

HANCOCK JOHN INVESTORS TRUST  
Form DEF 14A  
January 21, 2005

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 21, 2005.

SCHEDULE 14A  
(RULE 14A-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

FILE NUMBER 811-4173

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO. \_\_)

- Filed by the Registrant  
 Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement  
 Definitive Proxy Statement  
 Definitive Additional Materials  
 Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST  
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST  
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement)

Payment of filing fee (check the appropriate box):

- \$125 per Exchange Act Rules 0-11(c) (1) (ii), 14a-6 (i) (1), or  
14a-6 (i) (2) or Item 22(a) (2) or schedule 14A (sent by wire transmission).  
 Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.  
 No fee required.

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JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS

JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST  
JOHN HANCOCK INCOME SECURITIES TRUST

January 21, 2005

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

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As an investor in one of the funds listed above, you are cordially invited to attend the annual shareholder meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at 9:00 A.M., Eastern Time, to be held at John Hancock Funds, 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02199.

The proposals set forth in the enclosed proxy statement are routine items. A routine item is one that occurs annually and makes no fundamental or material changes to a fund's investment objectives, policies or restrictions, or to the investment management contracts.

### ELECT YOUR FUND'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

For each fund, proposal number one asks common shareholders to elect eight Trustees and preferred shareholders to elect two Trustees to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified. Your proxy statement includes a brief description of each nominee's background.

### RATIFY THE TRUSTEES' SELECTION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

For each fund, proposal number two asks you to ratify or reject the Trustees' selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as each fund's independent registered public accounting firm for the fund's current fiscal year.

### YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

Please complete the enclosed proxy ballot form, sign it and mail it to us immediately. For your convenience, a postage-paid return envelope has been provided. A prompt response will help avoid the cost of additional mailings at your fund's expense.

If you have any questions, please call 1-800-852-0218, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M., Eastern Time.

Thank you in advance for your prompt action on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ James A. Shepherdson

James A. Shepherdson  
Chief Executive Officer

JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST  
JOHN HANCOCK INCOME SECURITIES TRUST  
101 HUNTINGTON AVENUE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02199

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD MARCH 2, 2005

THIS IS THE FORMAL AGENDA FOR YOUR FUND'S SHAREHOLDER MEETING. IT TELLS YOU WHAT MATTERS WILL BE VOTED ON AND THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING, IN CASE YOU WANT TO ATTEND IN PERSON.

To the Shareholders of:

John Hancock Investors Trust  
John Hancock Income Securities Trust:

A shareholder meeting for each fund will be held at 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at 9:00 A.M., Eastern Time, and shareholders of each fund will consider the following proposals:

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- (1) To elect Trustees to serve until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified. Common shareholders may elect eight Trustees and preferred shareholders may elect two Trustees.
- (2) To ratify or reject the Trustees' selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the fund's independent registered public accounting firm for the fund's current fiscal year.
- (3) To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment of the meeting.

YOUR TRUSTEES RECOMMEND THAT YOU VOTE IN FAVOR OF ALL PROPOSALS.

Shareholders of record of each fund as of the close of business on January 12, 2005, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the fund's annual meeting and at any related follow-up meeting. The proxy statement and proxy card are being mailed to shareholders on or about January 21, 2005.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE ACCOMPANYING ENVELOPE. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

By order of the Board of Trustees,  
  
Susan S. Newton  
Senior Vice President and Secretary

January 21, 2005

JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST  
JOHN HANCOCK INCOME SECURITIES TRUST  
101 HUNTINGTON AVENUE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02199

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MARCH 2, 2005

PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement contains the information you should know before voting on the proposals described in the notice. EACH FUND WILL FURNISH WITHOUT CHARGE A COPY OF ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO ANY SHAREHOLDER UPON REQUEST. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF YOUR FUND'S REPORT, PLEASE SEND A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FUND AT 101 HUNTINGTON AVENUE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02199, OR CALL JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS AT 1-800-892-9552.

This proxy statement is being used by each fund's Trustees to solicit proxies to be voted at the annual meeting of each fund's shareholders. The meetings will be held at 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at 9:00 A.M., Eastern Time.

- o John Hancock Investors Trust ("Investors");
- o John Hancock Income Securities Trust ("Income Securities").

If you sign the enclosed proxy card and return it in time to be voted at the meetings, your shares will be voted in accordance with your instructions. Signed proxies with no instructions will be voted FOR all proposals. If you want to revoke your proxy, you may do so before it is exercised at the meetings by filing a written notice of revocation with the fund at 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02199, by returning a signed proxy with a later date before the meetings, or if attending the meeting of your

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fund and voting in person, by notifying your fund's secretary (without complying with any formalities) at any time before your proxy is voted.

### RECORD OWNERSHIP

The Trustees of each fund have fixed the close of business on January 12, 2005, as the record date to determine which shareholders are entitled to vote at the meeting. Common and Preferred shareholders of each fund are entitled to one vote per share on all business of the meetings or any postponement of the meeting relating to their fund and respective share class. On the record date, the following number of shares of beneficial interest of each fund were outstanding:

FUND ----	COMMON SHARES -----	PREFERRED SHARES -----
John Hancock Investors Trust	8,160,880	3,440
John Hancock Income Securities Trust	11,141,310	3,560

The funds' management does not know of anyone who beneficially owned more than 5% of either class of any fund's shares outstanding on the record date, except for SIT Investment Associates, 90 South Seventh Street, Suite 4600, Minneapolis, MN 55402, which holds the following Common Shares: 6.41% of Income Securities Trust. (Beneficial ownership means voting power and/or investment power, which includes the power to dispose of shares.)

Although the annual meetings of the funds are being held jointly and proxies are being solicited through the use of this joint proxy statement, shareholders of each fund will vote separately as to proposals affecting their fund.

### PROPOSAL 1

#### ELECTION OF TRUSTEES (COMMON SHARES AND PREFERRED SHARES OF EACH FUND)

### GENERAL

Each fund's Board of Trustees consists of ten members. Holders of the Common Shares are entitled to elect eight Trustees and holders of the Preferred Shares are entitled to elect two Trustees. Messrs. Carlin, Chapman, Cosgrove, Cunningham, Dion, Ladner, Pruchansky and Shepherdson have been designated as subject to election by holders of the Common Shares of each fund. Ms. McGill Peterson and Mr. Moore have been designated as subject to election by holders of the Preferred Shares of each fund.

As of the date of this proxy, each nominee for election currently serves as a Trustee of each fund, except for Messrs. Carlin, Cunningham, Dion and Pruchansky who are Independent Trustees on other funds within the John Hancock complex. Using the enclosed proxy card, you may authorize the proxies to vote your shares for the nominees or you may withhold from the proxies authority to vote your shares for one or more of the nominees. If no contrary instructions are given, the proxies will vote FOR the nominees. Each of the nominees has consented to his or her nomination and has agreed to serve if elected. If, for any reason, any nominee should not be available for election or able to serve as a Trustee, the proxies will exercise their voting power in favor of a substitute nominee, if any, as the funds' Trustees may designate. The funds have no reason to believe that it will be necessary to designate a substitute nominee.

### PROPOSAL 1

For each fund, Messrs. Carlin, Chapman, Cosgrove, Cunningham, Dion, Ladner, Pruchansky and Shepherdson are the current nominees for election by the Common Shareholders and Ms. McGill Peterson and Mr. Moore are the current nominee for election by the Preferred Shareholders.

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### VOTE REQUIRED FOR PROPOSAL 1

The vote of a plurality of the votes cast by the Common Shares and the Preferred Shares, voting as separate classes, of a fund is sufficient to elect the Common Shares' and Preferred Shares' respective nominees of that fund.

### INFORMATION CONCERNING NOMINEES

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the nominees for election to the Boards. The table also shows his or her principal occupation or employment and other directorships during the past five years and the number of John Hancock funds overseen by the Trustee.

#### NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

NAME, (AGE), ADDRESS(1) AND POSITION WITH THE FUNDS	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) AND OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS
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#### NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

#### INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

Charles L. Ladner  
(Age 66)  
Chairman and Trustee

Chairman and Trustee, Dunwoody Village, Inc. (retirement services) (until 2003); Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UGI Corporation (public utility holding company) (retired 1998); Vice President and Director for AmeriGas, Inc. (retired 1998); Director of AmeriGas Partners, L.P. (gas distribution) (until 1997); Director, EnergyNorth, Inc. (until 1995); Director, Park and History Association (since 2001).

