

**Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure**

Form ADV, Part 2A, Item 1

**Cover Page**



**Allison Investment Management, LLC**

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**March 18, 2024**

**FORM ADV PART 2  
FIRM BROCHURE**

**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Allison Investment Management, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 803-806-8400. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.**

**Additional information about Allison Investment Management, LLC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The searchable IARD/CRD number for Allison Investment Management, LLC is 124645.**

**Allison Investment Management, LLC is a Registered Investment Adviser. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.**

## ***Material Changes***

### **Annual Update**

The Material Changes section of this brochure will be updated annually or when material changes occur since the previous release of the Firm Brochure. Each year, we will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent brochures by April 30th. We will further provide you with our most recent brochure at any time at your request, without charge. You may request a brochure by contacting us at **803-806-8400**.

### **Material Changes since the Last Update**

Since the filing of the most recent annual ADV update on February 24, 2023 there have been the following material changes between the information previously reflected in the former Form ADV and this Brochure:

- None

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### ***Advisory Business***

Allison Investment Management, LLC (hereinafter called "AIM") is a Registered Investment Adviser based in Columbia, South Carolina, and incorporated under the laws of the State of South Carolina. AIM is owned by John E. Allison and David L. Allison. AIM is registered with the SEC and subject to the rules and regulations of the US Advisers Act. Founded in 2002, AIM provides investment advisory services, which may include, but are not limited to, the review of client investment objectives and goals, recommending asset allocation strategies of managed assets among investment products such as cash, stocks, mutual funds and bonds, annuities, and/or preparing written investment strategies. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives. Clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities (such as a product type, specific companies, specific sectors, etc.) by providing a signed and dated written notification, of which an e-mail is also an acceptable form of notification. AIM also provides financial planning consulting services including, but not limited to, risk assessment/management, investment planning, estate planning, financial organization, or financial decision making/negotiation.

AIM provides investment advisory and other financial services through its Investment Advisory Representatives ("IAR") to accounts opened with AIM. Managed Accounts are available to individuals and high net worth individuals.

AIM provides discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services to some of its clients through various managed account programs. AIM will assist clients in determining the suitability of the Managed Account Programs for the client. The IAR is compensated through a comprehensive single fee and the account may be assessed other charges associated with conducting a brokerage business. AIM and its IAR, as appropriate, will be responsible for the following:

- Performing due diligence
- Recommending strategic asset and style allocations
- Providing research on investment product options, as needed
- Providing client risk profile questionnaire
- Obtaining investment advisory contract from client with required financial, risk tolerance, suitability and investment vehicle selection information for each new account
- Performing client suitability check on account documentation, review the investment objectives and evaluate the investment vehicle selections
- Providing Firm Brochure (this document)

#### **Wrap Fee Programs**

AIM manages wrap fee programs. A "wrap fee program" is a program under which investment advisory and brokerage execution services are provided for a single "wrapped" fee.

AIM will be the sole manager of the “wrap fee program”. The “wrap fee program” is sponsored by Triad-Advisors, LLC. AIM is not an affiliated entity of Triad-Advisors, LLC. The “wrap fee program” offers a participant a suite of services such as asset allocation, portfolio management, trade execution, and certain administrative activities, all for an annual, asset-based fee.

The firm currently has assets under management as of January 31, 2024:

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Discretionary:     | \$111,937,782 |
| Non-Discretionary: | \$ 9,599,529  |
| Total AUM:         | \$121,537,311 |

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## ***Fees and Compensation***

The following types of fees will be assessed:

**Asset Management** – Fees are charged quarterly in advance and are based primarily on asset size and the level of complexity of the services provided. In individual cases, AIM has the sole discretion to negotiate fees that are lower than the standard fee shown or to waive fees. Fees are not based on the share of capital gains or capital appreciation of the funds or any portion of the funds. Comparable services for lower fees may be available from other sources. Fees for the initial quarter will be prorated based upon the number of calendar days in the calendar quarter that the advisory agreement is in effect. Fees are based on the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter. Annual fees range from .60% - 1.50%, depending on the amount of assets under management (“AUM”) – See chart below.

