

FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp  
Form DEF 14A  
March 27, 2018  
[Table of Contents](#)

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, DC 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
**(RULE 14a-101)**  
**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**  
**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**  
**PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE**  
**SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement.

**Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)).**

Definitive Proxy Statement.

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

**Fidus Investment Corporation**

**(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)**

**(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)**

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

**Table of Contents**

**1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005**

**Evanston, Illinois, 60201**

**(847) 859-3940**

March 27, 2018

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend Fidus Investment Corporation's 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Central Time, at the LondonHouse, 85 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

The Notice of Annual Meeting and proxy statement accompanying this letter provide an outline of the business to be conducted at the meeting. I will also report on the progress of the Company during the past year and answer stockholders' questions.

It is important that your shares be represented at the Annual Meeting. If you are a stockholder of record and are unable to attend the meeting in person, I urge you to vote your shares by completing, dating and signing the enclosed proxy card and promptly returning it in the envelope provided or, alternatively, by calling the toll-free telephone number or using the Internet as described on the proxy card. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares in street name, your broker has enclosed a voting instruction form, which you should use to vote those shares if you are unable to attend the meeting in person. The voting instruction form indicates whether you have the option to vote those shares by telephone or by using the Internet. Your vote is important.

Sincerely yours,

Edward H. Ross  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

**Table of Contents**

**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

**1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005**

**Evanston, Illinois, 60201**

**(847) 859-3940**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**To Be Held On Thursday, June 7, 2018**

To the Stockholders of Fidus Investment Corporation:

The 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Fidus Investment Corporation (the "Company") will be held at the LondonHouse, 85 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601, on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time) for the following purposes:

1. To elect the Class I director to serve until his successor has been duly elected and qualified (Proposal No. 1);
2. To approve a proposal to authorize the Company, subject to the approval of the Company's Board of Directors, to sell or otherwise issue shares of its common stock during the next year at a price below the Company's then current net asset value per share, subject to certain conditions as set forth in this proxy statement (including that the cumulative number of shares sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of its then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale) (Proposal No. 2); and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

You have the right to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting if you were a stockholder of record at the close of business on March 16, 2018. Whether or not you expect to be present in person at the meeting, please vote by signing the enclosed proxy card and returning it promptly in the self-addressed envelope provided or, alternatively, by calling the toll-free telephone number or using the Internet as described on the proxy card. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares in "street name," your broker has enclosed a voting instruction form, which you should use to vote those shares. The voting instruction form indicates whether you have the option to vote those shares by telephone or by using the Internet. In the event there are not sufficient votes for a quorum or to approve or ratify any of the foregoing proposals at the time of the Annual Meeting, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned in order to permit further solicitation of proxies by the Company.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Shelby E. Sherard  
Chief Financial Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and  
Corporate Secretary

Evanston, Illinois

March 27, 2018

**This is an important meeting. To ensure proper representation at the meeting, please indicate your vote as to the matters to be acted on at the meeting by following the instructions provided in the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction form. Even if you vote your shares prior to the meeting, you still may attend the meeting and vote your shares in person.**

**Table of Contents**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <u>Notice Of Annual Meeting Of Stockholders</u>                                                                     | ii |
| <u>Proxy Statement</u>                                                                                              | 1  |
| <u>Information About The Meeting</u>                                                                                | 2  |
| <u>Information About Voting</u>                                                                                     | 3  |
| <u>Additional Information</u>                                                                                       | 6  |
| <u>Proposal No. 1 Election Of Class I Director</u>                                                                  | 8  |
| <u>Information About Executive Officer Who Is Not A Director</u>                                                    | 12 |
| <u>Corporate Governance</u>                                                                                         | 13 |
| <u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>                                                                         | 18 |
| <u>2017 Director Compensation Table</u>                                                                             | 18 |
| <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>                                                               | 19 |
| <u>Security Ownership Of Certain Beneficial Owners And Management</u>                                               | 22 |
| <u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>                                                      | 23 |
| <u>Proposal No. 2 Approval To Sell Or Otherwise Issue Shares Of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value (Book Value)</u> | 24 |
| <u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>                                                                | 31 |
| <u>Audit Committee Report</u>                                                                                       | 33 |
| <u>Privacy Notice</u>                                                                                               | 34 |
| <u>Other Business</u>                                                                                               | 35 |

**Table of Contents**

**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

**1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005**

**Evanston, Illinois, 60201**

**(847) 859-3940**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Fidus Investment Corporation (the Company, Fidus, we, us or our ) for use at our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time) at the LondonHouse, 85 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601, and at any adjournments thereof (the Annual Meeting ). The Notice of Annual Meeting, this proxy statement, the accompanying proxy card and our Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 are first being sent to stockholders on or about April 6, 2018.

We encourage you to vote your shares, either by voting in person at the meeting or by granting a proxy (i.e., authorizing someone else to vote your shares). If you vote by mail, Internet or telephone as described in the instructions on the proxy card or voting instruction form, and we receive your vote in time for the meeting, the persons named as proxies will vote the shares registered directly in your name in the manner that you specified. **If you give no instructions on the proxy card, the shares covered by the proxy card will be voted FOR the election of the director nominees and FOR the other matters listed in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders.**

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE PROMPTLY VOTE YOUR SHARES EITHER BY MAIL, INTERNET OR TELEPHONE.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 7, 2018:**

The Notice of Annual Meeting, proxy statement, and our Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 are available at the following Internet address: [www.viewproxy.com/fidusinv/2018/](http://www.viewproxy.com/fidusinv/2018/).

## **Table of Contents**

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING**

#### **When is the Annual Meeting?**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time).

#### **Where will the Annual Meeting be held?**

The Annual Meeting will be held at the LondonHouse, 85 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

#### **What items will be voted on at the Annual Meeting?**

There are two matters scheduled for a vote:

1. To elect the Class I director to serve until his successor has been duly elected and qualified (Proposal No. 1); and
2. To approve a proposal to authorize the Company, subject to the approval of the Company's Board of Directors, to sell or otherwise issue shares of its common stock during the next year at a price below the Company's then current net asset value per share, subject to certain conditions as set forth in this proxy statement (including that the cumulative number of shares sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of its then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale) (Proposal No. 2).

As of the date of this proxy statement, we are not aware of any other matters that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting.

#### **What are the Board of Directors' recommendations?**

Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote:

*FOR* the election of the Class I director nominee named herein to serve on the Board of Directors; and

*FOR* the proposal to authorize the Company, subject to the approval of the Company's Board of Directors, to sell or otherwise issue shares of its common stock during the next year at a price below the Company's then current net asset value per share, subject to certain conditions as set forth in this proxy statement (including that the cumulative number of shares sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of its then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale).

#### **Will Fidus' directors be in attendance at the Annual Meeting?**

Fidus encourages, but does not require, its directors to attend annual meetings of stockholders. However, Fidus anticipates that all of its directors will attend the 2018 Annual Meeting.

## Table of Contents

### INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING

#### Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the record date, March 16, 2018, are entitled to receive notice of the Annual Meeting and to vote the shares for which they were stockholders of record on that date at the Annual Meeting, or any postponement or adjournment of the Annual Meeting. As of the close of business on March 16, 2018, we had 24,463,119 shares of common stock outstanding.

#### How do I vote?

With respect to Proposal No. 1, you may either vote **FOR** the Class I nominee to the Board of Directors, or you may vote **WITHHOLD AUTHORITY** for the nominee. For Proposal No. 2, you may vote **FOR** or **AGAINST**, or abstain from voting altogether. The procedures for voting are fairly simple:

*Stockholders of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name.* If on March 16, 2018, your shares were registered directly in your name with Fidus transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, then you are a stockholder of record. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting or vote by giving us your proxy. You may give us your proxy by completing the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the enclosed postage-prepaid envelope, or by calling a toll-free telephone number or using the Internet as further described below and on the enclosed proxy card. **Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to sign and return the enclosed proxy card or to otherwise give your proxy authorization by telephone or Internet, as specified on the proxy card, to ensure your vote is counted.** You may still attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person if you have already signed and returned your proxy card.

**IN PERSON:** To vote in person, come to the Annual Meeting, and we will give you a ballot when you arrive.

**BY MAIL:** To vote using the enclosed proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly in the postage paid envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct, unless, after returning your signed proxy card, you attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person or otherwise revoke your proxy as set forth under the heading **Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy card?** below.

**BY INTERNET:** To vote by Internet, go to [www.cesvote.com](http://www.cesvote.com) to transmit your voting instructions **until** 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 6, 2018. Have your proxy card available when you access the website and then follow the instructions.

**BY TELEPHONE:** To vote by telephone, call 1-888-693-8683 and use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions **until** 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 6, 2018. Have your proxy card available when you call the phone number above and then follow the instructions.

*Beneficial Owners: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank.* If on March 16, 2018, your shares were held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by that organization. If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank or other agent, you should have received from that organization rather than from Fidus, a proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials. Simply complete and mail the proxy card to ensure that your vote is counted. Alternatively, you may be able to vote by telephone or over the Internet if permitted by your broker or bank. To vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent. Follow the voting instruction form from your broker or bank included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker or bank to request a proxy card.

## **Table of Contents**

### **How many votes do I have?**

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock for which you were the stockholder of record as of March 16, 2018.

### **What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?**

If you receive more than one proxy card, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please provide a response (by telephone, Internet or mail as provided for on the proxy card accompanying this proxy statement or on the voting instruction form from your broker or bank) for each proxy card you receive to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

### **What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?**

If you return a signed and dated proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares will be voted: FOR the election of the nominee named herein to serve as a Class I director on the Board of Directors and FOR the proposal to authorize the Company, subject to the approval of the Company's Board of Directors, to sell or otherwise issue shares of its common stock during the next year at a price below the Company's then current net asset value per share, subject to certain conditions as set forth in this proxy statement (including that the cumulative number of shares sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of its then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale).

If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxy (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares as recommended by the Board of Directors or, if no recommendation is given, will vote your shares using his or her discretion.