James F. Carlin  
(Age 64)  
Trustee

Director and Treasurer, Alpha Analytical Inc. (analytical laboratory) (since 1985); Part Owner and Treasurer, Lawrence Carlin Insurance Agency, Inc. (since 1995); Part Owner and Vice President, Mone Lawrence Carlin Insurance Agency, Inc. (since 1996); Director and Treasurer, Rizzo Associates (engineering) (until 2000); Chairman and CEO, Carlin Consolidated, Inc. (management/investments) (since 1987); Director and Partner, Proctor Carlin & Co., Inc. (insurance) (until 1999); Trustee, Massachusetts Health and Education Tax Exempt Trust (since 1993); Director of the following: Uno Restaurant Corp. (until 2001), Arbella Mutual (insurance) (until 2000), HealthPlan Services, Inc. (until 1999), Flagship Healthcare, Inc. (until 1999), Carlin Insurance Agency, Inc. (until 1999); Chairman, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (until 1999).

Richard P. Chapman Jr.  
(Age 69)  
Trustee

President, and Chief Executive Officer, Brookline Bancorp, Inc. (lending) (since 1972); Director, Lumber Insurance Co., (insurance) (until 2000); Chairman and Director, Northeast Retirement Services, Inc. (retirement administration) (since 1998).

William J. Cosgrove  
(Age 71)  
Trustee

Vice President, Senior Banker and Senior Credit Officer, Citibank N.A. (banking) (retired 1991); Executive Vice President, Citicorp Group Representatives, Inc. (financial reinsurance) (until 2004); Director, Hudson City Savings Bank (since 1995); Director, Hudson City Bancorp (banking) (since 1999); Trustee, Scholarship Fund Inner City Children (since 1986).

William H. Cunningham  
(Age 61)

Former Chancellor, University of Texas System and former President of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Chairman and CEO, IB

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Trustee

Technologies (until 2001; Director of the following: The University of Texas Investment Management Company (until 2000), Hire.com (until 2004), STC Broadcasting, Inc. and Sunrise Television Corp. (until 2001), Symtx, Inc. (electronic manufacturing) (since 2001, Adorno/Rogers Technology, Inc. (until 2004), Pinnacle Foods Corporation (until 2003), rateGenius (Internet service) (until 2003), Jefferson-Pilot Corporation (diversified life insurance company) (since 1985), New Century Equity Holdings (formerly Billing Concepts) (until 2001), eCert (until 2001), ClassMap.com (until 2001), Agile Ventures (until 2001), LBJ Foundation (until 2000), Golfsmith International, Inc. (until 2000), Metamor Worldwide (until 2000), AskRed.com (until 2001), Southwest Airlines (since 2000) and Introgen (since 2000) Advisory Director, Q Investments (until 2003); Advisory Director, Chase Bank (formerly Texas Commerce Bank - Austin) (since 1988) LIN Television (since 2002), WilTel Communications (until 2003) and Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc. (diversified automotive parts supply Company) (since 2003).

Ronald R. Dion  
(Age 58)  
Trustee

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, R. M. Bradley & Co., Inc. Director, The New England Council and Massachusetts Roundtable; Director, Boston Stock Exchange; Trustee, North Shore Medical Center; Director, BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. and a corporator of the Eastern Bank; Trustee, Emmanuel College.

John A. Moore+  
(Age 65)  
Trustee

President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Evaluating Health Risks, (nonprofit institution) (until 2001); Chief Scientist, Science International (health Research) (until 2003) Principal, Hollyhouse (consulting) (since 2000); Director, CIIT (nonprofit research) (since 2002).

Patti McGill Peterson+  
(Age 61)  
Trustee

Executive Director, Council for International Exchange of Scholars and Vice President, Institute of International Education (since 1998); Senior Fellow, Cornell Institute of Public Affairs, Cornell University (until 1998); Former President of Wells College and Lawrence University; Director, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (electric utility) (until 2003); Director, Ford Foundation, International Fellowships Program (since 2002); Director, Lois Roth Endowment (since 2002); Director, Council for International Educational Exchange (since 2003).

Steven R. Pruchansky  
(Age 60)  
Trustee

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (since 2000); Director and President, Greenscapes Southwest Florida, Inc. (until 2000); Managing Director, JonJam LLC (real estate) (since 2001); Director, First Signature Bank Trust Company (until 1991); Director, Mast Realty Trust (until 1994); President, Maxwell Building Corp. (until 1991).

### NON-INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

James A. Shepherdson\*  
(Age 52)  
Trustee

Executive Vice President, Manulife Financial Corporation (since 2004); Director, President and Chief Executive Officer, John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser") and The Berkeley Group, L.P. ("The Berkeley Group") (holding company); Director, President and Chief Executive Officer, the John Hancock Funds, LLC ("John Hancock Funds") Director, President and Chief Executive Officer, Sovereign Asset Management Corporation ("SAMCorp."); Director, Chairman and President, NM Capital Management, Inc. (NM Capital President, John Hancock Retirement Services, John Hancock Life Insurance Company (until 2004); Chairman, Essex Corporation (until 2004) (investment adviser); Co-Chief Executive Officer, MetLife Investors Group (until 2003); Senior Vice President, AXA/Equita Insurance Company (until 2000).

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 \* "Interested person," as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "Investment Company Act") and the Adviser.

+ Trustee representing the holders of the Preferred Shares.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

In addition to the President and Chief Executive Officer (Mr. Shepherdson), the table below lists the other executive officers.

NAME, (AGE), ADDRESS(1) AND POSITION WITH THE FUNDS PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS

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Susan S. Newton (Age 54) Senior Vice President and Secretary	Senior Vice President and Secretary, each of the John Hancock funds; President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer, the Adviser, John Hancock Mutual Fund Company, Berkeley Group and SAMCorp; Director, Senior Vice President and Secretary, Capital.
William H. King (Age 52) Vice President and Treasurer	Vice President and Treasurer, each of the John Hancock funds; Adviser.

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 (1) The business address for the independent and non independent Trustees and officers is 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02199

Each Trust's board of trustees currently has four standing Committees: the Audit Committee, the Investment Performance Committee, the Contracts/Operations Committee and the Investment Performance Committee. Each Committee is comprised of independent Trustees and officers who are not "interested persons."

The 2004 membership of each Committee and the anticipated membership if all nominees are elected are as follows:

	AUDIT	ADMINISTRATION	CONTRACTS/OPERATIONS
2004 MEMBERS	Messrs. Ladner, Moore, Glavin* and Ms. Peterson	All Independent Trustees	Messrs. Aronowitz* and Farrell*
MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 2, 2005	Messrs. Chapman, Ladner, Moore and Ms. Peterson	All Independent Trustees	Messrs. Carlin, Cosgrove, Dion and Pruchansky

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 \* Messrs. Aronowitz, Farrell, Glavin and Pratt reached the age of mandatory retirement and retired.

All members of each fund's Audit Committee are Independent under the New York Stock Exchange's Revised Listing Rules, and each member is financially literate with at least one having accounting or financial management expertise. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, which is attached as Attachment 1. The Audit Committee recommends to the full Board the appointment of outside auditors for the fund, monitors and oversees the audits of the fund, communicates with both independent auditors and internal auditors on a regular basis and provides a forum for the auditors to report and discuss any matters they deem appropriate at any time. Each Audit Committee reports that it has (1) reviewed and discussed each fund's audited financial statements with

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management; (2) discussed with the independent auditors the matters relating to the quality of each fund's financial reporting as required by SAS 61; (3) received written disclosures and an independence letter from the independent auditors required by Independent Standards Board Standard No. 1, and discussed with the auditors their independence; and (4), based on these discussions, recommended to the Board that each fund's financial statements be included in each fund's annual report for the last fiscal year (see Attachment 2).

