

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND  
Form DEF 14A  
April 05, 2006

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant [X]  
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant [ ]

Check the appropriate box:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Proxy Statement           | <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential, for Use of the |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Definitive Proxy Statement | Commission Only (as permitted                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Definitive Additional Materials       | by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soliciting Material Pursuant to       |   |
| 240.14a-11(c) or 240.14a-12                                    |   |

WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

-----  
(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)(4) and 0-11.
- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - (5) Total fee paid:
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was previously paid. 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:

WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD MAY 9, 2006  
-----

To the Shareholders of  
WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Western Asset Premier Bond Fund (the "Fund") will be held in the Board Room, Fifth Floor, 385 E. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California, on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 8:00 a.m., Pacific time, for the following purposes:

- (1) Electing six Trustees to the Board of Trustees of the Fund; and
- (2) Transacting such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Trustees has fixed the close of business on March 17, 2006 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

Lisa G. Mrozek, Secretary

Pasadena, California  
March 31, 2006

SHAREHOLDERS WHO DO NOT EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON ARE URGED TO DATE, FILL IN, SIGN AND MAIL THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE ACCOMPANYING ENVELOPE, WHICH REQUIRES NO POSTAGE IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND  
385 EAST COLORADO BOULEVARD  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101  
-----

PROXY STATEMENT

The accompanying proxy is solicited by the Board of Trustees of the Fund for use at the annual meeting of shareholders of the Fund to be held on May 9, 2006 at 8:00 a.m., Pacific time (the "Annual Meeting"), and at any adjournment thereof. At the Annual Meeting, shareholders of the Fund will be asked to consider the election of six Trustees to the Board of Trustees of the Fund. This Proxy Statement and the form of proxy were first mailed to shareholders on or about April 5, 2006.

The Board of Trustees has fixed the close of business on March 17, 2006 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof. As of the close of business on March 17, 2006, the Fund had issued and outstanding 11,454,996 common shares of beneficial interest, no par value ("Common Shares"), and 2,880 preferred shares of beneficial interest, no par value ("Preferred Shares" and, together with the Common Shares, the "Shares"). The Common Shares and Preferred Shares are the only classes of shares currently authorized by the Fund. As of the close of business on March 17, 2006, no person owned of record, or, to the Fund's knowledge, beneficially, more than five percent (5%) of the outstanding Shares of either class, except that Cede & Co., as nominee for participants in The Depository Trust Company, held of record 11,429,026 Common Shares (representing approximately 99.7% of the outstanding Common Shares) and all

## Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

2,880 outstanding Preferred Shares. Cede & Co.'s address is 55 Water Street, 25th Floor, New York, New York 10041-0001.

Shareholders of the Fund as of the close of business on March 17, 2006 will be entitled to one vote for each Share held, and a fractional vote with respect to fractional Shares, on each matter to which they are entitled to vote, with no cumulative voting rights.

Holders of the Common Shares ("Common Shareholders") and holders of the Preferred Shares ("Preferred Shareholders") will vote as a single class on the election of four of the Trustees. Pursuant to the Fund's Bylaws and the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), Preferred Shareholders, voting as a single class, have the right to elect two Trustees of the Fund. These Trustees are currently William E. B. Siart and Jaynie Miller Studenmund, each of whom will stand for re-election at the Annual Meeting. The Common Shareholders do not have the right to vote with respect to the election of Mr. Siart and Ms. Studenmund.

1

Thirty percent (30%) of the total Shares of the Fund entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting must be represented in person or by proxy to constitute a quorum for the election of the nominees other than Mr. Siart and Ms. Studenmund. Thirty percent (30%) of the Preferred Shares entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting must be represented in person or by proxy to constitute a quorum for the election of Mr. Siart and Ms. Studenmund as Trustees. Each shareholder has the right to revoke his or her proxy at any time before it is voted. A proxy may be revoked by filing with the Secretary of the Fund a written revocation or a properly executed proxy bearing a later date or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. Any shareholder may attend the Annual Meeting, whether or not he or she has previously given a proxy.

Except with respect to Mr. Siart and Ms. Studenmund, the Trustees of the Fund will be elected by a plurality vote of the Shares voted on the election of Trustees at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy. Election of Mr. Siart and Ms. Studenmund to the Board of Trustees of the Fund requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of the Preferred Shares (voting as a separate class) entitled to vote on the election of Trustees and present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting.

