



## **Altus Wealth Group, LLC**

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### **Part 2A Brochure**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Altus Wealth Group, LLC ("Altus Wealth Group"). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 888-614-3577. 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. Altus Wealth Group 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.

Additional information about Altus Wealth Group, LLC is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as a IARD number. The IARD number for Altus Wealth Group, LLC is 287848.

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## ITEM 2 – MATERIAL CHANGES

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### Summary of Material Changes

This section of the Brochure will address only those “material changes” that have been incorporated since our last delivery or posting of this document on the SEC’s public disclosure website (IAPD) [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

Please note the following material changes to our firm since our initial filing on May 1, 2017:

- **Item 15 Custody:** Our Firm is deemed to have custody of clients’ funds or securities when clients have standing authorizations with their custodian to move money from a client’s account to a third-party (“SLOA”) and, under that SLOA, it authorizes us to designate the amount or timing of transfers with the custodian. The SEC has set forth a set of standards intended to protect client assets in such situations, which we follow. We do not have a beneficial interest on any of the accounts we are deemed to have Custody where SLOAs are on file. In addition, account statements reflecting all activity on the account(s), are delivered directly from the qualified custodian to each client or the client’s independent representative, at least quarterly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports received from us. When you have questions about your account statements, you should contact us, your Advisor or the qualified custodian preparing the statement.
- **Item 17 Proxy Voting:** We will vote proxies related to client securities owned by those clients who provide specific designation of authority to Altus Wealth Group through proper documentation to their respective custodian. To facilitate our proxy responsibilities (assuming the client has designated that to Altus Wealth Group), we have contracted with Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. (ISS) to assist with voting all proxies on your behalf. Prior to any proxy vote, such recommendations are reviewed by one of our Investment Advisor Representatives, with the reasons for any votes that are contrary to ISS recommendations being documented. As a matter of policy and as a fiduciary to our clients, we seek to vote all proxies consistent with the best economic interests of our clients. We will provide our proxy voting policy to any existing or prospective client upon request and will provide clients with voting records related to his or her specific account(s) upon request during regular business hours in writing or over the telephone at 888-614-3577. Clients may revoke Altus Wealth Group’s authority to vote proxies on their behalf at any time with appropriate documentation.

If you would like another copy of this Brochure, please download it from the SEC Website as indicated above or you may contact our Chief Compliance Officer, Nancy P. Mercado at 888-614-3577 or [Nancy@altuswealthgroup.com](mailto:Nancy@altuswealthgroup.com).

We encourage you to read this document in its entirety.

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## ITEM 4 – ADVISORY BUSINESS

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This Disclosure document is being offered to you by Altus Wealth Group, LLC (“Altus Wealth Group”) about the investment advisory services we provide. It discloses information about the services that we provide and the way those services are made available to you, the client.

We are an investment management firm located in Colorado. We specialize in investment advisory services for high-net-worth individuals, institutions, families, trusts and estates. The firm was established by Bethemore Holdings, LLC, KDJP Holdings, LLC, and Aqua Waters, LLC in 2017. Dustin L. Bench, Nancy P. Mercado, and Jill E. Reitmeyer are indirect owners of Altus Wealth Group through the aforementioned entities.

We are committed to helping clients build, manage, and preserve their wealth, and to provide assistance that helps clients to achieve their stated financial goals. We will offer an initial complimentary meeting upon our discretion; however, investment advisory services are initiated only after you and Altus Wealth Group execute an engagement letter or client agreement.

### Investment and Wealth Management and Supervision Services

We offer discretionary and non-discretionary investment management and investment supervisory services for a fee based on a percentage of your assets under management or on a dollar flat fee. These services include investment analysis, allocation of investments, quarterly portfolio reports, financial commentaries, and ongoing monitoring of client portfolios. We primarily allocate client assets among various mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), and individual debt (bonds) and equity securities in accordance with their stated investment objectives.

We will work with you to obtain necessary information regarding your financial condition, investment objectives, liquidity requirements, risk tolerance, time horizons, and any restrictions on investing. This information enables us to determine the portfolio best suited for your investment objective and needs.

In performing our services, we shall not be required to verify any information received from you or from other professionals. If you request, we will recommend you engage the services of other professionals for implementation purposes. You have the right to decide whether or not to engage the services of any such recommended professional.

Once we have determined the types of investments to be included in your portfolio and allocated them, we will provide ongoing portfolio review and management services. This approach requires us to review your portfolio at least quarterly.

We will rebalance the portfolio, as we deem appropriate, to meet your financial objectives. We trade these portfolios and rebalance them based on the combination of our market views and your objectives, using our investment process. We tailor our advisory services to meet the needs of our clients and seek to ensure that your portfolio is managed in a manner consistent with those needs and objectives. You will have the ability to leave standing instructions with us to refrain from investing in particular industries or invest in limited amounts of securities. If a non-discretionary relationship is in place, calls will be placed presenting the recommendation made and only upon your authorization will any action be taken on your behalf.

In all cases, you have a direct and beneficial interest in your securities, rather than an undivided interest in a pool of securities. We do have limited authority to direct the Custodian to deduct our investment advisory fees from your accounts, but only with the appropriate written authorization from you.

Where appropriate, we provide advice about any type of legacy position or other investment held in client portfolios. Clients will engage us to advise on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as variable life insurance and annuity contracts and assets held in employer sponsored retirement plans and qualified tuition plans (i.e., 529 plans).