All of the Independent Trustees are members of the Administration Committee. The Administration Committee reviews the activities of the other three standing committees and makes the final selection and nomination of candidates to serve as Independent Trustees. All members of the Administration Committee are independent under the New York Stock Exchange's Revised Listing Rules and are Independent Trustees. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Administration Committee, which is attached as Attachment 3 to this proxy. The Administration Committee selects and nominates for elections candidates for Independent Trustees. The Trustees who are not Independent Trustees and the officers of the fund are nominated and selected by the Board.

In reviewing a potential nominee and in evaluating the renomination of current Independent Trustees, the Administration Committee expects to apply the following criteria: (i) the nominee's reputation for integrity, honesty and adherence to high ethical standards, (ii) the nominee's business acumen, experience and ability to exercise sound judgments, (iii) a commitment to understand the fund and the responsibilities of a trustee of an investment company, (iv) a commitment to regularly attend and participate in meetings of the Board and its committees, (v) the ability to understand potential conflicts of interest involving management of the fund and to act in the interests of all shareholders, and (vi) the absence of a real or apparent conflict of interest that would impair the nominee's ability to represent the interests of all the shareholders and to fulfill the responsibilities of an Independent Trustee. The Administration Committee does not necessarily place the same emphasis on each criteria and each nominee may not have each of these qualities. The Administration Committee does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or any other basis proscribed by law.

As long as an existing Independent Trustee continues, in the opinion of the Administration Committee, to satisfy these criteria, each fund anticipates that the Committee would favor the renomination of an existing Trustee rather than a new candidate. Consequently, while the Administration Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders to serve as trustees, the Administration Committee may only act upon such recommendations if there is a vacancy on the Board or the Administration Committee determines that the selection of a new or additional Independent Trustee is in the best interests of the funds. In the event that a vacancy arises or a change in Board membership is determined to be advisable, the Administration Committee will, in addition to any shareholder recommendations, consider candidates identified by other means, including candidates proposed by members of the Administration Committee. While it has not done so in the past, the Administration Committee may retain a consultant to assist the Committee in a search for a qualified candidate.

Any shareholder recommendation must be submitted in compliance with all of the pertinent provisions of Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, to be considered by the Administration Committee. In evaluating a nominee recommended by a shareholder, the Administration Committee, in addition to the criteria discussed above, may consider the objectives of the shareholder in submitting that nomination and whether such objectives are consistent with the interests of all shareholders. If the Board determines to include a shareholder's candidate among the slate of nominees, the candidate's name will be placed on the fund's proxy card. If the Administration Committee or



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the Board determines not to include such candidate among the Board's designated nominees and the shareholder has satisfied the requirements of Rule 14a-8, the shareholder's candidate will be treated as a nominee of the shareholder who originally nominated the candidate. In that case, the candidate will not be named on the proxy card distributed with the fund's proxy statement. Each of the nominees for election as Trustee was recommended by the Administration Committee, except for Mr. Shepherdson, who was recommended by the Board.

Shareholders may communicate with the members of the Board as a group or individually. Any such communication should be sent to the Board or an individual Trustee in care of the secretary of the fund at the address on the notice of this meeting. The Secretary may determine not to forward any letter to the members of the Board that does not relate to the business of the fund. Mr. Shepherdson typically attends shareholder meetings and other members of the Board may, but generally do not, attend.

The Contracts/Operations Committee oversees the initiation, operation and renewal of the various contracts between the fund and other entities. These contracts include advisory, custodial and transfer agency agreements and arrangements with other service providers.

The Investment Performance Committee monitors and analyzes the performance of the funds generally, consults with the Adviser as necessary if a fund is considered to require special attention, and reviews fund peer groups and other comparative standards as necessary.

Each board of trustees and each committee held four meetings during each fund's fiscal year. With respect to each fund, no Trustee attended fewer than 75% of the aggregate of (1) the total number of meetings of the Trustees of the fund; and (2) the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Trustees on which they served. The funds hold joint meetings of the Trustees and all committees.

### TRUSTEE OWNERSHIP

The following table provides a dollar range indicating each Trustee's ownership of equity securities of the funds as well as aggregate holdings of shares of equity securities of all John Hancock funds overseen by the Trustee, as of December 31, 2004.

NAME OF TRUSTEE	TRUSTEE HOLDINGS (1)			
	INVESTORS TRUST		INCOME SECURITIES	
	SHARES	DOLLAR RANGE	SHARES	DOLLAR RANGE
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES				
James F. Carlin#	40	\$1 - \$10,000	60	\$1 - \$10,000
Richard P. Chapman, Jr.	100	\$1 - \$10,000	100	\$1 - \$10,000
William J. Cosgrove	100	\$1 - \$10,000	100	\$1 - \$10,000
William H. Cunningham#	--	--	--	--
Ronald R. Dion#	--	--	--	--
Charles A. Ladner	150	\$1 - \$10,000	200	\$1 - \$10,000
Dr. John A. Moore	--	--	--	--
Patti McGill Peterson	--	--	--	--
Steven R. Pruchansky#	--	--	--	--
NON-INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES				
James A. Shepherdson	45	\$1 - \$10,000	65	\$1 - \$10,000

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 (1) The amounts reflect the aggregate dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the John Hancock funds overseen by each Trustee. For each Trustee, the amounts reflected include Hancock funds in which the Trustee is deemed to be invested pursuant to the Deferred Compensation Trusts, as more fully described under "Remuneration of Officers and Trustees." The information is based on statements furnished to the funds by the Trustees. Each of the Trustees has all voting rights with respect to the shares indicated. None of the Trustees beneficially owned individually, and none of the funds as a group did not beneficially own, in excess of 1% of the outstanding shares of the funds.

# Nominees were not Trustees of these funds in 2004.

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 16(a) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires each fund's executive officers, Trustees and persons who own more than 10% of the fund's shares ("10% Shareholders") to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Executive officers, Trustees, and 10% Shareholders are required by SEC regulations to furnish the funds with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on a review of the copies of these reports furnished to the funds and representations that no other reports were required to be filed, each fund believes that during the past fiscal year its executive officers, Trustees and 10% Shareholders complied with all applicable Section 16(a) filing requirements.

REMUNERATION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The following table provides information about the compensation paid by the funds and the other investment companies in the John Hancock fund complex to the Independent Trustees for their services for the year ended December 31, 2004. Any non-independent Trustees, and each of the officers of the funds who are interested persons of the Adviser, are compensated by the Adviser and/or its affiliates and receive no compensation from the funds for their services.

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES	AGGREGATE COMPENSATION	
	INVESTORS TRUST	INCOME SECURITIES TRUST
Dennis S. Aronowitz+	\$ 1,906	\$ 1,906
James F. Carlin#	--	--
Richard P. Chapman, Jr.*	1,954	2,000
William J. Cosgrove+*	2,205	2,205
William H. Cunningham#*	--	--
Ronald R. Dion#*	--	--
Richard A. Farrell+	1,883	1,906
William F. Glavin+*	1,669	1,700
Charles A. Ladner	203	203
John A. Moore*	1,330	1,330
Patti McGill Peterson	1,300	1,300
John W. Pratt+	1,883	1,906
Steven R. Pruchansky#*	--	--
Totals	\$14,333	\$14,906

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 (1) The total compensation paid by the John Hancock fund complex to the Independent Trustees for the year ended December 31, 2004. All the Independent Trustees are Trustees of 21 funds in the John Hancock Fund Complex. Mr. Carlin was a Trustee of 21 funds, Mr. Chapman was a Trustee of 21 funds, Mr. Cosgrove was a Trustee of 21 funds, Mr. Dion and Pruchansky who were trustees of 28 funds, Mr. Ladner who was Trustee of 21 funds, Mr. Farrell was a Trustee of 21 funds, Mr. Glavin was a Trustee of 21 funds, Mr. Moore was a Trustee of 21 funds, Mr. Peterson was a Trustee of 21 funds, Mr. Pratt was a Trustee of 21 funds, and Mr. Pruchansky was a Trustee of 28 funds.

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Peterson were were Trustees of 31 funds.

\* As of December 31, 2004, the value of the aggregate accrued deferred compensation amount from fund complex for Mr. Chapman was \$69,035, for Mr. Cosgrove was \$232,538, for Mr. Cunningham was \$242,968, for Mr. Glavin was \$353,669 and for Mr. Moore was \$273,394 and for Mr. Pruchansky was \$273,394. Under the Hancock Deferred Compensation Plan for Independent Trustees ("the Plan"). Under the Plan, an individual may have his deferred fees invested by a fund in shares of one or more funds in the John Hancock Investment Plan. The amount payable to the Trustees under the Plan will be determined based upon the performance of such investments. The Plan does not obligate any fund to retain the services of any Trustee or obligate a fund to pay any compensation to the Trustee.

