

FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp  
Form PRE 14A  
March 17, 2014  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, DC 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A**

(RULE 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement.
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)).**
- Definitive Proxy Statement.
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

**Fidus Investment Corporation**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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

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

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

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

(1) Amount previously paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:



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**1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005**

**Evanston, Illinois, 60201**

**(847) 859-3940**

[ ], 2014

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend Fidus Investment Corporation's 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Central Time, at the JW Marriott, 151 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

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

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

Sincerely yours,  
Edward H. Ross  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

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**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

**1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005**

**Evanston, Illinois, 60201**

**(847) 859-3940**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**To Be Held On Wednesday, June 4, 2014**

To the Stockholders of Fidus Investment Corporation:

The 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Fidus Investment Corporation (the Company) will be held at the JW Marriott, 151 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time) for the following purposes:

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

You have the right to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting if you were a stockholder of record at the close of business on March 14, 2014. Whether or not you expect to be present in person at the meeting, please vote by signing the enclosed proxy card and returning it promptly in the self-addressed envelope provided or, alternatively, by calling the toll-free telephone number or using the Internet as described on the proxy card. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares in street name, your broker has enclosed a voting instruction form, which you should use to vote those shares. The voting instruction form indicates whether you have the option to vote those shares by telephone or by using the Internet. In the event there are not sufficient votes for a quorum or to approve or ratify any of the foregoing proposals at the time of the Annual Meeting, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned in order to permit further solicitation of proxies by the Company.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Cary L. Schaefer  
Chief Financial Officer, Chief Compliance Officer

and Corporate Secretary

Evanston, Illinois

[ ], 2014

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

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**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

**1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005**

**Evanston, Illinois, 60201**

**(847) 859-3940**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Fidus Investment Corporation (the Company, Fidus, we, us or our ) for use at our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time) at the JW Marriott, 151 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, and at any adjournments thereof (the Annual Meeting ). The Notice of Annual Meeting, this proxy statement, the accompanying proxy card and our Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 are first being sent to stockholders on or about [ ], 2014.

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

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 4, 2014:**

The Notice of Annual Meeting, proxy statement, and our Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 are available at the following Internet address: [www.viewproxy.com/fidusinv/2014/](http://www.viewproxy.com/fidusinv/2014/).

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**INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING**

**When is the Annual Meeting?**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time).

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

The Annual Meeting will be held at the JW Marriott, 151 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

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

There are two matters scheduled for a vote:

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

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

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

Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote:

*FOR* the election of the two Class III director nominees named herein to serve on the Board of Directors; and

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

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

Fidus encourages, but does not require, its directors to attend annual meetings of stockholders. However, Fidus anticipates that all of its directors will attend the 2014 Annual Meeting.



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**INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING**

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

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the record date, March 14, 2014, are entitled to receive notice of the Annual Meeting and to vote the shares for which they were stockholders of record on that date at the Annual Meeting, or any postponement or adjournment of the Annual Meeting. As of the close of business on March 14, 2014, we had 13,755,232 shares of common stock outstanding.

**How do I vote?**

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

*Stockholders of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name.* If on March 14, 2014, your shares were registered directly in your name with Fidus transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, then you are a stockholder of record. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting or vote by giving us your proxy. You may give us your proxy by completing the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the enclosed postage-prepaid envelope, or by calling a toll-free telephone number or using the Internet as further described below and on the enclosed proxy card. **Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to sign and return the enclosed proxy card or to otherwise give your proxy authorization by telephone or Internet, as specified on the proxy card, to ensure your vote is counted.** You may still attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person if you have already signed and returned your proxy card.

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

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

**BY INTERNET:** To vote by Internet, go to [www.cesvote.com](http://www.cesvote.com) to transmit your voting instructions until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 3, 2014. Have your proxy card available when you access the website and then follow the instructions.

**BY TELEPHONE:** To vote by telephone, call 1-888-693-8683 and use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions **until** 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 3, 2014. Have your proxy card available when you call the phone number above and then follow the instructions.

*Beneficial Owners: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank.* If on March 14, 2014, your shares were held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by that organization. If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank or other agent, you should have received from that organization rather than from Fidus, a proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials. Simply complete and mail the proxy card to ensure that your vote is counted. Alternatively, you may be able to vote by telephone or over the Internet if permitted by your broker or bank. To vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent. Follow the voting instruction form from your broker or bank included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker or bank to request a proxy card.