### **Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy card?**

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the Annual Meeting. If you are the stockholder of record of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of three ways:

You may change your vote using the same method that you first used to vote your shares (by telephone, Internet or mail);

You may send a written notice that you are revoking your proxy to Fidus Investment Corporation, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Attention: Shelby E. Sherard, Corporate Secretary; or

You may attend the Annual Meeting and notify the election officials at the Annual Meeting that you wish to revoke your proxy and vote in person. Simply attending the Annual Meeting, however, will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

If your shares are held by your broker or bank as a nominee or agent, you should follow the instructions on the voting instruction form provided by your broker or bank.

### **How are votes counted?**

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the Annual Meeting, who will separately count each vote marked FOR or WITHHOLD AUTHORITY for the nominee for Class I director identified in Proposal No. 1 and, with respect to Proposal No. 2, will separately count each vote marked FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be deemed to be present for the purpose of determining a quorum for the Annual Meeting. However, abstentions and broker non-votes are not counted as votes cast. A broker non-vote with respect to a matter occurs when a broker, bank or other institution or nominee holding shares on behalf of a beneficial owner has not received voting instructions from the beneficial

## **Table of Contents**

owner on a particular proposal and does not have, or chooses not to exercise, discretionary authority to vote the shares on such proposals. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company does not expect many, if any, broker non-votes at the Annual Meeting because there are no routine proposals to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

### **How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?**

For Proposal No. 1, the two nominees receiving a plurality of the vote will be elected. In other words, the two nominees receiving the most FOR votes among votes properly cast in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting will be elected. If you vote WITHHOLD AUTHORITY with respect to one or more nominees, your shares will not be included in determining the number of votes cast and, as a result, will have no effect on this proposal.

Proposal No. 2 must be approved by (1) a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, and (2) a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting that are not held by affiliated persons of the Company, which includes directors, officers, employees, and 5% stockholders. For purposes of Proposal No. 2 only, a majority of the outstanding shares is defined in section 2(a)(42) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act), to be the lesser of: (1) 67% or more of the common stock of the Company present or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the Company's common stock are present or represented by proxy; or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding common stock of the Company (the voting requirements in (1) and (2), a 1940 Act Majority). For purposes of the vote on this proposal, abstentions and broker non-votes will have the effect of votes against the proposal, although they will be considered present for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

### **How many shares must be present to constitute a quorum for the Annual Meeting?**

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if at least a simple majority (*i.e.*, greater than 50%) of the outstanding shares entitled to vote are represented at the Annual Meeting either in person or by proxy. On March 16, 2018, the record date, there were 24,463,119 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus 12,231,560 shares must be represented at the Annual Meeting either in person or by proxy to constitute a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy by mail, Internet or telephone (or one is submitted on your behalf by your broker, bank or other nominee) or if you vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions will be counted towards the quorum requirement.

If a quorum is not present at the Annual Meeting, or if a quorum is present but there are not enough votes to approve one or more of the proposals, the person named as chairman of the Annual Meeting may adjourn the meeting to permit further solicitation of proxies. A stockholder vote may be taken on one or more of the proposals in this proxy statement prior to any such adjournment if there are sufficient votes for approval on such proposal(s).

### **How can I find out the results of the voting at the Annual Meeting?**

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Annual Meeting and filed on Form 8-K within four business days of the Annual Meeting. Final results, if different from the preliminary results, will be published on an amended Form 8-K within four days after the final voting results are established.

## **Table of Contents**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **How and when may I submit a stockholder proposal for Fidus 2019 Annual Meeting?**

We will consider for inclusion in our proxy materials for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, stockholder proposals that are received at our executive offices, in writing, no earlier than October 8, 2018 and no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on December 7, 2018, and that comply with our bylaws and all applicable requirements of Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ). Proposals must be sent to our Corporate Secretary at Fidus Investment Corporation, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Pursuant to our bylaws, stockholders wishing to nominate persons for election as directors or to introduce an item of business at an annual meeting that are not to be included in our proxy materials must have given timely notice thereof in writing to our Corporate Secretary. To be timely for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, you must notify our Corporate Secretary, in writing, no earlier than October 8, 2018, and no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on December 7, 2018. We also advise you to review our bylaws, which contain additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations, including the different notice submission date requirements in the event that our 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is held more than 30 days before or after the first anniversary of the date the notice for the 2018 annual meeting is mailed. In accordance with our bylaws, the chairman of the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders may determine, if the facts warrant, that a matter has not been properly brought before the meeting and, therefore, may not be considered at the meeting.

Pursuant to the Company's bylaws, among other things, a stockholder's notice shall set forth as to each individual whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or reelection as a director:

the name, age, business address and residence address of such individual;

the class, series and number of any shares of stock of the Company that are beneficially owned by such individual;

the date such shares were acquired and the investment intent of such acquisition;

whether such stockholder believes any such individual is or is not an interested person of the Company, as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act and the rules promulgated thereunder and information regarding such individual that is sufficient, in the discretion of the Board of Directors or any committee thereof or any authorized officer of the Company, to make either such determination; and

all other information relating to such individual that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors in an election contest (even if an election contest is not involved), or is otherwise required, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder (including such individual's written consent to being named in the proxy statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected).

The above procedures summarize the stockholder nomination procedures contained in our bylaws, and any stockholder desiring to submit a nominee should consult our bylaws regarding these requirements.

All nominees properly submitted to the Company (or which the nominating and corporate governance committee ( Nominating Committee ) otherwise elects to consider) will be evaluated and considered by the members of the Nominating Committee using the same criteria as nominees identified by the Nominating Committee itself.

#### **How can I obtain the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K?**

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 is being mailed with this proxy statement. Our Annual Report is not incorporated into this proxy statement and shall not be considered proxy solicitation material.



## **Table of Contents**

**We will also mail to you, without charge and upon your written request, a copy of any specifically requested exhibit to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.**

Requests should be sent to: Corporate Secretary, Fidus Investment Corporation, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201. A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K has also been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, and may be accessed from the SEC's homepage (<http://www.sec.gov>).

### **Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?**

Fidus will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. We estimate that we will pay Alliance Advisors, LLC, our proxy solicitor, a fee of approximately \$200,000, plus reimbursement for out of pocket expenses, to solicit proxies, though the costs of this proxy solicitation process could be lower or higher than our estimate. In addition to these written proxy materials, our proxy solicitor, directors, officers and employees of Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC, the Company's investment adviser and administrator (our Investment Advisor), may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone or by other means of communication; however, our directors, officers and employees of our Investment Advisor will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by the use of the mail, proxies may be solicited in person and/or by telephone or facsimile transmission by our proxy solicitor, directors, officers or employees of our Investment Advisor. Our Investment Advisor is located at 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners and obtaining your voting instructions.

### **How many copies should I receive if I share an address with another stockholder?**

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries, such as brokers, to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as "householding," potentially provides extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

Brokers may be householding our proxy materials by delivering a single proxy statement and Annual Report to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker that they will be householding materials to your address, householding will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If you did not respond that you did not want to participate in householding, you were deemed to have consented to the process. If at any time you no longer wish to participate in householding and would prefer to receive a separate proxy statement and Annual Report, or if you are receiving multiple copies of the proxy statement and Annual Report and wish to receive only one, please notify your broker if your shares are held in a brokerage account or us if you are a stockholder of record. You can notify us by sending a written request to: Shelby E. Sherard, Corporate Secretary, Fidus Investment Corporation, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201, or by calling (847) 859-3940. In addition, Fidus will promptly deliver, upon written or oral request to the address or telephone number above, a separate copy of the Annual Report and proxy statement to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the documents was delivered.

### **Whom should I contact if I have any questions?**

If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting, these proxy materials or your ownership of our common stock, please contact Shelby E. Sherard c/o Fidus Investment Corporation, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Telephone (847) 859-3940, or Fax: (847) 859-3953.

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL NO. 1**

**ELECTION OF CLASS I DIRECTOR**

Our Board of Directors is divided into three classes. Each class has a three-year term. Each director holds office for the term to which he or she is elected and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified. Vacancies on the Board of Directors may be filled by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy in a class, including any vacancies created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class or until the director's successor is duly elected and qualified.

The Board of Directors has five members. Mr. Hyman is the only member of the class of directors whose term expires in 2018 (Class I). If elected at the Annual Meeting, Mr. Hyman will serve until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until his successor is elected and qualified or, if sooner, until his death, resignation or removal. Mr. Hyman is not being nominated for election, nor has any director, executive officer or other listed officer of the Company been selected as a director, executive officer or other officer pursuant to any agreement or understanding with the Company or any other person. Mr. Hyman has indicated his willingness to continue to serve if elected and have consented to be named as nominees. Mr. Hyman is not an interested person of the Company as defined in the 1940 Act.

A stockholder can vote for or withhold his or her vote for each nominee. **In the absence of instructions to the contrary, it is the intention of the persons named as proxies to vote each such proxy for the election of the nominees named below. If either of the nominees should decline or be unable to serve as a director, it is intended that the proxy will be voted for the election of such person(s) who is nominated as a replacement. The Board of Directors has no reason to believe that the Class I director nominee named will be unable or unwilling to serve.**

Certain of our directors who are also officers of the Company may serve as directors of, or on the boards of managers of, certain of our portfolio companies. In addition, the Board of Directors of Fidus Mezzanine Capital, L.P., or Fund I, a wholly-owned consolidated subsidiary licensed by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a small business investment company (an "SBIC") that has elected to be treated as a business development company ("BDC") under the 1940 Act, is composed of all of the Company's directors.

The business address of each nominee and director listed below is 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

## **Table of Contents**

Certain information as of March 16, 2018, with respect to the Class I director nominee is set forth below.