Fee Schedule for Asset Management:

| Total Household Assets Under Management | Maximum Annual Advisory Fee |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$0 - \$500,000                         | 1.50%                       |
| \$500,001 – \$1,000,000                 | 1.35%                       |
| \$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000               | 1.20%                       |
| \$2,000,001 - \$4,000,000               | 1.00%                       |
| \$4,000,001 - \$8,000,000               | 0.80%                       |
| Over \$8,000,000                        | 0.60%                       |

**Wrap Asset Management –**

As authorized in the client agreement, the account custodian withdraws Allison Investment Management, LLC’s advisory fees directly from the clients’ accounts according to the

custodian's policies, practices, and procedures. The quarterly management fee for advisory services will be listed on the custodial statement in the month in which it is debited from the account. You should carefully review the statement from your custodian/broker-dealer's statement and verify the calculation of fees. Your custodian/broker-dealer does not verify the accuracy of fee calculations. You may choose to be billed directly for our quarterly service fee. If you choose direct billing, you will be invoiced by the fifth business day of the month subsequent to the most recently ended billing period. Payments are due on or by the final business day of the month in which the invoice is generated, resulting in accounts being debited for management fees in the month subsequent to the month in which payment is billed and received.

Fees are charged in advance on a quarterly basis. Clients may terminate investment advisory services provided by AIM, without penalty, upon written notice at any time after entering into the advisory agreement with AIM. The client is responsible for any fees and charges from third parties such as transaction fees for any securities transactions executed, and for account maintenance or custodial fees. Clients who terminate investment advisory services during a quarter are charged, or rebated, a prorated advisory fee based on the date of AIM's receipt of client's written notice to terminate. Both earned fees, and any rebate of unearned fees, are immediately due and payable within five business days of a notice of termination.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

In addition to advisory fees paid to AIM as explained above, clients may pay custodial service, account maintenance, transaction, and other fees associated with maintaining the account. These fees vary by broker and/or custodian. Clients should ask AIM for details on transaction fees or other custodial fees specific to their account, as these fees are not included in the annual advisory fee. AIM does not share any portion of such fees. Additionally, for any mutual funds purchased, the client may pay their proportionate share of the funds' distribution, internal management, investment advisory and administrative fees. Such fees are not shared with AIM and are compensation to the fund manager. Clients are urged to read the mutual fund prospectus prior to investing.

Mutual fund companies impose internal fees and expenses on clients. These fees are in addition to the costs associated with the investment advisory services as described above. Complete details of such internal expenses are specified and disclosed in each mutual fund company's prospectus. Clients are strongly advised to review the prospectus(es) prior to investing in such securities.

Mutual funds purchased or sold in broker-dealer accounts may generate transaction fees that would not exist if the purchase or sale were made directly with the mutual fund company. Mutual funds held in broker-dealer accounts also charge management fees. These mutual fund management fees may be more or less than the mutual fund management fees charged if the client held the mutual fund directly with the mutual fund company. Clients may purchase shares of mutual funds directly from the mutual fund issuer, its principal underwriter, or a distributor without purchasing the services of AIM or paying the advisory fee on such shares (but subject to any applicable sales charges). Certain mutual funds are offered to the public without a sales charge. In the case of mutual funds offered with a sales charge, the prevailing sales charge (as described in the mutual fund prospectus) may be more or less than the

applicable advisory fee. However, clients would not receive AIM's assistance in developing an investment strategy, selecting securities, monitoring performance of the account, and making changes as necessary.

Please refer to Item 12 "Brokerage Practices" of this brochure for additional information.