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

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock for which you were the stockholder of record as of March 14, 2014.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the Annual Meeting, who will separately count each vote marked FOR or WITHHOLD AUTHORITY for nominees for Class III directors identified in Proposal No. 1 and, with respect to Proposal No. 2, will separately count each vote marked FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN. However, a broker non-vote will occur when a nominee, such as a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization that holds shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee has not received instructions with respect to that proposal from the beneficial owner and does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that proposal.

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Abstentions will be treated as shares present for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting.

### **How will you treat broker non-votes?**

If your shares are held by your broker as your nominee (that is, in street name), you will need to obtain a proxy form from the institution that holds your shares and follow the voting instruction form regarding how to instruct your broker to vote your shares. In the event that a broker, bank, custodian, nominee or other record holder of our common stock indicates on a proxy that it does not have discretionary authority to vote certain shares on a particular proposal, those shares will be treated as broker non-votes with respect to that proposal.

**Under applicable Nasdaq Marketplace Rules, each of Proposal No. 1 (election of directors) and Proposal No. 2 (issuing shares below net asset value) is a non-routine proposal. Since none of the proposals to be voted on at the Annual Meeting are routine matters, the broker or nominee that holds your shares will need to obtain your authorization to vote those shares and will enclose a voting instruction form with this proxy statement. The broker or nominee will vote your shares as you direct on the proxy card they provide, so it is important that you include voting instructions. If you do not instruct the broker or nominee how to vote your shares, they will be counted as being present for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. However, they will not be counted as a vote FOR or AGAINST any proposal and will have the same effect as if you abstained from voting.**

If you own shares through a nominee, such as a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, please be sure to instruct your nominee how to vote to ensure that your vote is counted on each of the proposals.

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

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

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

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

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if at least a simple majority (*i.e.*, greater than 50%) of the outstanding shares entitled to vote are represented at the Annual Meeting either in person or by proxy. On March 14, 2014, the record date, there were 13,755,232 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus 6,877,617 shares must be represented at the Annual Meeting either in person or by proxy to constitute a quorum.

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

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

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

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

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**How and when may I submit a stockholder proposal for Fidus 2015 Annual Meeting?**

We will consider for inclusion in our proxy materials for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, stockholder proposals that are received at our executive offices, in writing, no earlier than October [ ], 2014 and no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on December [ ], 2014, and that comply with our bylaws and all applicable requirements of Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ). Proposals must be sent to our Corporate Secretary at Fidus Investment Corporation, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Pursuant to our bylaws, stockholders wishing to nominate persons for election as directors or to introduce an item of business at an annual meeting that are not to be included in our proxy materials must have given timely notice thereof in writing to our Corporate Secretary. To be timely for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, you must notify our Corporate Secretary, in writing, no earlier than October [ ], 2014, and no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on December [ ], 2014. We also advise you to review our bylaws, which contain additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations, including the different notice submission date requirements in the event that our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is held more than 30 days before or after the first anniversary of the date the notice for the 2014 annual meeting is mailed. In accordance with our bylaws, the chairman of the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders may determine, if the facts warrant, that a matter has not been properly brought before the meeting and, therefore, may not be considered at the meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 is being mailed with this proxy statement. Our Annual Report is not incorporated into this proxy statement and shall not be considered proxy solicitation material.



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**We will also mail to you, without charge and upon your written request, a copy of any specifically requested exhibit to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013.** Requests should be sent to: Corporate Secretary, Fidus Investment Corporation, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201. A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K has also been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, and may be accessed from the SEC's homepage (<http://www.sec.gov>).

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

Fidus will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. We estimate that we will pay Alliance Advisors, LLC, our proxy solicitor, a fee of approximately \$6,000, plus reimbursement for out of pocket expenses, to solicit proxies, though the costs of this proxy solicitation process could be lower or higher than our estimate. In addition to these written proxy materials, our proxy solicitor, directors, officers and employees of Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC, the Company's investment adviser and administrator (our Investment Advisor), may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone or by other means of communication; however, our directors, officers and employees of our Investment Advisor will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by the use of the mail, proxies may be solicited in person and/or by telephone or facsimile transmission by our proxy solicitor, directors, officers or employees of our Investment Advisor. Our Investment Advisor is located at 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**PROPOSAL NO. 1**

**ELECTION OF CLASS III DIRECTORS**

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

The Board of Directors has five members. There are two directors in the class whose term expires in 2014 (Class III), Messrs. Ross and Anstiss. If elected at the Annual Meeting, each nominee will serve until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until his successor is elected and qualified or, if sooner, until his death, resignation or removal. Messrs. Ross and Anstiss are not being nominated for election, nor has any director, executive officer or other listed officer of the Company been selected as a director, executive officer or other officer pursuant to any agreement or understanding with the Company or any other person. Messrs. Ross and Anstiss have indicated their willingness to continue to serve if elected and each has consented to be named as a nominee. Due to his relationship with our Investment Advisor, as discussed in more detail below, Mr. Ross is an interested person of the Company as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act. Mr. Anstiss is not an interested person of the Company as defined in the 1940 Act.