The solicitation of proxies for the Annual Meeting will be made primarily by mail. However, if necessary to ensure satisfactory representation at the Annual Meeting, additional solicitation may take place in writing or by telephone or personal interview by officers of the Fund (or their designees), who will not receive compensation from the Fund for such services. As the date of the meeting approaches, if we have not received your proxies, you may receive a telephone call from our proxy solicitor, Computershare Fund Services, Inc. ("CFS"), which has been retained to assist shareholders in the voting process. For these services, the Fund will pay CFS a fee that is not expected to exceed \$2,000. However, the exact cost will depend on the amount and types of services rendered. The Fund will reimburse brokers and other nominees, in accordance with New York Stock Exchange approved reimbursement rates, for their expenses in forwarding solicitation material to the beneficial owners of shares of the Fund. All expenses incurred in connection with the solicitation of proxies, including the services of CFS, will be borne by the Fund.

Abstentions and "broker non-votes" (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or the persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power on a particular matter) will be counted as shares present for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present, but will

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

not be counted as having been voted on the matter in question. Assuming that a quorum would otherwise be present, abstentions and broker non-votes will accordingly have no effect for the purpose of determining whether a Trustee has been elected.

James W. Hirschmann III, Lisa G. Mrozek and Ilene S. Harker, the persons named as proxies on the proxy card accompanying this Proxy Statement, were selected by the Board of Trustees to serve in such capacity. Mr. Hirschmann and Mses. Mrozek and Harker are each officers of the Fund. Each executed and

2

returned proxy will be voted in accordance with the directions indicated thereon or, if no direction is indicated, such proxy will be voted for the election as Trustees of the Board of Trustees' nominees listed in this proxy statement. Discretionary authority is provided in the proxy as to any matters not specifically referred to therein. The Board of Trustees is not aware of any other matters which are likely to be brought before the Annual Meeting. However, if any such matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, the persons named in the proxy are fully authorized to vote thereon in accordance with their judgment and discretion. Except where a different vote is required by any provision of law or the Declaration of Trust or Bylaws, a plurality of a quorum of the Shares necessary for the transaction of business at a shareholders' meeting shall decide any question.

PROPOSAL

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Six Trustees are to be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve until their successors have been duly elected and qualified, subject to prior death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office and applicable law and the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. Information about each nominee is set forth in the table below. Each of the nominees is presently a Trustee of the Fund.

The Fund's Bylaws provide that the Board of Trustees will consist of such number of Trustees as may be fixed from time to time by a majority of the Trustees, which number is currently six.

It is the intention of the persons designated as proxies in the proxy card, unless otherwise directed therein, to vote at the Annual Meeting for the election of the nominees named below as Trustees of the Fund. Each of the nominees has agreed to serve if elected at the Annual Meeting. If any nominee is unable or unavailable to serve, the persons named in the proxies will vote the proxies for such other person as the Board of Trustees may recommend.

Information Regarding the Nominees. Information about the nominees is set forth below. No nominee serves as an officer of the Fund. The address of each nominee is c/o the Fund at its principal business address (385 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91101).

3

TERM OF

NUMBER OF  
PORTFOLIOS  
IN FUND  
COMPLEX\*\*

OT

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

| NAME AND YEAR BORN                  | POSITION(S)<br>HELD WITH FUND      | OFFICE AND<br>LENGTH OF<br>TIME SERVED* | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS<br>DURING THE PAST 5 YEARS  | OVERSEEN<br>BY<br>NOMINEE | DIRECT<br>HEL<br>NOM |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Ronald J. Arnault<br>1943           | Trustee<br>(1) (4)                 | Served since<br>2002                    | Retired.  | 14                        | No                   |
| Anita L. DeFrantz<br>1952           | Trustee<br>(2) (3) (4)             | Served since<br>2002                    | President<br>(1987-present) and<br>Director (1990-<br>present) of Amateur<br>Athletic Foundation of<br>Los Angeles; President<br>and Director of Kids in<br>Sports (1994-present);<br>Member of the<br>International Olympic<br>Committee (1986-<br>present). | 14                        | OB<br>Holdin         |
| William E. B. Siart<br>1946         | Chairman and<br>Trustee<br>(1) (2) | Served since<br>2002                    | Chairman of Walt Disney<br>Concert Hall, Inc.<br>(1998-present);<br>Chairman of Excellent<br>Education Development<br>(2000-present).   | 14                        | No                   |
| Louis A. Simpson<br>1936            | Trustee<br>(1) (4)                 | Served since<br>2002                    | President and Chief<br>Executive Officer,<br>Capital Operations of<br>GEICO Corporation<br>(1993-present).  | 14                        | VeriS<br>In          |
| Jaynie Miller<br>Studenmund<br>1954 | Trustee<br>(1) (3)                 | Served since<br>2004                    | Director of<br>eHarmony.com, Inc.<br>(2005-present); Chief<br>Operating Officer of<br>Overture Services, Inc.<br>(2001-2004); President<br>and Chief Operating<br>Officer of<br>Paymybills.com<br>(2000-2001).  | 14                        | aQuan<br>In          |

