

PUTNAM MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES TRUST  
Form N-Q  
September 29, 2016

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-Q**

**QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF  
REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Investment Company Act file number:                 | (811- 07626)   |
| Exact name of registrant as specified in charter:   | Putnam Municipal Opportunities Trust   |
| Address of principal executive offices:             | One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109  |
| Name and address of agent for service:              | Robert T. Burns, Vice President<br>One Post Office Square<br>Boston, Massachusetts 02109               |
| Copy to:  | Bryan Chegwiddden, Esq.<br>Ropes & Gray LLP<br>1211 Avenue of the Americas<br>New York, New York 10036 |
| Registrant's telephone number, including area code: | (617) 292-1000   |
| Date of fiscal year end:                            | April 30, 2017   |
| Date of reporting period:                           | July 31, 2016  |

Item 1. Schedule of Investments:

## Putnam Municipal Opportunities Trust

### The fund's portfolio 7/31/16 (Unaudited)

#### Key to holding's abbreviations

ABAG — Association Of Bay Area Governments

AGC — Assured Guaranty Corp.

AGM — Assured Guaranty Municipal Corporation

AMBAC — AMBAC Indemnity Corporation

BAM — Build America Mutual

COP — Certificates of Participation

FGIC — Financial Guaranty Insurance Company

FNMA Coll. — Federal National Mortgage Association Collateralized

FRB — Floating Rate Bonds: the rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period

G.O. Bonds — General Obligation Bonds

NATL — National Public Finance Guarantee Corp.

Q-SBLF — Qualified School Board Loan Fund

U.S. Govt. Coll. — U.S. Government Collateralized

VRDN — Variable Rate Demand Notes, which are floating-rate securities with long-term maturities that carry coupons that reset and are payable upon demand either daily, weekly or monthly. The rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period.

#### MUNICIPAL BONDS AND NOTES (140.9%)<sup>(a)</sup>

Rating<sup>(RAT)</sup>

Principal  
amount

Value

### Notes to the fund's portfolio

Unless noted otherwise, the notes to the fund's portfolio are for the close of the fund's reporting period, which ran from May 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016 (the reporting period). Within the following notes to the portfolio, references to "ASC 820" represent Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, references to "Putnam Management" represent Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund's manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC and references to "OTC", if any, represent over-the-counter.

<sup>(a)</sup> Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$533,967,982.

<sup>(RAT)</sup> The Moody's, Standard & Poor's or Fitch ratings indicated are believed to be the most recent ratings available at the close of the reporting period for the securities listed. Ratings are generally ascribed to securities at the time of issuance. While the agencies may from time to time revise such ratings, they

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undertake no obligation to do so, and the ratings do not necessarily represent what the agencies would ascribe to these securities at the close of the reporting period. Securities rated by Fitch are indicated by "/F." Securities rated by Putnam are indicated by "/P." The Putnam rating categories are comparable to the Standard & Poor's classifications. If a security is insured, it will usually be rated by the ratings organizations based on the financial strength of the insurer.

- (b) The aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$667,923,190, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$85,423,914 and \$973,171, respectively, or net unrealized appreciation of \$84,450,743.
- (NON) This security is non-income-producing.
- (FWC) Forward commitment, in part or in entirety.
- (F) This security is valued by Putnam Management at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. Securities may be classified as Level 2 or Level 3 for ASC 820 based on the securities' valuation inputs.
- (T) Underlying security in a tender option bond transaction. This security has been segregated as collateral for financing transactions.

At the close of the reporting period, the fund maintained liquid assets totaling \$51,819,740 to cover tender option bonds.

144A after the name of an issuer represents securities exempt from registration under Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.

On Mandatory Put Bonds, the rates shown are the current interest rates at the close of the reporting period and the dates shown represent the next mandatory put dates.

The dates shown parenthetically on prerefunded bonds represent the next prerefunding dates.

The dates shown on debt obligations are the original maturity dates.