### **Nominee for Class I Director**

#### *Independent Director*

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Age</b> | <b>Background Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charles D. Hyman | 59         | Mr. Hyman has served on our Board of Directors since our initial public offering in June 2011 and is the chairman of our Nominating Committee and a member of our Audit Committee. Mr. Hyman is the founder and chief executive officer of Charles D. Hyman & Co., a private, registered investment management firm located in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Prior to forming Charles D. Hyman & Co. in 1994, Mr. Hyman served as a senior vice president of St. Johns Investment Management Company. Mr. Hyman has served on the board of directors for several not-for-profit companies in the past five years and currently serves on the board of Patriot Transportation Holding, Inc. (NASDAQ: PATI). |

*The Board of Directors recommends a vote for the Class I director nominee named above.*

Certain information as of March 16, 2018, with respect to each Class II and Class III director is set forth below.

### **Class II Directors continuing in office until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

#### *Interested Director*

| <b>Name</b>     | <b>Age</b> | <b>Background Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thomas C. Lauer | 50         | Mr. Lauer has served as our director and as a member of our Investment Advisor's investment committees since our initial public offering in June 2011 and as our President since September 2016. Additionally, Mr. Lauer is a manager of our Investment Advisor. Mr. Lauer is an interested director due to his position with the Investment Advisor. Mr. Lauer has more than 25 years of experience investing debt and equity capital in lower middle-market companies. Mr. Lauer was a managing partner of Fidus Partners, LLC, an investment banking firm, from 2008 to June 2011. From 2004 to 2008, Mr. Lauer was a managing director of Allied Capital Corporation, a publicly-traded business development company, and member of that firm's Management Committee from 2006 to 2008, Private Finance Investment Committee from 2005 to 2008, and Senior Debt Fund Investment Committee from 2007 to 2008. Prior to joining Allied Capital Corporation, Mr. Lauer worked with the Global Sponsor Finance Group of GE Capital, the financial services unit of General Electric, the Leveraged Capital Group at Wachovia Securities and its predecessor, First Union Securities, Inc., a retail brokerage and institutional capital markets and investment banking firm, and the Platform Components Division of Intel Corporation. Mr. Lauer earned a bachelor of business administration from the University of Notre Dame and master of business administration from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. |

## **Table of Contents**

### *Independent Director*

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Age</b> | <b>Background Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| John A. Mazzarino | 65         | Mr. Mazzarino has served on our Board of Directors since November 2012 and is a member of our Audit Committee and our Nominating Committee. Mr. Mazzarino is a Co-Founder and Managing Director of Cherokee Investment Partners, a private equity real estate investment management firm focused on the acquisition, remediation, management and development of brownfields in North America and Europe. Prior to co-founding Cherokee's predecessor firm in 1988, Mr. Mazzarino worked at Bain & Company from 1982 to 1988, where he specialized in mergers and acquisitions and corporate strategy. From 1977 to 1982 he worked at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., consulting on policy issues with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Energy and other federal agencies. Mr. Mazzarino currently serves as a member of the board of advisors of the MIT Sloan School of Management and is a director of Cherokee Gives Back, Cherokee's philanthropic arm. In addition, Mr. Mazzarino is a member of five other private and not-for-profit company boards. |

### **Class III Directors continuing in office until the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

### *Interested Director*

| <b>Name</b>    | <b>Age</b> | <b>Background Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Edward H. Ross | 52         | Mr. Ross has served as chairman of our board of directors and our chief executive officer, and as chairman of our Investment Advisor's investment committees, since our initial public offering in June 2011. Additionally, Mr. Ross is the chief executive officer and a manager of our Investment Advisor. Mr. Ross is an interested director due to his positions with the Company and our Investment Advisor. Mr. Ross has more than 25 years of debt and equity capital investing experience with lower middle-market companies. Mr. Ross co-founded Fidus Capital, LLC, the predecessor firm to our Investment Advisor, in 2005. From February 2007 to June 2011, Mr. Ross served as a member of the investment committee of Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC, Fund I's former general partner. From 2002 to 2005, Mr. Ross was a managing director and the head of the Chicago office for Allied Capital Corporation, a publicly-traded business development company, where he focused on making debt and equity investments in middle-market companies. Prior to joining Allied Capital Corporation, Mr. Ross co-founded Middle Market Capital, a merchant banking group of Wachovia Securities and its predecessor, First Union Securities, Inc., a retail brokerage and institutional capital markets and investment banking firm. Mr. Ross earned a bachelor of arts from Southern Methodist University and a master of business administration from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. Mr. Ross is the brother of John J. Ross, II, a manager of our Investment Advisor and a member of its investment committee. |

## **Table of Contents**

### *Independent Director*

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>Age</b> | <b>Background Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Raymond L. Anstiss, Jr. | 51         | Mr. Anstiss has served on our Board of Directors since September 2011 and is the chairman of our Audit Committee and a member of our Nominating Committee. Mr. Anstiss is the President of Anstiss & Co., an accounting, audit, tax and financial consulting firm headquartered in Lowell, Massachusetts. Prior to joining Anstiss & Co. in 1993, Mr. Anstiss served on the audit staff of KPMG Peat Marwick from 1988 to 1992. Mr. Anstiss has served on the board of directors for several not-for-profit companies in the past five years. |

### **Qualifications of Directors**

When considering whether our director nominees have the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills, taken as a whole, to enable our Board of Directors to satisfy its oversight responsibilities effectively in light of our operational and organizational structure, the Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors focused primarily on the information discussed in each of the director nominee's individual biographies set forth above and on the following particular attributes:

#### *Interested Directors*

*Mr. Ross:* The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors considered his familiarity with the Fidus investment platform, his significant experience with investing debt and equity capital in middle-market companies, and his broad experience with the day-to-day management and operation of other investment funds, which provides our Board of Directors with valuable investment and management experience, insight and perspective.

*Mr. Lauer:* The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors considered his experience with investing debt and equity capital in middle-market companies, which provides our Board of Directors with valuable investment knowledge, experience and insight.

#### *Independent Directors*

*Mr. Anstiss:* The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors considered his extensive experience in the accounting industry. In addition, Mr. Anstiss' accounting background was instrumental in his appointment to the chairmanship of our Audit Committee.

*Mr. Hyman:* The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors considered his extensive experience in the investment analysis, management, and advisory industries.

*Mr. Mazzarino:* The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors considered his extensive experience in the investing and capital management industry, as well as merger and acquisition and corporate strategy expertise.

**Table of Contents**

**INFORMATION ABOUT EXECUTIVE OFFICER WHO IS NOT A DIRECTOR**

The following is a brief biography of our executive officer, Shelby E. Sherard, who is not a director of the Company.

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Age</b> | <b>Background Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shelby E. Sherard | 47         | Shelby E. Sherard has served as our chief financial officer and secretary since joining the Company on June 2, 2014 and chief compliance officer since August 11, 2014. Ms. Sherard has more than 20 years of finance experience most recently as a financial officer at Prologis, Inc., a leading owner, operator and developer of industrial real estate, first serving as Chief Financial Officer, Americas, and then overseeing the U.S. tax department. Previously, she served as the Finance Director for Chicago Union Station Development Company, LLC, a real estate development company. From 2005 through 2006, Ms. Sherard served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Grubb & Ellis Company, a publicly-traded real estate services company. From 2002 through 2005, Ms. Sherard was the Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President of SiteStuff, Inc., a procurement solutions provider for the commercial real estate industry. Ms. Sherard is a CPA and earned a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, a master of business administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and a master's degree in tax from the University of Illinois. |

## **Table of Contents**

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **Director Independence**

The Board of Directors has a majority of directors who are independent under the listing standards of the Nasdaq Global Select Market, or Nasdaq. The Nasdaq Marketplace Rules provide that a director of a BDC shall be considered to be independent if he or she is not an interested person of the Company, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act. Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act defines an interested person to include, among other things, any person who has, or within the last two years had, a material business or professional relationship with the Company.

The Board of Directors has determined that the following directors are independent: Messrs. Anstiss, Hyman (Nominee) and Mazzarino. Messrs. Ross and Lauer are interested persons due to their positions with the Company and/or our Investment Advisor, as discussed in their respective biographies. Based upon information requested and received from each director concerning their respective background, employment and affiliations, the Board of Directors has affirmatively determined that none of the independent directors has a material business or professional relationship with the Company, other than in his capacity as a member of the Board of Directors or any committee thereof.

#### **Meetings of the Board Committees**

The Board of Directors has established the Audit Committee and Nominating Committee. The Company does not have a separate compensation committee because its executive officers do not receive any direct compensation from the Company; however, the Audit Committee has been charged with carrying out the duties that would typically be addressed by a compensation committee. During 2017, the Board of Directors held nine meetings, the Audit Committee held nine meetings and the Nominating Committee held two meetings. The Company encourages, but does not require, the directors to attend the Company's annual meeting of its stockholders. During 2017, all of our current directors attended 100% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board of Directors and of the respective committees on which they served. All of our directors attended the 2017 annual meeting.

#### **Board Leadership Structure**

The Board of Directors monitors and performs an oversight role with respect to the business and affairs of the Company. Among other things, the Board of Directors approves the appointment of our Investment Advisor, administrator and officers, reviews and monitors the services and activities performed by our Investment Advisor, administrator and officers, approves annually the renewal of any investment advisory agreement with our Investment Advisor and approves the engagement, and reviews the performance of, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

Under the bylaws, the Board of Directors may designate a chairman to preside over the meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings of the stockholders and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. The Company does not have a fixed policy as to whether the chairman of the Board of Directors should be an independent director and believes that its flexibility to select its chairman and reorganize its leadership structure from time to time is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

Presently, Mr. Ross serves as the chairman of the Board of Directors. Mr. Ross is an interested director because he is the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, serves on our Investment Advisor's investment committee and is a manager of our Investment Advisor. The Company believes that Mr. Ross's history with the Company, familiarity with the Fidus investment platform and extensive experience in the management of private equity and debt investments qualifies him to serve as chairman of the Board of Directors. Moreover, our Board of Directors believes that it is in the best interests of our stockholders for Mr. Ross to lead our Board of Directors because of his broad experience with the day-to-day management and operation of other investment funds and his significant background in the financial services industry, as described above.

