

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST  
Form N-CSR  
February 02, 2009  
UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

Investment Company Act file number      811-05767

DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

345 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10154-0004

(Address of principal executive offices)      (Zip code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code:(212) 454-7190

Paul Schubert

345 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10154-0004

(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

Date of fiscal year end:      11/30

Date of reporting period:      11/30/08

**ITEM 1. REPORT TO STOCKHOLDERS**

---

NOVEMBER 30, 2008

# Annual Report to Shareholders

**DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust**

Ticker Symbol: **KSM**

## Contents

<b>4</b>	Performance Summary
<b>6</b>	Portfolio Management Review
<b>12</b>	Portfolio Summary
<b>13</b>	Investment Portfolio
<b>22</b>	Financial Statements
<b>26</b>	Financial Highlights
<b>28</b>	Notes to Financial Statements
<b>35</b>	Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
<b>36</b>	Tax Information
<b>36</b>	Other Information
<b>37</b>	Dividend Repurchase Plan
<b>39</b>	Investment Management Agreement Approval
<b>43</b>	Trustees and Officers
<b>47</b>	Additional Information

Investments in funds involve risk. Certain investors' income may be subject to the federal Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), and federal, state and local taxes may also apply. The fund invests in individual bonds whose yields and market values fluctuate, so that your investment may be worth more or less than its original cost. Bond investments are subject to interest-rate risk such that, when interest rates rise, the prices of the bonds, and thus the value of the bond investment, can decline and the investor can lose principal value. Leverage results in additional risks and can magnify the effect of any losses. All of these factors may result in greater share price volatility. Closed-end funds, unlike open-end funds, are not continuously offered. There is an initial public offering and, once issued, shares of closed-end funds are sold in the open market through a stock exchange. Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount to net asset value. The price of the fund's shares is determined by a number of factors, several of which are beyond the control of the fund. Therefore, the fund cannot predict whether its shares will trade at, below or above net asset value.

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

DWS Investments is part of Deutsche Bank's Asset Management division and, within the US, represents the retail asset management activities of Deutsche Bank AG, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc. and DWS Trust Company.

NOT FDIC/NCUA INSURED NO BANK GUARANTEE MAY LOSE VALUE NOT A DEPOSIT NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY

### Performance Summary November 30, 2008

Performance is historical, assumes reinvestment of all dividend and capital gain distributions, and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value fluctuate with changing market conditions so that, when sold, shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Please visit [www.dws-investments.com](http://www.dws-investments.com) for the Fund's most recent month-end performance.

Fund specific data and performance are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended for trading purposes.

Returns and rankings based on net asset value during all periods shown reflect fee reductions. Without these fee reductions, returns and rankings would have been lower.

Average Annual Total Returns as of 11/30/08				
DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Based on Net Asset Value <sup>(a)</sup>	-14.99%	-2.05%	1.77%	4.41%
Based on Market Price <sup>(a)</sup>	-23.67%	-12.98%	-3.12%	1.74%
Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index <sup>(b)</sup>	-3.61%	1.66%	2.58%	4.13%
Lipper Closed-End High Yield Municipal Debt Funds Category <sup>(c)</sup>	-23.92%	-5.49%	-2.27%	1.94%

Sources: Lipper Inc. and Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc.

Net Asset Value and Market Price		
	As of 11/30/08	As of 11/30/07
Net Asset Value	\$ 9.66	\$ 12.11
Market Price	\$ 7.80	\$ 10.89

Prices and net asset value fluctuate and are not guaranteed.

<sup>(a)</sup> Total return based on net asset value reflects changes in the Fund's net asset value during each period. Total return based on market price reflects changes in market value. Each figure assumes that dividend and capital gain distributions, if any, were reinvested. These figures will differ depending upon the level of any discount from or premium to net asset value at which the Fund's shares traded during the period.

<sup>(b)</sup> The Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index (name changed from Lehman Brothers Municipal Bond Index, effective November 3, 2008) is an unmanaged, unleveraged market-value-weighted measure of municipal bonds issued across the United States. Index issues have a credit rating of at least Baa and a maturity of at least two years. Index returns, unlike Fund returns, do not reflect any fees or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly into an index.

<sup>(c)</sup> The Lipper Closed-End High Yield Municipal Debt Funds Category includes funds that invest at least 50% of their assets in lower-rated municipal debt issues. Lipper figures represent the average of the total returns based on net asset value reported by all of the closed-end funds designated by Lipper Inc. as falling into the Closed-End High Yield Municipal Debt Funds Category. Category returns assume reinvestment of all distributions. It is not possible to invest directly into a Lipper category.

Distribution Information	
Twelve Months as of 11/30/08:	
Income Dividends (common shareholders)	\$ .66
November Income Dividend (common shareholders)	\$ .0550
Current Annualized Distribution Rate (Based on Net Asset Value) as of 11/30/08 <sup>+</sup>	6.83%
Current Annualized Distribution Rate (Based on Market Price) as of 11/30/08 <sup>+</sup>	8.46%
Tax Equivalent Distribution Rate (Based on Net Asset Value) as of 11/30/08 <sup>+</sup>	10.51%
Tax Equivalent Distribution Rate (Based on Market Price) as of 11/30/08 <sup>+</sup>	13.02%

<sup>+</sup> Current annualized distribution rate is the latest monthly dividend shown as an annualized percentage of net asset value/market price on November 30, 2008. Distribution rate simply measures the level of dividends and is not a complete measure of performance. Tax equivalent distribution rate is based on the Fund's distribution rate and a marginal income tax rate of 35%. Distribution rates are historical, not guaranteed, and will fluctuate.

Lipper Rankings — Closed-End High Yield Municipal Debt				
Funds Category as of 11/30/08				
Period	Rank		Number of Funds Tracked	Percentile Ranking (%)
1-Year	2	of	15	13
3-Year	2	of	14	14
5-Year	4	of	14	27
10-Year	1	of	11	9

Source: Lipper Inc. Rankings are historical and do not guarantee future results. Rankings are based on net asset value total return with distributions reinvested.

## Portfolio Management Review

### DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust: A Team Approach to Investing

Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc. ("DIMA" or the "Advisor"), which is part of Deutsche Asset Management, is the investment advisor for DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust. DIMA and its predecessors have more than 80 years of experience managing mutual funds and DIMA provides a full range of investment advisory services to institutional and retail clients.

Deutsche Asset Management is a global asset management organization that offers a wide range of investing expertise and resources. This well-resourced global investment platform brings together a wide variety of experience and investment insight across industries, regions, asset classes and investing styles.

DIMA is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Bank AG. Deutsche Bank AG is a major global banking institution that is engaged in a wide range of financial services, including investment management, mutual funds, retail, private and commercial banking, investment banking and insurance.

### Portfolio Management Team

*Philip G. Condon*

Managing Director of Deutsche Asset Management and Lead Portfolio Manager of the fund.

- Joined Deutsche Asset Management in 1983 and the fund in 1998.
- Over 31 years of investment industry experience.
- BA and MBA, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

*Rebecca L. Flinn*

Director of Deutsche Asset Management and Portfolio Manager of the fund.

- Joined Deutsche Asset Management in 1986 and the fund in 1998.
- Over 22 years of investment industry experience.
- BA, University of Redlands, California.

Philip G. Condon serves as lead portfolio manager of DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust. Rebecca L. Flinn is a portfolio manager. In the following interview, the DWS municipal bond team discusses the fund's performance for the period and the market environment for municipal bonds.

*The views expressed in the following discussion reflect those of the portfolio management team only through the end of the period of the report as stated on the cover. The management team's views are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions and should not be construed as a recommendation. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.*

**Q: Will you describe the general market environment during the annual period ending November 30, 2008?**

**A:** Municipal bonds delivered negative results over the 12 months ending November 30, 2008. The municipal bond market, as measured by the Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index, delivered a total return of -3.61% for the 12 months ended November 30, 2008.<sup>1</sup> The broad taxable bond market, as measured by the Barclays Capital US Aggregate Index, delivered a positive total return of 1.74% for the same period.<sup>2</sup>

The US Federal Reserve Board (the Fed) lowered the federal funds rate — the overnight interbank lending rate and a benchmark for interest rates generally — seven times totaling 350 basis points (3.5 percentage points) over the period. This left the federal funds rate at 1.00% at the end of November 2008. Municipal yields declined on the shorter parts of the curve, while rising on issues over seven years. Since a bond's yield moves in the opposite direction of its price, this meant that performance of shorter-term municipal bonds was generally better than that of longer issues.

<sup>1</sup> *The Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index (name changed from Lehman Brothers Municipal Bond Index, effective November 3, 2008) is an unmanaged, unleveraged market-value-weighted measure of municipal bonds issued across the United States. Index issues have a credit rating of at least Baa and a maturity of at least two years. Index returns, unlike fund returns, do not reflect any fees or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly into an index.*

<sup>2</sup> *The Barclays Capital US Aggregate Index (name changed from Lehman Brothers US Aggregate Index, effective November 3, 2008) is an unmanaged index representing domestic taxable investment-grade bonds, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities and asset-backed securities with average maturities of one year or more. Index returns, unlike fund returns, do not include fees or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly into an index.*

Municipal supply has been erratic given the economic and credit market backdrop, but overall has lagged last year's record volume only modestly. Demand for all non-Treasury issues including municipals was severely impacted for portions of the period by credit and liquidity concerns that have roiled the financial markets over the last several months. Early in the fiscal period, any support provided by traditional municipal market participants was overwhelmed by the unwinding of positions by institutional investors who had been using leveraging and hedging strategies in an attempt to benefit from disparities between the tax-free and taxable markets. This contributed to a significant dislocation between municipal supply and demand. As the period progressed, while mutual fund flows turned negative and insurance companies retreated to the sidelines, retail interest in individual bonds strengthened, based on attractive municipal yields.

The municipal bond yield curve steepened significantly during the annual period ending November 30, 2008.<sup>3</sup> The two-year bond yield decreased 109 basis points from 3.22% to 2.13%, while the 30-year yield increased 100 basis points from 4.38% to 5.38%, resulting in a total steepening of 209 basis points. (See the following graph for municipal bond yield changes from the beginning to the end of the period.)

<sup>3</sup> *The yield curve is a graph with a left-to-right line that shows how high or low yields are, from the shortest to the longest maturities. Typically (and when the yield curve is characterized as "steep," this is especially true) the line rises from left to right as investors who are willing to tie up their money for a longer period are rewarded with higher yields.*

**Municipal Bond Yield Curve** (as of 11/30/07 and 11/30/08)

Source: Municipal Market Data, AAA-rated universe

*This chart is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to represent the yield of any DWS fund. Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results.*

At the beginning of the fiscal period, credit spreads were modestly above average by historical standards.<sup>4</sup> As the period progressed, spreads widened and high-yield municipal bonds significantly underperformed the broader municipal market over the 12 months.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Credit spread reflects the difference in yield between bonds of different credit qualities but comparable maturities.*

<sup>5</sup> *The yield spread is the difference between the yield of a municipal bond security and the yield of an AAA-rated municipal credit. A large spread indicates that investors require yields substantially above those of AAA-rated municipal issues in order to invest in high-yield bonds. This is generally indicative of a higher-risk*

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

*environment. A smaller spread generally indicates a more positive environment, since investors are less concerned about risk and therefore willing to accept lower yields. A drop in the yield spread is a positive.*

### **Q: How did DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust perform for the 12-month period ending November 30, 2008?**

**A:** For the period ending November 30, 2008, DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust delivered a total return based on net asset value of -14.99%. The fund posted a total return based on market value of -23.67%. Its average peer in the Lipper Closed-End High Yield Municipal Debt Funds category delivered -23.92% over the period.<sup>6</sup> The fund's benchmark, the unmanaged Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index, returned -3.61% over the same period. (Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Please see pages 4 through 5 for more complete performance information.) Over the period, the discount at which the fund trades to its net asset value widened from 10.07% to 19.25%. We believe any trend toward a widening of the fund's discount is largely a function of closed-end mutual funds being swept up in the liquidity crisis. Also, with the use of borrowing to increase returns being more problematic, some investors may have discounted leveraged vehicles such as the fund.

