

FRANKLIN RESOURCES INC
Form DEF 14A
December 27, 2018
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, For Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

Franklin Resources, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

PAYMENT OF FILING FEE (CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- 1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
- 2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
- 3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
- 4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
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Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

- 1) Amount previously paid:
 - 2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - 3) Filing Party:
 - 4) Date Filed:
-

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2019

Proxy
Statement
and Notice of Annual Meeting

February 12, 2019, 8:00 am Pacific Time

H. L. Jamieson Auditorium
One Franklin Parkway
Building 920
San Mateo, California

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LETTER FROM OUR LEAD DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN AND CEO

December 27, 2018

FELLOW STOCKHOLDERS,

You are cordially invited to attend the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Franklin Resources, Inc. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. local time, at our offices in San Mateo, California. We hope that you will be able to attend.

The Board is committed to sound corporate governance policies and practices to ensure the Company operates responsibly, efficiently, and in the best interests of stockholders. We are constantly reviewing our policies and practices and making enhancements that we believe are appropriate. For example, during fiscal year 2018, the Board amended our Bylaws to incorporate a “proxy access” provision. We also adopted a statement on our political involvement. The statement describes our policies on corporate political activity, advocacy and lobbying activity, and compliance and oversight of these activities.

We continued our formal stockholder outreach program to understand your priorities and concerns regarding governance, executive compensation and other issues of interest to you. This year we invited unaffiliated stockholders holding approximately 46% of the Company’s unaffiliated shares to discuss these matters. We value this dialogue and consider your feedback when evaluating our executive compensation policies and practices.

Our executive compensation program is designed to align pay with the interests of our stockholders and clients. Incentive pay is tied to our investment performance, financial results, execution on strategic initiatives, and individual achievements. The Compensation Committee considered these results in making its executive compensation decisions for fiscal year 2018. Our emphasis on performance-based compensation is further illustrated by our long-term equity incentives. These awards are forfeited if performance is not achieved at threshold levels for the specified performance period. As a result, certain executive officers forfeited more than half of the performance shares granted in 2015 based on our relative investment performance and stockholder return ranking for the three-year period ending September 30, 2018. Please refer to the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of the accompanying Proxy Statement for more information.

We would like to thank each of you for your support. We encourage you to review the accompanying Proxy Statement and associated materials and vote your shares prior to our Annual Meeting on February 12, 2019. We look forward to serving you throughout the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

PETER K. BARKER
Independent Lead Director

GREGORY E. JOHNSON
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

DEAR STOCKHOLDER:

The Board of Directors of Franklin Resources, Inc. (the "Company") invites you to attend the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") to be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 8:00 a.m., Pacific Time, in the H. L. Jamieson Auditorium, at One Franklin Parkway, Building 920, San Mateo, California for the following purposes:

1. To elect the 10 nominees for director named herein to the Board of Directors to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until that person's successor is elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal.
2. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.
3. To ratify the stockholder special meeting amendment in the Company's bylaws.
4. To consider and vote on a stockholder proposal requesting that the Board institute procedures on genocide-free investing.
5. To transact such other business that may properly be raised at the Annual Meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the Annual Meeting.

We are primarily furnishing proxy materials to our stockholders on the Internet rather than mailing paper copies of the materials to each stockholder. As a result, some of you will receive a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and others will receive paper copies of the Proxy Statement and our Annual Report. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials contains instructions on how to access the Proxy Statement and the Annual Report over the Internet, instructions on how to vote your shares, as well as instructions on how to request a paper copy of our proxy materials, if you so desire. Electronic delivery is designed to expedite the receipt of materials, significantly lower costs and help to conserve natural resources.

Whether you received the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or paper copies of our proxy materials, the Proxy Statement, the proxy card, the Annual Report, and any amendments to the foregoing materials that are required to be furnished to stockholders are available for you to review online at www.proxyvote.com.

