

# Western Asset Intermediate-Term Municipals Fund

Class A: SBLTX Class I: SBTYX

Commentary | as of December 31, 2025

## Key Takeaways

- **Markets:** Fixed-income market volatility persisted in the fourth quarter of 2025 as investors and policymakers navigated mixed economic signals. The longest US government shutdown, which restricted data availability, ended in November after 43 days. The US Treasury (UST) yield curve steepened, with short and intermediate UST yields finishing the quarter lower, while long-term yields increased. Equities performed well, with the S&P 500 Index reaching new highs, while credit spreads were mixed. Tax-exempt munis outperformed taxable fixed-income as supply and demand technicals improved during the quarter. Longer-duration and lower-quality municipals generally outperformed.
- **Contributors:** Rates positioning contributed to performance.
- **Detractors:** Sector and issue selection detracted from performance.
- **Outlook:** Western Asset's outlook remains constructive, though we recognize that growth momentum is tempered by uncertainty in areas such as geopolitics and fiscal sustainability. U.S. financial conditions are largely supportive, which, alongside proposed fiscal loosening and solid household balance sheets, points toward a positive foundation for growth in 2026. Headwinds remain, including doubts over the state of the U.S. labor market, core inflation lingering above target and the potential lagged impact of tariffs. We expect that attractive relative value, along with the likelihood for the Federal Reserve (Fed) to continue to move front-end rates lower, will support municipal demand and after-tax total return potential in 2026.

## Performance Review

- Rates positioning contributed to performance as municipal yields fell.
- Allocation to high-yield detracted from returns as high-yield underperformed during the quarter.
- Sector allocation detracted from returns, largely due to an overweight to industrial revenue sectors; however, the overweight to leasing and transportation sectors helped offset some of the drag.
- Security selection was a detractor, led by issue selection within transportation and water & sewer sectors.

## Outlook

- Western Asset's outlook remains constructive, though we recognize that growth momentum is tempered by uncertainty in areas such as inflation, central bank policy, geopolitics and fiscal sustainability.
- Having cut rates at three successive meetings since September, the Fed may now moderate its pace of easing and await further signals from the post-shutdown data releases. Fiscal vulnerabilities and persistent inflation may see the yield curve steepen further.
- We continue to focus on disciplined, fundamental, relative value investing, seeking pockets of opportunity in fixed income while remaining mindful of technical and macroeconomic risks.

## Morningstar Rating™

Overall Rating as of December 31, 2025



**(3-Star) Class A**



**(4-Star) Class I**

As of 12/31/2025 the fund's Class I shares received a 4 star and Class A shares received a 3 star overall Morningstar rating™, measuring risk-adjusted returns against 253, 232 and 176 Muni National Intermediate funds over the 3-, 5- and 10-year periods, respectively. A fund's overall rating is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5- and 10-year (if applicable) rating metrics.

## Fund Characteristics

| Fund Characteristics                              | Fund    |
|---|---------|
| Distribution Frequency                            | Monthly |
| 30-Day SEC Yield (Class A)—With Waiver            | 3.23%   |
| 30-Day SEC Yield (Class A)—Without Waiver         | 3.23%   |
| Taxable Equivalent Yield (Class A)—With Waiver    | 5.46%   |
| Taxable Equivalent Yield (Class A)—Without Waiver | 5.46%   |

Average annual total returns and fund expenses (%) - as of December 31, 2025

| Class     | CUSIP     | Ticker | Without Sales Charge |      |      |      |      |       |           | With Maximum Sales Charge |      |      |      |      |       |           | Expenses |      | Sales Charges  |      | Inception Date |
|-----------|-----------|--------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|----------|------|----------------|------|----------------|
|           |           |        | 3-Mo                 | YTD  | 1-Yr | 3-Yr | 5-Yr | 10-Yr | Inception | 3-Mo                      | YTD  | 1-Yr | 3-Yr | 5-Yr | 10-Yr | Inception | Gross    | Net  | Initial Charge | CDSC |                |
| Class A   | 52469L884 | SBLTX  | 1.31                 | 3.97 | 3.97 | 3.92 | 1.22 | 2.07  | 4.26      | -0.98                     | 1.61 | 1.61 | 3.11 | 0.76 | 1.84  | 4.20      | 0.67     | 0.67 | 2.25           | —    | 11/28/1988     |
| Class I   | 52469L843 | SBTYX  | 1.36                 | 4.15 | 4.15 | 4.09 | 1.41 | 2.23  | 3.17      | 1.36                      | 4.15 | 4.15 | 4.09 | 1.41 | 2.23  | 3.17      | 0.54     | 0.50 | —              | —    | 9/28/2007      |
| Benchmark | —         | —      | 1.41                 | 5.18 | 5.18 | 3.75 | 1.16 | 2.27  | —         | 1.41                      | 5.18 | 5.18 | 3.75 | 1.16 | 2.27  | —         | —        | —    | —              | —    | —              |