4

| NAME AND YEAR BORN      | POSITION(S)<br>HELD WITH FUND | TERM OF<br>OFFICE AND<br>LENGTH OF<br>TIME SERVED* | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS<br>DURING THE PAST 5 YEARS   | NUMBER OF<br>PORTFOLIOS<br>IN FUND<br>COMPLEX**<br>OVERSEEN<br>BY<br>NOMINEE | OT<br>DIRECT<br>HEL<br>NOM              |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Ronald L. Olson<br>1941 | Trustee                       | Since<br>2005 (5)                                  | Interested Nominee<br>Senior Partner of<br>Munger, Tolles & Olson<br>International (a law<br>partnership) (1968-<br>present) | 14   | Edi<br>Intern<br>City N<br>Corpor<br>Th |

- 
- (1) Member of the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees.
  - (2) Member of the Executive and Contracts Committee of the Board of Trustees.
  - (3) Member of the Governance and Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees.
  - (4) Member of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Trustees.
  - (5) Mr. Olson is an "interested person" (as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act) of the Fund because his law firm has provided legal services to the Fund's investment adviser, Western Asset Management Company (the "Investment Adviser").
- \* Each of the Trustees of the Fund holds office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and shall qualify, subject to prior death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office.
- \*\* Each Trustee also serves as a Director for Western Asset Income Fund (closed-end investment company) and Western Asset Funds, Inc. (open-end investment company), which are considered part of the same Fund Complex as the Fund. The Investment Adviser and the Fund's subadviser, Western Asset Management Company Limited (the "Subadviser"), also serve as adviser and subadviser, respectively, to Western Asset Income Fund, and each serves as subadviser to one or more series of Western Asset Funds, Inc.

5

The following table states the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned as of March 1, 2006 by each nominee in the Fund and, on an aggregate basis, in any registered investment companies overseen or to be overseen by the nominee in the same "family of investment companies."

| NAME OF NOMINEE<br>-----      | DOLLAR RANGE<br>OF EQUITY<br>SECURITIES IN<br>THE FUND<br>----- | AGGREGATE DOLLAR RANGE OF EQ<br>SECURITIES IN ALL FUNDS OVER<br>OR TO BE OVERSEEN BY NOMINEE<br>FAMILY OF INVESTMENT COMPAN<br>----- |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Ronald J. Arnault.....        | None  | \$10,001 - \$50,000  |
| Anita L. DeFrantz.....        | None  | \$10,001 - \$50,000  |
| William E. B. Siart.....      | None  | \$50,001 - \$100,000   |
| Louis A. Simpson.....         | None  | Over \$100,000   |
| Jaynie Miller Studenmund..... | None  | None   |
|                               | Interested Nominee  |  |
| Ronald L. Olson.....          | None  | None   |

As of March 1, 2006, all Trustees and officers of the Fund as a group beneficially owned less than 1% of the outstanding Common Shares or Preferred Shares of the Fund on such date.

## Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

Audit Committee. The Board of Trustees has established an Audit Committee composed solely of Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund or the Investment Adviser or Subadviser, consisting of Messrs. Arnault, Siart and Simpson and Ms. Studenmund. Each member of the Audit Committee is "independent," as independence for audit committee members is defined in the currently applicable listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange, on which the Common Shares of the Fund are listed and traded. The Audit Committee provides oversight with respect to the accounting and financial reporting policies and procedures of the Fund and, among other things, considers the selection of independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund and the scope of the audit and approves services proposed to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm on behalf of the Fund and, under certain circumstances, the Investment Adviser, Subadviser and certain affiliates. The Trustees have adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, a copy of which was attached as Appendix A to the Fund's proxy statement dated March 31, 2004.

The Audit Committee of the Fund has submitted the following report:

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management of the Fund the audited financial statements for the last fiscal year. The Audit Committee has discussed with the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statements on Auditing Standards No. 61 (SAS 61). SAS 61 requires the independent registered public accounting firm to communicate to the Audit Committee matters including, if applicable: (1) methods used to account for significant unusual transactions; (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or

6

emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus; (3) the process used by management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and the basis for the independent registered public accounting firm's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates; and (4) disagreements with management over the application of accounting principles and certain other matters. The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (requiring the independent registered public accounting firm to make written disclosures to and discuss with the Audit Committee various matters relating to its independence), and has discussed with such independent registered public accounting firm the independence of such independent registered public accounting firm.

Based on the foregoing review and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Trustees the inclusion of the audited financial statements for the last fiscal year in the Fund's annual report to shareholders.