The Company's Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on December 14, 2018, as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to receive notice of, and to vote on, all matters presented at the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof. Your vote is very important. Even if you think that you will attend the Annual Meeting, we ask you to please cast your vote. You may vote your shares via the Internet, by telephone, by mail or in person at the Annual Meeting.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting will be limited to stockholders as of the record date. Each stockholder will need to provide an admission ticket or proof of ownership of the Company's stock and valid picture identification for admission to the meeting. Admission procedures are described further on page 3 of the Proxy Statement.

By order of the Board of Directors,

MARIA GRAY

Vice President and Secretary

December 27, 2018
San Mateo, California

Your vote is important.

Please vote via the Internet, by telephone, by mail or in person at the Annual Meeting.

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Annual Report on Form 10-K

EXHIBIT A

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PROXY STATEMENT

FRANKLIN RESOURCES, INC.

ONE FRANKLIN PARKWAY
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA 94403-1906

December 27, 2018

This Proxy Statement and the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders are furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of Franklin Resources, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), of the accompanying proxy to be voted at the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”), which will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 8:00 a.m., Pacific Time, in the H. L. Jamieson Auditorium, One Franklin Parkway, Building 920, San Mateo, California, 94403-1906, at the Company’s principal executive offices. We expect that this Proxy Statement and the enclosed proxy will be mailed and/or made available to each stockholder entitled to vote on or about December 27, 2018. References to “us”, “we” or “our” as used throughout this Proxy Statement mean the Company.

All materials filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) can be obtained through the SEC’s website at www.sec.gov.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS

Under the rules adopted by the SEC, we are furnishing proxy materials to our stockholders primarily over the Internet. We believe that this process should expedite stockholders’ receipt of proxy materials, lower the costs of our Annual Meeting and help to conserve natural resources. On or about December 27, 2018, we mailed to each of our stockholders (other than those who previously requested electronic or paper delivery, participants in the Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan (the “401(k) Plan”) and holders of shares in excess of certain thresholds), a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access and review the proxy materials, including this Proxy Statement and our Annual Report, on the Internet and how to access a proxy card to vote on the Internet or by telephone. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials also contains instructions on how to receive a paper copy of the proxy materials. If you received a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials unless you request one. If you received paper copies of our proxy materials, you may also view these materials at www.proxyvote.com. If you received paper copies of our proxy materials and wish to receive them by electronic delivery in the future please request electronic delivery on www.proxyvote.com or <https://enroll.icsdelivery.com/ben/Default.aspx>.

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VOTING INFORMATION

WHO CAN VOTE?

Holders of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.10 per share (the "common stock"), at the close of business on December 14, 2018 (the "Record Date") are entitled to one vote for each share owned on that date on each matter presented at the Annual Meeting. As of December 14, 2018, the Company had 512,259,497 shares of common stock outstanding. If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other holder of record, you are considered the "beneficial owner" of shares held in street name. The Notice of Internet Availability of this Proxy Statement has been forwarded to you by your broker, bank or other holder of record who is considered, with respect to those shares, the stockholder of record. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, bank or other holder of record on how to vote your shares by using the voting instruction form included in the mailing or by following their instructions for voting by telephone or on the Internet.

WHAT MATTERS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING?

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon the following:

Proposal No. 1: Election of Directors. The proposal provides for the election of 10 directors to the Company's Board to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until that person's successor is elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal.

Proposal No. 2: Ratification of Appointment of Auditors. The proposal provides for the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019 ("fiscal year 2019").

Proposal No. 3: Ratification of the Special Meeting Amendment in the Company's Bylaws. The proposal provides for the ratification of the amendment to the Company's Bylaws to provide a right of the holders of 25% or more of the Company's securities to call a special meeting of stockholders.

Proposal No. 4: Stockholder Proposal. The proposal requesting that the Board institute procedures on genocide-free investing, if properly presented at the Annual Meeting, shall be voted on.

The Board of Directors does not know of any other matter to be brought before the Annual Meeting. If any other matters properly come before the meeting, the persons named in the form of proxy or their substitutes will vote in accordance with their best judgment on such matters.

HOW MANY VOTES ARE NEEDED TO HOLD THE ANNUAL MEETING?