+ Messrs. Aronowitz, Farrell, Glavin, Pratt reached the age of mandatory retirement and retired.

# Nominees were not Trustees of these funds in 2004.

### MATERIAL RELATIONSHIPS OF THE INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

As of December 31, 2004, none of the Independent Trustees, nor any immediate family member, owns shares of John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the "investment adviser") or is a principal underwriter of the funds, nor does any such person own shares of a company controlling, controlled by or under common control with, the investment adviser or a principal underwriter of the funds.

There have been no transactions by the funds since the beginning of the funds' last two fiscal years, nor are there any transactions currently proposed, in which the amount exceeds \$60,000, and in which any trustee of the funds or any immediate family members has or will have a direct or indirect material interest, nor have any of the foregoing persons been indebted to the funds in an amount in excess of \$60,000 at any time since that date.

No Independent Trustee, nor any immediate family member has had, in the past five years, any direct or indirect interest, the value of which exceeds \$60,000, in the investment adviser, a principal underwriter of the funds or in a person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with, the investment adviser or principal underwriter of the funds. Moreover, no Independent Trustee or immediate family member has, or has had in the last two fiscal years of the funds, any direct or indirect relationships or material interest in any transaction or in any currently proposed transaction, in which the amount involved exceeds \$60,000, in which the following persons were or are a party: the funds, an officer of the funds, any investment company sharing the same investment adviser or principal underwriter as the funds or any officer of such a company, any investment adviser or principal underwriter of the funds or any officer of such a party, any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the investment adviser or principal underwriter of the funds, or any officer of such a person.

Within the last two completed fiscal years of the funds, no officer of any investment adviser or principal underwriter of the funds or of any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the investment adviser or principal underwriter of the funds, has served as a director on a board of a company where any of the Independent Trustees or nominees of the funds, or immediate family members of such persons, has served as an officer.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

There are no material pending legal proceedings to which any trustee or affiliated person is a party adverse to the funds or any of its affiliated persons or has a material interest adverse to the funds or any of its affiliated persons. In addition, there have been no legal proceedings that are material to an evaluation of the ability or integrity of any trustee or executive officer of the funds within the past five years.

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## PROPOSAL 2

### RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM (COMMON SHARES AND PREFERRED SHARES OF EACH FUND)

The Trustees of each fund, including a majority of each fund's Independent Trustees, have selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PricewaterhouseCoopers") to act as independent registered public accounting firm for each fund's fiscal year ending December 31, 2005.

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees billed by the independent accountants for each fund's 2003 and 2004 fiscal years for professional services rendered for: (i) the audit of the fund's annual financial statements and the review of financial statements included in the fund's reports to stockholders, (ii) assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the audit of the fund's financial statements, (iii) tax compliance, tax advice or tax planning and (iv) all services other than (i), (ii) and (iii). The table also discloses the aggregate fees paid during the 2003 and 2004 fiscal years to the funds', independent accountants by John Hancock Advisers, LLC and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with, John Hancock Advisers, LLC to the extent that the engagement relates directly to the operations and financial reporting of registered investment companies (the "Adviser and Adviser Affiliates").

	AUDIT FEES		AUDIT-RELATED FEES		T
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
Investors	\$31,000	\$32,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$4,000
Income Securities	\$31,000	\$32,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$4,000
The Adviser and Adviser Affiliates	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

The fund's Audit Committee has adopted procedures to pre-approve audit and non-audit services for the funds and the Adviser and Adviser Affiliates. These procedures identify certain types of audit and non-audit services that are anticipated to be provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers during a calendar year and, provided the services are within the scope and value standards set forth in the procedures, pre-approve those engagements. The scope and value criteria are reviewed annually. These procedures require both audit and non-audit sources to be approved by the Audit Committee prior to PricewaterhouseCoopers being engaged. In recommending PricewaterhouseCoopers as the funds' independent accountants, the Audit Committee has considered the compensation provided to PricewaterhouseCoopers for audit and non-audit services to the Adviser and Adviser Affiliates and has determined that such compensation is not incompatible with maintaining PricewaterhouseCooper's independence. The aggregate amount of non-audit fees paid to PricewaterhouseCooper's by the funds, the Adviser and an Adviser Affiliate that provide services to the funds, which includes amounts described above, were \$35,000 and \$76,862 for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2003 and 2004.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has advised the funds that it has no direct or indirect financial interest in either fund. This selection is subject to the approval of the shareholders of the respective funds at the meetings. The enclosed proxy cards provide space for instructions directing the proxies named on the card to vote for, against, or abstain from, ratifying that selection. A representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers is expected to be

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present at the annual meetings, will have the opportunity to make a statement if the representative desires to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions relating to the examination of the funds' financial statements.

The Boards of Trustees, including each fund's Independent Trustees, unanimously recommend that shareholders ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers as independent registered public accounting firm of the funds.

VOTE REQUIRED TO RATIFY THE SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The approval of a "majority" (as described below) of the Common Shares and the Preferred Shares, voting as a single class, of each fund is required to ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as such fund's independent registered public accounting firm for that fund's 2005 fiscal year.

MISCELLANEOUS

VOTING; QUORUM; ADJOURNMENT

The following vote is required to approve each respective proposal:

PROPOSAL

VOTE REQUIRED

Election of Trustees  
(Proposal 1)

For each class, a plurality of all votes cast, assuming a means that the ten nominees up for election by the Common receiving the greatest number of votes of the Common Share may be, will be elected as trustees, regardless of the num

COMMON AND PREFERRED CLASSES VOTE SEPARATELY ON THIS PROPO

Ratification of Public Accountants  
(Proposal 2)

The affirmative vote of more than 50% of the votes cast, a

COMMON AND PREFERRED CLASSES VOTE TOGETHER AS A SINGLE CLA

\* In order for a "quorum" to exist, a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote must either in person or by proxy, determined in accordance with the table below.

Proposals 1 and 2 in this proxy statement are considered routine matters on which brokers holding shares in "street name" may vote without instruction under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. While, as noted above, both of the proposals in this proxy statement are routine, for non-routine proposals, brokers that are member organizations of the New York Stock Exchange may vote Preferred Shares for which they have not received instructions in proportion to the shares for which they have received instructions. Proportionate voting of Preferred Shares may occur on a non-routine proposal only if: (i) at least 30% of the Preferred Shares of the fund outstanding and entitled to vote have been voted; (ii) less than 10% of such Preferred Shares voted against the proposal; (iii) the shareholders of the Common Shares of the fund have approved the proposal (except with respect to plurality votes); and (iv) a majority of the Independent Trustees of the fund have approved the proposal.

The following table summarizes how the quorum and voting requirements are determined.

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SHARES

QUORUM

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In General	All shares "present" in person or by proxy are counted in determining whether a quorum exists.	Shares pres person by t Shares pres proxyholder specified i
Broker Non-Vote	Considered "present" at meeting.	Not voted. proposal.
Proxy with No Voting Instruction (other than Broker Non-Vote)	Considered "present" for determining whether a quorum exists.	Will be vot proxyholder
Vote to Abstain	Considered "present" for determining whether a quorum exists.	Disregarded votes "cast on whether
Proportionately Voted Preferred Shares with No Voting Instruction	Considered "present" for determining whether a quorum exists.	Voted in pr which the b

If a quorum is not present, the persons named as proxies may vote their proxies to adjourn the meeting to a later date. If a quorum is present, but there are insufficient votes to approve any proposal, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the meeting to permit further solicitation. Shareholder action may be taken on one or more proposal prior to such adjournment. Proxies instructing a vote for a proposal will be voted in favor of an adjournment with respect to that proposal, and proxies instructing a vote against a proposal will be voted against an adjournment with respect to that proposal.