### **Q: How was the fund positioned, and how did this positioning contribute to its performance for the annual period?**

**A:** We continue to manage the fund to provide a high level of current income exempt from federal income tax. We manage the fund's exposure to below-investment grade high-yield issues strategically, varying that weighting according to our view of relative value. As the fiscal period began, the yield advantage provided by BBB-rated versus AAA-rated issues was improving, and we had begun to add selectively to the fund's high-yield exposure.<sup>7</sup> However, we did not feel that spreads were sufficiently compelling to justify a significant tilt toward lower quality.

<sup>6</sup> *The Lipper Closed-End High Yield Municipal Debt Funds category includes funds that invest at least 50% of their assets in lower-rated municipal debt issues. Lipper figures represent the average of the total returns based on net asset value reported by all of the mutual funds designated by Lipper Inc. as falling into the Closed-End High Yield Municipal Debt Funds category. For the 1-, 5- and 10-year periods, this category's average was -23.92% (15 funds), -0.27% (14 funds) and 1.94% (11 funds), respectively, as of 11/30/08. Category returns assume reinvestment of dividends. It is not possible to invest directly into a Lipper category.*

<sup>7</sup> *Credit quality (credit rating) is a measure of a bond issuer's ability to repay interest and principal in a timely manner. Rating agencies assign letter designations such as AAA, AA and so forth. The lower the rating, the higher the probability of default.*

As the period progressed, credit spreads reached levels where investors are paid more fairly for the incremental risk. In addition, the yield curve developed a significant positive slope, also contributing in our view to the relative value of high-yield bonds, which are typically issued with 30-year maturities. The steeper curve along with wider credit spreads has led us to seek opportunities to deploy cash by adding to the fund's high-yield exposure. However, over the period the fund was still underweight high-yield issues compared with many of its peers, aiding fund returns as investors focused on risk aversion.<sup>8</sup> In particular, the fund had only modest exposure to airline-related issues and no exposure to zero coupon, long-maturity tobacco bonds, both sectors that suffered large losses.

<sup>8</sup> *"Overweight" means the fund holds a higher weighting in a given sector or security than the benchmark. "Underweight" means the fund holds a lower weighting.*

Among investment-grade issues, for much of the period we emphasized bonds with maturities in the 15-to-20 year range. This curve positioning helped performance, as intermediate term bonds were less impacted by rising yields and corresponding price declines than longer-dated issues. As the curve has steepened, we have been adding exposure to issues in the 20-30 year range. The fund's significant holdings of prerefunded bonds helped performance over the year, as investors prized their top-notch quality during the liquidity crunch.

Finally, the fund has the ability to leverage returns to shareholders through the issuance of preferred shares whose dividend rate is set by auction. For a portion of the period, a stalled auction rate market increased the fund's borrowing costs by pricing the dividend rate at a preestablished premium to short-term yields, which had skyrocketed. Later in the period, a sharp decline in short-term interest rates dramatically lowered the reference rate used to calculate the cost of this leverage even though the failed auctions continued, supporting the fund's income generation.

Municipal yields are currently very attractive relative to US Treasury bonds, providing an income advantage even before taking into account their tax advantage. To illustrate, at the end of November, the 10-year municipal bond was yielding approximately 138% of the comparable maturity Treasury bond, up from about 90% six months earlier. With a national economic downturn under way and the decreased role of insurance in the municipal market, we believe the expertise we bring to researching municipal sectors and individual issues has never been more important. We will continue to take a prudent approach to investing in the municipal market, while seeking to provide a high level of current income exempt from federal income tax.

## Portfolio Summary

Asset Allocation (As a % of Investment Portfolio)		11/30/08	11/30/07
Revenue Bonds		63%	54%
ETM/Prerefunded Bonds		31%	41%
General Obligation Bonds		5%	3%
Lease Obligations		1%	2%
		100%	100%
Quality	11/30/08	11/30/07	
AAA	11%	46%	
AA	21%	5%	
A	16%	6%	
BBB	20%	15%	
BB	4%	3%	
B	2%	2%	
Below B	—	1%	
Not Rated	26%	22%	
		100%	100%
Interest Rate Sensitivity		11/30/08	11/30/07
Average Maturity		10.2 years	6.9 years
Duration		6.4 years	6.0 years
Top Five State Allocations (As a % of Investment Portfolio)		11/30/08	11/30/07
New York		15%	19%
Texas		9%	13%
California		8%	9%
Illinois		6%	5%
Nevada		5%	5%

Asset allocation, quality, interest rate sensitivity and top five state allocations are subject to change.

The quality ratings represent the lower of Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") or Standard & Poor's Corporation ("S&P") credit ratings. The ratings of Moody's and S&P represent their opinions as to the quality of the securities they rate. Ratings are relative and subjective and are not absolute standards of quality. The Fund's credit quality does not remove market risk.

For more complete details about the Fund's investment portfolio, see page 13. A quarterly Fact Sheet is available upon request. A complete list of the fund's portfolio holdings is posted as of the month end on [www.dws-investments.com](http://www.dws-investments.com) on or about the 15th day of the following month. More frequent posting of portfolio holdings information may be made from time to time on [www.dws-investments.com](http://www.dws-investments.com). Please see the Additional Information section for contact information.

Following the Fund's fiscal first and third quarter-end, a complete portfolio holdings listing is filed with the SEC on Form N-Q. The form will be available on the SEC's Web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), and it also may be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling (800) SEC-0330.



**Investment Portfolio** as of November 30, 2008

	Principal Amount (\$)	Value (\$)
<b>Municipal Bonds and Notes 160.0%</b>		
<b>Alabama 3.2%</b>		
Alabama, Sales & Special Tax Revenue, Public School and College Authority, Series C, 5.625%, 7/1/2013	1,000,000	1,034,320
Huntsville, AL, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Health Care Authority, Series A, Prerefunded, 5.75%, 6/1/2031	1,500,000	1,627,125
Sylacauga, AL, Health Care Authority Revenue, Coosa Valley Medical Center, Series A, 6.0%, 8/1/2035	1,000,000	690,540
		<b>3,351,985</b>
<b>Arizona 1.6%</b>		
Arizona, Project Revenue, Health Facilities Authority, The New Foundation Project, 8.25%, 3/1/2019	1,725,000	<b>1,689,172</b>
<b>California 10.7%</b>		
California, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Enterprise Casino Revenue, Series B, 144A, 6.5%, 3/1/2028	1,000,000	801,750
California, Special Assessment Revenue, Golden State Tobacco Securitization Corp.:		
Series B, Prerefunded, 5.625%, 6/1/2038	1,890,000	2,086,428
Series 2003-A-1, Prerefunded, 6.75%, 6/1/2039	4,500,000	5,178,960
Los Angeles, CA, Community Redevelopment Agency, Multi-Family Housing Revenue, Wilshire Station Apartments, Series A, AMT, 0.8%*, 10/15/2038, Bank of America NA (a)	300,000	300,000
Sacramento County, CA, Sales & Special Tax Revenue, Bradshaw Road Project, 7.2%, 9/2/2015	870,000	870,070
Sacramento, CA, Project Revenue, City Financing Authority, Convention Center Hotel, Series A, Prerefunded, 6.25%, 1/1/2030	1,985,000	2,073,451
		<b>11,310,659</b>
<b>Colorado 3.3%</b>		
Colorado, Health Facilities Authority Revenue, Christian Living Communities Project, Series A, 5.75%, 1/1/2037	1,000,000	610,030
Colorado, Health Facilities Authority Revenue, Portercare Adventist Health Project, Prerefunded, 6.5%, 11/15/2031	1,000,000	1,127,000
Colorado, Public Energy Authority, Natural Gas Purchased Revenue, 6.25%, 11/15/2028	635,000	496,265
Colorado, Transportation/Tolls Revenue, Northwest Parkway Public Highway Authority, Series D, Prerefunded, 7.125%, 6/15/2041	1,145,000	1,211,204
		<b>3,444,499</b>
<b>Connecticut 3.8%</b>		
Greenwich, CT, Multi-Family Housing Revenue, 6.35%, 9/1/2027	2,000,000	1,905,100
Mashantucket, CT, Mashantucket Western Pequot Tribe, Special Revenue, Series A, 144A, 6.5%, 9/1/2031	705,000	528,680
Mashantucket, CT, Sports, Expo & Entertainment Revenue, Mashantucket Western Pequot Tribe:		
Series B, 144A, Zero Coupon, 9/1/2017	2,000,000	1,099,420
Series B, 144A, Zero Coupon, 9/1/2018	1,000,000	451,580
		<b>3,984,780</b>
<b>Florida 3.9%</b>		
Hillsborough County, FL, Industrial Development Authority Revenue, Health Facilities, University Community Hospital, Series A, 5.625%, 8/15/2029	1,875,000	1,447,200
Miami Beach, FL, Health Facilities Authority Hospital Revenue, Mount Sinai Medical Center, 144A, 6.75%, 11/15/2029	1,600,000	1,254,032
Orlando, FL, Greater Aviation Authority, Airport Facilities Revenue, Jet Blue Airways Corp., AMT, 6.5%, 11/15/2036	1,000,000	614,450
Orlando, FL, Special Assessment Revenue, Conroy Road Interchange Project, Series A, 5.8%, 5/1/2026	1,000,000	797,010
		<b>4,112,692</b>
<b>Georgia 2.7%</b>		
Americus-Sumter County, GA, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Hospital Authority, South Georgia Methodist, Series A, 6.375%, 5/15/2029	1,250,000	960,263
Georgia, Main Street Natural Gas, Inc., Gas Project Revenue, Series A, 5.5%, 9/15/2024	1,220,000	921,283
Georgia, Medical Center Hospital Authority Revenue, Anticipation Certificates, Columbus Regional Healthcare Systems, 6.5%, 8/1/2038 (b) (c)	1,000,000	951,460
		<b>2,833,006</b>
<b>Guam 0.7%</b>		
Guam, Government Waterworks Authority, Water & Wastewater System Revenue, 6.0%, 7/1/2025	1,000,000	<b>789,770</b>
<b>Idaho 0.3%</b>		
Idaho, Health Facilities Authority Revenue, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, 6.75%, 11/1/2037 (c)	305,000	<b>300,593</b>
<b>Illinois 7.9%</b>		