In order to take any action at the Annual Meeting, a majority of the Company's outstanding shares as of the Record Date must be present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. This is called a quorum.

WHO COUNTS THE VOTES?

The voting results will be tallied by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. and the Inspector of Elections, and reported on a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC within four business days following the Annual Meeting.

WHAT IS A PROXY?

A "proxy" allows someone else (the "proxy holder") to vote your shares on your behalf. The Board of Directors is asking you to allow any of the persons named on the proxy card (Gregory E. Johnson, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer; Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., Vice Chairman; and Maria Gray, Vice President and Secretary) to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting.

HOW DO I VOTE?

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Whether you hold shares directly as a stockholder of record or beneficially in street name, you may vote your shares without attending the Annual Meeting. You may vote by granting a proxy or, for shares held in street name, by submitting voting instructions to your bank, broker or other holder of record. You may also vote by telephone, using the Internet or by mail as outlined in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or on your proxy card. Please see the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, your proxy card or the information your bank, broker, or other holder of record provided to you for more information on these options. Except for certain stockholders described below, the deadline for voting by telephone or by using the Internet is 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time ("ET"), on Monday, February 11, 2019.

The persons named as your proxy holders on the proxy card will vote the shares represented by your proxy in accordance with the specifications you make. For stockholders of record

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VOTING INFORMATION

that return their proxy card but do not provide instructions on how to vote, the persons named as your proxy holders on the proxy card will vote the shares represented by the proxy FOR all nominees to the Board of Directors (Proposal No. 1); FOR the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm (the "independent auditors") for fiscal year 2019 (Proposal No. 2); FOR the ratification of the special meeting amendment in the Company's bylaws (Proposal No. 3); and AGAINST the stockholder proposal requesting that the Board institute procedures on genocide-free investing (Proposal No. 4). Additionally, unless you specify otherwise on your proxy card, if any other matters come before the Annual Meeting to be voted on, the persons named as your proxy holders on the proxy card will vote, act and consent on those matters in their discretion. For beneficial holders that return their voting instructions but do not provide instructions on how to vote, your bank, broker or other holder of record will only have the discretion to vote on the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent auditors for fiscal year 2019 (Proposal No. 2).

For participants in the Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan (the "401(k) Plan"), your shares will be voted as you specify on your proxy card. If you do not vote, your shares will be voted by the independent fiduciary for and against the proposals in the same proportion as shares for which directions are received by the independent fiduciary, unless the independent fiduciary decides that the law requires that the independent fiduciary vote them differently. (This also means that the way you vote will also affect how the independent fiduciary will vote the shares of participants who do not vote.) If you wish to abstain from voting on any matter, you must indicate this on your proxy card. You cannot vote your 401(k) Plan shares in person at the Annual Meeting. To allow sufficient time for your shares to be voted as you instruct, the trustee must receive your vote by no later than 2:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, February 7, 2019.

CAN I CHANGE OR REVOKE MY VOTE AFTER I RETURN MY PROXY CARD?

Yes. Whether your vote is submitted via the mail, the Internet or by telephone, you may change or revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted. A proxy, including an Internet or telephone vote, may be changed or revoked by submitting another proxy with a later date at any time prior to the beginning of the Annual Meeting. You may also revoke your proxy by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. Participants in the 401(k) Plan may revoke their proxy by no later than 2:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, February 7, 2019.

CAN I VOTE IN PERSON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING INSTEAD OF VOTING BY PROXY?

Yes. Please see requirements for attending the Annual Meeting under "Who may attend the Annual Meeting?" However, we encourage you to complete and return the enclosed proxy card to ensure that your shares are represented and voted. Beneficial owners must obtain a "legal proxy" from your bank, broker or other holder of record that holds your shares in order to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting. Participants in the 401(k) Plan must vote by no later than 2:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, February 7, 2019 and may not vote at the Annual Meeting.

WHO MAY ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING?