## **Table of Contents**

Our Board of Directors does not have a lead independent director. We are aware of the potential conflicts that may arise when a non-independent director is Chairman of the Board, but believe these potential conflicts are offset by our strong corporate governance practices. Our corporate governance practices include regular meetings of the independent directors in executive session without the presence of interested directors and management, the establishment of an Audit and Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, each of which is comprised solely of independent directors, and the appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer, with whom the independent directors meet without the presence of interested directors and other members of management, for administering our compliance policies and procedures. Additionally, Mr. Anstiss, an independent director and the chairman of the Audit Committee, acts as a liaison between the independent directors and management between meetings of our Board of Directors and presides over regular executive sessions of the Board. Our Board of Directors believes that its leadership structure is appropriate in light of the Company's characteristics and circumstances because the structure allocates areas of responsibility among the individual directors and the committees in a manner that encourages effective oversight. Specifically, the Board believes that the relationship of Messrs. Ross and Lauer with our Adviser provides an effective bridge between the Board and management, and encourages an open dialogue between management and our Board, ensuring that these groups act with a common purpose. The members of our Board of Directors also believe that its small size creates a highly efficient governance structure that provides ample opportunity for direct communication and interaction between both the members of management and our Investment Advisor and our Board of Directors.

### **Board Role in Risk Oversight**

The Board of Directors performs its risk oversight function primarily through (a) its two standing committees, which report to the entire Board of Directors and are comprised solely of independent directors and (b) monitoring by the Company's Chief Compliance Officer in accordance with its compliance policies and procedures.

As described below in more detail under "Audit and Compensation Committee" and "Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee," the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its risk oversight responsibilities. The Audit Committee's risk oversight responsibilities include overseeing the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes, the Company's systems of internal controls regarding finance and accounting and audits of the Company's financial statements and discussing with management the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies. The Nominating Committee's risk oversight responsibilities include selecting, researching and nominating directors for election by the Company's stockholders, developing and recommending to the Board of Directors a set of corporate governance principles and overseeing the evaluation of the Board of Directors and its committees. Both the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee consist solely of independent directors.

The Board of Directors is assisted in its risk oversight responsibilities by the Chief Compliance Officer. The Company's Chief Compliance Officer prepares a written report annually discussing the adequacy and effectiveness of the compliance policies and procedures of the Company and certain of its service providers. The Chief Compliance Officer's report, which is reviewed by the Board of Directors, addresses at a minimum (a) the operation of the compliance policies and procedures of the Company and certain of its service providers since the last report; (b) any material changes to such policies and procedures since the last report; (c) any recommendations for material changes to such policies and procedures as a result of the Chief Compliance Officer's annual review; and (d) any compliance matter that has occurred since the date of the last report about which the Board of Directors would reasonably need to know to oversee the Company's compliance activities and risks. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer meets separately in executive session with the independent directors periodically, but in no event less than once each year.

The Company believes that the Board of Directors' role in risk oversight is effective and appropriate given the extensive regulation to which it is already subject as a BDC. Specifically, as a BDC, the Company must

## **Table of Contents**

comply with certain regulatory requirements that control the levels of risk in its business and operations. For example, the Company's ability to incur indebtedness is limited such that its asset coverage must equal at least 200% immediately after each time it incurs indebtedness and the Company generally has to invest at least 70% of its total assets in qualifying assets as described in section 55 of the 1940 Act. In addition, the Company has elected to be treated as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. As a RIC, the Company must, among other things, meet certain income source and asset diversification requirements.

The Company believes that the Board of Directors' existing role in risk oversight is appropriate. However, the Company re-examines the manner in which the Board of Directors administers its oversight function on an ongoing basis to ensure that it continues to meet the Company's needs.

### **Audit and Compensation Committee**

The members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. Anstiss, Hyman and Mazzarino, each of whom is not an interested person and is otherwise independent for purposes of the 1940 Act and Nasdaq's corporate governance regulations. Since September 2011, Mr. Anstiss has served as chairman of the Audit Committee. Our board of directors has adopted a charter for the Audit Committee, which is available on our website at <http://investor.fidus.com/governance.cfm>.

The Audit Committee is responsible for approving our independent accountants and recommending them to the board of directors (including a majority of the independent directors) for approval and submission to the board of directors for ratification, reviewing with our independent accountants the plans and results of the audit engagement, approving professional services provided by our accountants, reviewing the independence of our independent accountants and reviewing the adequacy of our internal accounting controls.

The Audit Committee is also responsible for aiding the board of directors in determining the fair value of debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or for which current market values are not readily available. The Audit Committee also currently receives input from independent valuation firms that have been engaged at the direction of the board of directors to value certain portfolio investments. In addition, the Audit Committee is responsible for discussing with management our major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including our risk assessment and risk management policies.

The board of directors has determined that Mr. Anstiss is an audit committee financial expert within the meaning of the rules of the SEC. Mr. Anstiss acquired his financial expertise from his education and experience as a public accountant, his experience actively supervising financial officers of public companies and in his supervisory role at a public accounting firm and from his experience overseeing and assessing the performance of public accountants with respect to the preparation, auditing and evaluation of financial statements. Mr. Anstiss has consented to be named as an audit committee financial expert.

Because the Audit Committee is charged with approving our related-party transactions, the board of directors has determined not to create a separate compensation committee and instead has charged the Audit Committee with overseeing amounts payable to our advisor pursuant to the Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement, and making a recommendation to the board of directors with respect to the board's approval (including the approval of a majority of the directors who are not interested persons of the Company within the meaning of Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act, as amended) of the renewal of the Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement.

The board of directors has determined not to create a separate compensation committee charter and instead has included applicable compensation charter provisions in the charter of the Audit Committee, which is available on our website at <http://investor.fidus.com/governance.cfm>. The Audit Committee charter sets forth the responsibilities of a compensation committee, including overseeing the Company's compensation policies,

## **Table of Contents**

evaluating executive officer performance and reviewing and approving the compensation, if any, by the Company of its executive officers.

In reviewing and approving the compensation, if any, by the Company for each of the Company's executive officers, the Audit Committee will, among other things, consider corporate goals and objectives relevant to executive officer compensation, evaluate each executive officer's performance in light of such goals and objectives, and set each executive officer's compensation based on such evaluation and such other factors as the Audit Committee deems appropriate and in the best interests of the Company (including the cost to the Company of such compensation). Notwithstanding the foregoing, currently none of the Company's executive officers are directly compensated by the Company. However, the Company reimburses its administrator for the allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by the administrator in performing its obligations under an administration agreement, including an allocable share of the compensation of certain of the Company's executive officers with finance and compliance responsibilities.

### **Nominating Committee**

The members of the Nominating Committee are Messrs. Anstiss, Hyman and Mazzarino, each of whom is not an interested person and is otherwise independent for purposes of the 1940 Act and Nasdaq's corporate governance regulations. Mr. Hyman currently serves as chairman of the Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors has adopted a charter for the Nominating Committee, which is available on the Company's website at <http://investor.fidus.com/governance.cfm>.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting, researching and nominating directors for election by the Company's stockholders, selecting nominees to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors or a committee of the Board of Directors, developing and recommending to the Board of Directors a set of corporate governance principles and overseeing the evaluation of the Board of Directors and its committees.

The Nominating Committee identifies potential nominees based on suggestions from members of the Nominating Committee, other members of the Board of Directors, other executive officers and by other means, and evaluates such persons as a committee. The Nominating Committee will also consider nominees to the Board of Directors recommended by a stockholder, if such stockholder complies with the advance notice provisions of our bylaws. From time to time, the Board of Directors may determine that it requires a director with a particular expertise or qualification and will actively recruit such a candidate.

In considering which persons to nominate as directors for election by stockholders, the Board of Directors and its Nominating Committee consider the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of candidates, in light of the Company's then existing business and structure. Additionally, the committee generally will hire an outside firm to perform a background check on potential nominees. On an annual basis, the Nominating Committee evaluates the qualifications and diversity of the Board of Directors who are available for reelection in light of the characteristics of independence, age, skills, experience, availability of service to the Company and tenure of its members, and the Board of Directors' anticipated needs. The Nominating Committee has adopted a policy that it will seek to enhance the perspectives and experiences of the members of the Board of Directors through diversity in gender, ethnic background, geographic origin and professional experience. The Nominating Committee recommends to the Board of Directors for its approval the slate of directors to be nominated for election at the annual meeting of the Company's stockholders. The Board of Directors and its Nominating Committee periodically review board composition and the policies with respect thereto and as part of this review, the Nominating Committee evaluates the effectiveness of its policies, including the provisions with respect to diversity.

In considering possible candidates for nomination as a director, the Nominating Committee takes into account, in addition to such other factors as it deems relevant, the desirability of selecting directors who:

have strength of character;

## **Table of Contents**

have mature judgment;

have industry knowledge or experience; and

have an ability to work collegially with the other members of the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee also considers all applicable legal and regulatory requirements that govern the composition of the Board of Directors.

All nominees properly submitted to the Company (or which the Nominating Committee otherwise elects to consider) will be evaluated and considered by the members of the Nominating Committee using the same criteria as nominees identified by the Nominating Committee itself.

### **Communications Between Stockholders and the Board of Directors**

Stockholders with questions about Fidus Investment Corporation are encouraged to contact Shelby E. Sherard at Fidus Investment Corporation, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201. In addition, if stockholders feel their questions have not been addressed, they may communicate with our Board of Directors by sending their communications to: Fidus Investment Corporation, Board of Directors, c/o Edward H. Ross at the address listed above. In addition, stockholders may communicate with the Board of Directors by clicking [Contact the Board](#) on the Investor Relations section of our website at the following URL: <http://investor.fidus.com/contactBoard.com>. Communications are distributed to the Board of Directors as appropriate, depending on the facts and circumstances outlined in the communication. In that regard, the Board of Directors has requested that certain items that are unrelated to the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors should be excluded, such as: product complaints, product inquiries, new product suggestions, resumes and other forms of job inquiries, surveys and business solicitations or advertisements. In addition, material that is unduly hostile, threatening, illegal or similarly unsuitable will be excluded, with the provision that any communication that is filtered out must be available to any non-management director upon request.

