FRANKLIN TEMPLETON

Franklin Short-Term Municipal Income ETF

FTMS | **Commentary | as of September 30, 2026**

Key Takeaways

- **Markets:** In the third quarter of 2026, new issuance of municipal (muni) bonds continued at a record pace, with issuance 8% higher than the third quarter of 2025 and year-to-date volume running 6% ahead of last year (Source: Bloomberg). By quarter-end, the yield on the benchmark 10-year US Treasury (UST) note had risen by 82 basis points (bps) to 5.28% - its highest level since mid-2007 - while the yield on the 30-year UST bond was 68 bps higher at 5.63%. The September Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting raised the US Federal Reserve (Fed) funds target range by 25 bps to 3.75%–4.00%. Given that the hike was almost fully priced into the bond market, the genuinely new information was that the FOMC leans toward another increase, thus shifting the rates debate from a one-hike risk to how high a new tightening cycle might ultimately go.
- **Contributors:** Security selection in AA rated munis, an out-of-index allocation in munis with no external credit rating and underweight exposure to issues with two to five years to maturity.
- **Detractors:** Overweight position in munis with 10 years or more to maturity.
- **Outlook:** Municipal bond valuations are compelling relative to other fixed income sectors, in our view, giving investors an opportunity to harvest tax losses, rebalance duration and improve portfolio income without materially extending duration or relaxing credit standards. In a more challenging environment, strong bottom-up research and disciplined security selection will be essential to identifying relative value and preserving portfolio quality.

Fund Characteristics	Fund
Distribution Frequency	Monthly
30-Day SEC Yield (Fund)—With Waiver	3.39%
30-Day SEC Yield (Fund)—Without Waiver	3.39%
Taxable Equivalent Yield (Fund)—With Waiver	5.73%
Taxable Equivalent Yield (Fund)—Without Waiver	5.73%

Performance Review

- Over the quarter, Franklin Short-Term Municipal Income ETF fared better than its benchmark, the Bloomberg 3-year Municipal Bond Index.
- The fund's yield curve positioning contributed to relative performance during the quarter, driven by an underweight exposure to issues with two to five years to maturity. This performance was partially offset by the weaker relative performance of overweight allocations to munis with 10 years or more to maturity.
- Rating allocations benefited relative returns for the period, led by an out-of-index position in munis with no external credit rating and overweight positions in A and BBB rated securities. Security selection also contributed to relative performance, primarily due to selection in AA, AAA and BBB rated securities.

Outlook

- September's record supply and accelerating tax-loss selling tested market technicals, and the market struggled to absorb them. Munis trailed both Treasuries and corporates as yields rose across the curve and fund flows softened. Shorter-duration bonds held up better, as duration risk drove most of the losses. With supply likely to remain heavy, technicals will continue to be an important test of investor appetite, though the recent repricing may help attract buyers.
- Economic and credit fundamentals remain broadly supportive. Census estimates released in September showed second-quarter 2026 state and local tax collections at record levels, reflecting resilient labor markets and healthy tax bases, and stronger revenues should help issuers absorb rising costs. However, conditions vary materially across regions and credits, and credit outcomes are becoming more divergent. Tension between monetary and fiscal policy is also emerging as a key issue to watch, and we see scope for further yield curve steepening.
- In our view, the selloff has made absolute yields and relative valuations more compelling. Municipal yields now offer a substantial premium over comparable Treasuries at intermediate and longer maturities on a taxable-equivalent basis, with the long end offering the best relative value. Higher starting yields give investors an opportunity to harvest tax losses, rebalance duration and improve portfolio income without materially extending duration or relaxing credit standards. We favor capturing income and prioritizing quality over depending on a view of lower rates or tighter spreads. In this environment, active management and disciplined security selection remain essential to identifying relative value and preserving portfolio quality.

Not FDIC Insured | No Bank Guarantee | May Lose Value

Average annual total returns and fund expenses (%) - as of September 30, 2026

Product	Ticker	Listed Exchange	3-Mo*	6-Mo*	YTD*	1-Yr	3-Yr	5-Yr	10-Yr	Inception	Gross Expenses	Net Expenses	Inception Date
Market Price Return	FTMS	NYSE Arca	-1.35	-0.13	0.19	0.90	3.53	1.94	1.86	1.57	0.22	0.21	3/18/2013
NAV Returns	—	—	-1.51	-0.39	-0.02	0.69	3.46	1.90	1.84	1.56	0.22	0.21	3/18/2013
Benchmark	—	—	-2.09	-1.27	-0.81	-0.35	2.97	1.02	1.44	1.39	—	—	—

*Cumulative total returns

Benchmark(s)

Benchmark =Bloomberg 3-year Municipal Bond 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. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expense or sales charges. Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. For current month-end performance, please visit franklintempleton.com.*
The NAV returns include returns of the Class R6 Shares of the predecessor mutual fund prior to the ETF's commencement of operations on 10/24/25. Prior to the ETF's listing on 10/27/2025, the NAV performance for the Class R6 shares of the predecessor mutual fund is used as a proxy for market price returns, which are typically calculated using the official closing price of the ETF. If the predecessor mutual fund had been structured as an exchange-traded fund, its performance may have differed. Returns for periods prior to inception of Class R6 shares are based on previous share classes. Returns for those shares were not adjusted for the lower operating expenses; had they been adjusted, performance would be higher.
Net Asset Value (NAV) returns are based on the NAV of the ETF; Market Price returns are based upon the official closing price of the ETF's shares. Returns are average annualized total returns, except for those periods of less than one year, which are cumulative. Market Price returns are calculated using the closing price as of 4 p.m. Eastern time on each trading day (when NAV is normally determined for most funds), and do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times. Performance for the ETF and its benchmark index are as of the ETF's last trading day before the end of the period.
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 03/31/2027 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. **Active management** does not ensure gains or protect against market declines. 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

A **basis point (bp, or bps)** is one one-hundredth of one percent (1/100% or 0.01%).

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

The **Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC)** is the branch of the Federal Reserve that dictates U.S. monetary policy, specifically targeting the federal funds rate and managing open market operations.

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

Important Information

Effective October 24, 2025, Putnam Short-Term Municipal Income Fund reorganized into this ETF. This fund has an identical investment goal and substantially similar investment strategies as its predecessor fund.

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.

ETFs and ETPs trade like stocks, fluctuate in market value and may trade at prices above or below the ETFs/ETPs net asset value. Brokerage commissions and ETF expenses will reduce returns. ETF/ETP shares may be bought or sold throughout the day at their market price, not their Net Asset Value (NAV), on the exchange on which they are listed. Shares of ETFs/ETPs are tradable on secondary markets and may trade either at a premium or a discount to their NAV on the secondary market. **Canada:** This content is intended only for Canadian institutional investors that qualify as "permitted clients" as defined in National Instrument 31-103 - Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations. U.S. securities laws generally limit a non-U.S. fund's purchase of a U.S. registered mutual fund or ETF/ETP (a "U.S. Fund") to no more than 3% of the U.S. Fund's voting stock. You should consult your legal counsel prior to investing in a U.S. Fund.

The **Bloomberg 3-Year Municipal Bond Index** is a subset of the Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index that measures the performance of investment-grade issues with remaining maturities of two to four years. Source: Bloomberg Indices. The **Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index** is a broad measure of the municipal bond market with maturities of at least one year.

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.

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Before investing, carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. You can find this and other information in each prospectus, or summary prospectus, if available, at www.franklintempleton.com. Please read it carefully.

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