Attendance at the Annual Meeting is limited to stockholders as of the Record Date. You will need to provide proof of ownership to enter the Annual Meeting. If your shares are held beneficially in the name of a bank, broker or other holder of record you must present proof, such as a bank or brokerage account statement, of your ownership of common stock as of December 14, 2018, to be admitted to the Annual Meeting. For holders of record, please bring either the admission ticket attached to your proxy card or your Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. At the Annual Meeting, representatives of the Company will confirm your stockholder status. Stockholders must also present a form of photo identification such as a driver's license or passport to be admitted to the Annual Meeting. No cameras, recording equipment, electronic devices, bags, briefcases, packages or similar items will be permitted at the Annual Meeting.

HOW ARE VOTES COUNTED?

To be counted as "represented", a proxy card must have been returned for those shares, the stockholder must have voted the shares by telephone or over the Internet, or the stockholder must be present and vote at the Annual Meeting. Affirmative and negative votes, abstentions and broker non-votes will be separately tabulated.

WHAT IS A BROKER NON-VOTE?

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A “broker non-vote” occurs when a bank, broker or other holder of record holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have authority to vote on that particular proposal without receiving voting instructions from the beneficial owner. Under New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) rules, the ratification of the selection of an independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal No. 2), is considered a “routine” matter, and brokers generally may vote on behalf of beneficial owners who have not furnished voting instructions, subject to the rules of the NYSE concerning transmission of

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proxy materials to beneficial owners, and subject to any proxy voting policies and procedures of those brokerage firms. Brokers may not vote on the other proposals contained in this Proxy Statement, which are considered “non-routine” proposals, unless they have received voting instructions from the beneficial owner, and to the extent that they have not received voting instructions, brokers report such number of shares as “non-votes”.

WHAT IS THE VOTING REQUIREMENT TO APPROVE EACH OF THE PROPOSALS?

The election of directors (Proposal No. 1) requires that a director receive a majority of the votes cast with respect to that director at the Annual Meeting. This means that the number of shares of stock voted “FOR” a director must exceed the number of votes cast “AGAINST” that director. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not have any effect on the election of directors.

The affirmative vote of the holders of shares of common stock, having a majority of the votes present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the matter, is necessary to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (Proposal No. 2). Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against this proposal.

The affirmative vote of the holders of shares of common stock, having a majority of the votes present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the matter, is necessary to ratify the amendment to the Company’s bylaws (Proposal No. 3). Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against this proposal.

The affirmative vote of the holders of shares of common stock, having a majority of the votes present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the matter, is necessary to approve the stockholder proposal (Proposal No. 4) requesting that the Board institute procedures on genocide-free investing. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against this proposal.

Shares that are voted in person or by proxy are treated as being present at the Annual Meeting for purposes of establishing a quorum, and will be included in determining the number of shares represented and voted at the Annual Meeting with respect to such matter. Broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business and otherwise will not have any effect on the proposals above. If the persons present or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting constitute the holders of less than a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock as of the record date, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned to a subsequent date for the purpose of obtaining a quorum.

WHO PAYS FOR THIS PROXY SOLICITATION?

Your proxy is being solicited by the Board on behalf of the Company. The Company pays the cost of soliciting your proxy and reimburses brokerage costs and other fees for forwarding proxy materials to you.

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PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD

The Board recommends a vote “**FOR**” the election to the Board of each of the nominees listed below. The voting requirements for this proposal are described in the “Voting Information” section above.

Nominees

Listed below are the names, ages as of December 31, 2018, and principal occupations and membership on public boards for the past five years of each nominee. In addition, we have also provided information concerning the particular experience, qualification, attributes and/or skills that the Corporate Governance Committee and the Board considered as relevant to each nominee that led to the conclusion that he or she should serve as a director.