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### ***Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management***

Allison Investment Management, LLC does not charge performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Side-by-side management refers to the practice of managing accounts that are charged performance-based fees while at the same time managing accounts that are not charged performance-based fees. Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of capital gains or appreciation of the assets of a client. Our fees are calculated as described in Fees and Compensation section above, and are not charged on the basis of performance of your advisory account.

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### ***Types of Clients***

AIM offers investment advisory services to individuals, pension/profit sharing plans, trusts, estates and corporate entities. The minimum relationship size to open and maintain an advisory account is \$500,000, although AIM may waive this minimum requirement under extraordinary circumstances.

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### ***Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies, and Risk of Loss***

AIM's methods of analysis and investment strategies incorporate the client's needs and investment objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance. AIM is not bound to a specific investment strategy for the management of investment portfolios, but rather consider the risk tolerance levels pre-determined gathered at the account opening, as well as on an on-going basis. Examples of methodologies that our investment strategies may incorporate include:

**Asset Allocation** – Asset Allocation is a broad term used to define the process of selecting a mix of asset classes and the efficient allocation of capital to those assets by matching rates of return to a specified and quantifiable tolerance for risk.

**Dollar-Cost Averaging** – Dollar-cost averaging is the technique of buying a fixed dollar amount of securities at regularly scheduled intervals, regardless of the price per share. This will gradually, over time, decrease the average share price of the security. Dollar-cost averaging lessens the risk of investing a large amount in a single investment at the wrong time.

Technical Analysis – involves studying past price patterns and trends in the financial markets to predict the direction of both the overall market and specific stocks.

Long-Term Purchases – securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.

Short-Term Purchases – securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short term price fluctuations.

Our strategies and investments may have unique and significant tax implications. Regardless of your account size or other factors, we strongly recommend that you continuously consult with a tax professional prior to and throughout the investing of your assets.

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Although we manage your portfolio with strategies and in a manner consistent with your risk tolerances, there can be no guarantee that our efforts will be successful. You should be prepared to bear the risk of loss.

All investments involve the risk of loss, including (among other things) loss of principal, a reduction in earnings (including interest, dividends, and other distributions), and the loss of future earnings. These risks include market risk, interest rate risk, issuer risk, and general economic risk. Regardless of the methods of analysis or strategies suggested for your particular investment goals, you should carefully consider these risks, as they all bear risks.

AIM's primary goal for investing is to help the client maintain purchasing power over the long term. This may result in short term variability and loss of principal. Time horizon and risk tolerance are key determinates of the proper asset allocation. AIM's approach focuses on taking appropriate risks for which clients are compensated (i.e. market risk) and seeking to limit or eliminate risks that do not provide compensation over the long term (i.e. individual stock risk or lack of portfolio risk).

Below are some more specific risks of investing:

**Market Risk.** The prices of securities in which clients invest may decline in response to certain events taking place around the world, including those directly involving the companies whose securities are owned by the client or an underlying fund; conditions affecting the general economy; overall market changes; local, regional or global political, social or economic instability; and currency, interest rate and commodity price fluctuations. Investors should have a long-term perspective and be able to tolerate potentially sharp declines in market value.

**Management Risk.** AIM's investment approach may fail to produce the intended results. If our perception of the performance of a specific asset class or underlying fund is not realized in the expected time frame, the overall performance of client's portfolio may suffer.

**Equity Risk.** Equity securities tend to be more volatile than other investment choices. The value of an individual mutual fund or ETF can be more volatile than the market as a whole. This



volatility affects the value of the client's overall portfolio. Small- and mid-cap companies are subject to additional risks. Smaller companies may experience greater volatility, higher failure rates, more limited markets, product lines, financial resources, and less management experience than larger companies. Smaller companies may also have a lower trading volume, which may disproportionately affect their market price, tending to make them fall more in response to selling pressure than is the case with larger companies.