You are advised and are expected to understand that our past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Certain market and economic risks may exist that adversely effect an account's performance. This could result in capital losses in your account.

#### Wealth Planning

Through the Wealth Planning process, the Altus Wealth Group, LLC team strives to engage our clients in conversations around the family's goals, objectives, priorities, vision, and legacy – both for the near term as well as for future generations. With the unique goals and circumstances of each family in mind, the Altus Wealth Group team will offer wealth planning ideas and strategies to address the client's holistic financial picture, including estate, income tax, charitable, cash flow, wealth transfer and family legacy objectives. Our team partners with our client's other advisors (CPA, Estate Attorney, Insurance broker, etc.) to ensure a coordinated effort of all parties toward the client's stated goals. Such services include various reports on specific goals and objectives or general investment and/or planning recommendations, guidance to outside assets and periodic updates.

Our specific services in preparing your plan may include:

- Review and clarification of your financial goals.

- Assessment of your overall financial position including cash flow, balance sheet, investment strategy, risk management and estate planning.
- Creation of a unique plan for each goal you have including personal and business real estate, education, retirement or financial independence, charitable giving, estate planning, business succession and other personal goals.
- Development of a goal-oriented investment plan, with input from various advisors to our clients around tax suggestions, asset allocation, expenses, risk and liquidity factors for each goal. This includes IRA and qualified plans, taxable and trust accounts that require special attention.
- Design of a risk management plan including risk tolerance, risk avoidance, mitigation and transfer, including liquidity as well as various insurance and possible company benefits.
- Crafting and implementation of, in conjunction with your estate and/or corporate attorneys as tax advisor, an estate plan to provide for you and/or your heirs in the event of an incapacity or death.

A written evaluation of each client's initial situation or Financial Plan is provided to the client. An annual review will be provided by the Adviser, if indicated by the Client and Advisor per the Financial Planning Agreement. More frequent reviews occur but are not necessarily communicated to the client unless immediate changes are recommended.

### Third Party Managers

Altus Wealth Group provides investment advice and recommendations on the investment strategies of Third Party Managers ("Managers" or "TPM"). Selected Managers are evaluated by Altus Wealth Group for client use. Our services include assisting you in identifying your investment objectives and matching personal and financial data with a select list of Managers. The intent of this service is to have a selected list of high quality and recognizable third party investment management firms from which you select one or more Managers to handle the day-to-day management of your account(s). Following recommendations by our Investment Adviser Representatives ("IAR"), you will have final authority to select a Manager. The IAR will assist you in completing appropriate documents.

Altus Wealth Group IARs assist clients with identifying their risk tolerance and investment objectives. IARs will recommend TPMs in relation to the client's stated investment objectives and risk tolerance. A client may select a recommended TPM based upon the client's needs. Clients will enter a Third Party Advisory Program Agreement directly with Altus Wealth Group.

Managers selected for your investments need to meet several quantitative and qualitative criteria established by Altus Wealth Group. Among the criteria that may be considered are the Manager's experience, assets under management, performance record, client

retention, the level of client services provided, investment style, buy and sell disciplines, capitalization level, and the general investment process.

You are advised and should understand that:

- **A Manager's past performance is no guarantee of future results;**
- There is a certain market and/or interest rate risk which may adversely effect any Manager's objectives and strategies, and could cause a loss in a Client's account(s); and
- Client risk parameters or comparative index selections provided to Altus Wealth Group are guidelines only and there is no guarantee that they will be met or not be exceeded.

Altus Wealth Group IARs shall be available to answer questions the client may have regarding their account and act as the communication conduit between the client and the Manager. Managers may take discretionary authority to determine the securities to be purchased and sold for the client. Neither Altus Wealth Group nor its associated persons will have any trading authority with respect to clients' managed account with the TPM(s).

All accounts are managed by the selected Manager and Altus Wealth Group does not have any discretionary trading authority with respect to such accounts. Information collected by our firm regarding Managers is believed to be reliable and accurate but Altus Wealth Group does not necessarily independently review or verify it on all occasions. All performance reporting will be the responsibility of the respective Manager. Such performance reports will be provided directly to you and Altus Wealth Group. Altus Wealth Group does not audit or verify that these results are calculated on a uniform or consistent basis as provided by a Manager directly to Altus Wealth Group or through the consulting service utilized by the Manager.

Altus Wealth Group has entered into agreements with various independent Managers. Under these agreements, Altus Wealth Group offers client's various types of programs sponsored by these Managers. All third-party Managers to whom Altus Wealth Group will refer clients will be licensed as registered investment advisors by their resident state and any applicable jurisdictions or registered investment advisors with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Third-party managed programs generally have account minimum requirements that will vary from investment advisor to investment advisor. Account minimums are generally higher on fixed income accounts than equity based accounts. A complete description of the Manager's services, fee schedules and account minimums will be disclosed in the



Manager's Form ADV or similar Disclosure Brochure which will be provided to clients at the time an agreement for services is executed and account is established.

#### Consulting Services

We also provide clients investment advice on a more-limited basis on one-or-more isolated areas of concern such as estate planning, real estate, retirement planning, or any other specific topic. Additionally, we provide advice on non-securities matters about the rendering of estate planning, insurance, real estate, and/or annuity advice or any other business advisory / consulting services for equity or debt investments in privately held businesses. In these cases, you will be required to select your own investment managers, custodian and/or insurance companies for the implementation of consulting recommendations. If your needs include brokerage and/or other financial services, we will recommend the use of one of several investment managers, brokers, banks, custodians, insurance companies or other financial professionals ("Firms"). You must independently evaluate these Firms before opening an account or transacting business, and have the right to effect business through any firm you choose. You have the right to choose whether to follow the consulting advice that we provide.