### EXPENSES AND METHODS OF SOLICITATION

The costs of the meetings, including the solicitation of proxies, will be paid by the respective funds. Persons holding shares as nominees will be reimbursed by the relevant fund, upon request, for their reasonable expenses in sending soliciting material to the principals of the accounts. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, Trustees, officers and employees of the funds or of the funds' investment adviser may solicit proxies in person or by telephone. John Hancock Advisers, LLC, 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02199-7603 serves as each fund's investment adviser and administrator. Mellon Investor Services LLC has been retained to assist in the solicitation of proxies at a cost of approximately \$3,000 for each fund, plus reasonable expenses.

### TELEPHONE VOTING

In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, by fax or in person, the funds may also arrange to have votes recorded by telephone by officers and employees of the funds or by the personnel of the adviser or the transfer agent or solicitor. The telephone voting procedure is designed to verify a shareholder's identity, to allow a shareholder to authorize the voting of shares in accordance with the shareholder's instructions and to confirm that the voting instructions have been properly recorded.

- o A shareholder will be called on a recorded line at the telephone number in the funds' account records and will be asked to provide the shareholder's social security number or other identifying information.
- o The shareholder will then be given an opportunity to authorize proxies to

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vote his or her shares at the meeting in accordance with the shareholder's instructions.

Alternatively, a shareholder may call the Funds' Voice Response Unit to vote;

- o Read the proxy statement and have your proxy card at hand.
- o Call the toll-free-number located on your proxy card.
- o Follow recorded instructions.

With both methods of telephone voting, to ensure that the shareholder's instructions have been recorded correctly, the shareholder will also receive a confirmation of the voting instructions.

If the shareholder decides after voting by telephone to attend the Meeting, the shareholder can revoke the proxy at that time and vote the shares at the Meeting.

### INTERNET VOTING

You will also have the opportunity to submit your voting instructions via the Internet by utilizing a program provided through a vendor. Voting via the Internet will not affect your right to vote in person if you decide to attend the meeting. Do not mail the proxy card if you are voting via the Internet. To vote via the Internet, you will need the information on your proxy card. These Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate shareholder identities, to allow shareholders to give their voting instructions and to confirm that shareholders' instructions have been recorded properly. If you are voting via the Internet you should understand that there may be costs associated with electronic access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies, that must be borne to you.

- o Read the proxy statement and have your card on hand.
- o Go to the website listed on the card.
- o Follow the directions on the website. Please call 1-800-852-0218 if you have any problems.
- o To insure that your instructions have been recorded correctly, you will receive a confirmation of your voting instructions immediately after your submission.

### OTHER MATTERS

The management of the funds knows of no business to be brought before the annual meetings except as described above. If, however, any other matters were properly to come before the annual meetings, the persons named on the proxy card intend to vote on those matters in accordance with their best judgment. If any shareholder desires additional information about the matters proposed for action, the management of the funds will provide further information.

The meeting is scheduled as a joint meeting of the shareholders of both funds because the shareholders of the funds are generally expected to consider and vote on similar matters. The Boards of Trustees of the funds have determined that the use of this joint proxy statement for the annual meetings is in the best interest of each fund's shareholders. In the event that any shareholder present at the annual meetings objects to the holding of a joint meeting and moves for an adjournment of the annual meeting with respect to his or her fund to a time immediately after the annual meetings so that his or her fund's meeting may be held separately, the persons named as proxies will vote in favor of that adjournment.

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The shareholders of each fund will vote separately on each proposal, and voting by shareholders of one fund will have no effect on the outcome of voting by shareholders of the other fund.

### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

Shareholder proposals intended to be presented at a fund's annual meeting in 2006 must be received by that fund at its offices at 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, after September 21, 2005, but no later than October 20, 2005, for inclusion in that fund's proxy statement and form of proxy relating to that meeting (subject to certain exceptions).

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROXIES BE RETURNED PROMPTLY

JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST  
JOHN HANCOCK INCOME SECURITIES TRUST

Dated: January 21, 2005

### ATTACHMENT 1

#### JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

A. Membership. The Audit Committee shall be composed exclusively of Trustees who are:

- o not "interested persons" ("Independent Trustees") as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, of John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser");
- o independent as defined by the New York Stock Exchange rules and Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Exchange Act (except as otherwise permitted by the applicable rules of the NYSE);
- o financially literate, as such qualification is interpreted by the Board of Trustees in its business judgment, or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Audit Committee; and
- o free of any relationship that, in the opinion of the Administration Committee, may interfere or give the appearance of interfering with such member's individual exercise of independent judgment.

The Audit Committee shall be composed of at least three Independent Trustees who are designated for membership from time to time by the Administration Committee, subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees. At least one member of the Audit Committee must have accounting or related financial management expertise, as the Board of Trustees interprets such qualification in its business judgment.

B. Purpose. The Audit Committee's purpose is to:

1. assist the Board of Trustees' oversight of (1) the integrity of the funds' financial statements, (2) the funds' compliance with legal and regulatory requirements (except to the extent such responsibility is delegated to another committee), (3) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence, and (4) the performance of the funds' independent auditors and internal;



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2. act as a liaison between the funds' independent auditors and the full Board;
3. to approve prior to appointment the funds' independent auditors and to review and evaluate the qualifications, independence and performance of the funds' independent auditors; and
4. prepare the Audit Committee Report to be included in the funds' annual proxy statement or other filings, as required by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The Audit Committee shall discharge its responsibilities, and shall access the information provided by the funds' management and independent auditors, in accordance with its business judgment.

C. Oversight. Oversight is the primary role of the Audit Committee. The Adviser is responsible for maintaining appropriate systems for accounting and internal controls and preparing the funds' financial statements. The independent auditors are responsible for auditing the funds' financial statements. The Audit Committee and the Board of Trustees recognize that the funds' officers, the Adviser and the independent auditors have more experience, expertise, resources and time, and more detailed knowledge and information regarding the funds' accounting, auditing, internal control and financial reporting practices than the Audit Committee does. Accordingly, the Audit Committee's oversight role is not intended to provide any expert or special assurance as to the financial statements and other financial information provided by a fund to its shareholders and others. The authority and responsibilities set forth in this Charter do not reflect or create any duty or obligation of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct any audit, to determine or certify that any fund's financial statements are complete, accurate, fairly presented, or in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or applicable law, or to guarantee any independent auditor's report.

The independent auditors shall report directly to the Audit Committee, and the Audit Committee shall be directly responsible for oversight of the work of the independent auditors, including resolution of disagreements between any fund's officers, the Adviser and the independent auditors regarding financial reporting.

D. Specific Responsibilities. The Audit Committee shall have the following duties and powers, to be exercised at such times and in such manner as the Committee shall deem necessary or appropriate:

1. To act as a liaison between the funds' independent auditors and the Board of Trustees and to report regularly to the Board of Trustees the Audit Committee's conclusions with respect to the independent auditors and the funds' financial statements and accounting controls.
2. To approve, and recommend to the Board of Trustees for its ratification, the selection, appointment, retention and compensation of an independent auditor for each fund prior to the engagement of that independent auditor.
3. To meet with independent auditors, including private meetings, and, as necessary, the Adviser's internal auditors and the funds' officers to review:
  - o the arrangements for and scope of the annual audit and any special audits;
  - o the funds' financial statements and reports and to discuss any

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matters of concern relating to the funds' financial statements, including the independent auditor's comments on such financial statements;

- o the funds' policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management;
  - o the resolution of any disagreements between the independent auditors and the Adviser regarding the funds' financial reporting; and
  - o the form of opinion the independent auditors propose to render to the Board of Trustees and shareholders.
4. To monitor the independent auditors to attempt to identify:
- o conflicts of interest between the funds and the independent auditors as a result of employment relationships;
  - o the provision of prohibited non-audit services to a fund by its independent auditor; violations of audit partner rotation requirements; and
  - o prohibited independent auditor compensation arrangements whereby individuals employed by the auditor are compensated based on selling non-audit services to the fund.

The independent auditors should promptly contact the Audit Committee or its Chair about any significant issue or disagreement concerning a fund's accounting practices or financial statements that is not resolved to their satisfaction or if Section 10A(b) of the Exchange Act has been implicated.

