and taxes**

The fund earns dividends, interest, and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments and distributes these gains (less any losses) as capital gain distributions. If you purchased your shares in the secondary market, your broker is responsible for distributing the income and capital gain distributions to you. The fund normally distributes any net investment income and any net realized capital gains monthly.

For federal income tax purposes, distributions of net investment income are generally taxable to you as ordinary income. Taxes on distributions of capital gains are determined by how long the fund owned (or is deemed to have owned) the investments that generated them, rather than by how long you have owned (or are deemed to have owned) your shares. Distributions that the fund properly reports to you as gains from investments that the fund owned for more than one year are generally taxable to you as long-term capital gains includible in net capital gain and taxed to individuals at long-term capital tax rates. Distributions of gains from investments that the fund owned for one year or less and gains on the sale of or payment on bonds characterized as market discount are generally taxable to you as ordinary income. Distributions that the fund properly reports to you as "qualified dividend income" are taxable at the reduced rates applicable to your net capital gain provided that both you and the fund meet certain holding period and other requirements.

Distributions by the fund to retirement plans that qualify for tax-advantaged treatment under federal income tax laws will not be taxable. Special tax rules apply to investments through such plans. You should consult your tax advisor to determine the suitability of the fund as an investment through such a plan and the tax treatment of distributions (including distributions of amounts attributable to an investment in the fund) from such a plan.

Unless you are investing through a tax-advantaged retirement account (such as an IRA), you should consider avoiding a purchase of fund shares shortly before the fund makes a distribution because doing so may cost you money in taxes. Distributions are taxable to you even if they are paid from income or gains earned by the fund before your investment (and thus were included in the price you paid). Contact your financial representative to find out the distribution schedule for your fund.

Investments in lower-rated securities may present special tax issues for the fund to the extent actual or anticipated defaults may be more likely with respect to those kinds of securities. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as when an investor in such securities may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount, or market discount; when and to what extent deductions may be taken for bad debts or worthless securities; how payments received on obligations in default should be allocated between principal and income; and whether exchanges of debt obligations in a workout context are taxable.

The fund's investments in certain debt obligations may cause the fund to recognize taxable income in excess of the cash generated by such obligations. Thus, the fund could be required at times to liquidate other investments, including when it is not advantageous to do so, in order to satisfy its distribution requirements.

The fund's investments in foreign securities may be subject to foreign withholding or other taxes. In that case, the fund's return on those investments would be decreased. Shareholders generally will not be entitled to claim a credit or deduction with respect to these foreign taxes. In addition, the fund's investments in foreign securities or foreign currencies may increase or accelerate the fund's recognition of ordinary income and may affect the timing or amount of the fund's distributions.

The fund's use of derivatives, if any, may affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders and, therefore, may increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders.

### **Other tax considerations**

Unlike other ETFs, the securities exchanged for a creation unit will not correspond pro rata to the positions in the fund's portfolio, and the fund will effect its creations and redemptions partially or wholly for cash rather than on an in-kind basis. Because of this, the fund may be unable to realize certain tax benefits associated with in-kind transfers of portfolio securities that may be realized by other ETFs. Shareholders may be subject to tax on gains they would not otherwise have been subject to and/or at an earlier date than if the fund had effected redemptions wholly on an in-kind basis. If investors buy shares when the fund has realized but not yet distributed income or capital gains, they will be "buying a dividend" by paying the full price for the shares and then receiving a portion of the price back in the form of a taxable distribution. Any taxable distributions investors receive will normally be taxable to them when they receive them.

## Taxes on transactions

Purchases and sales of shares, as well as purchases and redemptions of creation units, may result in a capital gain or loss for federal tax purposes.

The above is a general summary of the tax implications of investing in the fund. Please refer to the SAI for further details. You should consult your tax advisor for more information on your own tax situation, including possible foreign, state and local taxes.

## **Information about the Summary Prospectus, Prospectus, and SAI**

The summary prospectus, prospectus, and SAI for a fund provide information concerning the fund. The summary prospectus, prospectus, and SAI are updated at least annually, and any information provided in a summary prospectus, prospectus, or SAI can be changed without a shareholder vote unless specifically stated otherwise. The summary prospectus, prospectus, and the SAI are not contracts between the fund and its shareholders, and do not give rise to any contractual rights or obligations or any shareholder rights other than any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

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## **For more information about Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF**

The fund's SAI includes, and the fund's annual and semiannual reports to shareholders will include when available, additional information about the fund. The SAI is incorporated by reference into this prospectus, which means it is part of this prospectus for legal purposes. You may get free copies of these materials by contacting your financial representative, by visiting Putnam's website at [putnam.com/individual](http://putnam.com/individual), or by calling Putnam toll-free at 1-833-228-5577. You may access reports (when available) and other information about the fund on the EDGAR Database on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may get copies of this information, with payment of a duplication fee, by electronic request at the following E-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov). You may need to refer to the fund's file number.