#### Wrap Fee Programs

We do not place Client assets into a wrap fee program.

#### Assets

As of December 31, 2017, we have a total of \$172,556,069 assets under management. We manage \$168,664,408 assets under discretionary management and \$3,891,661 assets under non-discretionary management.

### ITEM 5 - FEES AND COMPENSATION

#### Investment Management Fees and Compensation

Altus Wealth Group charges a fee as compensation for providing Investment Management services on your account. These services include advisory and consulting services, trade entry, investment supervision, and other account-maintenance activities. Our custodian charges transaction costs, custodial fees, redemption fees, retirement plan and administrative fees or commissions. See Additional Fees and Expenses below for additional details.

The fees for portfolio management are based on an annual percentage of assets under management and are applied to the account asset value on a pro-rata basis and billed quarterly in advance. The initial fee will be based upon the market value of the portfolio on the last business day of the partial quarter, prorated for the number of days in the quarter that your account is under management. Thereafter, the quarterly fee will be calculated on

last day of the calendar quarter. The market value will be determined as reported by the Custodian. Unless otherwise agreed upon and stated in Exhibit B of the Investment Management Agreement, fees are assessed on all assets under management, including securities, cash and money market balances. When applicable and noted in Exhibit B of the Investment Management Agreement, legacy positions will also be excluded from the fee calculation.

Our maximum annual advisory fee is for accounts paying a percentage of assets under management is 2.00%. The specific advisory fees are set forth in your Investment Advisory Agreement. Fees may vary based on the size of the account, complexity of the portfolio, extent of activity in the account or other reasons agreed upon by us and you as the client. Additional deposits and withdrawals will be added or subtracted from portfolio assets, as the case may be, which may lead to an adjustment of the account fee. In certain circumstances, our fees and the timing of the fee payments may be negotiated. Our employees and their family related accounts are charged a reduced fee for our services.

Unless instructed by the client, we will aggregate asset amounts in accounts from your same household together to determine the advisory fee for all your accounts. We would do this, for example, where we also service accounts on behalf of your minor children, individual and joint accounts for a spouse, and/or other types of related accounts. This consolidation practice is designed to allow you the benefit of an increased asset total, which could potentially cause your account(s) to be assessed a lower advisory fee.

The independent qualified custodian holding your funds and securities will debit your account directly for the advisory fee and pay that fee to us. You will provide written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account held by the qualified custodian. Further, the qualified custodian agrees to deliver an account statement at least quarterly directly to you indicating all the amounts deducted from the account including our advisory fees. At our discretion, you may pay the advisory fees by check. You are encouraged to review your account statements for accuracy.

Either Altus Wealth Group or you may terminate the management agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party. The management fee will be pro-rated to the date of termination, for the month in which the cancellation notice was given and billed to your account. Upon termination, you are responsible for monitoring the securities in your account, and we will have no further obligation to act or advise with respect to those assets. In the event of client's death or disability, Altus Wealth Group will continue management of the account until we are notified of client's death or disability and given alternative instructions by an authorized party.

### Third Party Management (“TPM Program” or “TPM”) Fees

Fees and billing methods are outlined in each respective Manager’s Brochure and Advisory Contract. The Client pays an on-going fee directly to the Manager based upon a percentage of your assets under management with respect to each Manager. You will receive disclosure of all fees by the TPM, which include the terms of the compensation arrangement and a description of the compensation paid, at the time of signing an advisory agreement with the TPM.

The minimum account size for participating in a TPM Program will vary from Manager to Manager. All such minimums will be disclosed in the respective Manager’s Brochure. Altus Wealth Group may have the ability to negotiate such minimums for you.

You may terminate your relationship in accordance with the respective Managers’ disclosure documents. If you terminate your participation in the Program within five business days of inception, you will receive a full refund of the fee. Pre-paid fees will be refunded in accordance with the respective Manager’s agreement and disclosure documents.

A Manager relationship may be terminated at your or your IAR’s discretion. Altus Wealth Group may at any time terminate the relationship with a Manager that manages your assets. Altus Wealth Group will notify you of instances where we have terminated a relationship with any Manager you are investing with. Altus Wealth Group will not conduct on-going supervisory reviews of the Manager following such termination.

Factors involved in the termination of a Manager may include a failure to adhere to their stated management style or your objectives, a material change in the professional staff of the Manager, unexplained poor performance, unexplained inconsistency of account performance, or our decision to no longer include the Manager on our list of approved Managers.

Altus Wealth Group offers several investment management programs. Account custodial services may be provided by several account custodians depending on the investment management program offered. Programs may have higher or lower fees than other programs available through Altus Wealth Group or available elsewhere. Investment management programs may differ in the services provided and method or type of management offered, and each may have different account minimums. Client reports will depend upon the management program selected. Please see complete details in the program brochure and custodial account agreement for each program recommended and offered.

### Wealth Planning Fees

Altus Wealth Group will negotiate the planning fees with you. Fees may vary based on the extent and complexity of your individual or family circumstances and the amount of your assets under our management. We will determine your fee for the designated financial advisory services based on a fixed fee arrangement described below.