PETER K. BARKER

Independent

Age 70

Director since 2013

Lead Director

Board committees:

Compensation (Chair)

Career Highlights:

Retired California Chairman of JPMorgan Chase & Co., a global financial services firm, serving from 2009 to January 2013. From 1971 until his retirement in 2003 affiliated with Goldman Sachs & Co., serving as a general partner from 1982 to 1998. Director, Avery Dennison Corporation and Fluor Corporation.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Barker’s significant financial expertise provides the Board with valuable perspectives on international financial and investment management matters. During his 40 plus years of experience with Goldman, Sachs & Co., and JP Morgan Chase & Co., during which he served in numerous leadership roles, including as head of Goldman Sachs’ investment banking activities on the West Coast, he developed a deep understanding of capital structure, strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions and wide-ranging management expertise. Mr. Barker’s current and prior service on the boards of several private and public companies as well as with non-profit organizations including the W.M. Keck Foundation and Claremont McKenna College provides our Board with the benefit of his perspectives on business, corporate governance and citizenship.

MARIANN BYERWALTER

Independent

Age 58

Director since 2015

Board committees: Audit

Career Highlights:

Chairman of the Board of Directors of SRI International, an independent nonprofit technology research and development organization, since January 2014, and Chairman of JDN Corporate Advisory, LLC, a privately held advisory services firm, since 2001. Director, and, from 2006 to 2013, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Stanford Healthcare, and from January 2016 to July 2016, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer and President of Stanford Healthcare. From 1996 to 2001, she served as the Chief Financial Officer, Vice President for Business Affairs and Special Assistant to the President of Stanford University. Partner and co-founder of American First Financial Corporation from 1987 to 1996. Director, Redwood Trust, Inc. Previously, trustee of various investment companies affiliated with Charles Schwab Corporation and director, WageWorks, Inc.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Ms. Byerwalter’s significant financial expertise provides the Board with valuable perspectives on finance, accounting and investment management matters. From her leadership roles at Stanford University and several financial institutions she has a deep understanding of accounting and strategic planning as well as wide-ranging management expertise. Ms. Byerwalter’s current and prior service on the boards of private and public companies as well as with non-profit organizations including SRI International, Pacific LifeCorp and Pacific Mutual Holding Company, Burlington Capital Group, Stanford Hospital & Clinics, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, and the Stanford University Board of Trustees also provides our Board with the benefit of her perspectives on

business, corporate governance and citizenship.

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PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

CHARLES E. JOHNSON

Age 62

Director since June 2013; Previously Director from 1993 to 2002

Career Highlights:

Founder and Managing Member of Tano Capital, a California based family office and alternative asset management firm, with offices in Singapore, Mumbai, Mauritius and the San Francisco Bay Area, since 2004. Director of a subsidiary of the Company. Formerly, Co-President of the Company and an officer and/or director of certain subsidiaries of the Company.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. C. E. Johnson's experience as founder and Managing Member of Tano Capital and as a director of Company subsidiary Darby Overseas Investments, Ltd., provides the Board with wide-ranging expertise and insights into alternative asset management and the global fund management industry. He also contributes extensive knowledge of the Company as a result of spending over 20 years of his career working in various positions at the Company and its subsidiaries, including serving as a co-president of the Company from 1999 to 2002 and Chief Executive Officer and President of Company subsidiary Templeton Worldwide Inc. from 1994 to 2002. While serving in those roles, Mr. C. E. Johnson's responsibilities included global oversight of all portfolio management, information technology, product development and mergers and acquisitions. He is a Certified Public Accountant and also serves on various non-profit boards, including the Addiction Education Society, the South San Francisco chapter of the Salvation Army rehabilitation center and the Carolands Preservation Foundation.

GREGORY E. JOHNSON

Age 57

Director since 2007

Board committees:

Special Awards

Career Highlights:

Chairman of the Board since June 2013 and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since January 2004; President from December 1999 to September 2015. Officer and/or director of certain subsidiaries of the Company; officer and/or director or trustee of 44 registered investment companies managed or advised by subsidiaries of the Company.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. G. Johnson brings leadership and extensive business and operating experience, as well as significant knowledge of our Company and the global fund management industry, to the Board. Mr. G. Johnson is a Certified Public Accountant and prior to joining the Company, was a senior accountant with Coopers & Lybrand. Over his 30-year tenure with the Company, Mr. G. Johnson has held officer and director positions with various subsidiaries of the Company; hands-on experience that provides him with in-depth knowledge of the Company's operations. Mr. G. Johnson's presence on the Board provides the Board with management's current perspectives on the Company's business and strategic vision for the Company. Mr. G. Johnson's service on various boards of industry organizations, including the Investment Company Institute's Board of Governors, also provides the Board with the benefit of additional perspectives on industry developments, including regulatory and policy issues. He is a past Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Investment Company Institute and currently serves on the Executive Committee.