Ronald J. Arnault (Chairman)  
William E.B. Siart  
Louis A. Simpson  
Jaynie Miller Studenmund

Governance and Nominating Committee. The Board of Trustees has established a Governance and Nominating Committee composed solely of Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund or the Investment Adviser or Subadviser, consisting of Mses. DeFrantz and Studenmund. The Governance and Nominating Committee meets to select nominees for election as Trustees of the Fund and consider other matters of Board policy. The Trustees have adopted a written charter for the Governance and Nominating Committee, a copy of which was included as Appendix B to the Fund's proxy statement dated

## Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

March 31, 2004. The Fund does not currently maintain a website on which the charter is available.

The Governance and Nominating Committee requires that Trustee candidates have a college degree or equivalent business experience, but has not otherwise established specific, minimum qualifications that must be met by an individual to be considered by the Committee for nomination as a Trustee. The Governance and Nominating Committee may take into account a wide variety of factors in considering Trustee candidates, including, but not limited to: (i) availability and commitment of a candidate to attend meetings and perform his or her responsibilities to the Board of Trustees, (ii) relevant industry and related experience, (iii) educational background, (iv) financial expertise, (v) an assessment of the candidate's ability, judgment and expertise and (vi) overall diversity of the Board's composition. The Governance and

7

Nominating Committee may consider candidates for Trustee recommended by the Fund's current Trustees, officers, Investment Adviser or Subadviser, shareholders or any other source deemed to be appropriate by the Governance and Nominating Committee. Candidates properly submitted by shareholders (as described below) will be considered and evaluated on the same basis as candidates recommended by other sources.

The policy of the Governance and Nominating Committee is to consider nominees recommended by shareholders to serve as Trustee, provided that any such recommendation is submitted in writing to the Fund, to the attention of the Secretary, at the address of the principal executive offices of the Fund, not less than one hundred and twenty calendar days nor more than one hundred and thirty-five calendar days prior to the date of the meeting at which the nominee would be elected and that such shareholder recommendation contains the information about such nominee required by the Fund's procedures for shareholders to submit nominee candidates, which are a part of the Governance and Nominating Committee's Charter. The Governance and Nominating Committee has full discretion to reject nominees recommended by shareholders, and there is no assurance that any such person so recommended and considered by the Governance and Nominating Committee will be nominated for election to the Fund's Board of Trustees.

Executive and Contracts Committee. The Board of Trustees has established an Executive and Contracts Committee consisting of Mr. Siart and Ms. DeFrantz. The Executive and Contracts Committee may meet from time to time between Board meetings in order to consider appropriate matters between meetings of the full Board of Trustees and to review the various contractual arrangements between the Fund and its affiliated persons.

Compensation Committee. The Board of Trustees has established a Compensation Committee consisting of Messrs. Arnault and Simpson and Ms. DeFrantz. The Compensation Committee meets to review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to Trustee compensation for services to the Fund.

Meetings. During 2005, the Board of Trustees held five meetings, the Audit Committee held six meetings, the Governance and Nominating Committee held two meetings, the Compensation Committee held one meeting, and the Executive and Contracts Committee held three meetings. Each Trustee attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Committees of the Board of Trustees on which he or she served. Although the Fund's policies do not require the Trustees to attend the Fund's annual shareholder meetings, annual meetings are generally held in connection with regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Trustees. Each current Trustee attended the Fund's annual shareholder meeting in May 2005.



Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

Shareholder Communications. The Board of Trustees provides a process for shareholders to send communications to the Board of Trustees. Shareholders may mail written communications to the attention

8

of the Board of Trustees, care of the Fund's Secretary, at the principal executive offices of the Fund. The written communication must include the shareholder's name, be signed by the shareholder, refer to the Fund, and include the class and number of shares held by the shareholder as of a recent date.

Trustee Compensation. Effective February 2006, each Trustee of the Fund who is not an "interested person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund, the Investment Adviser or the Subadviser receives an aggregate fee of \$60,000 annually for serving on the combined Board of Directors/Trustees of the Fund, Western Asset Funds, Inc. and Western Asset Income Fund. Each Trustee also receives a fee of \$7,500 and related expenses for each meeting of the Board attended in-person and a fee of \$2,500 for participating in each telephonic meeting. The Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Audit Committee each receive an additional \$25,000 per year for serving in such capacities. Each member of the Audit Committee receives a fee of \$5,000 for serving as a member of the Audit Committee. Other committee members receive \$2,500 for serving as a member of each committee upon which they serve. Committee members also receive a fee of \$2,500 for participating in each telephonic committee meeting. All such fees are allocated among the Fund, Western Asset Funds, Inc. and Western Asset Income Fund according to each such investment company's average annual net assets. Additionally, Mr. Olson receives from the Investment Adviser an aggregate fee of \$60,000 annually for serving on the combined Board of Directors/ Trustees of the Fund, Western Asset Funds, Inc. and Western Asset Income Fund, as well as a fee of \$7,500 and related expenses for each meeting of the Board attended in-person and a fee of \$2,500 for participating in each telephonic meeting.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, the Trustees received the compensation set forth in the following table for serving as Trustees of the Fund and as Directors of other funds in the same "Fund Complex."