5. To ensure that the independent auditors inform the Audit Committee on a periodic basis of all relationships between the independent auditors and the Adviser; to engage in a dialogue with the independent auditors with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditors; and to recommend that the Board of Trustees take appropriate action in response to the independent auditors' report.
6. To pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided to each fund by its independent auditors, directly or by establishing pre-approval policies and procedures pursuant to which such services may be rendered. To pre-approve all non-audit services provided by the funds' independent auditors to the Adviser and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser that provides ongoing services to a fund, if the engagement relates directly to the operations and financial reporting of the fund. The Audit Committee is authorized to delegate, to the extent permitted by law, pre-approval responsibilities to one or more members of the Audit Committee who shall report to the Audit Committee regarding approved services at the Audit Committee's next regularly scheduled meeting.
7. With respect to any fund listed on the New York Stock Exchange, to consider whether the Audit Committee will recommend to the Board of Trustees that the audited financial statements be included in the fund's annual report. The Board of Trustees delegates to the Audit Committee the authority to release the funds' financial statements for publication in the annual and semi-annual report, subject to the Board of Trustees' right to review and ratify such financial statements following publication. The Audit Committee shall prepare an annual committee report for inclusion where necessary in the proxy statement

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of a fund relating to its annual meeting of security holders or in any other filing required by the SEC's rules.

8. To obtain and review, at least annually, a report by the independent auditor describing: its own internal quality-control procedures; any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, regarding any independent audit by the firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues; and, to assess the auditor's independence, all relationships between the independent auditor and each fund, including the disclosures required by any applicable Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1.
9. To review with the independent auditor any problems that may be reported to the Audit Committee arising out of a fund's accounting, auditing or financial reporting functions and management's response, and to receive and consider reports on critical accounting policies and practices and alternative treatments discussed with management.
10. To investigate improprieties or suspected improprieties in the operations of a fund and to establish procedures for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Adviser or any other provider of accounting related services of complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters. The procedures currently in effect are attached as Exhibit A.
11. To review with the funds' principal executive officer and/or principal financial officer in connection with required certifications on Form N-CSR any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting or material weaknesses therein and any reported evidence or fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the fund's internal control over financial reporting.

E. Subcommittees. The Audit Committee may, to the extent permitted by applicable law, form and delegate authority to one or more subcommittees (including a subcommittee consisting of a single member), as it deems appropriate from time to time under the circumstances. Any decision of a subcommittee to preapprove audit or non-audit services shall be presented to the full Audit Committee at its next meeting.

F. Additional Responsibilities. The Committee shall serve as the "qualified legal compliance committee" (as such term is defined in 17 CFR Part 205) ("QLCC"), the duties of which are listed on Exhibit B to this charter; and shall also perform other tasks assigned to it from time to time by the Administration Committee or the full Board, and will report findings and recommendations to the Administration Committee or the full Board, as appropriate.

G. Funding. Each fund shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Audit Committee, in its capacity as a committee of the Board of Trustees, for payment of:

- o Compensation to any registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the fund.
- o Compensation to any advisers employed by the Audit Committee under its authority to engage independent counsel and other advisers.
- o Ordinary administrative expenses of the Audit Committee that are

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necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

H. Governance. One member of the Committee shall be appointed as chair. The chair shall be responsible for leadership of the Committee, including scheduling meetings or reviewing and approving the schedule for them, preparing agendas or reviewing and approving them before meetings, presiding over meetings, and making reports to the Administration Committee or the full Board, as appropriate.

The designation of a person as an "audit committee financial expert" within the meaning of the rules under Section 407 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, shall not impose any greater responsibility or liability on that person than the responsibility and liability imposed on such person as a member of the Committee, nor shall it decrease the duties and obligations of other Committee members or the Board.

The compensation of Audit Committee members shall be as determined by the Board of Trustees. No member of the Audit Committee may receive, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from a fund, other than fees paid in his or her capacity as a member of the Board of Trustees or as a member of a committee of the Board.

I. Evaluation. At least annually, the Audit Committee shall evaluate its own performance, including whether the Audit Committee is meeting frequently enough to discharge its responsibilities appropriately. The Committee shall review this charter at least annually and shall recommend such changes to the Administration Committee or the full Board as it deems appropriate.

### EXHIBIT A

#### POLICY FOR RAISING AND INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS ABOUT ACCOUNTING OR AUDITING MATTERS

As contemplated by the Audit Committee Charter, the Committee has established the following procedures for:

- o the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by a fund regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and
- o the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the John Hancock Advisers, LLC or its affiliates of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

#### A. Policy Objectives

The objective of this policy is to provide a mechanism by which complaints and concerns regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters may be raised and addressed without the fear or threat of retaliation. The funds desire and expects that the employees and officers of John Hancock Advisers, LLC or any other service provider to the funds will report any complaints or concerns they may have regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters.

#### B. Procedures for Raising Complaints and Concerns

Persons with complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters or concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters may submit such complaints or concerns to the attention of the funds' Secretary by sending a letter or other writing to the funds' principal executive offices. Complaints and concerns may be made anonymously to any of

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the above individuals. In addition any complaints or concerns may also be communicated anonymously, directly to any member of the Audit Committee.

### C. Procedures for Investigating and Resolving Complaints and Concerns

All complaints and concerns received will be promptly forwarded to the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees or the chair of the Audit Committee, unless they are determined to be without merit by Secretary of the funds. If sent only to the chair, the chair may determine the appropriate response or may refer the issues to the entire Audit Committee. In any event, the funds' Secretary will provide a record of all complaints and concerns received (whether or not determined to have merit) to the Audit Committee each fiscal quarter.

The Audit Committee will evaluate any complaints or concerns received (including those reported to the committee on a quarterly basis and which the funds' Secretary has previously determined to be without merit). If the Audit Committee requires additional information to evaluate any complaint or concern, it may conduct an investigation, including interviews of persons believed to have relevant information. The Audit Committee may, in its discretion, assume responsibility for directing or conducting any investigation or may delegate such responsibility to another person or entity.

After its evaluation of the complaint or concern, the Audit Committee will authorize such follow-up actions, if any, as deemed necessary and appropriate to address the substance of the complaint or concern. The funds reserve the right to take whatever action the Audit Committee believes appropriate, up to and including discharge of any employee deemed to have engaged in improper conduct.

Regardless of whether a complaint or concern is submitted anonymously, the Audit Committee will strive to keep all complaints and concerns and the identity of those who submit them and participate in any investigation as confidential as possible, limiting disclosure to those with a business need to know.

John Hancock Advisers, LLC and its affiliates shall not penalize or retaliate against any person or entity for reporting a complaint or concern, unless it is determined that the complaint or concern was made with knowledge that it was false. The funds will not tolerate retaliation against any person or entity for submitting, or for cooperating in the investigation of, a complaint or concern. Moreover, any such retaliation is unlawful and may result in criminal action. Any retaliation will warrant disciplinary action against the offending party, up to and including termination of employment.

John Hancock Advisers, LLC and its subadvisers shall include this policy in its employee manual and shall distribute, at least annually, the policy to all of its employees.

The funds shall retain records of all complaints and concerns received, and the disposition thereof, for five years.

### EXHIBIT B

#### QUALIFIED LEGAL COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE ("QLCC") DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The QLCC shall adopt written procedures for the confidential receipt, retention, and consideration of any report of evidence of a material violation.

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The QLCC has the authority and responsibility, once a report of evidence of a material violation by a fund, its officers, directors, employees or agents has been received by the QLCC:

- (i) to inform the CLO and CEO of such report (except in the case where the reporting attorney reasonably believes that it would be futile to report evidence of a material violation to the CLO and CEO, and has informed the QLCC of such belief); and
- (ii) to determine whether an investigation is necessary or appropriate, and, if it determines an investigation is necessary or appropriate, to:
  - (A) notify the full board of directors;
  - (B) initiate an investigation, which may be conducted either by the CLO or by outside attorneys; and
  - (C) retain such additional expert personnel as the QLCC deems necessary;

and, at the conclusion of such investigation, to:

- (A) recommend, by majority vote, that the fund implement an appropriate response to evidence of a material violation; and
  - (B) inform the CLO and the CEO and the Board of Trustees of the results of any such investigation and the appropriate remedial measures.
- (iii) by majority vote, to take all other appropriate action, including notifying the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in the event that the fund fails in any material respect to implement an appropriate response that the QLCC has recommended.