Under our fixed fee arrangement, any fee will be agreed in advance of services being performed. The fee will be determined based on factors including the complexity of your financial situation, agreed upon deliverables, and whether or not you intend to implement any recommendations through Altus Wealth Group. Fixed fees for financial plans range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Typically, we complete a plan within a month and will present it to you within 90 days of the contract date, provided that you have provided us all information needed to prepare the financial plan. Fees are billed in two ways: (1) One hundred percent (100%) up front or (2) one half (50%) of the estimated fee will be due and payable at the time you enter into the financial planning agreement, with the balance due and payable at the time the financial plan is delivered. You may terminate the financial planning agreement by providing us with written notice. Upon termination, fees will be prorated to the date of termination and any unearned portion of the fee will be refunded to you based on an hourly rate of \$250.00. Services provided up to date of termination but not yet paid to Altus Wealth Group will be billed to you based on the hourly rate of \$250.00. We will not require prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six (6) or more months in advance of providing any services.

In no case are our fees based on, or related to, the performance of your funds or investments.

When both investment management or plan implementation and wealth planning services are offered, there is a conflict of interest since there is an incentive for us offering wealth planning services to recommend products or services for which Altus Wealth Group receives compensation. However, Altus Wealth Group will make all recommendations independent of such considerations and based solely on our obligations to consider your objectives and needs. As a wealth planning client, you have the right not to act upon any of our recommendations and not to effect the transaction(s) through us if you decide to follow the recommendations.

### Consulting

Altus Wealth Group provides consulting services for clients who need advice on a limited scope of work. Altus Wealth Group will negotiate consulting fees with you. Fees may vary based on the extent and complexity of the consulting project. Fees will be billed as services are rendered. Either party may terminate the agreement. Upon termination, fees will be

prorated to the date of termination and any unearned portion of the fee will be refunded to you as described above.

#### Administrative Services Provided by Black Diamond Performance Reporting, LLC

We have contracted with Black Diamond Performance Reporting, LLC (referred to as “Black Diamond”) to utilize its technology platforms to support data reconciliation, performance reporting, fee calculation and billing, client database maintenance, quarterly performance evaluations, payable reports, web site administration, models, trading platforms, and other functions related to the administrative tasks of managing client accounts. Due to this arrangement, Black Diamond will have access to client accounts, but Black Diamond will not serve as an investment advisor to our clients. Altus Wealth Group and Black Diamond are non-affiliated companies. Black Diamond charges our firm an annual fee for each account administered by Black Diamond. The annual fee is paid from the portion of the management fee retained by us.

#### Additional Fees and Expenses:

In addition to the advisory fees paid to Altus Wealth Group, clients may also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively “Financial Institutions”). These additional charges may include securities brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, fees charged by the Independent Managers, margin costs, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or ETF in a client’s account, as disclosed in the fund’s prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses), deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Altus Wealth Group’s brokerage practices are described at length in Item 12, below.

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#### **ITEM 6 - PERFORMANCE BASED FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT**

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We do not charge advisory fees on a share of the capital appreciation of the funds or securities in a client account (so-called performance-based fees) nor engage in side by side management.

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#### **ITEM 7 - TYPES OF CLIENTS**

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We provide investment advice to individuals, businesses, high-net-worth individuals, foundations, endowments, family foundations, institutions, trusts and estates. Our minimum initial account value is \$250,000; however, we may accept accounts for less than the minimum at our sole discretion.

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## ITEM 8 - METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS

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### *Investment Strategies, Philosophy, and Methodology*

Altus Wealth Group recommends strategies that are consistent with a client's stated objectives for their investable assets. Portfolios are constructed using asset allocation, diversification, and risk management. Altus Wealth Group seeks to recommend portfolios that employ a risk first mentality. This is done by maintaining overall risk budgets for each of the portfolios that are recommended to investors. By limiting the volatility risk in a portfolio, the strategies help in limiting loss in periods of drawdowns in any single asset class in the investments that we recommend. By employing managed volatility portfolios, we seek to provide higher risk-adjusted returns over time. We also recognize that during times of high volatility and sideways markets, these portfolios may lag in short term realized returns. Essentially, these portfolios seek to mitigate the impact of the lowest market troughs and highest market peaks to provide for a smoother long term return for investors.

Altus Wealth Group employs the general use of exchange traded funds, mutual funds, closed end funds, and individual securities. Other securities may also be used for individual portfolios as necessary to meet investor objectives. Altus Wealth Group seeks to use best in class investments when selecting diversified funds through objective analysis. The following are examples of criteria used, but more analysis is done as necessary: overall expense ratio, manager tenure, market size, standard deviation, tracking error, strategy, correlation to style and/or peer group, performance, and reputation. Active management is often used alongside passive/index strategies to reduce overall cost to investors and give broad access to the asset classes that are recommended.

Often times, individual securities are appropriate for certain investors. When selecting individual securities as investments, traditional methods of fundamental security analysis is completed. Fundamental analysis is the attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a company by examining economic, financial, competition and other factors to determine mispricing in the capital markets. Fundamental analysis is performed on historical and present data, and may or may not lead to an expected outcome in individual security performance.

Altus Wealth Group's investment strategies and advice vary with each client. We determine investments and allocation based upon predetermined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial information, liquidity needs, and other suitability factors. Client restrictions and guidelines may effect the composition and outcome of their portfolio.