### **Executive Sessions and Communication with the Board of Directors**

The independent directors serving on our Board of Directors intend to meet in executive sessions at the conclusion of each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, and additionally as needed, without the presence of any directors or other persons who are part of the Company's management. These executive sessions of our Board of Directors will be presided over by Mr. Anstiss or one of the other independent directors serving on the Board of Directors selected on an ad-hoc basis.

### **Code of Business Conduct and Corporate Governance Guidelines**

The Company has adopted a code of ethics (which we call our [Code of Business Conduct](#)) which all officers, directors and employees of the Company and its Investment Advisor are expected to observe. The Company intends to disclose any amendments to or waivers of required provisions of the Code of Business Conduct on the Company's website. The Company also has adopted corporate governance guidelines (which we call our [Corporate Governance Guidelines](#)) which apply to our Board of Directors. The Company's Code of Business Conduct and Corporate Governance Guidelines can be accessed via the Company's website at <http://investor.fidus.com/governance.cfm>. We will also provide any person, without charge, upon request, a copy of our Code of Business Conduct or Corporate Governance Guidelines. To receive a copy of either or both documents, please provide a written request to: Fidus Investment Corporation, Attn: Shelby E. Sherard, Chief Compliance Officer, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Our executive officers do not receive any direct compensation from us. We do not currently have any employees and currently do not expect to have any employees. Services necessary for our business are provided by individuals who are employees or other affiliates of our Investment Advisor, pursuant to the terms of our Investment Advisory Agreement and our administration agreement. Each of our executive officers is an employee or other affiliate of our Investment Advisor. Our day-to-day investment operations are managed by our Investment Advisor. All of the services necessary for the origination and administration of our investment portfolio are provided by investment professionals employed by our Investment Advisor. In addition, we reimburse our Investment Advisor, as administrator, for its allocable portion of expenses incurred by it in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including its allocable portion of the cost related to certain of our officers and their respective staffs, and for certain expenses under the administration agreement.

Under the Investment Advisory Agreement, our Investment Advisor earned and was paid approximately \$18.7 million in fees for the year ended December 31, 2017, consisting of a base management fee of \$9.8 million and an income incentive fee of \$8.9 million. For the year ended December 31, 2017, we accrued, but did not pay, \$2.1 million of capital gains incentive fees in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. During 2017, our Investment Advisor incurred approximately \$1.4 million of allocable expenses that are payable by the Company under the administration agreement.

**2017 DIRECTOR COMPENSATION TABLE**

The following table shows information regarding the compensation received by the Company's directors, none of whom is an employee of the Company, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Fees<br/>Earned<br/>or Paid<br/>in Cash<sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Independent Directors</b> |                                                              |              |
| Raymond L. Anstiss, Jr.      | \$ 91,000                                                    | \$ 91,000    |
| Charles D. Hyman             | \$ 86,000                                                    | \$ 86,000    |
| John A. Mazzarino            | \$ 81,000                                                    | \$ 81,000    |
| <b>Interested Directors</b>  |                                                              |              |
| Edward H. Ross               | None                                                         | None         |
| Thomas C. Lauer              | None                                                         | None         |

(1) For a discussion of the independent directors' compensation, see below.

The independent directors receive an annual fee of \$50,000. They receive \$5,000 plus reimbursement of reasonable and authorized business expenses incurred in connection with attending each quarterly meeting and the annual meeting. In addition, the chairperson of the Audit Committee receives an additional annual fee of \$10,000 and the chairperson of the Nominating Committee receives an additional annual fee of \$5,000 for his or her additional services in these capacities. They also receive \$1,500 per each additional Audit Committee meeting to review quarterly investment valuations.

No compensation is paid by the Company to interested directors. No information has been provided with respect to executive officers of the Company who are not directors since its executive officers do not receive any direct compensation from the Company.

## **Table of Contents**

### **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

#### **Related Party Transactions Policy and Procedure**

The Company has procedures in place for the review, approval and monitoring of transactions involving the Company and certain related persons of the Company. The Company has a written Code of Business Conduct that generally prohibits any officer, director and employee of the Company and employees of its Investment Advisor from engaging in any transaction where there is a conflict between such individual's personal interest and the interests of the Company. Certain actions or relationships that might give rise to a conflict of interest are reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. Waivers to the Code of Business Conduct for directors and executive officers can be obtained from the Board of Directors under certain circumstances and will be publicly disclosed as required by applicable law and regulations. In addition, the Audit Committee reviews and preapproves all related-party transactions (as defined in Item 404 of Regulation S-K).

Moreover, our Investment Advisor has enacted a conflict-resolution policy that addresses the co-investment restrictions set forth under the 1940 Act and the allocation of investment opportunities. The 1940 Act generally prohibits us from making certain negotiated co-investments with affiliates unless we first obtain an order from the SEC permitting us to do so. Where co-investments can be made, or where an investment opportunity becomes available to one investment vehicle managed by our Investment Advisor, then an equitable allocation must be made with respect to the investment.

The Company has obtained exemptive relief allowing us to engage in certain transactions with our affiliates that would otherwise be prohibited by the 1940 Act, as applicable to BDCs. The relief permits the Company and a wholly-owned subsidiary that is licensed by the U.S. Small Business Administration (the "SBA") as a small business investment company (an "SBIC") to operate effectively as one company, specifically allowing them to: (1) engage in certain transactions with each other; (2) invest in securities in which the other is or proposes to be an investor; (3) file consolidated reports with the Commission; and (4) be subject to modified consolidated asset coverage requirements for senior securities issued by a BDC and its SBIC subsidiary. Our second wholly-owned SBIC subsidiary has not elected to be treated as a BDC and is not party to this exemptive relief. The fourth exemption described above allows us to exclude any indebtedness guaranteed by the SBA and issued by Fund I from the 200.0% asset coverage requirements applicable to us. Effective September 30, 2014, any SBA debentures issued by our second wholly-owned SBIC subsidiary are not considered senior securities for purposes of the 200.0% asset coverage requirements.

If we invest alongside other accounts managed by our Investment Advisor, our Investment Advisor will seek to ensure the equitable allocation of investment opportunities between us and the other relevant accounts. If we invest alongside such other accounts as permitted by the 1940 Act and related rules, such investments will be made consistent with our Investment Advisor's allocation policy. Under this allocation policy, a fixed percentage of each opportunity, which may vary based on asset class and from time to time, will be offered to us and similar eligible accounts, as periodically determined by our Investment Advisor and approved by our Board of Directors, including our Independent Directors. The allocation policy provides that allocations among us and other accounts will generally be made pro rata based on each account's capital available for investment, as determined, in our case, by our Board of Directors, including our Independent Directors. It is our policy to make our determinations as to the amount of capital available for investment based on such factors as the amount of cash on hand, existing commitments and reserves, if any, the targeted leverage level, the targeted asset mix and diversification requirements and other investment policies and restrictions set by our Board of Directors, or imposed by applicable laws, rules, regulations or interpretations. We expect that these determinations will be made similarly for other accounts. On January 4, 2017, the SEC granted us relief sought in an exemptive application that expands our ability to co-invest in portfolio companies with certain of our affiliates managed by our investment advisor in a manner consistent with our investment objective, positions, policies, strategies and restrictions as well as regulatory requirements and other pertinent factors, subject to compliance with certain conditions (the "Order"). Pursuant to the Order, we are permitted to co-invest with our affiliates if a required majority (as

## **Table of Contents**

defined in Section 57(o) of the 1940 Act) of our independent directors make certain conclusions in connection with a co-investment transaction, including that (1) the terms of the transactions, including the consideration to be paid, are reasonable and fair to us and our stockholders and do not involve overreaching by us or our stockholders on the part of any person concerned, and (2) the transaction is consistent with the interests of our stockholders and is consistent with our investment objective and strategies. We intend to co-invest, subject to the conditions included in the Order.

In situations where co-investment with other entities managed by our Investment Advisor is not permitted or appropriate, such as when there is an opportunity to invest in different securities of the same issuer, our Investment Advisor will need to decide whether we or such other entity or entities will proceed with the investment. Our Investment Advisor will make these determinations based on our allocation policy that generally requires that such opportunities be offered to eligible accounts on a basis that will be fair and equitable over time, including, for example, through random or rotational methods.

In addition, certain members of our Investment Advisor and its investment committees are also members of Fidus Partners, LLC ( *Partners* ), an investment banking firm. Partners may in the future serve as an advisor to our portfolio companies and we may invest in companies that Partners is advising. Partners may receive fees in connection with these advisory services, subject to regulatory restrictions imposed by the 1940 Act.

In May 2015, our Investment Advisor entered into a combination with Partners (the *Combination* ), by which members of Fidus Investment Advisors LLC and Partners contributed all of their respective membership interest in Fidus Investment Advisors LLC and Partners to a newly formed limited liability company, Fidus Group Holdings, LLC ( *Holdings* ). As a result, our investment adviser is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Holdings, which is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware.

## **Certain Transactions With or Involving Related Persons**

### ***Investment Advisory Agreement***

Under the Investment Advisory Agreement with our Investment Advisor, we pay our Investment Advisor a management fee and incentive fee that consists of an income incentive fee and a capital gains incentive fee. The incentive fee is computed and paid on income that we may not have yet received in cash. This fee structure may create an incentive for our Investment Advisor to invest in certain types of securities that may have a high degree of risk. Additionally, we rely on investment professionals from our Investment Advisor to assist our Board of Directors with the valuation of our portfolio investments. Our Investment Advisor's management fee and incentive fee are based on the value of our investments and there may be a conflict of interest when personnel of our Investment Advisor are involved in the valuation process for our portfolio investments. The base management fee under the Investment Advisory Agreement for the year ended December 31, 2017 totaled \$9.8 million. The income incentive fee expense for the year ended December 31, 2017 totaled \$8.9 million. For the year ended December 31, 2017, we accrued, but did not pay, \$2.1 million of capital gains incentive fees in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Mr. E. Ross is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company and Fund I and the chairman of our Investment Advisor's investment committees. Moreover, Mr. E. Ross is the Chief Executive Officer of our Investment Advisor. The board of managers of our Investment Advisor, the manager of Fidus Investment GP, LLC, the general partner of the Funds, currently controls the Funds. The following people are members of the board of managers of our Investment Advisor: Messrs. E. Ross, Lauer, J. Ross, John H. Grigg and Andrew W. Worth. Officers and members of the board of managers of our Investment Advisor receive a benefit from the fees paid to our Investment Advisor pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement. Our Board of Directors, which consists of a majority of non-interested directors, has approved the Investment Advisory Agreement, including the fees paid pursuant to such agreement.