| NAME OF NOMINEE          | AGGREGATE<br>COMPENSATION FROM<br>THE FUND | PENSION OR RETIREMENT<br>BENEFITS ACCRUED AS<br>PART OF FUND'S<br>EXPENSES | ESTIMATED<br>ANNUAL<br>BENEFITS UPON<br>RETIREMENT | TOTAL COMP<br>FROM THE FU<br>FUND COMPLE<br>TRUSTEE |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Ronald J. Arnault.....   | \$3,435                                    | \$0  | \$0  | \$107,  |
| Anita L. DeFrantz.....   | \$2,577                                    | \$0  | \$0  | \$ 81,  |
| William E. B. Siart..... | \$3,229                                    | \$0  | \$0  | \$102,  |
| Louis A. Simpson.....    | \$2,796                                    | \$0  | \$0  | \$ 87,  |
| Jaynie M. Studenmund.... | \$2,752                                    | \$0  | \$0  | \$ 86,  |
|                          |  | Interested Nominee   |  |   |
| Ronald L. Olson.....     | \$ 0                                       | \$0  | \$0  | \$  |

(1) Includes amounts received in 2005 from the Fund and from Western Asset Income Fund and Western Asset Funds, Inc., which are considered part of the same Fund Complex as the Fund. Effective February 2006, the Trustees earn compensation for their service as described above.

During 2005, the Fund paid no remuneration to its officers, all of whom were also officers or employees of the Investment Adviser or one of its affiliates.

Required Vote. Except with respect to Mr. Siart and Ms. Studenmund, the Trustees of the Fund will be elected by a plurality vote of the Shares voted on the election of Trustees at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy. Election of Mr. Siart and Ms. Studenmund to the Board of Trustees of the Fund requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of the Preferred Shares (voting as a separate class) entitled to vote on the election of Trustees and present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting. The Trustees unanimously recommend that shareholders vote to elect each of the nominees listed above to the Board of Trustees.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INVESTMENT  
ADVISER AND SUBADVISER AND THE FUND'S OFFICERS

The Investment Adviser and the Subadviser are subsidiaries of Legg Mason, Inc., a holding company which, through its subsidiaries, is engaged in providing investment advisory services to individuals and institutions. The address of Legg Mason, Inc. is 100 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The Investment Adviser's address is 385 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91101. The Subadviser's address is 10 Exchange Square, London, England EC2A2EN. Princeton Administrators, L.P., 800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro NJ 08536, provides administrative services to the Fund.

Information regarding the executive officers of the Fund and their ownership of Shares of the Fund is set forth below. Unless otherwise noted, the address of each officer is c/o the Fund at the address listed above.

| NAME AND YEAR BORN              | POSITION(S) HELD WITH FUND | TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED(1) | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING THE PA   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| James W. Hirschmann III<br>1960 | President                  | Served since 2001                           | Director, President and Chief Executive of the Investment Adviser (1999-present); Director of the Subadviser (1999-present); President of Western Asset Funds, Inc. Western Asset Income Fund (1999-present); Head of Enterprise Risk of the Investment Adviser (2003-present); Vice President Western Asset Funds, Inc. (1990-present); Western Asset Income Fund (1996-present); Formerly: Secretary and Director of Compliance and Controls of the Investment Adviser (1978-2003). |
| Ilene S. Harker<br>1955         | Vice President             | Served since 2001                           |   |