### Third Party Manager Analysis

We seek to recommend investment strategies that will give a client a diversified portfolio consistent with the client's investment objective. We do this by analyzing the various

securities, investment strategies, and third party management firms. The goal is to identify a client's risk tolerance, and then find a manager with the maximum expected return for that level of risk.

We examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies and past performance of independent third party managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the managers' underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the managers' compliance and business enterprise risks.

A risk of investing with a third party manager who has been successful in the past is that he/she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a managers' portfolio, there is also a risk that the manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as we do not control the managers' daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

#### Risk of Loss

Clients must understand that past performance is not indicative of future results. Therefore, current and prospective clients should never assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable. Investing in securities involves risk of loss. Further, depending on the different types of investments there will be varying degrees of risk. Clients and prospective clients should be prepared to bear investment loss including loss of original principal.

Because of the inherent risk of loss associated with investing, Altus Wealth Group is unable to represent, guarantee, or even imply that our services and methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate you from losses due to market corrections or declines.

Investors should be aware that accounts are subject to the following risks:

*Market Risk* — Even a long-term investment approach cannot guarantee a profit. Economic, political and issuer-specific events will cause the value of securities to rise or fall. Because the value of investment portfolios will fluctuate, there is the risk that you will lose money and your investment may be worth more or less upon liquidation.

*Foreign Securities and Currency Risk* — Investments in international and emerging-market securities include exposure to risks such as currency fluctuations, foreign taxes and regulations, and the potential for illiquid markets and political instability.

*Capitalization Risk* — Small-cap and mid-cap companies may be hindered as a result of limited resources or less diverse products or services, and their stocks have historically been more volatile than the stocks of larger, more established companies.

*Interest Rate Risk* — In a rising rate environment, the value of fixed-income securities generally declines and the value of equity securities may be adversely effected.

*Credit Risk* — Credit risk is the risk that the issuer of a security may be unable to make interest payments and/or repay principal when due. A downgrade to an issuer's credit rating or a perceived change in an issuer's financial strength may effect a security's value and, thus, impact the fund's performance.

*Securities Lending Risk* — Securities lending involves the risk that the fund loses money because the borrower fails to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. The fund could also lose money if the value of the collateral provided for loaned securities, or the value of the investments made with the cash collateral, falls. These events could also trigger adverse tax consequences for the fund.

*Derivative Risk* — Derivatives are securities, such as futures contracts, whose value is derived from that of other securities or indices. Derivatives can be used for hedging (attempting to reduce risk by offsetting one investment position with another) or non-hedging purposes. Hedging with derivatives may increase expenses, and there is no guarantee that a hedging strategy will achieve the desired results.

*Exchange-Traded Funds* — ETFs face market-trading risks, including the potential lack of an active market for shares, losses from trading in the secondary markets and disruption in the creation/redemption process of the ETF. Any of these factors may lead to the fund's shares trading at either a premium or a discount to its "net asset value."

*Performance of Underlying Managers* — We select the mutual funds and ETFs in the asset allocation models. However, we depend on the manager of such funds to select individual investments in accordance with their stated investment strategy.



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**ITEM 9 - DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION**

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Altus Wealth Group does not have any legal, financial or other “disciplinary” item to report.

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**ITEM 10 - OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS**

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**Insurance**

IARs of Altus Wealth Group may act as agents appointed with various life, disability or other insurance companies, receive commissions, trails, or other compensation from the respective product sponsors and/or as a result of effecting insurance transactions for clients. However, clients should note that they have the right to decide whether to act on the recommendation and the right to purchase any insurance products through Altus Wealth Group or its IAR or any licensed insurance agent not affiliated with Altus Wealth Group. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to place your interests first and have established policies in this regard to avoid any conflicts of interest.

**Broker Dealer**

Certain IARs of Altus Wealth Group, LLC are registered representatives of Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments, LLC (“PKS”) a securities broker-dealer, and will be compensated for effecting securities transactions or providing advisory services. A portion of the time of Altus Wealth Group, LLC and these IARs is spent in connection with broker/dealer activities.

As a broker-dealer, PKS engages in a broad range of activities normally associated with securities brokerage firms. Pursuant to the investment advice given by Altus Wealth Group, LLC or its IARs, investments in securities may be recommended for clients. If PKS is selected as the broker-dealer, PKS and its registered representatives, including IARs of Altus Wealth Group, LLC, may receive commissions for executing securities transactions. When IARs of Altus Wealth Group, LLC receive commissions in connection with the advice given to advisory clients, Altus Wealth Group, LLC may reduce a portion of its fees by the amount of the commissions earned by Altus Wealth Group, LLC IARs.

You are advised that if PKS is selected as the broker-dealer, the transaction charges may be higher or lower than the charges you may pay if the transactions were executed at other broker/dealers. You should note, however, that you are under no obligation to purchase securities through IARs of Altus Wealth Group, LLC or PKS.

Altus Wealth Group, LLC may provide advice regarding investment company securities. You should be aware that, in addition to the advisory fees you pay in connection with any Altus Wealth Group, LLC program, each investment company also pays its own separate

investment advisory fees and other expenses. Such fees and expenses are disclosed in the mutual fund's prospectus. In addition, clients should be aware that mutual funds may be purchased separately, independent of the investment management services of Altus Wealth Group, LLC.