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Chicago, IL, Wastewater Transmission Revenue, Series C-1, 0.85%*, 1/1/2039, Harris NA (a)	2,000,000	2,000,000
Illinois, Finance Authority Revenue, Monarch Landing, Inc. Facility: Series A, 7.0%, 12/1/2027	1,000,000	805,250
Series A, 7.0%, 12/1/2037	1,000,000	769,980
Illinois, Finance Authority Revenue, Three Crowns Park Plaza, Series A, 5.875%, 2/15/2038	1,000,000	653,930
Illinois, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, ETM, 6.75%, 2/15/2016	2,180,000	2,312,806
Illinois, Upper River Valley Development Authority, Solid Waste Disposal Revenue, Waste Recovery Project, AMT, 5.9%, 2/1/2014	1,165,000	1,046,182
University Park, IL, Sales & Special Tax Revenue, Governors Gateway Industrial Park, 8.5%, 12/1/2011	795,000	796,844
		<b>8,384,992</b>
<b>Indiana 2.6%</b>		
Indiana, Senior Care Revenue, Health Facilities Finance Authority, Franciscan Eldercare Community Services, 5.875%, 5/15/2029	3,000,000	2,123,670
Vigo County, IN, Hospital Authority Revenue, Union Hospital, Inc., 144A, 5.7%, 9/1/2037	1,000,000	664,160
		<b>2,787,830</b>
<b>Iowa 2.3%</b>		
Cedar Rapids, IA, First Mortgage Revenue, Cottage Grove Place, Series A, 5.875%, 7/1/2028	1,670,000	1,139,775
Iowa, Finance Authority Retirement Community Revenue, Edgewater LLC Project, 6.5%, 11/15/2027	1,000,000	752,220
Lake City, IA, Senior Care Revenue, Health Care Facility, Opportunity Living Project, 144A, 6.45%, 5/1/2011	525,000	510,657
		<b>2,402,652</b>
<b>Kansas 4.7%</b>		
Lenexa, KS, Health Care Facility Revenue, 5.5%, 5/15/2039	2,000,000	1,303,600
Manhattan, KS, Senior Care Revenue, Meadowlark Hills Retirement, Series A, Prerefunded, 6.5%, 5/15/2028	300,000	310,518
Overland Park, KS, Industrial Development Revenue, Series A, Prerefunded, 7.375%, 1/1/2032	2,000,000	2,220,760
Wyandotte County, KS, Unified Government Special Obligation Revenue, Sales Tax, Series B, 5.0%, 12/1/2020	1,400,000	1,173,564
		<b>5,008,442</b>
<b>Kentucky 1.3%</b>		
Kentucky, Economic Development Finance Authority, Health System Revenue, Norton Healthcare: Series A, Prerefunded, 6.625%, 10/1/2028	790,000	860,689
Series A, 6.625%, 10/1/2028	210,000	188,374
Kentucky, Economic Development Finance Authority, Louisville Arena Project Revenue, Series A-1, 6.0%, 12/1/2033 (b)	365,000	352,189
		<b>1,401,252</b>
<b>Louisiana 3.2%</b>		
Louisiana, Local Government Environmental Facilities, Community Development Authority Revenue, 6.75%, 11/1/2032	1,000,000	740,450
Morehouse Parish, LA, Pollution Control Revenue, International Paper Co. Project, Series A, 5.25%, 11/15/2013	3,000,000	2,680,290
		<b>3,420,740</b>
<b>Maryland 7.3%</b>		
Anne Arundel County, MD, General Obligation, National Business Park Project, Prerefunded, 144A, 7.375%, 7/1/2028	966,000	1,055,896
Anne Arundel County, MD, Revenue Lease, Arundel Mills Project, Prerefunded, 7.1%, 7/1/2029	1,500,000	1,573,035
Maryland, Higher Education Revenue, Collegiate Housing Foundation, Series A, Prerefunded, 5.75%, 6/1/2031	1,000,000	1,043,400
Maryland, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, University of Maryland Medical System, Prerefunded, 6.75%, 7/1/2030	1,000,000	1,087,770
Maryland, State Economic Development Corp. Revenue, Senior Lien Project, Chesapeake Bay, Series B, 5.25%, 12/1/2031	2,000,000	1,176,440
Maryland, State Health & Higher Educational Facilities Authority Revenue, Washington County Hospital: 5.75%, 1/1/2033	1,000,000	732,330
6.0%, 1/1/2028	1,385,000	1,085,078
		<b>7,753,949</b>
<b>Massachusetts 5.2%</b>		
Massachusetts, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Health & Educational Facilities Authority, Civic Investments, Series A, Prerefunded, 9.0%, 12/15/2015	1,600,000	1,909,712
Massachusetts, Industrial Development Revenue, Development Finance Agency, Series A, 7.1%, 7/1/2032	1,875,000	1,526,231
Massachusetts, Project Revenue, Health & Educational Facilities Authority, Jordan Hospital, Series E, 6.75%, 10/1/2033	1,790,000	1,412,167
Massachusetts, State Health & Educational Facilities Authority Revenue, Milford Regional Medical Center, Series E, 5.0%, 7/15/2037	950,000	578,825
Massachusetts, State Health & Educational Facilities Authority Revenue, Partners Healthcare Systems, Series C, 5.75%, 7/1/2032	35,000	32,915
		<b>5,459,850</b>

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

<b>Michigan 5.1%</b>		
Kalamazoo, MI, Economic Development Corp. Revenue, Heritage Community, 5.375%, 5/15/2027	1,000,000	669,450
Kalamazoo, MI, Industrial Development Revenue, Economic Development Corp., Series A, Prerefunded, 7.5%, 5/15/2029	2,000,000	2,192,120
Saginaw, MI, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Hospital Finance Authority, Covenant Medical Center, Series F, 6.5%, 7/1/2030	1,000,000	998,200
Tawas City, MI, Hospital Finance Authority, St. Joseph Health Services:		
Series A, ETM, 5.6%, 2/15/2013	230,000	241,886
Series A, ETM, 5.75%, 2/15/2023	1,300,000	1,327,222
		<b>5,428,878</b>
<b>Minnesota 0.9%</b>		
Minneapolis, MN, Health Care Systems Revenue, Fairview Health Services, Series A, 6.75%, 11/15/2032	1,000,000	<b>968,300</b>
<b>Mississippi 0.5%</b>		
Lowndes County, MS, Solid Waste Disposal & Pollution Control Revenue, Weyerhaeuser Co. Project, Series A, 6.8%, 4/1/2022	250,000	202,985
Warren County, MS, Gulf Opportunity Zone, International Paper Co., Series A, 6.5%, 9/1/2032	435,000	334,698
		<b>537,683</b>
<b>Missouri 0.7%</b>		
Branson, MO, Regional Airport Transportation Development District, Airport Revenue, Series B, AMT, 6.0%, 7/1/2037	250,000	163,240
St. Louis, MO, Special Assessment Revenue, Scullin Redevelopment Area, Series A, 10.0%, 8/1/2010	535,000	560,669
		<b>723,909</b>
<b>Nevada 8.7%</b>		
Clark County, NV, School District General Obligation, Series A, 5.0%, 6/15/2022 (b)	7,325,000	7,282,808
Henderson, NV, Health Care Facility Revenue, Catholic Healthcare West, Series B, 5.25%, 7/1/2031	2,000,000	1,505,660
Las Vegas, NV, Transportation/Tolls Revenue, Las Vegas Monorail Project, 7.375%, 1/1/2030	2,000,000	462,760
		<b>9,251,228</b>
<b>New Hampshire 2.1%</b>		
New Hampshire, Higher Education Revenue, Health & Educational Facilities Authority, New Hampshire College Issue, Prerefunded, 7.4%, 1/1/2023	1,000,000	1,116,460
New Hampshire, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Rivermead at Peterborough Retirement Community, 5.75%, 7/1/2028	1,500,000	1,076,715
		<b>2,193,175</b>
<b>New Jersey 2.6%</b>		
New Jersey, Economic Development Authority Revenue, Cigarette Tax, 5.75%, 6/15/2034	290,000	202,817
New Jersey, Health Care Facilities Financing Authority Revenue, St. Joseph's Health Care System, 6.625%, 7/1/2038	1,430,000	1,086,214
New Jersey, Resource Recovery Revenue, Tobacco Settlement Financing Corp., 5.75%, 6/1/2032	1,330,000	1,431,718
		<b>2,720,749</b>
<b>New Mexico 2.1%</b>		
Farmington, NM, Pollution Control Revenue, 5.8%, 4/1/2022	2,750,000	<b>2,173,078</b>
<b>New York 21.8%</b>		
Long Island, NY, Power Authority, Electric System Revenue, Series E, 5.0%, 12/1/2021 (b)	2,900,000	2,732,061
Nassau County, NY, Industrial Development Agency, Continuing Care Retirement, Amsterdam at Harborside, Series A, 6.7%, 1/1/2043	1,000,000	784,110
Nassau County, NY, Project Revenue, North Shore Healthcare Systems Project, Series B, 5.875%, 11/1/2011	365,000	378,447
New York, Core City General Obligation, Series C, 7.0%, 2/1/2010	315,000	317,596
New York, Sales & Special Tax Revenue, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Series A, Prerefunded, 5.125%, 4/1/2019 (b)	1,450,000	1,631,699
New York, State General Obligation Lease, Higher Education Revenue, Dormitory Authority, State University, 5.125%, 5/15/2021 (b)	1,515,000	1,533,422
New York, State Housing Finance Agency Revenue, 100 Maiden Lane, Series A, 1.1%*, 5/15/2037	300,000	300,000
New York, Transportation/Tolls Revenue, Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority Systems, Series Y, ETM, 6.0%, 1/1/2012	5,000,000	5,323,200
New York & New Jersey Port Authority, One Hundred Forty-Seventh, AMT, 5.0%, 10/15/2023 (b)	8,260,000	7,017,531
New York City, NY, Industrial Development Agency Revenue, Liberty-7, World Trade Center, Series A, 6.25%, 3/1/2015	2,000,000	1,658,880
New York City, NY, Industrial Development Agency, Special Facility Revenue, American Airlines, JFK International Airport, AMT, 8.0%, 8/1/2028	2,000,000	1,440,980
		<b>23,117,926</b>
<b>North Carolina 3.1%</b>		
North Carolina, Electric Revenue, Municipal Power Agency:		
Series C, 5.375%, 1/1/2017	1,000,000	1,009,070
Series B, 6.375%, 1/1/2013	1,300,000	1,343,667
North Carolina, Medical Care Commission, Health Care Facilities Revenue, University Health Systems, Series D, 6.25%, 12/1/2033 (c)	1,000,000	957,420

