

## City of Waukesha

Bond Ratings April 12, 2016 Bradley D. Viegut, Managing Director <u>bviegut@rwbaird.com</u>

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### Waukesha's Bond Rating

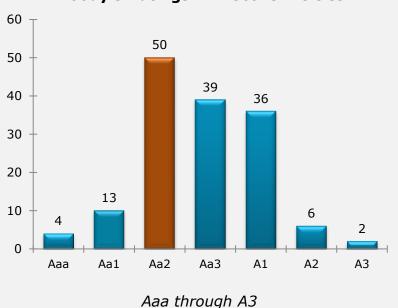
#### Moody's changed Waukesha's bond rating from "Aa1" to "Aa2" on March 22, 2016.

- "Aa2" is the third highest rating Moody's assigns.
- Other Aa2 rated Wisconsin communities with characteristics similar to Waukesha include Menomonee Falls, Green Bay and Wausau.
- Waukesha's rating was <u>never</u> higher than Aa2 until Moody's "recalibrated" its rating scale in June of 2010 at which time Waukesha was assigned a Aa1 rating.
- Moody's did not view the change from Aa2 to Aa1 as an upgrade, only a recalibration.
- Moody's changed the weighting of its rating factors in 2014. The weighting of economic factors was reduced by 10% (to 30% of the overall score) and the weighting of debt factors was increased by 10% (to 20% of the overall score).
- Moody's Credit Committee (the committee which assigns ratings) has become even more cautious in 2016 and now views general fund advances to TID as a credit negative.
- Two other Wisconsin issuers were recently downgraded with Moody's stating similar reasons for the downgrade as the reasons for Waukesha's rating change.

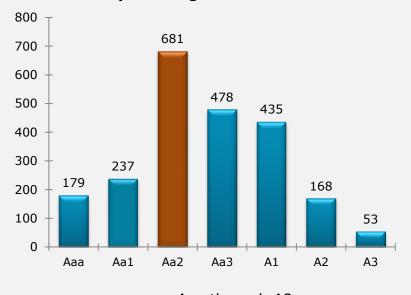


### Waukesha's Bond Rating

#### Moody's Ratings - Wisconsin Cities



#### Moody's Ratings - Cities Nationwide



### What Do Bond Ratings Mean

- Bond ratings provide the market (investors) with a framework for comparing the credit quality of debt securities.
- The higher the rating, the lower the interest rate.



### Moody's Rating Definitions

Moody' ratings are intended to provide capital market participants with a framework for comparing the credit quality of debt securities. A credit rating compresses an enormous amount of diverse information into a single symbol. Bonds with the same credit rating, therefore, may be comparable with respect to overall credit quality but may differ with respect to specific credit quality characteristics.

Aaa	Obligations rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.
Aa	Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.
А	Obligations rated A are judged to be upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.
Ваа	Obligations rated Baa are judged to be medium-grade and subject to moderate credit risk and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.
Ва	Obligations rated Ba are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.
В	Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.
Caa	Obligations rated Caa are judged to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.
Ca	Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.
С	Obligations rated C are the lowest rated and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

# How Does Moody's Determine a City's Bond Rating?

#### 1. Economy/Tax Base (30%)

- a. Tax Base Size (full value) 10%
- b. Full Value Per Capita 10%
- c. Wealth (median family income) 10%

#### 2. Finances (30%)

- a. Fund Balance (% of revenues) 10%
- b. Fund Balance Trend (5-year change) 5%
- c. Cash Balance (% of revenues) 10%
- d. Cash Balance Trend (5-year change) 5%

#### 3. Management (20%)

- a. Institutional Framework 10%
- b. Operating History 10%

#### 4. Debt/Pensions (20%)

- a. Debt to Full Value 5%
- b. Debt to Revenue 5%
- c. Moody's-adjusted Net Pension Liability (3-year average) to Full Value 5%
- d. Moody's-adjusted Net Pension Liability (3-year average) to Full Value 5%



### Waukesha's Historical **Bond Ratings**

1973

1997

June 2004\* November 2004\*

**April** 2007\*

June 2010

March 2016\*

Aa

Aa2

 Moody's adds numerical modifiers to each generic rating category (Aa - Caa)

Aa2

- Moody's raises concerns regarding ongoing drawdowns to fund balance
- "This drawdown is attributed to the application of fund balance as a tax levy offset and poor interest earnings. This marks three years of reductions of reserves..."
- "The city's ability to rebuild and maintain reserves to a level consistent with its rating category will continue to be a focus of future credit analysis."

#### Aa2 Negative Outlook

- "Assignment of the negative outlook reflects the city's series of multi year deficits and declining reserve levels."
- "The city's ability to rebuild and maintain reserves to a level consistent with its rating category will be a key focus of future credit analysis."