### ATTACHMENT 2

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or "filed" or incorporated by reference in future filings with the SEC, or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate it by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with the Fund's management and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the audited financial statements of the Funds contained in the Annual Reports on Form N-CSR for the 2004 fiscal year. The Audit Committee has also discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the matters required to be discussed pursuant to SAS No. 61 (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU Section 380), which includes, amount other items, matters related to the conduct of the audit of the Fund's financial statements.

The Audit Committee has received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees), and has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP its independence from the Funds.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee

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recommended to the Board of Trustees that the audited financial statements be included in each Fund's Annual Report on Form N-CSR for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Submitted by the Audit Committee  
John A. Moore, Chairman  
Charles L. Ladner  
William F. Glavin  
Patti McGill Peterson

### ATTACHMENT 3

#### JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE CHARTER

A. Composition. The Administration Committee shall be composed of all Trustees who are both "independent" as defined in the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and are not "interested persons" as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940 of John Hancock Adviser LLC or of the Trust (the "Independent Trustees").

B. Overview. The overall charter of the Administration Committee is: (i) to review and comment on complex-wide matters to facilitate uniformity among the funds; (ii) to select and nominate Independent Trustees to be added to the Board; (iii) to oversee liaison between management and the Independent Trustees; (iv) to review the performance of the Independent Trustees as appropriate; (v) to review matters relating to the Independent Trustees, such as compensation, retirement arrangements, Committee assignments and the like; (vi) to consider matters of general corporate governance applicable to the Independent Trustees, and (vii) when appropriate, to oversee the assignment of tasks to other Committees.

#### C. Nomination of Independent Trustees

1. Selection of Trustee Nominees. Except where the funds are legally required to provide third parties with the ability to nominate trustees, the Administration Committee shall be responsible for (i) identifying individuals qualified to become Independent Trustees and (ii) recommending to the Board of Trustees the persons to be nominated for election as Independent Trustees at any meeting of stockholders and the persons to be elected by the Board to fill any vacancies on the Board by the death, resignation or removal of an Independent Trustee. Persons to serve as Trustees who are not Independent Trustees shall be nominated by the Board.

2. Criteria for Selecting Trustees. The Administration Committee shall use the criteria and the principles set forth on Annex A, as revised from time to time, to guide its trustee selection process. The Administration Committee shall periodically review the requisite skills and criteria for Independent Trustees as well as the composition of the Board as a whole. The Committee shall adopt, and periodically review and revise as it deems appropriate, procedures regarding trustee candidates recommended by shareholders. The current policy is attached as Annex A.

D. Other Specific Responsibilities. The Administration Committee shall have the following duties and powers, to be exercised at such times and in such manner as the Committee shall deem necessary or appropriate:

1. To consider the allocation of activities among the various Committees and the full Board, to suggest to the Committees the degree of detail in their reports to the full Board, and to establish membership and rotation policies for Committees.

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2. To consider the number of funds under supervision by the Independent Trustees and the ability of the Independent Trustees to discharge successfully their fiduciary duties and to pursue self-education in mutual fund matters.
3. To propose the amount of compensation to be paid by the funds to the Independent Trustees and to address compensation-related matters, such as expense reimbursement policies.
4. To evaluate, from time to time, the time, energy, expertise, knowledge, judgment and personal skills which Independent Trustees brings to the Board and to consider retirement policies for the Independent Trustees.
5. To participate in the development of agendas for Board and Committee meetings.
6. To consider, evaluate and make recommendations regarding the type and amount of fidelity bond, and director and officer and/or errors and omission insurance coverage, for the funds, the Board and the Independent Trustees, as applicable.
7. To consider, evaluate and make recommendations and necessary findings regarding independent legal counsel and any other advisers, experts or consultants, that may be engaged from time to time, other than as may be engaged directly by another Committee.
8. To evaluate feedback from shareholders as appropriate. Annex A includes procedures for shareholders to communicate with the members of the Administration Committee.

E. Additional Responsibilities. The Committee will also perform other tasks assigned to it from time to time by full Board, and will report findings and recommendations to the full Board, as appropriate.

F. Governance. One member of the Committee shall be appointed as chair. The chair shall be responsible for leadership of the Committee, including scheduling meetings or reviewing and approving the schedule for them, preparing agendas or reviewing and approving them before meetings, presiding over meetings, and making reports to the full Board, as appropriate.

G. Miscellaneous. The Committee shall meet as often as it deems appropriate, with or without management, as circumstances require. The Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities, including the authority to retain special counsel and other advisers, experts or consultants, at the funds' expense, as it determines necessary to carry out its duties. The Committee shall have direct access to such officers of and service providers to the funds as it deems desirable.

H. Review. The Committee shall review this Charter periodically and recommend such changes to the full Board as it deems desirable.

### ANNEX A

#### GENERAL CRITERIA

1. Nominees should have a reputation for integrity, honesty and adherence to high ethical standards.
2. Nominees should have demonstrated business acumen, experience and



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ability to exercise sound judgments in matters that relate to the current and long-term objectives of the Fund(s) and should be willing and able to contribute positively to the decision-making process of the Fund(s).

3. Nominees should have a commitment to understand the Fund(s), and the responsibilities of a Trustee/Director of an investment company and to regularly attend and participate in meetings of the Board and its committees.
4. Nominees should have the ability to understand the sometimes conflicting interests of the various constituencies of the Fund, including shareholders and the management company, and to act in the interests of all shareholders.
5. Nominees should not have, nor appear to have, a conflict of interest that would impair the nominee's ability to represent the interests of all the shareholders and to fulfill the responsibilities of a director /trustee.
6. Nominees shall not be discriminated against on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or any other basis proscribed by law. The value of diversity on the Board should be considered.

### APPLICATION OF CRITERIA TO EXISTING

The renomination of existing Trustees should not be viewed as automatic, but should be based on continuing qualification under the criteria set forth above. In addition, the Administrative Committee shall consider the existing trustees' performance on the Board and any committee.

### REVIEW OF SHAREHOLDER NOMINATIONS

Any shareholder recommendation must be submitted in compliance with all of the pertinent provisions of Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to be considered by the Administration Committee. In evaluating a nominee recommended by a shareholder, the Administration Committee, in addition to the criteria discussed above, may consider the objectives of the shareholder in submitting that nomination and whether such objectives are consistent with the interests of all shareholders. If the Board determines to include a shareholder's candidate among the slate of nominees, the candidate's name will be placed on the Fund's proxy card. If the Administration Committee or the Board determines not to include such candidate among the Board's designated nominees and the shareholder has satisfied the requirements of Rule 14a-8, the shareholder's candidate will be treated as a nominee of the shareholder who originally nominated the candidate. In that case, the candidate will not be named on the proxy card distributed with the Fund's proxy statement.

As long as an existing Independent Trustee continues, in the opinion of the Administration Committee, to satisfy the criteria listed above, the Committee generally would favor the re-nomination of an existing Trustee rather than a new candidate. Consequently, while the Administration Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders to serve as trustees, the Administration Committee may only act upon such recommendations if there is a vacancy on the Board or the Administration Committee determines that the selection of a new or additional Independent Trustee is in the best interests of the Fund. In the event that a vacancy arises or a change in Board membership is determined to be advisable, the Administration Committee will, in addition to any shareholder recommendations, consider candidates identified by other means, including candidates proposed by members of the Administration Committee. While it has not done so in the past, the Administration Committee may retain a consultant to assist the Committee in a search for a qualified candidate.

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHAREHOLDERS

Shareholders may communicate with the members of the Board as a group or individually. Any such communication should be sent to the Board or an individual Trustee c/o the secretary of the Fund at the address on the notice of this meeting. The Secretary may determine not to forward any letter to the members of the Board that does not relate to the business of the Fund.