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

		<b>3,310,157</b>
<b>North Dakota 1.0%</b>		
Grand Forks, ND, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Altru Health Care System, Prerefunded, 7.125%, 8/15/2024	1,000,000	<b>1,096,000</b>
<b>Ohio 4.6%</b>		
Buckeye, OH, Tobacco Settlement Financing Authority, Series A-2, 5.875%, 6/1/2030	7,350,000	<b>4,901,788</b>
<b>Pennsylvania 4.7%</b>		
Montgomery County, PA, Industrial Development Authority Revenue, Whitemarsh Continuing Care, 6.25%, 2/1/2035	600,000	394,938
Montgomery County, PA, Senior Care Revenue, Higher Education & Health Authority, Philadelphia Geriatric Center, Series A, Prerefunded, 7.25%, 12/1/2027	2,000,000	2,141,300
Pennsylvania, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Economic Development Financing Authority, UPMC Health System, Series A, 6.0%, 1/15/2031	750,000	727,178
Philadelphia, Redevelopment Authority Revenue, First Lien Mortgage, Series A, 6.5%, 1/1/2029	603,400	579,849
Westmoreland County, PA, Senior Care Revenue, Industrial Development Authority, Health Care Facilities-Redstone, Series B, Prerefunded, 8.125%, 11/15/2030	1,000,000	1,125,550
		<b>4,968,815</b>
<b>Puerto Rico 3.4%</b>		
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Aqueduct & Sewer Authority Revenue, Series A, 6.0%, 7/1/2038	4,000,000	<b>3,566,360</b>
<b>South Carolina 6.3%</b>		
Hardeeville, SC, Assessment Revenue, Anderson Tract Municipal Improvement District, Series A, 7.75%, 11/1/2039	983,000	795,837
South Carolina, Jobs Economic Development Authority Revenue, Bon Secours Health System: Series A, Prerefunded, 5.625%, 11/15/2030	415,000	462,318
Series B, 5.625%, 11/15/2030	1,585,000	1,319,909
South Carolina, Jobs Economic Development Authority, Hospital Facilities Revenue, Palmetto Health Alliance: Series C, Prerefunded, 7.0%, 8/1/2030	1,545,000	1,794,261
Series A, Prerefunded, 7.375%, 12/15/2021	1,000,000	1,120,270
South Carolina, Transportation Infrastructure Bank Revenue, Series A, Prerefunded, 5.375%, 10/1/2024 (b)	1,150,000	1,202,302
		<b>6,694,897</b>
<b>South Dakota 1.8%</b>		
South Dakota, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Sioux Valley Hospital, Series E, 5.375%, 11/1/2024	2,000,000	<b>1,879,660</b>
<b>Tennessee 2.9%</b>		
Clarksville, TN, Natural Gas Acquisition Corp., Gas Revenue: 5.0%, 12/15/2017	500,000	408,390
5.0%, 12/15/2018	540,000	432,113
Johnson City, TN, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Health & Educational Facilities Board Hospital, Series A, Prerefunded, 7.5%, 7/1/2033	2,000,000	2,222,680
		<b>3,063,183</b>
<b>Texas 15.3%</b>		
Abilene, TX, Senior Care Revenue, Health Facilities Development, Sears Methodist Retirement Facilities, Series A, 5.9%, 11/15/2025	2,500,000	1,880,550
Austin, TX, Bergstrom Landhost Enterprises, Inc., Airport Hotel Project, Series A, 6.75%, 4/1/2027	1,975,000	1,333,224
Houston, TX, Transportation/Tolls Revenue, Special Facilities, Continental Airlines, Inc., Series E, AMT, 6.75%, 7/1/2029	2,000,000	1,246,060
Tarrant County, TX, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Health Facilities Development Corp., Prerefunded, 6.7%, 11/15/2030	1,000,000	1,095,110
Texas, Industrial Development Revenue, Waste Disposal Authority, Series A, AMT, 6.1%, 8/1/2024	1,000,000	697,650
Texas, Lower Colorado River Authority Revenue: Series B, Prerefunded, 6.0%, 5/15/2013 (b)	10,000	10,329
Series B, 6.0%, 5/15/2013 (b)	4,990,000	5,119,989
Travis County, TX, Health Facilities Development Corp., Retirement Facility Revenue, Querencia Barton Creek Project, 5.65%, 11/15/2035	1,250,000	779,513
Travis County, TX, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Ascension Health Credit, Series A, 6.0%, 11/15/2012 (b)	3,860,000	4,030,612
		<b>16,193,037</b>
<b>Virgin Islands 2.9%</b>		
Virgin Islands, Sales & Special Tax Revenue, Public Finance Authority, Series A, 6.375%, 10/1/2019	3,000,000	<b>3,032,190</b>
<b>Washington 1.8%</b>		
Washington, State Health Care Facilities Authority Revenue, Series C, 5.375%, 8/15/2028 (b)	595,000	432,666
Washington, State Health Care Facilities Authority Revenue, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Series A, 6.125%, 8/15/2037	2,000,000	1,502,200
		<b>1,934,866</b>

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

<b>West Virginia 2.1%</b>		
West Virginia, Hospital Finance Authority Revenue, Charleston Medical Center: Prerefunded, 6.75%, 9/1/2022		
	1,610,000	1,753,966
Series A, Prerefunded, 6.75%, 9/1/2022	390,000	426,730
		<b>2,180,696</b>
<b>Wisconsin 0.9%</b>		
Wisconsin, Hospital & Healthcare Revenue, Health & Education Facilities Authority, Aurora Health Care, Inc., 6.875%, 4/15/2030	1,000,000	<b>923,850</b>
<b>Total Municipal Bonds and Notes</b> (Cost \$184,184,994)		<b>169,297,288</b>
<b>Municipal Inverse Floating Rate Notes (d) 16.8%</b>		
<b>California 3.6%</b>		
San Diego County, CA, Water Authority Revenue, Certificates of Participation, Series 2008-A, 5.0%, 5/1/2027 (b) (e)	2,121,349	1,984,843
San Diego County, CA, Water Authority Revenue, Certificates of Participation, Series 2008-A, 5.0%, 5/1/2028 (b) (e)	1,930,312	1,806,099
Trust: San Diego County, CA, Water Utility Improvements, Certificates of Participation, Series 2008-1104, 144A, 8.213%, 5/1/2027, Leverage Factor at purchase date: 2 to 1		
		<b>3,790,942</b>
<b>Illinois 2.4%</b>		
Aurora, IL, Single Family Mortgage Revenue, Series C, AMT, 5.5%, 6/1/2045 (e)	2,924,444	<b>2,513,029</b>
Trust: Aurora, IL, Puttable Floating Option Tax Exempt Receipts, RITES-PA-1499, AMT, 144A, 13.452%, 6/1/2045, Leverage Factor at purchase date: 3 to 1		
<b>New York 5.2%</b>		
New York, State Dormitory Authority, State Personal Income Tax Revenue, Series A, 5.0%, 3/15/2023 (e)	5,535,000	<b>5,494,213</b>
Trust: New York, State Dormitory Authority Revenues, Secondary Issues, Series 1955-2, 144A, 16.446%, 3/15/2023, Leverage Factor at purchase date: 4 to 1		
<b>Tennessee 5.6%</b>		
Nashville & Davidson County, TN, Metropolitan Government, 5.0%, 1/1/2024 (e)	5,918,585	<b>5,939,808</b>
Trust: Nashville & Davidson County, TN, Metropolitan Government, Series 2631-1, 144A, 16.066%, 1/1/2024, Leverage Factor at purchase date: 4 to 1		
<b>Total Municipal Inverse Floating Rate Notes</b> (Cost \$19,344,527)		<b>17,737,992</b>
	<b>% of Net Assets</b>	<b>Value (\$)</b>
<b>Total Investment Portfolio</b> (Cost \$203,529,521)+	176.8	<b>187,035,280</b>
<b>Other Assets and Liabilities, Net</b>	(10.6)	<b>(11,239,698)</b>
<b>Preferred Shares, at Redemption Value</b>	(66.2)	<b>(70,000,000)</b>
<b>Net Assets Applicable to Common Shareholders</b>	100.0	<b>105,795,582</b>

\* Variable rate demand notes are securities whose interest rates are reset periodically at market levels. These securities are often payable on demand and are shown at their current rates as of November 30, 2008.

+ The cost for federal income tax purposes was \$203,009,104. At November 30, 2008, net unrealized depreciation for all securities based on tax cost was \$15,973,824. This consisted of aggregate gross unrealized appreciation for all securities in which there was an excess of value over tax cost of \$6,805,819 and aggregate gross unrealized depreciation for all securities in which there was an excess of tax cost over value of \$22,779,643.

(a) Security incorporates a letter of credit from the bank listed.

(b) Bond is insured by one of these companies:

<b>Insurance Coverage</b>	<b>As a % of Total Investment Portfolio</b>
Ambac Financial Group, Inc.	0.7
Assured Guaranty Corp.	0.7
Financial Guaranty Insurance Co.	9.9
Financial Security Assurance, Inc.	5.6
MBIA Corp.	2.2
Radian	0.2

(c) When-issued security.

(d) Securities represent the underlying municipal obligations of inverse floating rate obligations held by the Fund.

(e) Security forms part of the below tender option bond trust. Principal Amount and Value shown take into account the leverage factor.

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

*144A: Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.*

*AMT: Subject to alternative minimum tax.*

*ETM: Bonds bearing the description ETM (escrow to maturity) are collateralized usually by US Treasury securities which are held in escrow and used to repay principal and pay interest on bonds so designated.*

*Prerefunded: Bonds which are prerefunded are collateralized usually by US Treasury securities which are held in escrow and are used to repay principal and pay interest on tax-exempt issues and to retire the bonds in full at the earliest refunding date.*

*UTES: Residual Interest Tax Exempt Security*

### **Fair Value Measurements**

*Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157, Fair Value Measurements, establishes a three-tier hierarchy for measuring fair value and requires additional disclosure about the classification of fair value measurements.*

*Various inputs are used in determining the value of the Fund's investments. These inputs are summarized in three broad levels. Level 1 includes quoted prices in active markets for identical securities. Level 2 includes other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds and credit risk). Level 3 includes significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments). The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.*

*The following is a summary of the inputs used as of November 30, 2008 in valuing the Fund's investments. For information on the Fund's policy regarding the valuation of investments, please refer to the Security Valuation section of Note A in the accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.*

Valuation Inputs	Investments in Securities
Level 1	\$ —
Level 2	187,035,280
Level 3	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 187,035,280</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.*

## Financial Statements

<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b> as of November 30, 2008	
<b>Assets</b>	
Investments in securities, at value (cost \$203,529,521)	\$ 187,035,280
Cash	131,457
Receivable for investments sold	100,000
Interest receivable	3,471,038
Other assets	3,113
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>190,740,888</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Payable for investments purchased — when-issued securities	2,172,567
Payable for floating rate notes issued	12,619,483
Distributions payable	15,000
Accrued management fee	92,239
Other accrued expenses and payables	46,017
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>14,945,306</b>
<b>Preferred shares, at redemption value</b>	<b>70,000,000</b>
<b>Net assets applicable to common shareholders</b>	<b>\$ 105,795,582</b>
<b>Net Assets Consist of</b>	
Undistributed net investment income	1,567,999

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	(16,494,241)
Accumulated net realized gain (loss)	(733,799)
Paid-in capital	121,455,623
<b>Net assets applicable to common shareholders</b>	<b>\$ 105,795,582</b>
<b>Net Asset Value</b>	
Net Asset Value per common share (\$105,795,582 ÷ 10,948,343 outstanding shares of beneficial interest, \$.01 par value, unlimited number of shares authorized)	<b>\$ 9.66</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

<b>Statement of Operations</b> for the year ended November 30, 2008	
<b>Investment Income</b>	
Income:	
Interest	\$ 12,767,310
Expenses:	
Management fee	1,168,558
Services to shareholders	40,748
Custodian fee	9,791
Professional fees	105,654
Trustees' fees and expenses	20,605
Reports to shareholders	50,859
Auction service fee	178,608
Stock exchange listing fees	23,790
Interest expense and fees on floating rate notes	694,586
Other	78,586
Total expenses before expense reductions	2,371,785
Expense reductions	(11,827)
Total expenses after expense reductions	2,359,958
<b>Net investment income</b>	<b>10,407,352</b>
<b>Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss)</b>	
Net realized gain (loss) from investments	2,026,855
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	(29,375,941)
<b>Net gain (loss)</b>	<b>(27,349,086)</b>
<b>Dividends on preferred shares</b>	<b>(2,605,712)</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>\$ (19,547,446)</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b> for the year ended November 30, 2008	
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash</b>	
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>	
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations (excluding dividends on preferred shares)	\$ (16,941,734)
<b>Adjustments to reconcile net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations to net cash used by operating activities:</b>	
Purchases of long-term investments	(139,006,723)
Net amortization/accretion of premium (discount)	(3,875)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of long-term investments	158,071,990
(Increase) decrease in interest receivable	134,577
(Increase) decrease in other assets	(3,113)
(Increase) decrease in receivable for investments sold	60,000
Increase (decrease) in payable for investments purchased	(1,379,452)