The fund had the following sector concentrations greater than 10% at the close of the reporting period (as a percentage of net assets):

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Transportation | 22.6% |
| Health care    | 20.6  |
| Utilities      | 19.8  |
| Local debt     | 14.1  |
| State debt     | 14.0  |
| Prerefunded    | 12.2  |
| Tax bonds      | 12.0  |

**Security valuation:** Portfolio securities and other investments are valued using policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees have formed a Pricing Committee to oversee the implementation of these procedures and have delegated responsibility for valuing the fund's assets in accordance with these procedures to Putnam Management. Putnam Management has established an internal Valuation Committee that is responsible for making fair value determinations, evaluating the effectiveness of the pricing policies of the fund and reporting to the Pricing Committee.

Tax-exempt bonds and notes are generally valued on the basis of valuations provided by an independent pricing service approved by the Trustees. Such services use information with respect to transactions in bonds, quotations from bond dealers, market transactions in comparable securities and various relationships between securities in determining value. These securities will generally be categorized as Level 2.

Certain investments, including certain restricted and illiquid securities and derivatives are also valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. To assess the continuing appropriateness of fair valuations, the Valuation Committee reviews and affirms the reasonableness of such valuations on a regular basis after considering all relevant information that is reasonably available. Such valuations and procedures are reviewed periodically by the Trustees. These valuations consider such factors as significant market or specific security events such as interest rate or credit quality changes, various relationships with

other securities, discount rates, U.S. Treasury, U.S. swap and credit yields, index levels, convexity exposures, recovery rates, sales and other multiples and resale restrictions. These securities are classified as Level 2 or as Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs. The fair value of securities is generally determined as the amount that the fund could reasonably expect to realize from an orderly disposition of such securities over a reasonable period of time. By its nature, a fair value price is a good faith estimate of the value of a security in a current sale and does not reflect an actual market price, which may be different by a material amount.

**Tender option bond transactions:** The fund may participate in transactions whereby a fixed-rate bond is transferred to a tender option bond trust (TOB trust) sponsored by a broker. The TOB trust funds the purchase of the fixed rate bonds by issuing floating-rate bonds issued to third parties and allowing the fund to retain the residual interest in the TOB trust's assets and cash flows, which are in the form of inverse floating rate bonds. The inverse floating rate bonds held by the fund give the fund the right to (1) cause the holders of the floating rate bonds to tender their notes at par, and (2) to have the fixed-rate bond held by the TOB trust transferred to the fund, causing the TOB trust to collapse. The fund accounts for the transfer of the fixed-rate bond to the TOB trust as a secured borrowing by including the fixed-rate bond in The fund's portfolio and including the floating rate bond as a liability in the Statement of assets and liabilities. At the close of the reporting period, the fund's investments with a value of \$93,641,996 were held by the TOB trust and served as collateral for \$41,822,256 in floating-rate bonds outstanding. During the reporting period, the fund incurred interest expense of \$44,571 for these investments based on an average interest rate of 0.33%.

ASC 820 establishes a three-level hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of the fund's investments. The three levels are defined as follows:

**Level 1:** Valuations based on quoted prices for identical securities in active markets.

**Level 2:** Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3:** Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a summary of the inputs used to value the fund's net assets as of the close of the reporting period:

|                                   | <b>Valuation inputs</b> |                      |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Investments in securities:</b> | <b>Level 1</b>          | <b>Level 2</b>       | <b>Level 3</b>  |
| Municipal bonds and notes         | —                       | 752,363,247          | 10,686          |
| <b>Totals by level</b>            | <b>\$—</b>              | <b>\$752,363,247</b> | <b>\$10,686</b> |

Item 2. Controls and Procedures:

(a) The registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded, based on their evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report, that the design and operation of such procedures are generally effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the registrant in this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms.

(b) Changes in internal control over financial reporting: Not applicable

Item 3. Exhibits:

Separate certifications for the principal executive officer and principal financial officer of the registrant as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, are filed herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Putnam Municipal Opportunities Trust

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Janet C. Smith  
Janet C. Smith  
Principal Accounting Officer  
Date: September 29, 2016

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Jonathan S. Horwitz  
Jonathan S. Horwitz  
Principal Executive Officer  
Date: September 29, 2016

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Steven D. Krichmar  
Steven D. Krichmar  
Principal Financial Officer  
Date: September 29, 2016