**Fixed Income Risk.** The issuer of a fixed income security may not be able to make interest and principal payments when due. Generally, the lower the credit rating of a security, the greater the risk that the issuer will default on its obligation. If a rating agency gives a debt security a lower rating, the value of the debt security will decline because investors will demand a higher rate of return. As nominal interest rates rise, the value of fixed income securities is likely to decrease. A nominal interest rate is the sum of a real interest rate and an expected inflation rate.

**Municipal Securities Risk.** The value of municipal obligations can fluctuate over time, and may be affected by adverse political, legislative and tax changes, as well as by financial developments that affect the municipal issuers. Because many municipal obligations are issued to finance similar projects by municipalities (e.g., housing, healthcare, water and sewer projects, etc.), conditions in the sector related to the project can affect the overall municipal market. Payment of municipal obligations may depend on an issuer's general unrestricted revenues, revenue generated by a specific project, the operator of the project, or government appropriation or aid. There is a greater risk if investors can look only to the revenue generated by the project. In addition, municipal bonds generally are traded in the "over-the-counter" market among dealers and other large institutional investors. From time to time, liquidity in the municipal bond market (the ability to buy and sell bonds readily) may be reduced in response to overall economic conditions and credit tightening.

**Investment Companies Risk.** When a client invests in open end mutual funds or ETFs, the client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives). ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. AIM has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds.

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### ***Disciplinary Information***

Allison Investment Management, LLC or its Principal Executive Officers have not had any reportable disclosable events in the past ten years.

### ***Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations***

John Allison and David Allison are registered representatives of Triad Advisors, LLC, a broker-dealer. AIM is not an affiliated entity of Triad Advisors, LLC. Neither AIM nor any of its employees are registered as a futures commission merchant, an introducing broker, a commodity trading adviser, or a commodity pool operator, nor do we have an application pending for any of these registrations. Further, none of AIM's management persons or employees is currently seeking registration with any of these types of firms.

David Allison is also a licensed insurance agent. From time to time, he may offer clients advice or products from those activities. Clients should be aware that sometimes these services pay a commission and involve a possible conflict of interest, as commissionable products can conflict with the fiduciary duties of a registered investment adviser. AIM always acts in the best interests of the client, including in the sale of commissionable products to advisory clients. Clients are in no way required to implement the plan through any representative of AIM in their capacity as an insurance agent or registered representative.

### ***Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading***

AIM's Code of Ethics includes guidelines for professional standards of conduct for our Associated Persons. Our goal is to protect client interests at all times and to demonstrate our commitment to fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing. All of AIM's Associated Persons are expected to strictly adhere to these guidelines. Persons associated with Allison Investment Management, LLC are also required to report any violations to the Code of Ethics. Additionally, the firm maintains and enforces written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about our clients or client accounts by persons associated with our firm.

AIM and its employees may buy or sell securities that are also held by clients. It is the expressed policy of the advisor that no person employed by our firm purchase or sell any security prior to the transaction being implemented for an advisory account; therefore, preventing such employees from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of the advisory clients.

The advisor may have an interest or position in a certain security, which may also be recommended to the client. As these situations may present a conflict of interest, the advisor has established the following restrictions in order to ensure its fiduciary responsibilities should this issue ever arise:

1. A director, officer or employee of the advisor shall not buy or sell a security for their personal portfolio(s) where their decision is substantially derived, in whole or part, by

reason of his or her employment, unless the information is also available to the investing public. No owner/employee of AIM shall prefer their own interest to that of the client.

2. The advisor maintains a list of all securities held by the company and all directors, officers, and employees. These holdings are reviewed on a quarterly basis by the principal of the firm.
3. The advisor requires that all employees must act in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations governing registered investment advisors.
4. The advisor may block personal trades with those of clients but will ensure that clients are not at a disadvantage.

AIM's Code of Ethics is available to you upon request. You may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting John E. Allison at 803-806-8400.