**Table of Contents**

***Administration Agreement***

Pursuant to the administration agreement, our Investment Advisor furnishes us with office facilities and equipment and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at such facilities. Under the administration agreement, our Investment Advisor performs, or oversees the performance of, our required administrative services, which include being responsible for the financial records that we are required to maintain and preparing reports to our stockholders and reports filed with the SEC. In addition, our Investment Advisor assists us in determining and publishing our net asset value, oversees the preparation and filing of our tax returns and the printing and dissemination of reports to our stockholders, and generally oversees the payment of our expenses and the performance of administrative and professional services rendered to us by others. Under the administration agreement, our Investment Advisor also provides managerial assistance on our behalf to those portfolio companies that have accepted our offer to provide such assistance. Payments under the administration agreement are equal to an amount based upon our allocable portion of our Investment Advisor's overhead in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the cost related to certain of our officers, including our Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer and their respective staffs. Under the administration agreement, administrative expenses for services provided for the year ended December 31, 2017 totaled \$1.4 million.

**Table of Contents****SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 16, 2018, the record date, by each of our executive officers and independent directors and all of our directors and executive officers as a group. As of March 16, 2018, we are not aware of any five percent beneficial owners of our common stock.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. There is no common stock subject to options or warrants that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 16, 2018. Percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 24,463,119 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 16, 2018. Unless otherwise stated, the business address of each person below is 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201. Except as otherwise described in the notes below, the following beneficial owners have sole voting power and sole investment power with respect to all shares of common stock set forth opposite their respective names.

| <b>Name and Address</b>                          | <b>Number of<br/>Shares<br/>Beneficially<br/>Owned <sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>Percentage<br/>of Class</b> | <b>Dollar Range of<br/>Equity Securities<br/>Beneficially Owned <sup>(2)(3)</sup></b> |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Interested Directors:</b>                     |                                                                       |                                |                                                                                       |
| Edward H. Ross                                   | 171,455                                                               | *                              | over \$100,000                                                                        |
| Thomas C. Lauer                                  | 74,600                                                                | *                              | over \$100,000                                                                        |
| <b>Independent Directors:</b>                    |                                                                       |                                |                                                                                       |
| Raymond L. Anstiss, Jr.                          | 12,256                                                                | *                              | over \$100,000                                                                        |
| Charles D. Hyman                                 | 23,200                                                                | *                              | over \$100,000                                                                        |
| John A. Mazzarino                                | 11,946                                                                | *                              | over \$100,000                                                                        |
| <b>Executive Officers Who Are Not Directors:</b> |                                                                       |                                |                                                                                       |
| Shelby E. Sherard                                | 13,935                                                                | *                              | over \$100,000                                                                        |
| All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group  | 307,392                                                               | 1.3%                           | over \$100,000                                                                        |

\* Represents less than 1.0%.

(1) Beneficial ownership has been determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 of the Exchange Act.

(2) Beneficial ownership has been determined in accordance with Rule 16a-1(a)(2) of the Exchange Act.

(3) The dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by our directors is based on a stock price of \$12.98 per share as of March 16, 2018.

**Table of Contents**

**SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act and the disclosure requirements of Item 405 of SEC Regulation S-K require that our directors and executive officers, and any persons holding more than 10% of any class of our equity securities report their ownership of such equity securities and any subsequent changes in that ownership to the SEC, Nasdaq and to us. Based solely on a review of the written statements and copies of such reports furnished to us by our executive officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners, we believe that during fiscal year 2017 all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to the executive officers, directors and stockholders were timely satisfied.

## Table of Contents

### PROPOSAL NO. 2

#### APPROVAL TO SELL OR OTHERWISE ISSUE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK BELOW NET ASSET VALUE

The Company is a closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act prohibits the Company from selling shares of its common stock at a price below the Company's then current net asset value (NAV) per share, with certain exceptions. One such exception would permit the Company to sell shares of its common stock during the next year at a price below the Company's then current NAV per share if its stockholders approve such a sale and the Company's directors make certain determinations. Pursuant to this provision, the Company is seeking the approval of its common stockholders so that it may, in one or more public or private offerings of its common stock, sell shares of its common stock at a price below its then current NAV per share, subject to certain conditions discussed below. If approved, the authorization would be effective for a period expiring on the earlier of the one year anniversary of the date of this Annual Meeting or the date of the Company's 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Generally, equity securities sold in public securities offerings are priced based on public market prices quoted on exchanges such as Nasdaq, rather than NAV, or book value, per share. Since the Company's initial public offering, at times the Company's common stock has traded above its NAV per share, and at times the Company's common stock has traded below its NAV per share. Similar to last year, the Company is again seeking the approval of a majority of its common stockholders to authorize the Company, pursuant to approval of the Company's Board of Directors, to sell or otherwise issue shares of its common stock during the next year at a price below the Company's then current NAV per share, subject to certain conditions as set forth in this proxy statement (including that the cumulative number of shares sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of its then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale).

Selling or otherwise issuing shares of the Company's common stock below its then current NAV per share would result in a dilution of the Company's existing common stockholders. It should be noted that the maximum number of shares issuable below NAV pursuant to this authority that could result in such dilution is limited to 25% of the Company's then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale.

**Furthermore, pursuant to this authority, there would be no limit on the discount to NAV at which shares could be sold.** See below for a discussion and examples of the dilutive effect of the issuance of shares below net asset value.

#### Reasons to Offer or otherwise Issue Common Stock Below NAV

We believe that the limited amount of capital available to lower middle-market companies, coupled with the desire of these companies for flexible and partnership-oriented sources of capital, creates an attractive investment environment for us. From our perspective, lower middle-market companies have faced difficulty raising debt capital in both the capital markets and private markets. As a result of the difficulties in the credit markets and fewer sources of capital for lower middle-market companies, we see opportunities for improved risk-adjusted returns. Furthermore, we believe with a large pool of uninvested private equity capital seeking debt capital to complete transactions and a substantial supply of refinancing opportunities, there is an opportunity to attain appealing risk-adjusted returns on debt and equity investments.

As a BDC and a RIC, the Company is dependent on its ability to raise capital through the issuance of common stock. RICs generally must distribute substantially all of their earnings to stockholders as dividends in order to achieve pass-through tax treatment, which prevents the Company from using those earnings to support new investments. Further, BDCs must maintain a debt to equity ratio of less than 1:1, which requires the Company to finance its investments with at least as much equity as debt in the aggregate. To continue to build the Company's investment portfolio, and thereby support maintenance and growth of the Company's dividends, the Company endeavors to maintain consistent access to capital through the public and private equity markets enabling it to take advantage of investment opportunities as they arise.

**Table of Contents**

Although the Company's common stock has had a relatively limited trading history, it has traded both at a premium and at a discount in relation to its NAV, which is the equivalent of book value, rather than market or publicly-traded value. The possibility that shares of our common stock will trade at either a discount from NAV or at premiums that are unsustainable over the long term is separate and distinct from the risk that our NAV will decrease. It is not possible to predict whether any shares of our common stock issued in the future will trade at, above, or below NAV. The Company has had six follow-on equity offerings since closing its IPO in June 2011 and each offering has priced above the Company's then current NAV. The following table lists the high and low sales prices for our common stock, and the sales prices as percentages of net asset values. On March 16, 2018, the record date, the last reported closing sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market was \$12.98.

|                                     | Closing Sales Price |          |          | Premium/<br>(Discount) of<br>High Sales<br>Price to<br>NAV <sup>(2)</sup> | Premium/<br>(Discount) of<br>Low Sales<br>Price to<br>NAV <sup>(2)</sup> | Distributions<br>Per Share <sup>(3)</sup> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Period                              | NAV <sup>(1)</sup>  | High     | Low      |                                                                           |                                                                          |                                           |
| <b>Year ended December 31, 2013</b> |                     |          |          |                                                                           |                                                                          |                                           |
| First Quarter                       | \$ 15.46            | \$ 19.15 | \$ 16.52 | 23.9%                                                                     | 6.9%                                                                     | \$ 0.38                                   |
| Second Quarter                      | 16.06               | 19.17    | 17.28    | 19.4                                                                      | 7.6                                                                      | 0.38                                      |
| Third Quarter                       | 15.98               | 19.73    | 18.60    | 23.5                                                                      | 16.4                                                                     | 0.42                                      |
| Fourth Quarter                      | 15.35               | 22.29    | 18.64    | 45.2                                                                      | 21.4                                                                     | 0.76                                      |
| <b>Year ended December 31, 2014</b> |                     |          |          |                                                                           |                                                                          |                                           |
| First Quarter                       | 15.22               | 21.99    | 17.86    | 44.5                                                                      | 17.3                                                                     | 0.38                                      |
| Second Quarter                      | 15.09               | 20.54    | 16.63    | 36.1                                                                      | 10.2                                                                     | 0.48                                      |
| Third Quarter                       | 15.18               | 20.04    | 16.51    | 32.0                                                                      | 8.8                                                                      | 0.38                                      |
| Fourth Quarter                      | 15.15               | 17.10    | 13.71    | 12.8                                                                      | (9.6)                                                                    | 0.48                                      |
| <b>Year ended December 31, 2015</b> |                     |          |          |                                                                           |                                                                          |                                           |
| First Quarter                       | 15.18               | 17.02    | 14.40    | 12.1                                                                      | (5.1)                                                                    | 0.38                                      |
| Second Quarter                      | 15.18               | 16.90    | 14.90    | 11.3                                                                      | (1.8)                                                                    | 0.40                                      |
| Third Quarter                       | 15.12               | 15.51    | 13.65    | 2.6                                                                       | (9.7)                                                                    | 0.39                                      |
| Fourth Quarter                      | 15.17               | 14.80    | 13.11    | (2.4)                                                                     | (13.6)                                                                   | 0.43                                      |
| <b>Year ended December 31, 2016</b> |                     |          |          |                                                                           |                                                                          |                                           |
| First Quarter                       | 15.25               | 15.51    | 11.91    | 1.7                                                                       | (21.9)                                                                   | 0.39                                      |
| Second Quarter                      | 15.52               | 15.96    | 14.70    | 2.8                                                                       | (5.3)                                                                    | 0.39                                      |
| Third Quarter                       | 15.58               | 16.33    | 15.22    | 4.8                                                                       | (2.3)                                                                    | 0.39                                      |
| Fourth Quarter                      | 15.76               | 17.07    | 14.62    | 8.3                                                                       | (7.2)                                                                    | 0.43                                      |
| <b>Year ended December 31, 2017</b> |                     |          |          |                                                                           |                                                                          |                                           |
| First Quarter                       | 15.80               | 17.57    | 15.88    | 11.2                                                                      | 0.5                                                                      | 0.39                                      |
| Second Quarter                      | 15.87               | 18.06    | 16.37    | 13.8                                                                      | 3.2                                                                      | 0.39                                      |
| Third Quarter                       | 15.97               | 17.04    | 15.80    | 6.7                                                                       | (1.1)                                                                    | 0.39                                      |
| Fourth Quarter                      | 16.05               | 16.83    | 15.18    | 4.9                                                                       | (5.4)                                                                    | 0.43                                      |