Benchmark(s)

Benchmark =Bloomberg Municipal 1-15 Year Index

**Performance data quoted represents past performance, which does not guarantee future results.** Current performance may be lower or higher than the figures shown. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate, and investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. Performance would have been lower if fees had not been waived in various periods. Total returns assume the reinvestment of all distributions and the deduction of all fund expenses. Returns with sales charge reflect a deduction of the stated maximum sales charge. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges. Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. All classes of shares may not be available to all investors or through all distribution channels. For current month-end performance, please visit [franklintempleton.com](http://franklintempleton.com). Gross expenses are the fund's total annual operating expenses as of the fund's prospectus available at the time of publication. Actual expenses may be higher and may impact portfolio returns. Net expenses reflect contractual fee waivers, expense caps and/or reimbursements, which cannot be terminated prior to 12/31/2026 without Board consent. Additional amounts may be voluntarily waived and/or reimbursed and may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice.

What are the Risks?

**All investments involve risks, including possible loss of principal.** Fixed income securities involve interest rate, credit, inflation and reinvestment risks, and possible loss of principal. As interest rates rise, the value of fixed income securities falls. **Low-rated, high-yield bonds** are subject to greater price volatility, illiquidity and possibility of default. **Derivative instruments** can be illiquid, may disproportionately increase losses, and have a potentially large impact on performance. An investor may be subject to the federal **Alternative Minimum Tax**, and state and local taxes may apply. These and other risks are discussed in the fund's prospectus.

Glossary

**Duration** is a measure of the sensitivity of a bond's price to changes in interest rates.

The **S&P 500 Index** features 500 leading U.S. publicly traded companies, with a primary emphasis on market capitalization. Source: © S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. All rights reserved.

The **yield curve** shows the relationship between yields and maturity dates for a similar class of bonds.

Important Information

The information provided is not a complete analysis of every material fact regarding any country, market, industry, security or fund. Because market and economic conditions are subject to change, comments, opinions and analyses are rendered as of the date of this material and may change without notice. A portfolio manager's assessment of a particular security, investment or strategy is not intended as individual investment advice or a recommendation or solicitation to buy, sell or hold any security or to adopt any investment strategy; it is intended only to provide insight into the fund's portfolio selection process. Holdings are subject to change.

The **Bloomberg Municipal 1-15 Year Bond Index** is a market value weighted index of investment-grade fixed-rate municipal bonds with maturities of 1-15 years.

Important data provider notices and terms available at [www.franklintempletondatasources.com](http://www.franklintempletondatasources.com). All data is subject to change.

Source: Bloomberg Indices.

The **30-day SEC yield** is calculated using the net income (interest and dividends) per share earned over a trailing 30-day period (annualized), divided by the fund's share price at the end of that period. It may not equal the fund's actual income distribution rate, which reflects the fund's past dividends paid to shareholders.

**Morningstar Rating™:** Source: Morningstar®, 12/31/2025. For each mutual fund and ETF with at least a 3-year history, Morningstar calculates a Morningstar Rating™ based on how a fund ranks on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure against other funds in the same category. This measure takes into account variations in a fund's monthly performance, and does not take into account the effects of sales charges and loads, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of funds in each category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The weights are: 100% 3-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% 5-year rating/40% 3-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% 5-year rating/20% 3-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent 3-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. The fund's Class I shares received a Morningstar Rating of 3, 4 and 4 and fund's Class A shares received a Morningstar Rating of 3, 4 and 3 star(s) for the 3-, 5- and 10-year periods, respectively. Franklin Templeton provides this fund's Morningstar Rating™ for Class I and Class A shares only. Other share classes may have different Morningstar ratings. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

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