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

| NAME AND YEAR BORN<br>-----   | POSITION(S) HELD<br>WITH FUND<br>-----                               | TERM OF OFFICE<br>AND LENGTH<br>OF TIME<br>SERVED(1)<br>----- | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING THE PA<br>-----   |
|---|--|---|--|
| S. Kenneth Leech<br>1954  | Vice President   | Served since<br>2001  | Chief Investment Officer of the Inves<br>Adviser (1998-present); Vice Presiden<br>Western Asset Funds, Inc. (1990-prese<br>Western Asset Income Fund (1998-prese   |
| Marie K. Karpinski<br>1949<br><br>100 Light Street<br>Baltimore, MD 21202 | Treasurer and<br>Principal<br>Financial and<br>Accounting<br>Officer | Served since<br>2001  | Vice President, Legg Mason & Co., LLC<br>(2005-present); Vice President, Legg<br>Walker, Incorporated (1992-2005); Vic<br>President (1986-present), Treasurer (2<br>2006) and Chief Financial Officer (20<br>present) of all Legg Mason retail fun<br>end investment companies; Treasurer a<br>Principal Financial and Accounting Of<br>Western Asset Funds, Inc. (1990-prese<br>Western Asset Income Fund (2001-prese<br>Western Asset/Claymore U.S. Treasury<br>Protected Securities Fund (2003-prese<br>Western Asset/Claymore U.S. Treasury<br>Protected Securities Fund 2 (2004-pre   |
| Erin K. Morris<br>1966<br><br>100 Light Street<br>Baltimore, MD 21202     | Assistant<br>Treasurer   | Served since<br>2001  | Assistant Vice President and Manager,<br>Accounting, Legg Mason & Co., LLC (20<br>present); Assistant Vice President (2<br>and Manager, Funds Accounting (2000-2<br>Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated;<br>of Legg Mason Income Trust, Inc. and<br>Tax-Free Income Fund (2006-present);<br>Treasurer of Western Asset Income Fun<br>(2001-present), Western Asset Funds,<br>(2001-present), Western Asset/Claymor<br>Treasury Inflation Protected Securit<br>(2003-present), Western Asset/Claymor<br>Treasury Inflation Protected Securit<br>(2004-present), Legg Mason Income Tru<br>(2001-2006) and Legg Mason Tax-Free I<br>(2001-2006). |

| NAME AND YEAR BORN<br>-----                   | POSITION(S) HELD<br>WITH FUND<br>----- | TERM OF OFFICE<br>AND LENGTH<br>OF TIME<br>SERVED(1)<br>----- | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING THE PA<br>-----  |
|---|--|---|---|
| Amy M. Olmert<br>1963<br><br>100 Light Street | Chief Compliance<br>Officer            | Served since<br>2004  | Senior Vice President of Legg Mason,<br>(2004-present); Vice President and Ch<br>Compliance Officer of all Legg Mason<br>open-end investment companies (2004- |



## Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

Based solely on its review of the copies of such forms received by it, or written representations from certain reporting persons, the Fund believes that, during 2005, all such filing requirements were met.

### ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

The Fund's Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 contains financial and other information pertaining to the Fund. The Fund will furnish without charge to each person whose proxy is being solicited, upon request of such person, a copy of the Annual Report to Shareholders. Requests for copies of the Annual Report to Shareholders should be directed to Western Asset Premier Bond Fund, Attention: Investor Relations, 385 E. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91101 or you may call 866-290-4386.

### INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees has selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006, and the Board of Trustees, including a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund, has unanimously ratified such selection. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's service is subject to termination by a majority of the outstanding Shares of the Fund. Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are not currently expected to attend the meeting.

13

The following table presents fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for services rendered to the Fund by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP:

| FISCAL YEAR ENDED | AUDIT FEES | AUDIT-RELATED FEES | TAX FEES | ALL OTHER FEES |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|----------|----------------|
| -----             | -----      | -----              | -----    | -----          |
| December 31, 2004 | \$32,200   | \$6,400            | \$ 950   | \$2,500        |
| December 31, 2005 | \$23,000   | \$9,000            | \$1,050  | \$ 0           |

"Audit Fees" represents fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered for the audit of the Fund's annual financial statements for those fiscal years or services that are normally provided by the accountant in connection with statutory or regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years.

"Audit-Related Fees" represents fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for assurance and related services reasonably related to the performance of the audit of the Fund's annual financial statements for those years, including review of the rating agency compliance testing for the Fund's Preferred Shares.

"Tax Fees" represents fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for professional services related to tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning, including preparation of federal and state income tax returns and preparation of excise tax returns.

"All Other Fees" represents fees, if any, billed for other products and services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to the Fund for the last two fiscal years, including interim audit of securities pricing.

## Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2005, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed aggregate non-audit fees in the amounts of \$372,631 and \$279,508, respectively, to the Fund, the Investment Adviser and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Investment Adviser that provides ongoing services to the Fund.