RUPERT H. JOHNSON, JR.

Age 78

Director since 1969

Career Highlights:

Vice Chairman of the Company since December 1999; officer and/or director of certain subsidiaries of the Company; officer and/or director or trustee of 40 registered investment companies managed or advised by subsidiaries of the Company.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. R.H. Johnson, Jr.'s service as Vice Chairman of the Company and as an officer, director or trustee of various subsidiaries of the Company and Franklin Templeton mutual funds since its inception provide the Board with significant knowledge of and insights into the Company and the global fund management industry in which we operate. His fundamental knowledge of the Company gained over 50 years gives him an important perspective on the Company and provides significant leadership, business and operational expertise to the Board. Mr. R. H. Johnson, Jr. has served on various industry boards and committees addressing investment

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company issues including the Board of Governors of the Investment Company Institute. In his capacity with the Company, he has served as Director of Research and is a portfolio manager for one of its funds. He provides the Board with a unique perspective on critical components of the Company's business.

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PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

MARK C. PIGOTT

Independent

Age 64

Director since 2011

Board committees: Compensation, Corporate Governance

Career Highlights:

Executive Chairman of PACCAR Inc., a global technology company in the capital goods and financial services industries, since April 2014. Formerly, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from January 1997 to April 2014. Formerly, Vice Chairman from January 1995 to December 1996, Executive Vice President from December 1993 to January 1995, Senior Vice President from January 1990 to December 1993, and Vice President from October 1988 to December 1989, of PACCAR Inc. Director, PACCAR Inc.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Pigott's experience leading PACCAR Inc., a Fortune 200 company, provides the Board with valuable perspectives on financial, operational and strategic matters. Mr. Pigott has been recognized several times as one of the 10 Best CEOs by Forbes magazine. Under his leadership, PACCAR has generated superior long term shareholder returns and received 30 J.D. Power Customer Satisfaction Awards. He brings substantial expertise in the areas of client service and customer satisfaction. As the leader of a major global company, Mr. Pigott developed a deep understanding of issues associated with operating in multiple jurisdictions. His service on several boards including the Royal Shakespeare Company America and the PACCAR Foundation, as well as his service on the board of PACCAR, provides our Board with the benefit of his views on business, corporate governance and citizenship, finance and compensation matters.

CHUTTA RATNATHICAM

Independent

Age 71

Director since 2003

Board committees: Audit (Chair)

Career Highlights:

Retired Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of CNF Inc., a freight transportation, logistics, supply chain management and trailer manufacturing company, from 1997 to March 2005; formerly, Chief Executive Officer of the Emery Worldwide reporting segment of CNF from September 2000 to December 2001.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Ratnathicam's experience of over 27 years in various accounting, finance and executive management roles, including as the Chief Financial Officer at CNF, Inc., provides the Board with significant expertise in the areas of finance, accounting, strategic planning and auditing. Mr. Ratnathicam has held finance and other management positions internationally, and has a keen understanding of the issues facing a multinational business such as the Company. He is on the Advisory Board of Namaste Direct, a micro finance organization, and qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" under the rules and regulations of the SEC.