-----  
THANK YOU  
for mailing  
your proxy  
card promptly  
-----

John Hancock  
[logo]

WORLDWIDE SPONSOR

JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS, LLC

MEMBER NASD  
101 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02199-7603

1-800-852-0218  
1-800-231-5469 TTD  
1-800-843-0090 EASI-Line

www.jhfunds.com

P56PX 1/05

JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST  
Annual Meeting of Shareholders  
March 2, 2005

The undersigned holder of common shares of beneficial interest of John Hancock Investors Trust hereby appoints JAMES A. SHEPHERDSON, WILLIAM H. KING and SUSAN S. NEWTON, and each of them singly, proxies and attorneys of the undersigned, with full power of substitution to each, for and in the name of the undersigned, to vote and act upon all matters at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Trust to be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at the offices of the Trust, 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern time, and at any and all adjournments thereof, in respect of all common shares of the Trust held by the undersigned or in respect of which the undersigned would be entitled to vote or act, with all powers the undersigned would possess if personally present. All proxies previously given by the undersigned in respect of said meeting are hereby revoked.

-----  
PLEASE VOTE, DATE AND SIGN ON REVERSE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.  
-----

Please complete, sign, date and return this proxy in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible. Please sign exactly as your name or names appear in the box on the reverse. When signing as Attorney, Executor, Administrator, Trustee or Guardian, please give your full title as such. If a corporation, please sign in

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full corporate name by president or other authorized officer. If a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

-----  
Address Change/Comments (Mark the corresponding box on the reverse side)  
-----

[ ] Please Mark Here for Address Change or Comments SEE REVERSE SIDE

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. To elect the following nominees to serve as Trustees of the Trust.

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| (01) J. Carlin      | (06) C. Ladner     |
| (02) R. Chapman Jr. | (07) S. Pruchansky |
| (03) W. Cosgrove    | (08) J. Shepherson |
| (04) W. Cunningham  |                    |
| (05) R. Dion        |                    |

FOR		WITHHOLD	
ALL	[ ]	FROM ALL	[ ]
NOMINEES		NOMINEES	

[ ] \_\_\_\_\_  
For all nominees except as noted above

-----  
JOHN HANCOCK  
-----

INVESTORS TRUST

2. To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Fund's Independent registered public accounting firm	For	Against	Abstain
	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Specify your vote by marking the appropriate spaces. If no specification is made, this proxy will be voted for the nominees named in the proxy statement and in favor of proposal 2. The persons named as proxies have discretionary authority, which they intend to exercise in favor of the proposals referred to and according to their best judgment as to the other matters which may properly come before the meeting.

Please be sure to sign and date this Proxy.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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[arrow up] FOLD AND DETACH HERE [arrow up]

Vote by Internet or Telephone or Mail  
24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week

Internet and telephone voting is available through 11PM Eastern Time  
the business day prior to annual meeting day.

Your Internet or telephone vote authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares  
as if you marked, signed and returned your proxy card.

-----  
Internet  
<http://www.eproxy.com/jhi>

-----  
Telephone  
1-800-435-6710

Use the Internet to vote your proxy.  
Have your proxy card in hand when  
you access the web site. You will be  
prompted to enter your control  
number, located in the box below, to  
create and submit an electronic  
ballot.

OR

Use any touch-tone telephone to  
vote your proxy. Have your proxy  
card in hand when you call. You will  
be prompted to enter your control  
number, located in the box below,  
and then follow the directions  
given.

Ma  
y  
n  
enc

-----  
If you vote your proxy by Internet or by telephone,  
you do NOT need to mail back your proxy card.

P R O X Y

JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST

The undersigned holder of Auction Preferred Shares of beneficial interest  
("Preferred Shares") of John Hancock Investors Trust hereby constitutes and  
appoints James A. Shepherdson, William H. King and Susan S. Newton, and each of  
them singly, proxies and attorneys of the undersigned, with full power of  
substitution to each, for and in the name of the undersigned, to vote and act  
upon all matters at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Trust to be held  
on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at the offices of the Trust, 101 Huntington Avenue,  
Boston, Massachusetts, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern time, and at any and all  
adjournments thereof, in respect to all Preferred Shares of the Trust held by  
the undersigned or in respect of which the undersigned would be entitled to vote  
or act, with all the powers the undersigned would possess if personally present.  
All proxies previously given by the undersigned in respect of said meeting are  
hereby revoked.

1: To elect the following nominees to serve as Trustees of the Trust

For      Withhold

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John A. Moore	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patti McGill Peterson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2: To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm.

FOR           AGAINST           ABSTAIN

Specify your vote by check marks in the appropriate space. This proxy will be voted as specified. If no specification is made, the proxy will be voted for the nominees named in the proxy statement and in favor of proposal 2. The persons named as proxies have discretionary authority, which they intend to exercise in favor of the proposals referred to and according to their best judgment as to the other matters which properly come before the meeting.

PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE SIGN EXACTLY AS YOUR NAME OR NAMES APPEAR IN THE BOX ON THE LEFT. WHEN SIGNING AS ATTORNEY, EXECUTOR, ADMINISTRATOR, TRUSTEE OR GUARDIAN, PLEASE GIVE YOUR FULL TITLE AS SUCH. IF A CORPORATION, PLEASE SIGN IN FULL CORPORATE NAME BY PRESIDENT OR OTHER AUTHORIZED OFFICER. IF A PARTNERSHIP, PLEASE SIGN IN PARTNERSHIP NAME BY AUTHORIZED PERSON.  
Date \_\_\_\_\_, 2005

-----  
Signature(s) of Shareholder(s)

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Hancock ----- JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS	Mellon Mellon Investor Services A Mellon Financial Company
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Welcome to the  
John Hancock Investors Trust  
2005 Proxy Voting Site  
  
Annual Meeting of Shareholders  
March 2, 2005

The undersigned holder of common shares of beneficial interest of John Hancock Investors Trust hereby appoints JAMES A. SHEPHERDSON, WILLIAM H. KING and SUSAN S. NEWTON, and each of them singly, proxies and attorneys of the undersigned, with full power of substitution to each, for and in the name of the undersigned, to vote and act upon all matters at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at the offices of the Trust, 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern time, and at any and all adjournments thereof, in respect of all common shares of the Trust held by the undersigned or in respect of which the undersigned would be entitled to vote or act, with all powers the undersigned would possess if personally present. All proxies previously given by the undersigned in respect of said meeting are hereby revoked.

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Click here to continue to the secure voting site.  
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If your browser does not support SSL encryption, click here.

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John Hancock  
-----  
JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS

Mellon  
Mellon Investor Services  
A Mellon Financial Company

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Welcome to the John Hancock Investors Trust  
2005 Proxy Voting Site

Your Internet vote authorizes the Proxies to vote your shares in the same manner as if you marked, signed, and returned your Proxy Card.

The Board of Trustees recommends a vote  
FOR Proposals 1 and 2.

-----  
Click Here To Vote As The Board Of Trustees Recommends  
-----

-----  
Click Here To Vote Individually On Each Proposal  
-----

-----  
John Hancock  
-----  
JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS

Mellon  
Mellon Investor Services  
A Mellon Financial Company

-----  
To Vote Separately On Each Proposal - Check The Boxes Below:  
-----

=====  
The Board recommends a vote FOR Proposals 1 and 2.  
=====

-----  
PROPOSAL 1

To elect the following nominees to serve as Trustees of the Fund  
=====

FOR ALL [ ]      WITHHOLD ALL [ ]      FOR ALL EXCEPT [ ]

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- [ ]01 James F. Carlin
- [ ]02 Richard P. Chapman, Jr.
- [ ]03 William J. Cosgrove
- [ ]04 William H. Cunningham
- [ ]05 Ronald R. Dion
- [ ]06 Charles L. Ladner
- [ ]07 Steven R. Pruchansky
- [ ]08 James A. Shepherdson

=====
PROPOSAL 2

To ratify the selection of PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Fund's Independent registered public accounting firm

For[ ] Against[ ] Abstain[ ]

In their discretion, the Proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting, or at any adjournment thereof.

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Click Here To Register Your Vote
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BACK
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John Hancock
-----
JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS

Mellon
Mellon Investor Services
A Mellon Financial Company

THANK YOU FOR VOTING ELECTRONICALLY

Voting Summary

Your Control Number:

Trustees:
You Voted:
Proposal 2:
You Voted:
To change your address click here.

THANK YOU FOR VOTING

Your vote has been successfully recorded and will be tabulated by Mellon Investor Services within 24 hours. It is not necessary for you to mail back your voting card.

If any of the above information is incorrect, return to the proxy ballot form by using the BACK feature of your browser program.

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To vote another Proxy - [CLICK HERE](#) Please exit your browser program as you normally do.