



# City of Lockport

## Investment Policy

*WHEREAS, in compliance with the New York State Office of the Comptroller, all governmental entities are recommended to have and maintain an investment policy that identifies appropriate practices and regulation as they relate to City finances; and*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Lockport does hereby adopt the following investment policies and procedures:*

**Guideline #1 - Scope:** This investment policy applies to all moneys and other financial resources available for investment on its own behalf or on behalf of any other entity or individual.

**Guideline #2 - Objectives:** The primary objectives of the local government's investment activities are, in priority order,

- to conform with all applicable federal, state and other legal requirements (legal);
- to adequately safeguard principal (safety);
- to provide sufficient liquidity to meet all operating requirements (liquidity); and
- to obtain the optimum rate of return (yield).

**Guideline #3 - Delegation of Authority:** The governing board's responsibility for administration of the investment program is delegated to the City Treasurer who shall establish written procedures for the operation of the investment program consistent with these investment guidelines. Such procedures shall include an adequate internal control structure to provide a satisfactory level of accountability based on a data base or records incorporating description and amounts of investments, transaction dates, and other relevant information and regulate the activities of subordinate employees.

**Guideline #4 - Prudence:** All participants in the investment process shall seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust and shall avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence in the City of Lockport to govern effectively. Investments shall be made with judgement and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investments, considering the safety of the principal as well as the probable income to be derived. All participants involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity

that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions.

**Guideline #5 - Diversification:** It is the policy of the City of Lockport to diversify its deposits and investments by financial institution, and by maturity scheduling.

**Guideline #6 – Internal Controls:** It is the policy of the City of Lockport for all moneys collected by any officer or employee of the government to transfer those funds to the (chief fiscal officer) within 30 days of deposit, or within the time period specified in law, whichever is shorter. The City Treasurer is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that deposits and investments are safeguarded against loss from un-authorized use or disposition, that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly, and are managed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

**Guideline #7 – Designation of Depositories:** The banking institutions authorized for the deposit of monies are to be designated by Council resolution as required by City Charter, Section C-101.

**Guideline #8 – Collateralizing of Deposits:** In accordance with the provisions of General Municipal Law, #10, all deposits of the City of Lockport, including certificates of deposit and special time deposits, in excess of the amount insured under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act shall be secured:

- By a pledge of "eligible securities" with an aggregate "market value" as provided by GML #10, equal to the aggregate amount of deposits from the categories designated in Guideline 13 of this policy.
- By an eligible "irrevocable letter of credit" issued by a qualified bank other than the bank with the deposits in favor of the government for a term not to exceed 90 days with an aggregate value equal to 140% of the aggregate amount of deposits and the agreed upon interest, if any. A qualified bank is one whose commercial paper and other unsecured short-term debt obligations are rated in one of the three highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organizations or by a bank that is in compliance with applicable federal minimum risk-based capital requirements.
- By an eligible surety bond payable to the City of Lockport for an amount at least equal to 100% of the aggregate amount of deposits and agreed upon interest, if any, executed by an insurance company authorized to do business in New York State, and who has met with the requirements of the State Comptrollers office. (#3 added 01/04/95)

**Guideline #9 – Safekeeping and Collateralization:** Eligible securities used for collateralizing deposits shall be held by the depository and/or a third party bank or trust company subject to security and custodial agreements. The security agreement shall provide that eligible securities are being pledged to secure local government deposits together with agreed upon interest, if any, and any costs or expenses arising out of the collection of such deposits upon default. It shall also provide the conditions under which the securities may be sold, presented for payment, substituted or released and the events which will enable the local government to exercise its rights against the pledged securities. In the event that the securities are not registered or inscribed in the name of the local government, such securities shall be delivered in a form suitable for transfer or with an assignment to the City of Lockport or its custodial bank.

The custodial agreement shall provide that securities held by the bank or trust company, or agent of and custodian for, the local government, will be kept separate and apart from the general assets

of the custodial bank or trust company and will not, in any circumstances, be commingled with or become part of the backing for any other deposit or other liabilities. The agreement should also describe that the custodian shall confirm the receipt, substitution or release of the securities. The agreement shall provide for the frequency of revaluation of eligible securities and for the substitution of securities when a change in the rating of a security may cause ineligibility. Such agreement shall include all provisions necessary to provide the local government a perfected interest in the securities.