(1) NAV per share is determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the NAV per share on the date of the high and low sales prices. The NAVs shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of each period.

(2) Calculated as the respective high or low sales price divided by NAV.

(3) Represents the distribution declared in the specified quarter. We have adopted an opt out dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a distribution, then stockholders' cash distributions will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically opt out of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash distributions.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated profits and earnings would be treated first as a return of capital to the extent of the stockholders' tax basis, and any remaining distributions would be treated as a capital gain. The determination of the tax attributes of our distributions will be made annually as of the end

## **Table of Contents**

of our fiscal year based upon our taxable income for the full year and distributions paid for the full year. Therefore, a determination made on a quarterly basis may not be representative of the actual tax attributes of our distributions for a full year. Each year, a statement on Form 1099-DIV identifying the source of the distribution will be sent to our U.S. stockholders of record. No portion of the distributions reported in the table above represented a return of capital.

Credit market dislocation and uncertainty surrounding the U.S. economy may lead to significant stock market volatility, particularly with respect to the stock of financial services companies. During times of increased price volatility, the Company's common stock may periodically trade below its NAV, which is not uncommon for BDCs like the Company. As noted above, however, market uncertainties have created, and we believe will continue to create, favorable opportunities to invest, including opportunities that, all else being equal, may increase NAV over the longer-term, even if financed with the issuance of common stock below NAV, although there is no assurance that this will occur. The Company expects that it will be periodically presented with attractive opportunities that require the Company to make an investment commitment quickly. The Company may be unable to capitalize on investment opportunities presented to it unless it is able to quickly raise capital. Stockholder approval of the proposal to sell shares below NAV subject to the conditions detailed below will provide the Company with the flexibility to invest in such opportunities.

The Board of Directors believes that having the flexibility to issue its common stock below NAV in certain instances is in the best interests of stockholders. If the Company were unable to access the capital markets as attractive investment opportunities arise, the Company's ability to grow over time and continue to pay steady or increasing dividends to stockholders could be adversely affected. It could also have the effect of forcing the Company to sell assets that the Company would not otherwise sell, and such sales could occur at times that are disadvantageous to sell.

### **Conditions to Sales Below NAV**

The Company will only sell or otherwise issue shares of its common stock at a price below NAV per share if the following conditions are met:

the holders of a majority of the Company's outstanding voting securities, and the holders of a majority of the Company's outstanding voting securities that are not affiliated persons of the Company, approved the Company's policy and practice of making such sales of securities at the last annual meeting of stockholders within one year immediately prior to any such sale;

a majority of the Company's directors who have no financial interest in the sale and a majority of such directors who are not interested persons of the Company have determined that any such sale would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders; and

a majority of the Company's directors who have no financial interest in the sale and a majority of such directors who are not interested persons of the Company, in consultation with the underwriter or underwriters of the offering if it is to be underwritten, have determined in good faith, and as of a time immediately prior to the first solicitation by or on behalf of the Company of firm commitments to purchase such securities or immediately prior to the issuance of such securities, that the price at which such securities are to be sold is not less than a price which closely approximates the market value of those securities, less any distributing commission or discount.

the Company has filed a new post-effective amendment to an effective registration statement if the cumulative dilution to net asset value per share from offerings under the registration statement exceeds 15%.

Finally, in determining whether or not to sell additional shares of the Company's common stock at a price below the NAV per share, the Board of Directors has a duty to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. Shares of common stock sold at prices below then current NAV upon exercise or conversion of any warrants or other securities that may be issued under authority granted by our stockholders at our 2018 annual meeting will not be taken into account in determining whether the 25% limitation described above in this proposal has been reached.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Key Stockholder Considerations**

Before voting on this proposal or giving proxies with regard to this matter, common stockholders should consider the dilutive effect of the issuance of shares of the Company's common stock at less than NAV per share on the NAV per outstanding share of common stock. Any sale of common stock at a price below NAV would result in an immediate dilution to existing common stockholders. Since under this proposal shares of the Company's common stock or securities otherwise issued could be issued at a price that is substantially below the NAV per share, the dilution could be substantial. This dilution would include reduction in the NAV per share as a result of the issuance of shares at a price below the NAV per share and a proportionately greater decrease in a stockholder's interest in the earnings and assets of the Company and voting interest in the Company than the increase in the assets of the Company resulting from such issuance. If this Proposal No. 2 is approved, the Board of Directors of the Company may, consistent with its fiduciary duties, approve the sale or otherwise issue shares of the Company's common stock at any discount to its then current NAV per share; however, the Board of Directors will consider the potential dilutive effect of the issuance of shares at a price below the NAV per share when considering whether to authorize any such issuance and will act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders in doing so.

The 1940 Act establishes a connection between common share sale price and NAV because, when shares of common stock or other specific securities are sold at a sale price below NAV per share, the resulting increase in the number of outstanding shares is not accompanied by a proportionate increase in the net assets of the issuer. Further, if current stockholders of the Company do not purchase any shares to maintain their percentage interest, regardless of whether such offering is above or below the then current NAV, their voting power will be diluted. For an illustration of the potential dilutive effect of an offering of our common stock at a price below NAV, please see the table below under the heading *Examples of Dilutive Effect of the Issuance of Shares Below NAV*.

It should be noted that the cumulative number of shares sold below NAV pursuant to this approval is limited to 25% of the Company's then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale. While we aggregate all sales sold below NAV throughout the year for purposes of this limit, the maximum is based on the percentage of outstanding common shares at the time of each offering and if we issue additional shares throughout the year, we would be able to issue more shares below NAV before reaching the 25% limit. Furthermore, there would be no limit on the discount to NAV at which shares could be sold.

Finally, any sale of substantial amounts of our common stock or other securities in the open market may adversely affect the market price of our common stock and may adversely affect our ability to obtain future financing in the capital markets. In addition, future sales of our common stock to the public may create a potential market overhang, which is the existence of a large block of shares readily available for sale that could lead the market to discount the value of shares held by other investors. In the event we were to continue to sell our common stock at prices below NAV for sustained periods of time, such offerings may result in sustained discounts in the marketplace.

### **Examples of Dilutive Effect of the Issuance of Shares Below NAV**

The following table illustrates the level of NAV dilution that would be experienced by a nonparticipating stockholder in four different hypothetical offerings of different sizes and levels of discount from NAV per share, although it is not possible to predict the level of market price decline that may occur. Actual sales prices and discounts may differ from the presentation below.

The examples assume that Company XYZ has 1,000,000 common shares outstanding, \$15,000,000 in total assets and \$5,000,000 in total liabilities. The current NAV and net asset value per share are thus \$10,000,000 and \$10.00. The table illustrates the dilutive effect on nonparticipating Stockholder A of (1) an offering of 50,000 shares (5% of the outstanding shares) at \$9.50 per share after offering expenses and commission (a 5% discount from NAV), (2) an offering of 100,000 shares (10% of the outstanding shares) at \$9.00 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 10% discount from NAV), (3) an offering of 200,000 shares (20% of the outstanding shares) at \$8.00 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 20% discount from NAV),

**Table of Contents**

(4) an offering of 250,000 shares (25% of the outstanding shares) at \$7.50 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 25% discount from NAV) and (5) an offering of 250,000 (25% of the outstanding shares) with the proceeds to the Company at \$0.00 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 100% discount from NAV). Under this proposal, there is no limit on the discount at which the Company may sell its shares.