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Increase (decrease) in accrued expenses and payables	(74,875)
Change in net unrealized (appreciation) depreciation on investments	29,375,941
Net realized (gain) loss from investments	(2,026,855)
<b>Cash provided (used) by operating activities</b>	<b>28,205,881</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>	
Distributions paid (net of reinvestment of distributions)	(9,858,990)
Increase (decrease) in payable for floating rate notes issued	(18,223,017)
Cash provided (used) by financing activities	(28,082,007)
Increase (decrease) in cash	123,874
Cash at beginning of period	7,583
<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<b>\$ 131,457</b>
<b>Non-Cash Financing Activities:</b>	
Reinvestment of distributions	\$ 34,793

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

<b>Statement of Changes in Net Assets</b>		
	<b>Years Ended November 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>		
Operations:		
Net investment income	\$ 10,407,352	\$ 10,127,507
Net realized gain (loss)	2,026,855	175,059
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(29,375,941)	(4,661,155)
Dividends on preferred shares	(2,605,712)	(2,628,752)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	(19,547,446)	3,012,659
Distributions to common shareholders from:		
Net investment income	(7,278,219)	(7,221,341)
Fund share and paid-in capital transactions:		
Net proceeds from shares issued to common shareholders in reinvestment of distributions	34,793	114,736
Reimbursement by Advisor (see Note F)	—	175,116
Net increase (decrease) in net assets from Fund share and paid-in capital transactions	34,793	289,852
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>	<b>(26,790,872)</b>	<b>(3,918,830)</b>
Net assets at beginning of period	132,586,454	136,505,284
Net assets at end of period (including undistributed net investment income of \$1,567,999 and \$710,251, respectively)	<b>\$ 105,795,582</b>	<b>\$ 132,586,454</b>
<b>Other Information</b>		
Common shares outstanding at beginning of period	10,945,306	10,936,008
Shares issued to common shareholders in reinvestment of distributions	3,037	9,298
Common shares outstanding at end of period	10,948,343	10,945,306

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

## Financial Highlights

<b>Years Ended November 30,</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Selected Per Share Data</b>					
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	<b>\$ 12.11</b>	<b>\$ 12.48</b>	<b>\$ 12.29</b>	<b>\$ 12.26</b>	<b>\$ 12.23</b>
<i>Income (loss) from investment operations:</i>					
Net investment income <sup>a</sup>	.95	.93	.93	.95	.98
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(2.50)	(.42)	.23	.13	.03
<i>Dividends on preferred shares (common share equivalent):</i>					
From net investment income	(.24)	(.24)	(.22)	(.15)	(.08)



Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

<b>Total from investment operations</b>	(1.79)	.27	.94	.93	.93
<i>Less distributions from:</i>					
Net investment income to common shareholders	(.66)	(.66)	(.75)	(.90)	(.90)
Reimbursement by advisor	—	.02	—	—	—
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 9.66</b>	<b>\$ 12.11</b>	<b>\$ 12.48</b>	<b>\$ 12.29</b>	<b>\$ 12.26</b>
<b>Market value, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 7.80</b>	<b>\$ 10.89</b>	<b>\$ 12.26</b>	<b>\$ 14.15</b>	<b>\$ 12.38</b>
<b>Total Return</b>					
Based on net asset value (%) <sup>c</sup>	(14.99) <sup>b</sup>	2.53 <sup>b,d</sup>	7.80 <sup>b</sup>	7.59	7.98
Based on market value (%) <sup>c</sup>	(23.67)	(6.14)	(8.02)	22.68	5.58
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets and Supplemental Data</b>					
Net assets, end of period (\$ millions)	106	133	137	134	133
Ratio of expenses before fee reductions (%) (based on net assets of common shares, including interest expense) <sup>e</sup>	1.90	1.64	1.26	1.31	1.25
Ratio of expenses after fee reductions (%) (based on net assets of common shares, including interest expense) <sup>e</sup>	1.89	1.62	1.25	1.31	1.25
Ratio of expenses after fee reductions (%) (based on net assets of common shares, excluding interest expense)	1.33	1.26	1.25	1.31	1.25
Ratio of expenses before fee reductions (%) (based on net assets of common and preferred shares, including interest expense) <sup>e</sup>	1.22	1.07	.83	.86	.82
Ratio of expenses after fee reductions (%) (based on net assets of common and preferred shares, including interest expense) <sup>e</sup>	1.21	1.07	.82	.86	.82
<b>Years Ended November 30, (continued)</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Ratio of expenses after fee reductions (%) (based on net assets of common and preferred shares, excluding interest expense)	.86	.83	.82	.86	.82
Ratio of net investment income (loss) (%) (based on net assets of common shares)	8.34	7.56	7.55	7.60	8.03
Ratio of net investment income (loss) (%) (based on net assets of common and preferred shares)	5.34	4.96	4.97	5.01	5.25
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	65	44	41	19	15
Preferred shares information at end of period:					
Aggregate amount outstanding (\$ millions)	70	70	70	70	70
Asset coverage per share (\$) <sup>f</sup>	62,784	72,352	73,752	72,900	72,500
Liquidation and market value per share (\$)	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
<sup>a</sup> Based on average common shares outstanding during the period.					
<sup>b</sup> Total return would have been lower had certain fees not been reduced.					
<sup>c</sup> Total return based on net asset value reflects changes in the Fund's net asset value during each period. Total return based on market value reflects changes in market value. Each figure assumes that dividend and capital gain distributions, if any, were reinvested. These figures will differ depending upon the level of any discount from or premium to net asset value at which the Fund's shares traded during the period.					
<sup>d</sup> Includes a non-recurring reimbursement from the Advisor for a fee previously charged to the Fund (see Note F). Excluding this non-recurring reimbursement, total return would have been 0.13% lower.					
<sup>e</sup> Interest expense represents interest and fees on short term floating rate notes issued in conjunction with inverse floating rate securities. Interest income from such transactions is included in income from investment operations.					
<sup>f</sup> Asset coverage per share equals net assets of common shares plus the redemption value of the preferred shares divided by the total number of preferred shares outstanding at the end of the period.					

## Notes to Financial Statements

### A. Significant Accounting Policies

DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust (the "Fund") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), as a closed-end, diversified management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust.

The Fund's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America which require the use of management estimates. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The policies described below are followed consistently by the Fund in the preparation of its financial

statements.

**Security Valuation.** Investments are stated at value determined as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange on each day the exchange is open for trading. Debt securities are valued by independent pricing services approved by the Trustees of the Fund, whose valuations are intended to reflect the mean between the bid and asked prices. If the pricing services are unable to provide valuations, the securities are valued at the mean of the most recent bid and asked quotations or evaluated price obtained from one or more broker-dealers. Such services may use various pricing techniques which take into account appropriate factors such as yield, quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics and other data, as well as broker quotes.

Money market instruments purchased with an original or remaining maturity of sixty days or less, maturing at par, are valued at amortized cost.

Securities and other assets for which market quotations are not readily available or for which the above valuation procedures are deemed not to reflect fair value are valued in a manner that is intended to reflect their fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the Trustees.

The Fund adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157, Fair Value Measurements, effective at the beginning of the Fund's fiscal year. Disclosure about the classification of fair value measurements is included at the end of the Fund's Investment Portfolio.

**New Accounting Pronouncement.** In March 2008, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 161 ("FAS 161"), "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities". FAS 161 requires enhanced disclosure about an entity's derivative and hedging activities including qualitative disclosures about the objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments, and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. FAS 161 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. Management is currently reviewing the enhanced disclosure requirements for the adoption of FAS 161.

**Inverse Floaters.** Inverse floating rate notes are debt instruments with a weekly floating rate of interest that bears an inverse relationship to changes in short-term market interest rates. Investments in this type of instrument involve special risks as compared to investments in a fixed rate municipal security. The debt instrument in which the Fund may invest is a tender option bond trust (the "trust") which can be established by the Fund, a financial institution, or a broker consisting of underlying municipal obligations with intermediate to long maturities and a fixed interest rate ("underlying bond"). Other investors in the trust usually consist of money market fund investors receiving weekly floating interest rate payments who have put options with the financial institutions. The Fund may enter into shortfall and forbearance agreements by which the Fund agrees to reimburse the trust, in certain circumstances, for the difference between the liquidation value of the fixed rate municipal security held by the trust and the liquidation value of the floating rate notes. These transactions are considered a form of financing for accounting purposes. As a result, the Fund includes the underlying bond in its investment portfolio and a corresponding liability in the statement of assets and liabilities equal to the floating rate note issued. When a trust is terminated and/or collapsed by either party, the related fixed rate securities held by the trust are delivered back to the Fund where they are either held or sold, and the related liability of the floating rate note issued is adjusted. The Fund does not consider the Fund's investment in inverse floaters borrowing within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Inverse floating rate notes exhibit added interest rate sensitivity compared to other bonds with a similar maturity. Moreover, since these securities are in a trust form, a sale may take longer to settle than the standard two days after the trade date.

The weighted average outstanding daily balance of the floating rate notes during the year ended November 30, 2008 was approximately \$23,000,000, with a weighted average interest rate of 3.02%.

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

**When-Issued/Delayed Delivery Securities.** The Fund may purchase securities with delivery or payment to occur at a later date beyond the normal settlement period. At the time the Fund enters into a commitment to purchase a security, the transaction is recorded and the value of the security is reflected in the net asset value. The price of such security and the date when the security will be delivered and paid for are fixed at the time the transaction is negotiated. The value of the security may vary with market fluctuations. No interest accrues to the Fund until payment takes place. At the time the Fund enters into this type of transaction it is required to segregate cash or other liquid assets at least equal to the amount of the commitment.

Certain risks may arise upon entering into when-issued or delayed delivery securities from the potential inability of counterparties to meet the terms of their contracts or if the issuer does not issue the securities due to political, economic, or other factors. Additionally, losses may arise due to changes in the value of the underlying securities.

**Federal Income Taxes.** The Fund's policy is to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, which are applicable to regulated investment companies, and to distribute all of its taxable and tax-exempt income to its shareholders.

At November 30, 2008, the Fund had a net tax basis capital loss carryforward of approximately \$1,254,000, which may be applied against any realized net taxable capital gains of each succeeding year until fully utilized or until November 30, 2011 (\$1,069,000) and November 30, 2012 (\$185,000), the respective expiration dates, whichever occurs first. During the year ended November 30, 2008, the Fund utilized \$1,941,000 of prior year capital loss carryforward.

The Fund has reviewed the tax positions for the open tax years as of November 30, 2008 and has determined that no provision for income tax is required in the Fund's financial statements. The Fund's federal tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

**Distribution of Income and Gains.** Net investment income of the Fund, if any, is declared and distributed to shareholders monthly. Net realized gains from investment transactions, in excess of available capital loss carryforwards, would be taxable to the Fund if not distributed, and, therefore, will be distributed to shareholders at least annually.

The timing and characterization of certain income and capital gains distributions are determined annually in accordance with federal tax regulations which may differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These differences primarily relate to certain securities sold at a loss and accretion of market discount on debt securities. As a result, net investment income (loss) and net realized gain (loss) on investment transactions for a reporting period may differ significantly from distributions during such period. Accordingly, the Fund may periodically make reclassifications among certain of its capital accounts without impacting the net asset value of the Fund.