Moreover, you should note that under the rules and regulations of FINRA, PKS has an obligation to maintain certain client records and perform other functions regarding certain aspects of the investment advisory activities of its registered representatives. These obligations require PKS to coordinate with, and have the cooperation of its registered representatives that operate as, or are otherwise associated with, investment advisers other than PKS.

Certain IARs of Altus Wealth Group, LLC may, in their capacity as registered representatives of PKS, or as agents appointed with various life, disability or other insurance companies, receive commissions, 12(b)-1 fees, trails, or other compensation from the respective product sponsors and/or as a result of effecting securities transactions for clients. As previously noted, when commissions or fees are received by Altus Wealth Group, LLC or these IARs in connection with the advice given to advisory clients, Altus Wealth Group, LLC may, but is not obligated to, reduce its fee proportionate to the amount of the commission or fee earned by Altus Wealth Group, LLC or these IARs. However, clients should note that they are under no obligation to purchase any investment products through Altus Wealth Group, LLC or its IARs.

Clients should be aware that the ability to receive additional compensation by Altus Wealth Group and its management persons or employees creates conflicts of interest that impair the objectivity of the Firm and these individuals when making advisory recommendations. Altus Wealth Group endeavors at all times to put the interest of its clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment adviser; we take the following steps, among others to address this conflict:

- we disclose to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest, including the potential for the Firm and our employees to earn compensation from advisory clients in addition to the Firm's advisory fees;
- we disclose to clients that they have the right to decide to purchase recommended investment products from our employees or Related Companies;
- we collect, maintain and document accurate, complete and relevant client background information, including the client's financial goals, objectives and risk tolerance;
- the Firm conducts regular reviews of each client advisory account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are in the best interest of the client's needs and circumstances;

- we require that our employees seek prior approval of any outside employment activity so that we may ensure that any conflicts of interests in such activities are properly addressed;
- we periodically monitor these outside employment activities to verify that any conflicts of interest continue to be properly addressed by the Firm; and
- we educate our employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need for having a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients.

#### **ITEM 11 - CODE OF ETHICS PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS AND PERSONAL TRADING**

Altus Wealth Group and persons associated with us are allowed to invest for their own accounts or to invest in the same securities or other investments that we recommend or acquire for your account, and may engage in transactions that are the same as or different than transactions recommended to or made for your account. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to place your interests first and have established policies in this regard to avoid any conflicts of interest.

We have developed and implemented a Code of Ethics that sets forth standards of conduct expected of our advisory personnel to mitigate this conflict of interest. The Code of Ethics addresses, among other things, personal trading, gifts, the prohibition against the use of inside information and other situations where there is a possibility for conflicts of interest.

The Code of Ethics is designed to protect our clients to detect and deter misconduct, educate personnel regarding the firm's expectations and laws governing their conduct, remind personnel that they are in a position of trust and must act with complete propriety at all times, protect the reputation of Altus Wealth Group, guard against violation of the securities laws, and establish procedures for personnel to follow so that we may determine whether their personnel are complying with the firm's ethical principles.

We have established the following restrictions to ensure our firm's fiduciary responsibilities:

1. A director, officer or employee of Altus Wealth Group shall not buy or sell any securities for their personal portfolio(s) where their decision is substantially derived, in whole or in part, by reason of his or her employment unless the information is also available to the investing public on reasonable inquiry. No director, officer or employee of Altus Wealth Group shall prefer his or her own interest to that of the advisory client.

2. We maintain a list of all securities holdings of anyone associated with this advisory practice with access to advisory recommendations. These holdings are reviewed on a regular basis by an appropriate officer/individual of Altus Wealth Group.
3. We emphasize the unrestricted right of the client to decline to implement any advice rendered, except in situations where we are granted discretionary authority of the client's account.
4. We emphasize the unrestricted right of the client to select and choose any custodian (except in situations where we are granted discretionary authority) he or she wishes.
5. We require that all individuals must act in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations governing registered investment advisory practices.
6. Any individual not in observance of the above may be subject to termination.

You may request a complete copy of our Code by contacting us at the address, telephone or email on the cover page of this Part 2; Attn: Chief Compliance Officer.

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## **ITEM 12 - BROKERAGE PRACTICES**

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### **The Custodian and Brokers We Use**

#### ***Investment Management Services***

Clients must maintain assets in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker-dealer or bank. We recommend that our clients use Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Advisor Services ("Schwab"), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated, and unaffiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold client assets in a brokerage account, and buy and sell securities when we instruct them to.

While we recommend that clients use Schwab as custodian/broker, client must decide whether to do so and open accounts with Schwab by entering into account agreements directly with them. The Client opens the accounts with Schwab. The accounts will always be held in the name of the client and never in Altus Wealth Group's name. Even though clients maintain accounts at Schwab, we can still use other brokers to execute trades for client accounts (see Client Brokerage and Custody Costs, below).

#### ***How We Select Brokers/Custodians***

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are, overall, most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including, among others:

1. Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
2. Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for client accounts)
3. Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)
4. Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds [ETFs], etc.)
5. Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
6. Quality of services
7. Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices
8. Reputation, financial strength, and stability
9. Prior service to Altus Wealth Group and our other clients
10. Availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below (see Products and Services Available to Us from Schwab)

#### ***Client Brokerage and Custody Costs***

For our clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services. However, Schwab receives compensation by charging ticket charges or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into clients' Schwab accounts. In addition to commissions, Schwab charges a flat dollar amount as a "prime broker" or "trade away" fee for each trade that we have executed by a different custodian but where the securities bought or the funds from the securities sold are deposited (settled) into a client's Schwab account. These fees are in addition to the ticket charges or other compensation the client pays the executing custodian. Because of this, in order to minimize trading costs, we have Schwab execute most trades for client accounts. We have determined that having Schwab execute most trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of client trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see How We Select Brokers/Custodians).