## Table of Contents

### Dilutive Effect of the Issuance of Shares by Company XYZ Below Net Asset Value

|                                                                                                                    |                                  | Example 1<br>5% Offering<br>At 5% Discount |             | Example 2<br>10% Offering<br>At 10% Discount |             | Example 3<br>20% Offering<br>At 20% Discount |             | Example 4<br>25% Offering<br>At 25% Discount |             | Example 5<br>25% Offering<br>At 100% Discount |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                                                                                                    | Prior to<br>Sale<br>Below<br>NAV | Following<br>Sale                          | %<br>Change | Following<br>Sale                            | %<br>Change | Following<br>Sale                            | %<br>Change | Following<br>Sale                            | %<br>Change | Following<br>Sale                             | %<br>Change |
| <b>Offering Price</b>                                                                                              |                                  |                                            |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                               |             |
| Price per Share to Public                                                                                          |                                  | \$10.00                                    |             | \$9.47                                       |             | \$8.42                                       |             | \$7.89                                       |             | \$                                            |             |
| Net Proceeds per Share to Issuer                                                                                   |                                  | \$9.50                                     |             | \$9.00                                       |             | \$8.00                                       |             | \$7.50                                       |             | \$                                            |             |
| <b>Decrease to NAV</b>                                                                                             |                                  |                                            |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                               |             |
| Total Shares Outstanding                                                                                           | 1,000,000                        | 1,050,000                                  | 5.00%       | 1,100,000                                    | 10.00%      | 1,200,000                                    | 20.00%      | 1,250,000                                    | 25.00%      | 1,250,000                                     | 25.00%      |
| NAV per Share                                                                                                      | \$10.00                          | \$9.98                                     | (0.24)%     | \$9.91                                       | (0.91)%     | \$9.67                                       | (3.33)%     | \$9.50                                       | (5.00)%     | \$8.00                                        | (20.00)%    |
| <b>Dilution to Stockholder</b>                                                                                     |                                  |                                            |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                               |             |
| Shares Held by Stockholder A                                                                                       | 10,000                           | 10,000                                     |             | 10,000                                       |             | 10,000                                       |             | 10,000                                       |             | 10,000                                        |             |
| Percentage Held by Stockholder A                                                                                   | 1.0%                             | 0.95%                                      | (4.76)%     | 0.91%                                        | (9.09)%     | 0.83%                                        | (16.67)%    | 0.80%                                        | (20.00)%    | 0.80%                                         | (20.00)%    |
| <b>Total Asset Values</b>                                                                                          |                                  |                                            |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                               |             |
| Total NAV Held by Stockholder A                                                                                    | \$100,000                        | \$99,762                                   | (0.24)%     | \$99,091                                     | (0.91)%     | \$96,667                                     | (3.33)%     | \$95,000                                     | (5.00)%     | \$80,000                                      | (20.00)%    |
| Total Investment by Stockholder A<br>(Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share)                                             | \$100,000                        | \$100,000                                  |             | \$100,000                                    |             | \$100,000                                    |             | \$100,000                                    |             | \$100,000                                     |             |
| Total Dilution to Stockholder A<br>(Total NAV Less Total Investment)                                               |                                  | \$(238)                                    |             | \$(909)                                      |             | \$(3,333)                                    |             | \$(5,000)                                    |             | \$(20,000)                                    |             |
| <b>Per Share Amounts</b>                                                                                           |                                  |                                            |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                              |             |                                               |             |
| NAV per Share Held by Stockholder A                                                                                |                                  | \$9.98                                     |             | \$9.91                                       |             | \$9.67                                       |             | \$9.50                                       |             | \$8.00                                        |             |
| Investment per Share Held by<br>Stockholder A (Assumed to be \$10.00<br>per Share on Shares Held Prior to<br>Sale) | \$10.00                          | \$10.00                                    |             | \$10.00                                      |             | \$10.00                                      |             | \$10.00                                      |             | \$10.00                                       |             |
| Dilution per Share Held by<br>Stockholder A (NAV per Share Less<br>Investment per Share)                           |                                  | \$(0.02)                                   |             | \$(0.09)                                     |             | \$(0.33)                                     |             | \$(0.50)                                     |             | \$(2.00)                                      |             |
| Percentage Dilution to Stockholder A<br>(Dilution per Share Divided by<br>Investment per Share)                    |                                  |                                            | (0.24)%     |                                              | (0.91)%     |                                              | (3.33)%     |                                              | (5.00)%     |                                               | (20.00)%    |

**Table of Contents**

**Required Vote**

Approval of this proposal requires the affirmative vote of (1) a 1940 Act majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting; and (2) a 1940 Act majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting which are not held by affiliated persons of the Company.

*The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** the proposal to authorize the Company, pursuant to approval of the Board of Directors of the Company, to sell or otherwise issue shares of its common stock during the next year at a price below the Company's then current net asset value per share, subject to certain conditions as set forth in this proxy statement (including that the cumulative number of shares sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of its then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale).*

**Table of Contents****INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has selected RSM US LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. RSM US LLP also will serve as the independent registered public accounting firm for all of our wholly-owned subsidiaries.

RSM US LLP has advised us that neither the firm nor any present member or associate of it has any material financial interest, direct or indirect, in us or our wholly-owned subsidiaries. It is expected that a representative of RSM US LLP will be present at the Annual Meeting and will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she chooses and will be available to answer appropriate questions.

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm's Fees**

We have paid or expect to pay the following fees to RSM US LLP for work performed in 2016 and 2017 or attributable to the audit of our 2016 and 2017 financial statements:

|                    | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>December 31,<br/>2016</b> | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>December 31,<br/>2017 <sup>(1)</sup></b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Audit Fees         | \$ 538,850 <sup>(3)</sup>                          | \$ 530,100 <sup>(2)</sup>                                         |
| Audit Related Fees |                                                    |                                                                   |
| Tax Fees           |                                                    |                                                                   |
| All Other Fees     |                                                    |                                                                   |
| <b>Total Fees:</b> | <b>\$ 538,850</b>                                  | <b>\$ 530,100</b>                                                 |

(1) Includes estimated billings for fiscal year 2017.

(2) Includes fees of \$38,000 related to our public offerings of common stock under our universal shelf registration statement on Form N-2 and \$22,000 related to our public offerings of common stock under our ATM Program.

(3) Includes fees of \$78,757 related to our public offerings of common stock under our universal shelf registration statement on Form N-2.

*Audit Fees.* Audit fees include fees for services that normally would be provided by the accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements and that generally only the independent accountant can provide. In addition to fees for the audit of our annual financial statements, the audit of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting and the review of our quarterly financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, this category contains fees for comfort letters, statutory audits, consents, and assistance with and review of documents filed with the SEC.

*Audit Related Fees.* Audit related fees are assurance related services that traditionally are performed by the independent accountant, such as attest services that are not required by statute or regulation.

*Tax Fees.* Tax fees include corporate and subsidiary compliance and consulting.

*All Other Fees.* Fees for other services would include fees for products and services other than the services reported above.

**Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

Our Audit Committee has established, and our Board of Directors has approved a pre-approval policy that describes the permitted audit, audit-related, tax and other services to be provided by RSM US LLP, the Company's independent registered accounting firm. The policy requires that the Audit Committee pre-approve the audit and non-audit services performed by the independent registered accounting firm in order to assure that the provision of such service does not impair the firm's independence. The Audit Committee has pre-approved all services by RSM US LLP that were performed during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.



**Table of Contents**

Any requests for audit, audit-related, tax and other services that have not received general pre-approval must be submitted to the Audit Committee for specific pre-approval, irrespective of the amount. Before the Company engages the independent registered public accounting firm to render a service, the engagement must be either (i) specifically approved by the Audit Committee or (ii) entered into pursuant to the pre-approval policy. Normally, pre-approval is provided at regularly scheduled meetings of the Audit Committee. However, the Audit Committee may delegate pre-approval authority to one or more of its members. The member or members to whom such authority is delegated shall report any pre-approval decisions to the Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting. The Audit Committee does not delegate its responsibilities to pre-approve services performed by the independent registered accounting firm to management.

## **Table of Contents**

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Fidus Investment Corporation operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, which is available on the Company's website at <https://investor.fidus.com/governance.cfm>. The Audit Committee is currently comprised of Messrs. Anstiss, Hyman and Mazzarino.

Management is responsible for the Company's internal controls and the financial reporting process. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes. The Audit Committee is also directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

#### **Review with Management**

The Audit Committee has reviewed the audited financial statements and met and held discussions with management regarding the audited financial statements. Management has represented to the Audit Committee that the Company's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

#### **Review and Discussion with Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Audit Committee has discussed with RSM US LLP matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No.16, *Communications with Audit Committees*, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Audit Committee received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter from RSM US LLP required by Independence Standard No. 1, *Independence Discussions with Audit Committees*, as amended by the Independence Standards Board, and has discussed with RSM US LLP its independence and the compatibility of non-audit services with the firm's independence.

#### **Conclusion**

Based on the Audit Committee's discussion with management and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee's review of the audited financial statements, the representations of management and the report of the independent registered public accounting firm to the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended that the Board of Directors include the audited consolidated financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee also appoints RSM US LLP to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ended December 31, 2018.

The Audit Committee

Raymond L. Anstiss, Jr., Chair  
Charles D. Hyman  
John A. Mazzarino

*The foregoing report shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this Proxy Statement into any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such Securities Act and/or Exchange Act.*

**Table of Contents**

**PRIVACY NOTICE**

We are committed to maintaining the privacy of our stockholders and to safeguarding their nonpublic personal information. The following information is provided to help you understand what personal information we collect, how we protect that information and why, in certain cases, we may share information with select other parties.

From time to time, we may receive nonpublic personal information relating to our stockholders. We do not disclose nonpublic personal information about our stockholders or former stockholders to anyone, except as required by law or as is necessary in order to service stockholder accounts (for example, to a transfer agent or third-party administrator).

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about our stockholders to employees of our investment advisor, its affiliates or authorized service providers that have a legitimate business need for the information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards designed to protect the nonpublic personal information of our stockholders.

**Table of Contents**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board of Directors knows of no other business to be presented for action at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. If any matters do come before the meeting on which action can properly be taken, it is intended that the proxies shall vote in accordance with the judgment of the person or persons exercising the authority conferred by the proxy at the meeting. The submission of a proposal does not guarantee its inclusion in our proxy statement or presentation at the meeting unless certain securities law requirements are met.

**You are cordially invited to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders in person. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, you are requested to indicate your vote as to the matters to be acted on at the meeting by following the instructions provided in the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction form.**

By order of the Board of Directors

Shelby E. Sherard  
Chief Financial Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and  
Corporate Secretary

Evanston, Illinois

March 27, 2018

**Table of Contents**

**Table of Contents**