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### ***Brokerage Practices***

For custody of client accounts, AIM uses the custodial services of both National Financial Services and Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. In considering which independent qualified custodian will be the best fit for AIM's business model, we are evaluating the following factors, which is not an all-inclusive list:

- Financial strength
- Reputation
- Reporting capabilities
- Execution capabilities
- Pricing, and
- Types and quality of research

While you are free to choose any broker-dealer or other service provider, we recommend that you establish an account with a brokerage firm with which we have an existing relationship. Such relationships may include benefits provided to our firm, including, but not limited to research, market information, and administrative services that help our firm manage your account(s). We believe that recommended broker-dealers provide quality execution services for our clients at competitive prices. Price is not the sole factor we consider in evaluating best execution. We also consider the quality of the brokerage services provided by the recommended broker-dealers, including the value of research provided, the firm's reputation, execution capabilities, commission rates, and responsiveness to our clients and our firm.

You may direct us in writing to use a particular broker-dealer to execute some or all the transactions for your account. If you do so, you are responsible for negotiating the terms and arrangements for the account with that broker-dealer. We may not be able to negotiate commissions, obtain volume discounts, or best execution. In addition, under these circumstances a difference in commission charges may exist between the commissions charged to clients who direct us to use a particular broker or dealer and other clients who do not direct us to use a particular broker or dealer.

AIM does not have any soft dollar arrangements.

AIM does not receive client referrals from broker-dealers in exchange for cash or other compensation, such as brokerage services or research.

AIM combines multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased or sold for advisory accounts we manage (the practice of combining multiple orders for shares of the same securities is commonly referred to as “block trading”). AIM finds that clients benefit from aggregating trade orders. By aggregating orders, clients may incur a lower trade execution due to larger volume trades.

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### ***Review of Accounts***

Client accounts are reviewed at least quarterly by John E. Allison, Principal Executive Officer of the firm. John E. Allison reviews clients’ accounts with regards to their investment policies and risk tolerance levels. All accounts at AIM are assigned to this reviewer.

Reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events, or by changes in client's financial situations (such as retirement, termination of employment, physical move, or inheritance).

Each client will receive at least quarterly an account statement from the custodian. Clients are encouraged to review these statements to verify accuracy and calculation correctness.

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### ***Client Referrals and Other Compensation***

AIM does not compensate any individual or firm for client referrals. In addition, AIM does not receive compensation for referring clients to other professional service providers.

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### ***Custody***

AIM does not have physical custody of any client funds and/or securities and does not take custody of client accounts at any time. Client funds and securities will be held with a bank, broker dealer, or other independent qualified custodian. However, by granting AIM written authorization to automatically deduct fees from client accounts, AIM is deemed to have limited custody. You will receive account statements from the independent, qualified custodian holding your funds at least quarterly. The account statement from your custodian will indicate the

amount of advisory fees deducted from your account(s) each billing cycle. Clients should carefully review statements received from the custodian.

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### ***Investment Discretion***

Before AIM can buy or sell securities on your behalf, you must first sign our discretionary management agreement, a limited power of attorney, and/or trading authorization forms. By choosing to do so, you may grant the firm discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be purchased or sold for your account(s) without obtaining your consent or approval prior to each transaction. Clients may impose limitations on discretionary authority for investing in certain securities or types of securities (such as a product type, specific companies, specific sectors, etc.), as well as other limitations as expressed by the client. Limitations on discretionary authority are required to be provided to the IAR in writing. Please refer to the “Advisory Business” section of this Brochure for more information on our discretionary management services.

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### ***Voting Client Securities***

We do not vote proxies on behalf of our advisory accounts custodied with National Financial Services. We do vote proxies on behalf of our advisory accounts custodied with Charles Schwab Corp. At your request, we may offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. You are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder if your account is custodied with National Financial Services.

In the case of accounts custodied at National Financial Services, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you.

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### ***Financial Information***

AIM is not required to provide financial information to our clients because we do not require or solicit the prepayment of more than \$1,200 six or more months in advance.

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### ***Requirements for State-Registered Advisers***

This section is not applicable as AIM is SEC registered and not state registered.