Pre-Approval Policies of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has determined that all work performed for the Fund by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will be pre-approved by the full Audit Committee and, therefore, has not adopted pre-approval procedures. Since May 6, 2003, all audit and non-audit services performed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the Fund, and all non-audit services performed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the Investment Adviser and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Investment Adviser that provides ongoing services to the Fund (a "Service Affiliate"), to the extent that such services related directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund, have been pre-approved by the Audit Committee. No "Audit-Related Fees," "Tax Fees" and "Other Fees" set forth in the table above were waived pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(i)(c) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP did not bill fees for non-audit services that required pre-

14

approval by the Audit Committee pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X during the Fund's fiscal year ended December 31, 2004. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed "Audit-Related Fees" in the amount of \$127,460 for non-audit services (a SAS 70 audit to review and test operating effectiveness of controls placed in operation for the Investment Adviser) that required pre-approval by the Audit Committee pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X during the Fund's fiscal year ended December 31, 2005. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP did not bill any "Tax Fees" or "All Other Fees" that required pre-approval by the Audit Committee pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X during the Fund's fiscal year ended December 31, 2005.

The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of the non-audit services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP since May 6, 2003 to the Investment Adviser and any Service Affiliate that were not required to be pre-approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X is compatible with maintaining the independence of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

### ADJOURNMENT

In the absence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting, or (even if a quorum is so present) if sufficient votes in favor of a proposal set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting are not received by the time scheduled for the Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the Annual Meeting after the date set for the original Annual Meeting, with no other notice than announcement at the Annual Meeting, to permit further solicitation of proxies with respect to such proposal. In addition, if, in the judgment of the persons named as proxies, it is advisable to defer action on a proposal, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the Annual Meeting with respect to such proposal for a reasonable time. Any adjournments with respect to a proposal will require the affirmative vote of a plurality of the Shares of the Fund entitled to vote thereon present in person or represented by proxy at the session of the Annual Meeting to be adjourned. The persons named as proxies will vote in favor of such adjournment those proxies which they are entitled to vote in favor of the proposal in question. They will vote against any such adjournment those proxies required to be voted against such proposal. The costs of any additional solicitation and of any adjourned session will be borne by the Fund. Any proposals for which sufficient favorable votes have been

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

received by the time of the Annual Meeting may be acted upon and, if so, such action will be final regardless of whether the Annual Meeting is adjourned to permit additional solicitation with respect to any other proposal.

15

OTHER BUSINESS

The Fund is not aware of any other matters to be presented for action at the Annual Meeting. However, if any such other matters are properly presented, it is the intention of the persons designated in the enclosed proxy to vote in accordance with their best judgment.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

Lisa G. Mrozek, Secretary

March 31, 2006

16

(GRAPHIC)

WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

|           |                      |                    |               |       |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
|           |                      |                    | 000000000.000 | ext   |
|           |                      |                    | 000000000.000 | ext   |
|           |                      | 000004             | 000000000.000 | ext   |
|           | MR A SAMPLE          |                    | 000000000.000 | ext   |
|           | DESIGNATION (IF ANY) |                    | 000000000.000 | ext   |
| (GRAPHIC) | ADD 1                | LEAST ADDRESS LINE | 000000000.000 | ext   |
|           | ADD 2                |                    | 000000000.000 | ext   |
|           | ADD 3                |                    |               |       |
|           | ADD 4                |                    |               |       |
|           | ADD 5                |                    |               |       |
|           | ADD 6                |                    | C 1234567890  | J N T |
|           | (GRAPHIC)            |                    | (GRAPHIC)     |       |

[ ] Mark this box with an X if you have made changes to your name or address details above.

ANNUAL MEETING PROXY CARD

A ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

|                        | FOR | WITHHOLD |
|------------------------|-----|----------|
| 01 - RONALD J. ARNAULT | [ ] | [ ]      |
| 02 - ANITA L. DEFRANTZ | [ ] | [ ]      |
| 03 - RONALD L. OLSON   | [ ] | [ ]      |
| 04 - LOUIS A. SIMPSON  | [ ] | [ ]      |

With discretionary power upon such other matters as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS SPECIFIED. IF NO SPECIFICATION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR THE ELECTION AS TRUSTEES OF THE NOMINEES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Mark box at right if a comment has been noted on the reverse side. [ ]

B AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES - SIGN HERE - THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED FOR YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TO BE EXECUTED.

Please sign this Proxy exactly as your name(s) appear(s) above. Joint owners should each sign personally. Trustees and other fiduciaries should indicate the capacity in which they sign. If a corporation, this signature should be that of an authorized officer who should state his or her title.

Signature 1 - Please keep signature within the box      Signature 2 - Please keep signature within the box      Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

-----  
0 0 8 3 9 4 1                                      1 U P X                                      C O Y

PROXY - WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

Dear Shareholder,

Please take note of the important information enclosed with this Proxy Ballot. There is an issue related to the management and operation of your Fund that requires your immediate attention and approval. This matter is discussed in detail in the enclosed proxy materials.