LAURA STEIN

Independent

Age 57

Director since 2005

Board committees: Audit, Corporate Governance (Chair)

Career Highlights:

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Affairs of The Clorox Company, a leading marketer and manufacturer of consumer products, since February 2016; formerly Executive Vice President – General Counsel from February 2015 to February 2016 and Senior Vice President – General Counsel from January 2005 to February 2015 of The Clorox Company; formerly, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of H.J. Heinz Company, a global marketer and manufacturer of branded food products, from 2000 to 2005. Director, Canadian National Railway Company.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

As general counsel of two multinational corporations, with responsibility for legal, compliance, corporate governance, risk management, corporate responsibility, and internal audit, among other matters, Ms. Stein brings expertise in these critical areas to the Board. Ms. Stein speaks six languages and has lived in non-US jurisdictions, bringing a global perspective and experience. She has a deep understanding of financial statements, corporate finance, and accounting. In addition, Ms. Stein's leadership and service on the boards of non-profit organizations including Corporate Pro Bono and the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity also provide the Board with the benefit of additional perspectives on diversity and corporate citizenship.

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PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

SETH H. WAUGH

Independent

Age 60

Director since 2015

Board committees: Compensation

Career Highlights:

Chief Executive Officer of The PGA of America, since 2018. Senior Advisor at Silver Lake, since 2017. Non-executive chairman of Alex. Brown, a division of Raymond James, since September 2016. Previously, Managing Director at Silver Lake, 2018. Vice Chairman of Florida East Coast Industries, LLC, the parent company of several commercial real estate, transportation and infrastructure companies based in Florida, from 2013 to 2017. From 2000 to 2013, Mr. Waugh served in various roles at Deutsche Bank Americas, including Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. Previously Chief Executive Officer of Quantitative Financial Strategies, a hedge fund. Mr. Waugh also served in various capacities at Merrill Lynch over eleven years, including Co-head of Global Debt Markets.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Waugh's significant experience in the financial sector provides the Board with valuable perspectives on capital markets and investment management. Having held various leadership roles at Deutsche Bank and other financial institutions, Mr. Waugh brings strong leadership skills as well as deep knowledge of operational and strategic matters to the Board. His service on the boards of the Deutsche Bank Americas Advisory Board, the Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation, The Clearing House, the Financial Services Forum and the Board of Governors of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) provides our Board with the benefit of his substantial expertise in financial industry developments and corporate citizenship.

GEOFFREY Y. YANG

Independent

Age 59

Director since 2011

Board committees: Audit, Corporate Governance

Career Highlights:

Managing Director and Founding Partner of Redpoint Ventures, a private equity and venture capital firm, since 1999. Director of AT&T, Inc., since July 2016. Formerly, General Partner with Institutional Venture Partners from 1987 to 1999. Mr. Yang was formerly president of the Western Association of Venture Capitalists, director of the National Venture Capital Association, chairman of the Stanford Engineering Fund, and a member of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee for the United States. Previously director of BigBand Networks and TiVo.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Yang's experience as a Founding Partner and Managing Director of Redpoint Ventures provides the Board with valuable perspectives on financial and strategic matters as well as expertise in the capital markets. Since joining the venture capital business in 1985, Mr. Yang has backed companies from their founding including Arista, Ask.com, Bluefin, Calix, Efficient Frontier, Foundry Networks, Excite, Juniper Networks, Machinima, MySpace, and TiVo. This experience provides strategic direction, growth and technology expertise to the Company. Mr. Yang's current and prior service on the boards of several private and public companies as well as with non-profit organizations including the Advisory Council for the Stanford Graduate School of Business, the United States Golf Association, the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Foundation, and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Foundation, provides our Board with the benefit of his perspectives on business, corporate governance and citizenship, and finance.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Gregory E. Johnson, the Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and a director of the Company, is the nephew of Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., Vice Chairman and a director of the Company, the brother of Charles E. Johnson, a director of the Company and Jennifer M. Johnson, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company. Charles E. Johnson is the nephew of Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. and the brother of Gregory E. Johnson and Jennifer M. Johnson. Jennifer M. Johnson is the niece of Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. and the sister of Gregory E. Johnson and Charles E. Johnson.

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PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

General

The Corporate Governance Committee of the Board recommended and nominated, and the Board approved, the nominees named above for election as members of the Board. Each nominee was elected by the Company's stockholders at the Company's last annual meeting of stockholders and, accordingly, is standing for re-election.