#### ***Products and Services Available to Us from Schwab***

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional®) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide Altus Wealth Group and our clients with access to its institutional brokerage, trading, custody, reporting, and

related services, many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts; others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services generally are available on an unsolicited basis (we do not have to request them) and at no charge to us. These are considered soft dollar benefits because there is an incentive to do business with Schwab. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to place your interests first and have established policies in this regard to mitigate any conflicts of interest.

Following is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

***Services That Benefit Our Clients***

Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit our clients and their accounts.

***Services That May Not Directly Benefit Our Clients***

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit our clients or their accounts. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

1. Provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
2. Facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
3. Provide pricing and other market data
4. Facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
5. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

***Services That Generally Benefit Only Us***

Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise.

These services include:

1. Educational conferences and events
2. Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
3. Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession

4. Access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, and insurance providers

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to us. Schwab may also discount or waive its fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. Schwab may also provide us with other benefits, such as occasional business entertainment of our personnel.

#### ***Our Interest in Schwab's Services***

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. These services are not contingent upon us committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions. We believe that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients.

Some of the products, services and other benefits provided by Schwab benefit Altus Wealth Group and may not benefit our client accounts. Our recommendation or requirement that you place assets in Schwab's custody may be based in part on benefits Schwab provides to us, or our agreement to maintain certain Assets Under Management at Schwab, and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and execution services provided by Schwab.

We place trades for our clients' accounts subject to its duty to seek best execution and its other fiduciary duties. We may use custodians other than Schwab to execute trades for your accounts maintained at Schwab, but this practice may result in additional costs to clients so that we are more likely to place trades through Schwab rather than other custodians. Schwab's execution quality may be different than other custodians.

#### ***Brokerage for Client Referrals***

Altus Wealth Group does not receive client referrals from any custodian or third party in exchange for using that custodian or third party.

#### **Aggregation and Allocation of Transactions**

Altus Wealth Group may aggregate transactions if we believe that aggregation is consistent with the duty to seek best execution for our clients and is consistent with the disclosures made to clients and terms defined in the client investment advisory agreement. No advisory client will be favored over any other client, and each account that participates in an aggregated order will participate at the average share price (per custodian) for all transactions in that security on a given business day. Altus Wealth Group does not aggregate trades of our personnel with those of client accounts.

If we do not receive a complete fill for an aggregated order, we will allocate the order on a pro-rata basis. If we determine that a pro-rata allocation is not appropriate under the

particular circumstances, we will base the allocation on other relevant factors, which may include:

1. When only a small percentage of the order is executed, with respect to purchase allocations, allocations may be given to accounts high in cash;
2. With respect to sale allocations, allocations may be given to accounts low in cash;
3. We may allocate shares to the account with the smallest order, or to the smallest position, or to an account that is out of line with respect to security or sector weightings, relative to other portfolios with similar mandates;
4. We may allocate to one account when that account has limitations in its investment guidelines prohibiting it from purchasing other securities that we expect to produce similar investment results and that can be purchased by other accounts in the block;
5. If an account reaches an investment guideline limit and cannot participate in an allocation, we may reallocate shares to other accounts. For example, this may be due to unforeseen changes in an account's assets after an order is placed;
6. If a pro-rata allocation of a potential execution would result in a de minimis allocation in one or more accounts, we may exclude the account(s) from the allocation and disgorge any profits. Generally, de minimis allocations do not exceed 5% of the total allocation. Additionally, we may execute the transactions on a pro-rata basis.
7. We will document the reasons for any deviation from a pro-rata allocation.

### **Trade Errors**

From time-to-time Altus Wealth Group may make an error in submitting a trade order on your behalf. When this occurs, we may place a correcting trade with the Custodian of your account. If an investment gain results from the correcting trade, the gain will remain in your account unless the same error involved other client accounts that should have received the gain, it is not permissible for you to retain the gain, or we confer with you and you decide to forgo the gain (e.g. due to tax reasons). If the gain does not remain in your account and Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. is the Custodian, Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. will donate the amount of any gain \$100 and over to charity. If a loss occurs greater than \$100, Altus Wealth Group will pay for the loss. Charles Schwab & Co Inc. will maintain the loss or gain (if such gain is not retained in your account) if it is under \$100 to minimize and offset its administrative time and expense. Generally, if related trade errors result in both gains and losses in your account, they may be netted.

We do not routinely recommend, request or require that you direct us to execute transaction through a specified custodian. Additionally, we typically do not permit you to direct brokerage. We place trades for your account subject to our duty to seek best execution and other fiduciary duties. As a matter of policy and practice, we do not utilize



research, research-related products and other services obtained from broker-dealers or third parties, on a soft dollar basis.

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#### ITEM 13 - REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS

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##### **Account Reviews and Reviewers – Investment Supervisory Services**

The underlying securities within the investment supervisory services are monitored on at least a monthly basis. These reviews will be made by the firm's investment advisor representatives. An annual review with the client is usually conducted in person or by telephone.

The purpose of all these reviews is to ensure that the investment plan continues to be implemented in a manner which matches your objectives and risk tolerances. More-frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as your individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment. You are urged to notify us of any changes in your personal circumstances.