Your vote counts, and you are strongly encouraged to exercise your right to vote your shares.

Please mark the boxes on this proxy card to indicate how your shares will be voted. Then sign the card and return your proxy vote in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Your vote must be received prior to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, May 9, 2006.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Western Asset Premier Bond Fund

WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND  
COMMON SHARES  
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS - MAY 9, 2006

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

The undersigned, revoking all prior proxies, hereby appoints James W. Hirschmann III, Lisa G. Mrozek and Ilene S. Harker, and each of them, attorneys and proxies of the undersigned, each with full power of substitution, to attend the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of Western Asset Premier Bond Fund, a Massachusetts business trust (the "Fund"), to be held in the Board Room, Fifth Floor, 385 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, California, on May 9, 2006, at 8:00 a.m., Pacific time, and at any adjournments thereof, and thereat to vote as indicated all common shares of beneficial interest of the Fund which the undersigned would be



Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

entitled to vote if personally present with respect to the matters listed on the reverse, which are more fully described in the Notice of Meeting and Proxy Statement of the Fund, receipt of which is acknowledged by the undersigned.

Comments

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

(GRAPHIC)

WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

|           |                      |                    |                   |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|           |                      | 000000000.000      | ext               |
|           |                      | 000000000.000      | ext               |
|           | 000004               | 000000000.000      | ext               |
|           | MR A SAMPLE          | 000000000.000      | ext               |
|           | DESIGNATION (IF ANY) | 000000000.000      | ext               |
| (GRAPHIC) | ADD 1                | LEAST ADDRESS LINE | 000000000.000 ext |
|           | ADD 2                |                    | 000000000.000 ext |
|           | ADD 3                |                    |                   |
|           | ADD 4                |                    |                   |
|           | ADD 5                |                    |                   |
|           | ADD 6                | C 1234567890       | J N T             |

(GRAPHIC)

(GRAPHIC)

[ ] Mark this box with an X if you have made changes to your name or address details above.

ANNUAL MEETING PROXY CARD

A ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

|                               | FOR | WITHHOLD |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 01 - RONALD J. ARNAULT        | [ ] | [ ]      |
| 02 - ANITA L. DEFRANTZ        | [ ] | [ ]      |
| 03 - RONALD L. OLSON          | [ ] | [ ]      |
| 04 - WILLIAM E.B. SIART       | [ ] | [ ]      |
| 05 - LOUIS A. SIMPSON         | [ ] | [ ]      |
| 06 - JAYNIE MILLER STUDENMUND | [ ] | [ ]      |

With discretionary power upon such other matters as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS SPECIFIED, IF NO SPECIFICATION IS MADE, THIS PROXY

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

WILL BE VOTED FOR THE ELECTION AS TRUSTEES OF THE NOMINEES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Mark box at right if a comment has been noted on the reverse side. [ ]

B AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES - SIGN HERE - THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED FOR YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TO BE EXECUTED.

Please sign this Proxy exactly as your name(s) appear(s) above. Joint owners should each sign personally. Trustees and other fiduciaries should indicate the capacity in which they sign. If a corporation, this signature should be that of an authorized officer who should state his or her title.

Signature 1 - Please keep signature within the box      Signature 2 - Please keep signature within the box      Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

-----  
0 0 8 3 9 4 2                                      1 U P X                                      C O Y

PROXY - WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

Dear Shareholder,

Please take note of the important information enclosed with this Proxy Ballot. There is an issue related to the management and operation of your Fund that requires your immediate attention and approval. This matter is discussed in detail in the enclosed proxy materials.

Your vote counts, and you are strongly encouraged to exercise your right to vote your shares.

Please mark the boxes on this proxy card to indicate how your shares will be voted. Then sign the card and return your proxy vote in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Your vote must be received prior to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, May 9, 2006.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Western Asset Premier Bond Fund

WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND  
PREFERRED SHARES  
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS - MAY 9, 2006

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND

The undersigned, revoking all prior proxies, hereby appoints James W. Hirschmann III, Lisa G. Mrozek and Ilene S. Harker, and each of them, attorneys and proxies of the undersigned, each with full power of substitution, to attend the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of Western Asset Premier Bond Fund, a Massachusetts business trust (the "Fund"), to be held in the Board Room, Fifth Floor, 385 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, California, on May 9, 2006, at 8:00 a.m., Pacific time, and at any adjournments thereof, and thereat to vote as indicated all preferred shares of beneficial interest of the Fund which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present with respect to the matters listed on

Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET PREMIER BOND FUND - Form DEF 14A

the reverse, which are more fully described in the Notice of Meeting and Proxy Statement of the Fund, receipt of which is acknowledged by the undersigned.

Comments

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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