The Corporate Governance Committee and the Board believe that the nominees have the requisite experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to provide the Company with effective oversight of a global investment management organization. The Corporate Governance Committee and the Board believe that there are general requirements and skills that are required of each director and other skills and experience that should be represented on the Board as a whole but not necessarily by each director. The Board believes that, consistent with these requirements, each nominee displays a high degree of personal and professional integrity, an ability to exercise sound business judgment on a broad range of issues, sufficient experience and background to have an appreciation of the issues facing our Company, a willingness to devote the necessary time to board duties, a commitment to representing the best interest of the Company and its stockholders and a dedication to enhancing stockholder value. The Board seeks to assemble a group of directors that, as a whole, represents a mix of experiences and skills that allows appropriate deliberation on all issues that the Board might be likely to consider. The Corporate Governance Committee's Policy Regarding Nominations and Qualifications of Directors described below outlines the qualities that the Corporate Governance Committee and the Board seek in director nominees.

If elected, each nominee will serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until that person's successor is elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal.

In accordance with the Company's Director Independence Standards, described more fully below, and the rules of the NYSE, the Board has affirmatively determined that it is currently composed of a majority of independent directors, and that the following director nominees are independent and do not have a material relationship with the Company: Peter K. Barker; Mariann Byerwalter; Mark C. Pigott; Chutta Ratnathicam; Laura Stein; Seth H. Waugh and Geoffrey Y. Yang.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Company regularly monitors regulatory developments and reviews its policies and procedures in the area of corporate governance to respond to such developments. As part of those efforts, we review federal laws affecting corporate governance, as well as corporate governance-related rules adopted by the SEC and the NYSE.

Corporate Governance Guidelines. The Board has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines, which are posted in the corporate governance section of the Company's website at www.franklinresources.com (the "Company's website"). The Corporate Governance Guidelines set forth the practices the Board follows with respect to, among other things, the composition of the Board, director responsibilities, Board committees, director access to officers, employees and independent advisers, director compensation, director orientation and continuing education, management succession and performance evaluation of the Board.

Code of Ethics and Business Conduct. The Board has adopted a Code of Ethics and Business Conduct, which is applicable to all employees, temporary employees, directors and officers of the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates. The Code of Ethics and Business Conduct is posted in the corporate governance section of the Company's website. The Company also has a Compliance and Ethics Hotline, where employees can report a violation of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct or anonymously submit a complaint concerning auditing, accounting or securities law matters. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement regarding any amendment to or a waiver of, a provision of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct for the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer and controller, or persons performing similar functions, by posting such information on the Company's website.

Director Independence Standards. The Board has adopted guidelines for determining whether a director is independent, which are available on the Company's website. The Board will monitor and review as necessary, but at least once annually, commercial, charitable, family and other relationships that directors have with the Company to determine whether the Company's directors are independent.

For a director to be considered independent, the Board must determine affirmatively that the director does not have material relationships with the Company either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Company. Such determination will be made and disclosed pursuant to applicable NYSE or other applicable rules. A material relationship can include, but is not limited to, commercial, industrial, banking, consulting, legal, accounting, charitable and family relationships. The Board has established the following guidelines to assist it in determining whether a director does not have material relationships and thereby qualifies as independent:

- A. A director will not be independent if, at any time within the preceding three years (unless otherwise specified below):
1. (a) the director was employed by the Company; or
(b) an immediate family member¹ of the director was employed by the Company as an executive officer² of the Company;
the director (or an immediate family member of the director who in the capacity of an executive officer of the Company)
 2. received direct compensation from the Company (other than for prior service as a director, or as pension or deferred compensation) of more than \$120,000 in any 12-month period;
 3. (a) the director or an immediate family member of the director is currently a partner of the Company's internal auditor or external independent auditor;
(b) the director is currently employed by the Company's internal auditor or external independent auditor;
(c) an immediate family member of the director is currently employed by the Company's internal auditor or external independent auditor and personally works on t