At November 30, 2008, the Fund's components of distributable earnings (accumulated losses) on a tax-basis were as follows:

Undistributed tax-exempt income	\$ 1,211,128
Undistributed ordinary income	\$ 393,961
Capital loss carryforwards	\$ (1,254,000)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	\$ (15,973,824)

In addition, the tax character of distributions paid to shareholders by the Fund are summarized as follows:

	Years Ended November 30,	
	2008	2007

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Distributions from tax-exempt income	\$ 9,811,763	\$ 9,850,093
Distributions from ordinary income	\$ 72,168	\$ —

**Preferred Shares.** The Fund has issued and outstanding 2,800 Series T municipal auction rate cumulative preferred shares ("Preferred Shares"), at a liquidation value of \$25,000 per share. The Preferred Shares are senior to and have certain class specific preferences over the common shares. The dividend rate on the Preferred Shares is set through a "Dutch" auction process, and the dividends are generally paid every seven days. In the auction process, holders of the Preferred Shares indicate the dividend rate at which they would be willing to hold or sell their Preferred Shares. An auction fails if there are more Preferred Shares offered for sale than there are buyers. If an auction fails, the Preferred Shares' dividend rate adjusts to a "maximum rate," which, based on current Preferred Share ratings (AAA as of November 30, 2008), is 110% times the higher of the "Taxable Equivalent of the Short-Term Municipal Bond Rate" (defined as the approximate taxable yield equivalent of the yield on short-term municipal securities derived by reference to the S&P Kenny 30-day High Grade Index) and the applicable AA Composite Commercial Paper Rate. In addition, existing Preferred Shareholders that submit sell orders in a failed auction may not be able to sell any or all of the shares for which they have submitted sell orders. Preferred Shareholders may sell their shares at the next scheduled auction, subject to the same risk that the subsequent auction will not attract sufficient demand for a successful auction to occur. Broker-dealers may also try to facilitate secondary trading in the Preferred Shares, although such secondary trading may be limited and may only be available for shareholders willing to sell at a discount.

During the year ended November 30, 2008, the dividend rates ranged from 1.564% to 12.565%. The 1940 Act requires that the Preferred Shareholders of the Fund, voting as a separate class, have the right to: a) elect at least two trustees at all times, and b) elect a majority of the trustees at any time when dividends on the Preferred Shares are unpaid for two full years. Unless otherwise required by law or under the terms of the preferred shares designation statement, each Preferred Share is entitled to one vote and Preferred Shareholders will vote together with common shareholders as a single class and have the same voting rights.

Since February 2008, the Fund, like many other closed-end funds throughout the industry, has experienced failed auctions on its Preferred Shares. Recent auctions have failed because there were not enough bids to cover the shares for sale, indicating a lack of liquidity in the market. While repeated auction fails have affected the liquidity for the Preferred Shares, a failed auction does not represent a default or loss of capital of the Fund's Preferred Shares and the Preferred Shareholders have continued to receive dividends at the previously defined "maximum rate". As of November 30, 2008, the Preferred Shares of the Fund continue to be triple-A rated by its respective rating agencies. Prolonged auction failures may increase the cost of leverage to the Fund. DWS continues to evaluate alternatives for restructuring the leverage of the Fund.

**Statement of Cash Flows.** Information on financial transactions which have been settled through the receipt and disbursement of cash is presented in the Statement of Cash Flows. The cash amount shown in the Statement of Cash Flows represents cash held at the Fund's custodian bank at November 30, 2008. Previously, the Fund has utilized the direct method for presentation of its Statement of Cash Flows. The Fund has changed its presentation to the indirect method, which it believes provides a useful format and conforms to more common industry practice.

**Contingencies.** In the normal course of business, the Fund may enter into contracts with service providers that contain general indemnification clauses. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet been made. However, based on experience, the Fund expects the risk of loss to be remote.

**Other.** Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade date plus one basis for daily net asset value calculations. However, for financial reporting purposes, investment transactions are reported on trade date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Realized gains and losses from investment transactions are recorded on an identified cost basis. All premiums and discounts are amortized/accreted for financial reporting purposes, with the exception of

securities in default of principal.

## B. Purchases and Sales of Securities

During the year ended November 30, 2008, purchases and sales of investment securities (excluding short-term investments) aggregated \$139,006,723 and \$158,071,990, respectively.

## C. Related Parties

**Management Agreement.** Under the Investment Management Agreement with Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc. ("DIMA" or the "Advisor"), an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Bank AG, the Advisor directs the investments of the Fund in accordance with its investment objectives, policies and restrictions. The Advisor determines the securities, instruments and other contracts relating to investments to be purchased, sold or entered into by the Fund. In addition to portfolio management services, the Advisor provides certain administrative services in accordance with the Management Agreement. The management fee payable under the Investment Management Agreement is equal to an annual rate of 0.60% of the Fund's average weekly net assets, computed and accrued daily and payable monthly.

**Service Provider Fees.** DWS Investments Service Company ("DISC"), an affiliate of the Advisor, is the transfer agent, dividend-paying agent and shareholder service agent for the Fund. Pursuant to a sub-transfer agency agreement between DISC and DST Systems, Inc. ("DST"), DISC has delegated certain transfer agent, dividend-paying agent and shareholder service agent functions to DST. DISC compensates DST out of the shareholder servicing fee it receives from the Fund. For the year ended November 30, 2008, the amount charged to the Fund by DISC aggregated \$31,313, of which \$7,601 is unpaid.

**Typesetting and Filing Service Fees.** Under an agreement with DIMA, DIMA is compensated for providing typesetting and certain regulatory filing services to the Fund. For the year ended November 30, 2008, the amount charged to the Fund by DIMA included in the Statement of Operations under "reports to shareholders" aggregated \$12,209, of which \$5,808 is unpaid.

**Trustees' Fees and Expenses.** The Fund paid each Trustee not affiliated with the Advisor retainer fees plus specified amounts for various committee services and for the Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

In connection with the board consolidation on April 1, 2008, of the two DWS Funds Boards of Trustees, certain Independent Board Members retired prior to their normal retirement date, and received a one-time retirement benefit. DIMA has agreed to reimburse the Funds for the cost of this benefit. During the period ended November 30, 2008, the Fund paid its allocated portion of the retirement benefit of \$9,967 to the non-continuing Independent Board Members, and the Fund was reimbursed by DIMA for this payment.

**Other Related Parties.** Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, an affiliate of the Advisor, is the auction agent with respect to the Preferred Shares. The auction agent pays each broker-dealer a service charge from funds provided by the Fund ("Auction Service Fee"). The Auction Service Fee charged to the Fund for the year ended November 30, 2008 aggregated \$178,608, of which \$2,468 is unpaid.

In addition, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas charges an administration fee for Preferred Shares. The amount charged to the Fund for the year ended November 30, 2008 aggregated \$5,860, all of which is unpaid.

## D. Fee Reductions

For the year ended November 30, 2008, the Advisor agreed to reimburse the Fund \$300, which represents a portion of the expected fee savings for the Advisor through December 31, 2007, related to the outsourcing by the Advisor of

certain administrative services to an unaffiliated service provider.

In addition, the Fund has entered into an arrangement with its custodian and transfer agent whereby credits realized as a result of uninvested cash balances are used to reduce a portion of the Fund's custodian expenses. During the year ended November 30, 2008, the Fund's custodian fee was reduced by \$656 and \$904, respectively, for custody and transfer agent credits earned.

#### **E. Line of Credit**

The Fund and other affiliated funds (the "Participants") share in a \$490 million revolving credit facility provided by a syndication of banks. The Fund may borrow for temporary or emergency purposes, including the meeting of redemption requests that otherwise might require the untimely disposition of securities. The Participants are charged an annual commitment fee which is allocated based on net assets, among each of the Participants. Interest is calculated at the Federal Funds Rate plus 0.35 percent. The Fund may borrow up to a maximum of 33 percent of its net assets under the agreement.

#### **F. Payment made by Affiliates**

During the year ended November 30, 2007, the Advisor fully reimbursed the Fund \$175,116 for a fee previously charged to the Fund. This reimbursement was treated as a capital contribution and is reported as "Reimbursement by Advisor" on the Statement of Changes in Net Assets.

### **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

#### **To the Board of Trustees and Shareholders of DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust:**

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust (the "Fund"), including the investment portfolio, as of November 30, 2008, and the related statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, the statement of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and financial highlights, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of November 30, 2008, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers or by other appropriate auditing procedures where replies from brokers were not received. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust at November 30, 2008, the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Boston, Massachusetts January 20, 2009
---

## **Tax Information** (Unaudited)

Of the dividends paid from net investment income for the taxable year ended November 30, 2008, 99% are designated as exempt interest dividends for federal income tax purposes.

Please consult a tax advisor if you have questions about federal or state income tax laws, or on how to prepare your tax returns. If you have specific questions about your account, please call (800) 294-4366.

## **Other Information**

### **Certifications**

The fund's chief executive officer has certified to the New York Stock Exchange that, as of June 16, 2008, he was not aware of any violation by the fund of applicable NYSE corporate governance listing standards. The fund's reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission on Forms N-CSR and N-Q contain certifications by the fund's chief executive officer and chief financial officer that relate to the fund's disclosure in such reports and that are required by rule 30a-2 under the 1940 Act.

## **Dividend Reinvestment Plan**

A summary of the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan") is set forth below. Shareholders may obtain a copy of the entire Plan by visiting the Fund's Web site at [www.dws-investments.com](http://www.dws-investments.com) or by writing or calling DWS Investment Service Company ("DISC") at:

P.O. Box 219066  
Kansas City, Missouri 64121-9066  
(800) 294-4366

If you wish to participate in the Plan and your shares are held in your own name, simply contact DISC for the appropriate form. If your shares are held in the name of a broker or other nominee, you should contact the broker or nominee in whose name your shares are held to determine whether and how you may participate in the Plan. The Fund's transfer agent and dividend disbursing agent (the "Transfer Agent") will establish a Dividend Investment Account (the "Account") for each shareholder participating in the Plan. The Transfer Agent will credit to the Account of each participant any cash dividends and capital gains distributions (collectively, "Distributions") paid on shares of the Fund (the "Shares"). Shares in a participant's Account are transferable upon proper written instructions to the Transfer Agent. Upon request to the Transfer Agent, a certificate for any or all full Shares in a participant's Account will be sent to the participant.

If, on the record date for a Distribution (the "Record Date"), Shares are trading at a discount from net asset value per Share, funds credited to a participant's Account will be used to purchase Shares (the "Purchase"). The Plan Agent (currently Computershare Inc.) will attempt, commencing five days prior to the Payment Date and ending at the close of business on the Payment Date ("Payment Date" as used herein shall mean the last business day of the month in which such Record Date occurs), to acquire Shares in the open market. If and to the extent that the Plan Agent is unable to acquire sufficient Shares to satisfy the Distribution by the close of business on the Payment Date, the Fund will issue to the Plan Agent, Shares valued at net asset value per Share in the aggregate amount of the remaining value of the Distribution. If, on the Record Date, Shares are trading at a premium over net asset value per Share, the Fund will issue on the Payment Date Shares valued at net asset value per Share on the Record Date to the Transfer Agent in the aggregate amount of the funds credited to the participants' Accounts. The Fund will increase the price at which

Shares may be issued under the Plan to 95% of the fair market value of the shares on the Record Date if the net asset value per Share of the Shares on the Record Date is less than 95% of the fair market value of the Shares on the Record Date.