**Guideline #10 – Permitted Investments:** As authorized by General Municipal Law, #11, the City of Lockport authorizes the City Treasurer to invest moneys not required for immediate expenditure for terms not to exceed its projected cash flow needs in the following types of investments:

- Special time deposit accounts;
- Certificates of deposit;
- Obligations of the United States of America;
- Obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where the payment of principal and interest are guaranteed by the United State of America;
- Obligations of the State of New York;
- Obligations issued pursuant to LFL #24.00 or 25.00 (with approval of the State Comptroller) by any municipality, school district or district corporation other than the City of
- Lockport;
- Obligations of public authorities, public housing authorities, urban renewal agencies and industrial development agencies where the general State statutes governing such entities or whose specific enabling legislation authorizes such investments.
- Obligations of this local government, but only with any moneys in a reserve fund established pursuant to GML #6-c, 6-d, 6-e, 6-g, 6-h, 6-j, 6-k, 6-l, 6-m, or 6-n.

All investment obligations shall be payable or redeemable at the option of the City of Lockport within such times as the proceeds will be needed to meet expenditures for purposes for which the moneys were provided and, in the case of obligations purchased with the proceeds of bonds or notes, shall be payable or redeemable at the option of the City of Lockport within two years of the date of purchase.

**Guideline #11 – Authorized Financial Institutions and Dealer:** The financial institutions so designated by the Common Council as outlined in paragraph VII of this policy shall be the authorized institutions approved for investment purposes. All financial institutions with which the City of Treasurer conducts business must be credit worthy. Banks shall provide their most recent Consolidated Report of Condition (Call Report) at the request of the City of Lockport. Security dealers not affiliated with a bank shall be required to be classified as reporting dealers affiliated with the New York Federal Reserve Bank, as primary dealers. The City Treasurer is responsible for evaluating the financial position.

**Guideline #12 – Purchase of Investments:** The City Treasurer is authorized to contract for the purchase of investments:

- Directly, including through a repurchase agreement, from an authorized trading partner.
- By participation in a cooperative investment program with another authorized governmental entity pursuant to Article 5G of the General Municipal Law where such program meets all the requirements set forth in the Office of the State Comptroller Opinion No. 88-46, and the specific program has been authorized by the governing board.

- By utilizing an ongoing investment program with an authorized trading partner pursuant to a contract authorized by the governing board.

All purchased obligations, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the local government, shall be purchased through, delivered to and held in the custody of a bank or trust company. Such obligations shall be purchased, sold or presented for redemption or payment by such bank or trust company only in accordance with prior written authorization from the officer authorized to make the investment. All such transactions shall be confirmed in writing to the City of Lockport by the bank or trust company. Any obligation held in the custody of a bank or trust company shall be held pursuant to a written custodial agreement as described in General Municipal Law, #10.

The custodial agreement shall provide that securities held by the bank or trust company, as agent of and custodian for, the local government, will be kept separate and apart from the general assets of the custodial bank or trust company and will not, in any circumstances, be commingled with or become part of the backing for any other deposit or other liabilities. The agreement shall describe how the custodian shall confirm the receipt and release of the securities. Such agreement shall include all provisions necessary to provide the local government a perfected interest in the securities

**Guideline #13 – Schedule of Eligible Securities:**

- (i) Obligations issued, or fully insured or guaranteed as to the payment of principal and interest, by the United States of America, an agency thereof or a United States government sponsored corporation.
- (ii) Obligations partially insured or guaranteed by any agency of the United States of America, at a proportion of the market Value of the obligation that represents the amount of the insurance or guaranty.
- (iii) Obligations issued or fully insured or guaranteed by the State of New York, obligations issued by a municipal corporation, school district or district corporation of such State or obligations of any public benefit corporation which under a specific State statute may be accepted as security for deposit of public moneys.
- (iv) Obligations issued by states (other than the State of New York) of the United States rated in one of the three highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.
- (v) Obligations of counties, cities and other governmental entities of a state other than the State of New York having the power to levy taxes that are backed by the full faith and credit of such governmental entity and rated in one of the three highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.
- (vi) Obligations of domestic corporations rated in one of the two highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.
- (vii) Any mortgage related securities, as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which may be purchased by banks under the limitations established by bank regulatory agencies.
- (viii) Commercial paper and banker's acceptances issued by a bank, other than the Bank, rated in the highest short term category by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization and having maturities of not longer than 60 days from the date they are pledged.
- (ix) Zero coupon obligations of the United States government marketed as "Treasury strips".

**Guideline #14 – Annual Review:** An annual review of the investment policy should be undertaken to determine whether modifications are appropriate.