#### Aa2

- Removed negative outlook
- "Balance Sheet *Improvement* Leads to Removal of Negative Outlook"

#### Aa1

- Moody's changes its rating scale. In general, all Aa2 rated municipalities see a rating change to Aa1
- Moody's does not view this rating change as an upgrade, only a recalibration

#### Aa2

- Moody's changes Waukesha's rating from Aa1 to Aa2
- "Credit Challenges: above average debt burden, more narrowed reserve levels due to pressured TID operations, state imposed revenue limits reducing financial flexibility"
- "Factors that could lead to an upgrade: 1) Significant improvement in socio-economic indices 2) Material, sustained increase in available reserves 3) Moderation of the city's debt burden"



### Specific Observations

- A 2010 change in DOR valuation methodology had a negative impact on older (longer-lived) TIDs
- A statutory change in 2014 (Act 145) increased state aid to Technical College Districts and reduced all future TID tax revenue by approximately 4% annually.
- Moody's recognizes the steps Waukesha has taken with regard to TID #11 cash flow
- Moody's cites the positive impact of utilizing pay-go and/or developer agreements for future TIDs.



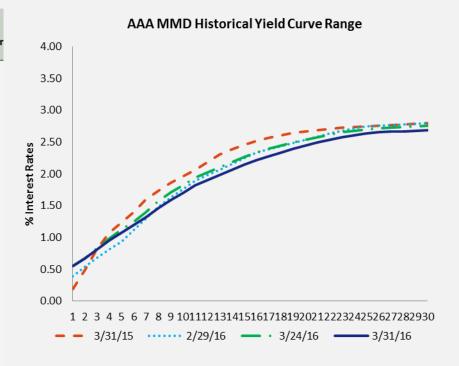
## The Impact of Bond Ratings on Interest Rates

- Interest rates increase as bond ratings decrease
- The interest rate difference between ratings changes with market conditions
- In today's market, the impact of a one notch change from Aa1:
  - approximately 0.05% (5 basis points)
  - approximately \$2,500/\$1 million borrowed over a 10-year period
  - approximately \$3,500/\$1 million borrowed over a 15-year period
- The estimated annual impact on the City's upcoming levy supported debt issue is \$5,050



### Where Have Tax-Exempt Rates Gone?

	Annual	Monthly	Weekly	Current	v	Difference	
					Year		
8.6-4	2/24/45	2/20/46	2/24/45	2/24/45	over	Month over	
Maturity 1	3/31/15	<b>2/29/16</b> 0.39	<b>3/24/16</b> 0.55	<b>3/31/16</b> 0.55	<b>Year</b> 0.36	Month	Week
2	0.19	0.59	0.55	0.55	0.36	0.16	0.00
3	0.49	0.54		0.81	-0.01	0.13	0.00
3 4	0.82	0.88	0.83	0.81	-0.01	0.13	-0.02
5	1.07		0.98			0.14	-0.03
	1.24	0.93	1.12	1.07	-0.17	0.14	-0.05
6	1.40	1.11	1.25	1.20	-0.20	0.09	-0.05
7	1.60	1.30	1.40	1.32	-0.28	0.02	-0.08
8	1.73	1.48	1.57	1.46	-0.27	-0.02	-0.11
9	1.86	1.63	1.71	1.59	-0.27	-0.04	-0.12
10	1.96	1.76	1.82	1.70	-0.26	-0.06	-0.12
11	2.06	1.89	1.94	1.82	-0.24	-0.07	-0.12
12	2.18	1.98	2.02	1.90	-0.28	-0.08	-0.12
13	2.30	2.06	2.10	1.98	-0.32	-0.08	-0.12
14	2.38	2.15	2.18	2.06	-0.32	-0.09	-0.12
15	2.45	2.24	2.26	2.14	-0.31	-0.10	-0.12
16	2.51	2.33	2.33	2.21	-0.30	-0.12	-0.12
17	2.56	2.38	2.39	2.27	-0.29	-0.11	-0.12
18	2.60	2.43	2.44	2.33	-0.27	-0.10	-0.11
19	2.64	2.48	2.49	2.39	-0.25	-0.09	-0.10
20	2.67	2.53	2.53	2.44	-0.23	-0.09	-0.09
21	2.69	2.58	2.57	2.49	-0.20	-0.09	-0.08
22	2.71	2.63	2.61	2.53	-0.18	-0.10	-0.08
23	2.73	2.68	2.65	2.57	-0.16	-0.11	-0.08
24	2.74	2.72	2.68	2.60	-0.14	-0.12	-0.08
25	2.75	2.75	2.70	2.63	-0.12	-0.12	-0.07
26	2.76	2.76	2.72	2.65	-0.11	-0.11	-0.07
27	2.77	2.77	2.73	2.66	-0.11	-0.11	-0.07
28	2.78	2.78	2.74	2.67	-0.11	-0.11	-0.07
29	2.79	2.79	2.75	2.68	-0.11	-0.11	-0.07
30	2.80	2.80	2.76	2.69	-0.11	<u>-0.11</u>	-0.07
				Average:	-0.17	-0.04	-0.08



Average Week over Week: -0.08% Average Month over Month: -0.04% Average Year over Year: -0.17%



### 6 Month Municipal Market Snapshot