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

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

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



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Certain information as of [ ], 2014, with respect to each Class III director nominee is set forth below.

**Nominees for Class III Director***Interested Director*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Background Information</b>
Edward H. Ross	48	Mr. Ross has served as chairman of our board of directors and our chief executive officer, and as chairman of our Investment Advisor's investment committee, since our initial public offering in June 2011. Additionally, Mr. Ross is the chief executive officer and a manager of our Investment Advisor. Mr. Ross is an interested director due to his positions with the Company and our Investment Advisor. Mr. Ross has more than 20 years of debt and equity capital investing experience with lower middle-market companies. Mr. Ross co-founded Fidus Capital, LLC, the predecessor firm to our Investment Advisor, in 2005. From February 2007 to June 2011, Mr. Ross served as a member of the investment committee of Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC, Fund I's former general partner. From 2002 to 2005, Mr. Ross was a managing director and the head of the Chicago office for Allied Capital Corporation, a publicly-traded business development company, where he focused on making debt and equity investments in middle-market companies. Prior to joining Allied Capital Corporation, Mr. Ross co-founded Middle Market Capital, a merchant banking group of Wachovia Securities and its predecessor, First Union Securities, Inc., a retail brokerage and institutional capital markets and investment banking firm. Mr. Ross earned a bachelor of arts from Southern Methodist University and a master of business administration from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. Mr. Ross is the brother of John J. Ross, II, a manager of our Investment Advisor and a member of its investment committee.

*Independent Director*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Background Information</b>
Raymond L. Anstiss, Jr.	47	Mr. Anstiss has served on our Board of Directors since September 2011 and is the chairman of our audit committee and a member of our nominating and corporate governance committee. Mr. Anstiss is the President of Anstiss & Co., an accounting, audit, tax and financial consulting firm headquartered in Lowell, Massachusetts. Prior to joining Anstiss & Co. in 1993, Mr. Anstiss served on the audit staff of KPMG Peat Marwick from 1988 to 1992. Mr. Anstiss has served on the board of two not-for-profit companies in the past five years.

*The Board of Directors recommends a vote for the Class III director nominees named above.*

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Certain information as of [ ], 2014, with respect to each Class I and Class II director is set forth below.

**Class I Director continuing in office until the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

*Independent Director*

Name	Age	Background Information
Charles D. Hyman	55	Mr. Hyman has served on our Board of Directors since our initial public offering in June 2011 and is the chairman of our nominating and corporate governance committee and a member of our audit committee. Mr. Hyman is the founder and chief executive officer of Charles D. Hyman & Co., a private, registered investment management firm located in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Prior to forming Charles D. Hyman & Co. in 1994, Mr. Hyman served as a senior vice president of St. Johns Investment Management Company. Mr. Hyman has served on the board of directors for several not-for-profit companies in the past five years.

**Class II Directors continuing in office until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

*Interested Director*

Name	Age	Background Information
Thomas C. Lauer	46	Mr. Lauer has served as our director and as a member of our Investment Advisor's investment committee since our initial public offering in June 2011. Additionally, Mr. Lauer is a manager of our Investment Advisor. Mr. Lauer is an interested director due to his position with the Investment Advisor. Mr. Lauer has more than 15 years of experience investing debt and equity capital in lower middle-market companies. Mr. Lauer was a managing partner of Fidus Partners, LLC, an investment banking firm, from 2008 to June 2011. From 2004 to 2008, Mr. Lauer was a managing director of Allied Capital Corporation, a publicly-traded business development company, and member of that firm's Management Committee from 2006 to 2008, Private Finance Investment Committee from 2005 to 2008, and Senior Debt Fund Investment Committee from 2007 to 2008. Prior to joining Allied Capital Corporation, Mr. Lauer worked with the Global Sponsor Finance Group of GE Capital, the financial services unit of General Electric, the Leveraged Capital Group at Wachovia Securities and its predecessor, First Union Securities, Inc., a retail brokerage and institutional capital markets and investment banking firm, and the Platform Components Division of Intel Corporation. Mr. Lauer earned a bachelor of business administration from the University of Notre Dame and master of business administration from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

**Table of Contents***Independent Director*

Name	Age	Background Information
John A. Mazzarino	61	Mr. Mazzarino has served on our Board of Directors since November, 2012. Mr. Mazzarino is a Co-Founder and Managing Director of Cherokee Investment Partners, a private equity real estate investment management firm focused on the acquisition, remediation, management and development of brownfields in North America and Europe. Prior to co-founding Cherokee's predecessor firm in 1988, Mr. Mazzarino worked at Bain & Company from 1982 to 1988, where he specialized in mergers and acquisitions and corporate strategy. From 1977 to 1982 he worked at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., consulting on policy issues with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Energy and other federal agencies. Mr. Mazzarino currently serves as a member of the board of advisors of the MIT Sloan School Finance Group and is a director of Cherokee Gives Back, Cherokee's philanthropic arm. In addition, Mr. Mazzarino is a member of two other private and not-for-profit company boards.