The cost of Shares acquired for each participant's Account in connection with a Purchase shall be determined by the average cost per Share, including brokerage commissions, of the Shares acquired in connection with that Purchase. There will be no brokerage charges with respect to Shares issued directly by the Fund as a result of Distributions. However, each participant will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to open market purchases. Brokerage charges for purchasing small amounts of Shares for individual Accounts through the Plan can be expected to be less than the usual brokerage charges for such transactions, as the Plan Agent will be purchasing Shares for all participants in blocks and prorating the lower commission thus attainable.

A participant may from time to time make voluntary cash contributions to his Account in a minimum amount of \$100 (no more than \$500 may be contributed per month). Participants making voluntary cash investments will be charged a \$.75 service fee for each such investment and will be responsible for their pro rata share of brokerage commissions. Please contact DISC for more information on voluntary cash contributions.

The Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan, including provisions with respect to any Distribution paid, subsequent to notice thereof sent to participants in the Plan at least ninety days before the record date for such Distribution, except when such amendment is necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable law or the rules or policies of the Securities and Exchange Commission or any other regulatory authority, in which case such amendment shall be effective as soon as practicable. The Plan may be terminated by the Fund.

Shareholders may withdraw from the Plan at any time by giving the Transfer Agent a written notice. A notice of withdrawal will be effective for the next Distribution following receipt of the notice by the Transfer Agent provided the notice is received by the Transfer Agent at least ten days prior to the Record Date for the Distribution. When a participant withdraws from the Plan, or when the Plan is terminated by the Fund, the participant will receive a certificate for full Shares in the Account, plus a check for any fractional Shares based on market price; or, if a Participant so desires, the Transfer Agent will notify the Plan Agent to sell his Shares in the Plan and send the proceeds to the participant, less brokerage commissions and a \$2.50 service fee.

Shareholders will receive tax information annually for personal records and to assist in preparation of their federal income tax returns. If Shares are purchased at a discount, the amount of the discount is considered taxable income and is added to the cost basis of the purchased Shares.

## Investment Management Agreement Approval

The Board of Trustees, including the Independent Trustees, approved the renewal of your Fund's investment management agreement (the "Agreement") with Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc. ("DIMA") in September 2008.

In terms of the process that the Board followed prior to approving the Agreement, shareholders should know that:

- At the present time, all but one of your Fund's Trustees are independent of DIMA and its affiliates.
- The Trustees meet frequently to discuss fund matters. Each year, the Trustees dedicate part or all of several meetings to contract review matters. Over the course of several months, the Board's Contract Committee, in coordination with the Board's Fixed Income and Quant Oversight Committee, reviewed comprehensive materials received from DIMA, independent third parties and independent counsel. These materials included an analysis of the Fund's performance, fees and expenses, and profitability compiled by the Fund's independent fee consultant. The Board also received



extensive information throughout the year regarding performance of the Fund.

- The Independent Trustees regularly meet privately with their independent counsel (and, as needed, other advisors) to discuss contract review and other matters. In addition, the Independent Trustees were also advised by the Fund's independent fee consultant in the course of their review of the Fund's contractual arrangements and considered a comprehensive report prepared by the independent fee consultant in connection with their deliberations (the "IFC Report").
- In connection with reviewing the Agreement, the Board also reviewed the terms of the Fund's transfer agency agreement and other material service agreements.
- Based on its evaluation of the information provided, the Contract Committee presented its findings and recommendations to the Independent Trustees as a group. The Independent Trustees reviewed the Contract Committee's findings and recommendations and presented their recommendations to the full Board.

In connection with the contract review process, the Contract Committee and the Board considered the factors discussed below, among others. The Board also considered that DIMA and its predecessors have managed the Fund since its inception, and the Board believes that a long-term relationship with a capable, conscientious advisor is in the best interests of the Fund. The Board considered, generally, that shareholders chose to invest or remain invested in the Fund knowing that DIMA managed the Fund. DIMA is part of Deutsche Bank, a major global banking institution that is engaged in a wide range of financial services. The Board believes that there are significant advantages to being part of a global asset management business that offers a wide range of investing expertise and resources, including hundreds of portfolio managers and analysts with research capabilities in many countries throughout the world.

While shareholders may focus primarily on fund performance and fees, the Fund's Board considers these and many other factors, including the quality and integrity of DIMA's personnel and such other issues as back-office operations, fund valuations, and compliance policies and procedures.

**Nature, Quality and Extent of Services.** The Board considered the terms of the Agreement, including the scope of advisory services provided under the Agreement. The Board noted that, under the Agreement, DIMA provides portfolio management and administrative services to the Fund. The Board considered the experience and skills of senior management and investment personnel, the resources made available to such personnel, the ability of DIMA to attract and retain high-quality personnel, and the organizational depth and stability of DIMA. The Board reviewed the Fund's performance over short-term and long-term periods and compared those returns to various agreed-upon performance measures, including market indices and a peer universe compiled by the independent fee consultant using information supplied by Lipper Inc. ("Lipper"). The Board also noted that it has put a process into place of identifying "Focus Funds" (e.g., funds performing poorly relative to their benchmark or a peer group compiled by Lipper), and receives more frequent reporting and information from DIMA regarding such funds, along with DIMA's remedial plans to address underperformance. The Board believes this process is an effective manner of identifying and addressing underperforming funds. Based on the information provided, the Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods ended December 31, 2007, the Fund's performance was in the 1st quartile, 2nd quartile and 1st quartile, respectively, of the applicable Lipper universe (the 1st quartile being the best performers and the 4th quartile being the worst performers). The Board also observed that the Fund has underperformed its benchmark in the one-year period ended December 31, 2007 and outperformed its benchmark in the three- and five-year periods ended December 31, 2007.

On the basis of this evaluation and the ongoing review of investment results by the Board, the Board concluded that the nature, quality and extent of services provided by DIMA historically have been and continue to be satisfactory.

**Fees and Expenses.** The Board considered the Fund's investment management fee schedule, operating expenses, and total expense ratios, and comparative information provided by Lipper and the independent fee consultant regarding

investment management fee rates paid to other investment advisors by similar funds (1st quartile being the most favorable and 4th quartile being the least favorable). With respect to management fees paid to other investment advisors by similar funds, the Board noted that the contractual fee rates paid by the Fund were lower than the median (1st quartile) of the applicable Lipper peer group (based on Lipper data provided as of December 31, 2007). The Board noted that the Fund's total (net) operating expenses were expected to be higher than the median (3rd quartile) of the applicable Lipper expense universe (based on Lipper data provided as of December 31, 2007). The Board considered the Fund's management fee rate as compared to fees charged by DIMA and certain of its affiliates for comparable mutual funds and considered differences in fund and fee structures between the DWS Funds. The Board also considered how the Fund's total (net) operating expenses compared to the total (net) operating expenses of a more customized peer group selected by Lipper (based on such factors as asset size).

On the basis of the information provided, the Board concluded that management fees were reasonable and appropriate in light of the nature, quality and extent of services provided by DIMA.

**Profitability.** The Board reviewed detailed information regarding revenues received by DIMA under the Agreement. The Board considered the estimated costs and pre-tax profits realized by DIMA from advising the DWS Funds, as well as estimates of the pre-tax profits attributable to managing the Fund in particular. The Board also received information regarding the estimated enterprise-wide profitability of the DWS Investments organization with respect to all fund services in totality and by fund. The Board reviewed DIMA's methodology in allocating its costs to the management of the Fund. Based on the information provided, the Board concluded that the pre-tax profits realized by DIMA in connection with the management of the Fund were not unreasonable. The Board also reviewed information regarding the profitability of certain similar investment management firms. The Board noted that while information regarding the profitability of such firms is limited (and in some cases is not necessarily prepared on a comparable basis), DIMA and its affiliates' overall profitability with respect to the DWS Investments fund complex (after taking into account distribution and other services provided to the funds by DIMA and its affiliates) was lower than the overall profitability levels of many comparable firms for which such data was available.

**Economies of Scale.** The Board considered whether there are economies of scale with respect to the management of the Fund and whether the Fund benefits from any economies of scale. The Board concluded that the Fund's fee schedule represents an appropriate sharing between the Fund and DIMA of such economies of scale as may exist in the management of the Fund at current asset levels.

**Other Benefits to DIMA and Its Affiliates.** The Board also considered the character and amount of other incidental benefits received by DIMA and its affiliates, including any fees received by DIMA for administrative services provided to the Fund and any fees received by an affiliate of DIMA for distribution services. The Board also considered benefits to DIMA related to brokerage and soft-dollar allocations, including allocating brokerage to pay for research generated by parties other than the executing broker dealers, which pertain primarily to funds investing in equity securities, along with the incidental public relations benefits to DIMA related to DWS Funds advertising and cross-selling opportunities among DWS Investments products and services. The Board concluded that management fees were reasonable in light of these fallout benefits.

**Compliance.** The Board considered the significant attention and resources dedicated by DIMA to documenting and enhancing its compliance processes in recent years. The Board noted in particular (i) the experience and seniority of DIMA's chief compliance officer; (ii) the large number of compliance personnel who report to DIMA's chief compliance officer; and (iii) the substantial commitment of resources by DIMA and its affiliates to compliance matters.

Based on all of the information considered and the conclusions reached, the Board (including a majority of the Independent Trustees) determined that the continuation of the Agreement is in the best interests of the Fund. In making this determination the Board did not give particular weight to any single factor identified above. The Board considered these factors over the course of numerous meetings, certain of which were in executive session with only

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

the Independent Trustees and their counsel present. It is possible that individual Trustees may have weighed these factors differently in reaching their individual decisions to approve the continuation of the Agreement.

### Trustees and Officers

The following table presents certain information regarding the Board Members and Officers of the Trust as of November 30, 2008. Each Board Member's year of birth is set forth in parentheses after his or her name. Unless otherwise noted, (i) each Board Member has engaged in the principal occupation(s) noted in the table for at least the most recent five years, although not necessarily in the same capacity; and (ii) the address of each Independent Board Member is c/o Dawn-Marie Driscoll, PO Box 100176, Cape Coral, FL 33904. Except as otherwise noted below, the term of office for each Board Member is until the election and qualification of a successor, or until such Board Member sooner dies, resigns, is removed or as otherwise provided in the governing documents of the fund. The Board Members may also serve in similar capacities with other funds in the fund complex. The Length of Time Served represents the year in which the Board Member joined the board of one or more DWS funds now overseen by the Board.