##### **Statements and Reports**

Through an agreement with Black Diamond, Altus Wealth Group will have the ability to provide clients with Performance/Position summary reports upon request. Reports may also be provided at every client meeting. Communication to clients will be done on an as needed basis with a minimum of 1 contact per calendar quarter.

The custodian for the individual client's account will also provide clients with an account statement at least quarterly. You are urged to compare the reports provided by Altus Wealth Group against the account statements you receive directly from your account custodian.

Wealth Planning/Consulting clients (i.e. those who have no assets under management with us in our advisory program) will receive no regular reports from the Firm.

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#### ITEM 14 - CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION

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Altus Wealth Group does not pay referral fees or receive compensation for referrals.

Altus Wealth Group refers clients to a Third Party Manager and will be paid an on-going fee by the Manager based upon a percentage of your assets under management with respect to each Manager. You will receive disclosure of all fees paid to Altus Wealth Group by the TPM, which include the terms of the compensation arrangement and a description of the compensation paid, at the time of signing an advisory agreement with the TPM. Altus Wealth Group negotiates its solicitor fee with each Manager.

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## ITEM 15 - CUSTODY

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Custody, as it applies to investment advisors, has been defined by regulators as having access or control over client funds and/or securities. In other words, custody is not limited to physically holding client funds and securities. If an investment advisor has the ability to access or control client funds or securities, the investment advisor is deemed to have custody and must ensure proper procedures are implemented.

### **Deduction of Advisory Fees**

Altus Wealth Group is deemed to have custody of client funds and securities whenever Altus Wealth Group is given the authority to have fees deducted directly from client accounts. For accounts in which Altus Wealth Group has the authority to have fees deducted directly from client accounts, the firm has established procedures to ensure all client funds and securities are held at a qualified custodian in a separate account for each client under that client's name. Clients or an independent representative of the client will direct, in writing, the establishment of all accounts and therefore are aware of the qualified custodian's name, address and the manner in which the funds or securities are maintained. Finally, account statements are delivered directly from the qualified custodian to each client, or the client's independent representative, at least quarterly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports received from Altus Wealth Group. When you have questions about your account statements, you should contact Altus Wealth Group or the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

Clients will provide written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from their account held by the qualified custodian. When fees are deducted from an account, Altus Wealth Group is responsible for calculating the fee and delivering instructions to the custodian.

### **Standing Letters of Authorization**

Altus Wealth Group is deemed to have custody of clients' funds or securities when clients have standing authorizations with their custodian to move money from a client's account to a third-party ("SLOA") and, under that SLOA, it authorizes us to designate the amount or timing of transfers with the custodian. The SEC has set forth a set of standards intended to protect client assets in such situations, which we follow. We do not have a beneficial interest on any of the accounts we are deemed to have Custody where SLOAs are on file. In addition, account statements reflecting all activity on the account(s), are delivered directly from the qualified custodian to each client or the client's independent representative, at least quarterly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports received from us. When you have questions about your account statements, you should contact us, your Advisor or the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

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## **ITEM 16 - INVESTMENT DISCRETION**

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For discretionary accounts, prior to engaging Altus Wealth Group to provide investment advisory services, you will enter a written Agreement with us granting the firm the authority to supervise and direct, on an on-going basis, investments in accordance with the client's investment objective and guidelines. In addition, you will need to execute additional documents required by the Custodian to authorize and enable Altus Wealth Group, in its sole discretion, without prior consultation with or ratification by you, to purchase, sell or exchange securities in and for your accounts. We are authorized, in our discretion and without prior consultation with you to: (1) buy, sell, exchange and trade any investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and (2) determine the amount of securities to be bought or sold and (3) place orders with the custodian. Any limitations to such authority will be communicated by you to us in writing.

The limitations on investment and brokerage discretion held by Altus Wealth Group for you are:

1. For investment management clients, we require that we be provided with authority to determine which securities and the amounts of securities to be bought or sold.
2. Any limitations on this discretionary authority shall be in writing included in the Investment Advisory Agreement. You may change/amend these limitations in writing as required.

Research products and services received by us from custodians will be used to provide services to all our clients.

In some instance, we may not have discretion. We will discuss all transactions with you prior to execution or you will be required to make the trades if in an employer sponsored account.

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## **ITEM 17 - VOTING YOUR SECURITIES**

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We will vote proxies related to client securities owned by those clients who provide specific designation of authority to Altus Wealth Group through proper documentation to their respective custodian. To facilitate our proxy responsibilities (assuming the client has designated that to Altus Wealth Group), we have contracted with Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. (ISS) to assist with voting all proxies on your behalf. Prior to any proxy vote, such recommendations are reviewed by one of our Investment Advisor Representatives, with the reasons for any votes that are contrary to ISS recommendations being documented. As a matter of policy and as a fiduciary to our clients, we seek to vote all proxies consistent with the best economic interests of our clients. We will provide our proxy voting policy to any existing or prospective client upon request and will provide clients with voting records related to his or her specific account(s) upon request during

regular business hours in writing or over the telephone at 888-614-3577. Clients may revoke Altus Wealth Group's authority to vote proxies on their behalf at any time with appropriate documentation.

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**ITEM 18 - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

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This item is not applicable to this brochure. We do not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a balance sheet for our most recent fiscal year. We are not subject to a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to clients. Finally, we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time.