**Qualifications of Directors**

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

*Interested Directors*

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

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

*Independent Directors*

*Mr. Anstiss:* The nominating and corporate governance committee and the Board of Directors considered his extensive experience in the accounting industry. In addition, Mr. Anstiss' accounting background was instrumental in his appointment to the chairmanship of our audit committee.

*Mr. Hyman:* The nominating and corporate governance committee and the Board of Directors considered his extensive experience in the investment analysis, management, and advisory industries.

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



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

The following is a brief biography of our executive officer, Cary L. Schaefer, who is not a director of the Company. On November 18, 2013, the Company announced that Ms. Schaefer will transition from chief financial officer to a full-time senior investment professional role for our Investment Adviser. The Company has retained Spencer Stuart to conduct a search for a new chief financial officer. Until the Company names a replacement, Ms. Schaefer will continue to perform the duties of the chief financial officer. After the appointment of a new chief financial officer, Ms. Schaefer will remain the Company's chief compliance officer.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Background Information</b>
Cary L. Schaefer	38	Cary L. Schaefer has served as our chief financial officer, chief compliance officer and secretary since our initial public offering in June 2011. Additionally, Ms. Schaefer has served as chief financial officer, chief compliance officer, assistant secretary and manager of our Investment Advisor since June of 2011. Ms. Schaefer has more than fourteen years of credit and finance experience. Ms. Schaefer served in a variety of roles, including vice president, of Fidus Capital, LLC, the predecessor firm to our Investment Advisor, from 2006 to 2011. From 2004 to 2006, Ms. Schaefer was an associate in investment banking at Credit Suisse First Boston, where she executed advisory, debt and equity transactions in the Global Industrial & Services Group. Prior to joining Credit Suisse First Boston, Ms. Schaefer worked at Wachovia Securities and its predecessor, First Union Securities, Inc. a retail brokerage and institutional capital markets and investment banking firm. Ms. Schaefer earned a bachelor of science in analytical finance from Wake Forest University and a master of business administration with honors from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

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### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **Director Independence**

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

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

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

The Board of Directors has established an audit committee and a nominating and corporate governance committee. The Company does not have a compensation committee because its executive officers do not receive any direct compensation from the Company. During 2013, the Board of Directors held seven meetings, the audit committee held nine meetings and the nominating and corporate governance committee held two meetings. The Company encourages, but does not require, the directors to attend the Company's annual meeting of its stockholders. During 2013, all of our current directors attended 100% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board of Directors and of the respective committees on which they served. All of our directors attended the 2013 Annual meeting.

#### **Board Leadership Structure**

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

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

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

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Our Board of Directors does not have a lead independent director. However, Mr. Anstiss, an independent director and the chairman of the audit committee, acts as a liaison between the independent directors and management between meetings of our Board of Directors, is involved in the preparation of agendas for board and committee meetings and presides over regular executive sessions of the Board. Our Board of Directors believes that its leadership structure is appropriate in light of the Company's characteristics and circumstances because the structure allocates areas of responsibility among the individual directors and the committees in a manner that encourages effective oversight. The members of our Board of Directors also believe that its small size creates a highly efficient governance structure that provides ample opportunity for direct communication and interaction between both the members of management and our Investment Advisor and our Board of Directors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Audit Committee**

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

The audit committee is responsible for appointing the Company's independent accountants, subject to the ratification of the Board of Directors (including a majority of the independent directors). The audit committee, subject to the oversight of the Board of Directors, reviews with the independent accountants the plans and results of the audit engagement, approves professional services provided by the independent accountants, reviews the independence of its independent accountants and reviews the adequacy of the Company's internal accounting controls.

The audit committee assists the Board of Directors in determining the fair value of debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or for which current market values are not readily available. The audit committee currently receives input from independent valuation firm(s) that have been engaged at the direction of the Board of Directors to value certain portfolio investments. In addition, the audit committee is responsible for discussing with management the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies.

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

### **Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee**

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

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

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



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

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

have strength of character;

have mature judgment;

have industry knowledge or experience; and