<b>Independent Board Members</b>		
<b>Name, Year of Birth, Position with the Fund and Length of Time Served<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Business Experience and Directorships During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Funds in DWS Fund Complex Overseen</b>
Dawn-Marie Driscoll (1946) Chairperson since 2004 <sup>2</sup> Board Member since 1987	President, Driscoll Associates (consulting firm); Executive Fellow, Center for Business Ethics, Bentley University; formerly, Partner, Palmer & Dodge (1988-1990); Vice President of Corporate Affairs and General Counsel, Filene's (1978-1988). Directorships: Trustee of 20 open-end mutual funds managed by Sun Capital Advisers, Inc. (since 2007); Director of ICI Mutual Insurance Company (since 2007); Advisory Board, Center for Business Ethics, Bentley University; Trustee, Southwest Florida Community Foundation (charitable organization). Former Directorships: Investment Company Institute (audit, executive, nominating committees) and Independent Directors Council (governance, executive committees)	133
Paul K. Freeman (1950) Vice Chairperson since 2008 Board Member since 1993	Consultant, World Bank/Inter-American Development Bank; formerly, Project Leader, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (1998-2001); Chief Executive Officer, The Eric Group, Inc. (environmental insurance) (1986-1998)	133
John W. Ballantine (1946) Board Member since 1999	Retired; formerly, Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Management Officer, First Chicago NBD Corporation/The First National Bank of Chicago (1996-1998); Executive Vice President and Head of International Banking (1995-1996). Directorships: Healthways, Inc. (provider of disease and care management services); Portland General Electric (utility company); Stockwell Capital Investments PLC (private equity). Former Directorships: First Oak Brook Bancshares, Inc. and Oak Brook Bank	133
Henry P. Becton, Jr. (1943) Board Member since 1990	Vice Chair, WGBH Educational Foundation. Directorships: Association of Public Television Stations; Becton Dickinson and Company <sup>3</sup> (medical technology company); Belo Corporation <sup>3</sup> (media company); Boston Museum of Science; Public Radio International. Former Directorships: American Public Television; Concord Academy; New England Aquarium; Mass. Corporation for Educational Telecommunications; Committee for Economic Development; Public Broadcasting Service	133
Keith R. Fox (1954) Board Member since 1996	Managing General Partner, Exeter Capital Partners (a series of private equity funds). Directorships: Progressive Holding Corporation (kitchen goods importer and distributor); Natural History, Inc. (magazine publisher); Box Top Media Inc. (advertising); The Kennel Shop (retailer)	133
Kenneth C. Froewiss (1945) Board Member since 2001	Clinical Professor of Finance, NYU Stern School of Business (1997-present); Member, Finance Committee, Association for Asian Studies (2002-present); Director, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Group (US) (2004-present); prior thereto, Managing Director, J.P. Morgan (investment banking firm) (until 1996)	133
Richard J. Herring (1946) Board Member since	Jacob Safra Professor of International Banking and Professor, Finance Department, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (since July 1972); Co-Director, Wharton Financial Institutions Center (since July 2000); Director, Japan Equity Fund, Inc. (since September 2007), Thai Capital Fund, Inc. (since September 2007), Singapore Fund, Inc. (since September 2007). Formerly, Vice Dean and Director, Wharton Undergraduate Division (July 1995-June 2000); Director,	133

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

1990	Lauder Institute of International Management Studies (July 2000-June 2006)	
William McClayton (1944) Board Member since 2004	Managing Director, Diamond Management & Technology Consultants, Inc. (global management consulting firm) (2001-present); Directorship: Board of Managers, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago; formerly: Senior Partner, Arthur Andersen LLP (accounting) (1966-2001); Trustee, Ravinia Festival	133
Rebecca W. Rimel (1951) Board Member since 1995	President and Chief Executive Officer, The Pew Charitable Trusts (charitable organization) (1994 to present); Trustee, Thomas Jefferson Foundation (charitable organization) (1994 to present); Trustee, Executive Committee, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (2001-2007); Trustee, Pro Publica (2007-present) (charitable organization). Formerly, Executive Vice President, The Glenmede Trust Company (investment trust and wealth management) (1983-2004); Board Member, Investor Education (charitable organization) (2004-2005); Director, Viasys Health Care <sup>3</sup> (January 2007-June 2007)	133
William N. Searcy, Jr. (1946) Board Member since 1993	Private investor since October 2003; Trustee of 20 open-end mutual funds managed by Sun Capital Advisers, Inc. (since October 1998). Formerly, Pension & Savings Trust Officer, Sprint Corporation <sup>3</sup> (telecommunications) (November 1989-September 2003)	133
Jean Gleason Stromberg (1943) Board Member since 1997	Retired. Formerly, Consultant (1997-2001); Director, US Government Accountability Office (1996-1997); Partner, Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P. (law firm) (1978-1996). Directorships: The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Service Source, Inc. Former Directorships: Mutual Fund Directors Forum (2002-2004), American Bar Retirement Association (funding vehicle for retirement plans) (1987-1990 and 1994-1996)	133
Robert H. Wadsworth (1940) Board Member since 1999	President, Robert H. Wadsworth & Associates, Inc. (consulting firm) (1983 to present); Director, The Phoenix Boys Choir Association	136
<b>Interested Board Member</b>		
<b>Name, Year of Birth, Position with the Fund and Length of Time Served<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Business Experience and Directorships During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen</b>
Axel Schwarzer <sup>4</sup> (1958) Board Member since 2006	Managing Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management; Head of Deutsche Asset Management Americas; CEO of DWS Investments; formerly, board member of DWS Investments, Germany (1999-2005); formerly, Head of Sales and Product Management for the Retail and Private Banking Division of Deutsche Bank in Germany (1997-1999); formerly, various strategic and operational positions for Deutsche Bank Germany Retail and Private Banking Division in the field of investment funds, tax driven instruments and asset management for corporates (1989-1996)	133
<b>Officers<sup>6</sup></b>		
<b>Name, Year of Birth, Position with the Fund and Length of Time Served<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years and Other Directorships Held</b>	
Michael G. Clark <sup>8</sup> (1965) President, 2006-present	Managing Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management (2006-present); President of DWS family of funds; Director, ICI Mutual Insurance Company (since October 2007); formerly, Director of Fund Board Relations (2004-2006) and Director of Product Development (2000-2004), Merrill Lynch Investment Managers; Senior Vice President Operations, Merrill Lynch Asset Management (1999-2000)	
John Millette <sup>9</sup> (1962) Vice President and Secretary, 1999-present	Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management	
Paul H. Schubert <sup>8</sup> (1963) Chief Financial Officer, 2004-present Treasurer, 2005-present	Managing Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management (since July 2004); formerly, Executive Director, Head of Mutual Fund Services and Treasurer for UBS Family of Funds (1998-2004); Vice President and Director of Mutual Fund Finance at UBS Global Asset Management (1994-1998)	
Patricia DeFilippis <sup>10</sup> (1963) Assistant Secretary, 2005-present	Vice President, Deutsche Asset Management (since June 2005); formerly, Counsel, New York Life Investment Management LLC (2003-2005); legal associate, Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC (1998-2003)	
Caroline Pearson <sup>9</sup> (1962) Assistant Secretary, 1997-present	Managing Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management	
Paul Antosca <sup>9</sup> (1957) Assistant Treasurer,	Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management (since 2006); Vice President, The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (U.S.A.) (1990-2006)	

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

2007-present	
Jack Clark <sup>9</sup> (1967) Assistant Treasurer, 2007-present	Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management (since 2007); formerly, Vice President, State Street Corporation (2002-2007)
Diane Kenneally <sup>9</sup> (1966) Assistant Treasurer, 2007-present	Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management
Jason Vazquez <sup>10</sup> (1972) Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer, 2007-present	Vice President, Deutsche Asset Management (since 2006); formerly, AML Operations Manager for Bear Stearns (2004-2006), Supervising Compliance Principal and Operations Manager for AXA Financial (1999-2004)
Robert Kloby <sup>10</sup> (1962) Chief Compliance Officer, 2006-present	Managing Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management (2004-present); formerly, Chief Compliance Officer/Chief Risk Officer, Robeco USA (2000-2004); Vice President, The Prudential Insurance Company of America (1988-2000); E.F. Hutton and Company (1984-1988)
J. Christopher Jackson <sup>10</sup> (1951) Chief Legal Officer, 2006-present	Director <sup>5</sup> , Deutsche Asset Management (2006-present); formerly, Director, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, Hansberger Global Investors, Inc. (1996-2006); Director, National Society of Compliance Professionals (2002-2005) (2006-2009)

<sup>1</sup> The length of time served represents the year in which the Board Member joined the board of one or more DWS funds currently overseen by the Board.

<sup>2</sup> Represents the year Ms. Driscoll was first appointed Chairperson of certain DWS funds.

<sup>3</sup> A publicly held company with securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

<sup>4</sup> The mailing address of Axel Schwarzer is c/o Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc., 345 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10154. Mr. Schwarzer is an interested Board Member by virtue of his positions with Deutsche Asset Management. As an interested person, Mr. Schwarzer receives no compensation from the fund.

<sup>5</sup> Executive title, not a board directorship.

<sup>6</sup> As a result of their respective positions held with the Advisor, these individuals are considered "interested persons" of the Advisor within the meaning of the 1940 Act. Interested persons receive no compensation from the fund.

<sup>7</sup> The length of time served represents the year in which the officer was first elected in such capacity for one or more DWS funds.

<sup>8</sup> Address: 345 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10154.

<sup>9</sup> Address: One Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

<sup>10</sup> Address: 280 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

## Additional Information

<b>Automated Information Line</b>	<b>DWS Investments Closed-End Fund Info Line</b> <b>(800) 349-4281</b>
<b>Web Site</b>	<b>www.dws-investments.com</b>  Obtain quarterly fact sheets, financial reports, press releases and webcasts when available.
<b>Written Correspondence</b>	<b>Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc.</b>  345 Park Avenue New York, NY 10154
<b>Proxy Voting</b>	The fund's policies and procedures for voting proxies for portfolio securities and information about how the fund voted proxies related to its portfolio securities during the 12-month period ended June 30 are available on our Web site — <a href="http://www.dws-investments.com">www.dws-investments.com</a> (click on "proxy voting" at the bottom of the page) — or on the SEC's Web site — <a href="http://www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a> . To obtain a written copy of the fund's policies and procedures without charge, upon request, call us toll free at (800) 621-1048.
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	<b>Vedder Price P.C.</b>  222 North LaSalle Street

Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	Chicago, IL 60601	
<b>Dividend Reinvestment Plan Agent</b>	<b>Computershare Inc.</b> P.O. Box 43078 Providence, RI 02940-3078	
<b>Shareholder Service Agent and Transfer Agent</b>	<b>DWS Investments Service Company</b> P.O. Box 219066 Kansas City, MO 64121-9066 <b>(800) 294-4366</b>	
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>State Street Bank and Trust Company</b>  225 Franklin Street Boston, MA 02110	
<b>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</b>	<b>Ernst &amp; Young LLP</b>  200 Clarendon Street Boston, MA 02116	
<b>NYSE Symbol</b>	KSM	
<b>CUSIP Number</b>	Common Shares	23338T 101
	Preferred Shares	23338T 200

[Notes](#)

[Notes](#)

[Notes](#)

[Notes](#)

[Notes](#)

**ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS**

As of the end of the period, November 30, 2008, DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust has a code of ethics, as defined in Item 2 of Form N-CSR, that applies to its Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer.

There have been no amendments to, or waivers from, a provision of the code of ethics during the period covered by this report that would require disclosure under Item 2.

A copy of the code of ethics is filed as an exhibit to this Form N-CSR.

**ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT**

The Funds' audit committee is comprised solely of trustees who are "independent" (as such term has been defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") in regulations implementing Section 407 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (the "Regulations")). The Funds' Board of Trustees has determined that there are several "audit committee financial experts" (as such term has been defined by the Regulations) serving on the Funds' audit committee including Mr. William McClayton, the chair of the Funds' audit committee. The SEC has stated that an audit committee financial expert is not an "expert" for any purpose, including for purposes of Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933 and the designation or identification of a person as an audit committee financial expert pursuant to this Item 3 of Form N-CSR does not impose on such person any duties, obligations or liability that are greater than the duties, obligations and liability imposed on such person as a member of the audit committee and board of directors in the absence of such designation or identification.

**ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

**DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST**

**FORM N-CSR DISCLOSURE RE: AUDIT FEES**

The following table shows the amount of fees that Ernst & Young LLP ("E&Y"), the Fund's Independent Registered Public Accountant, billed to the Fund during the Fund's last two fiscal years. The Audit Committee approved in advance all audit services and non-audit services that E&Y provided to the Fund.

The Audit Committee has delegated certain pre-approval responsibilities to its Chairman (or, in his absence, any other member of the Audit Committee).

**Services that the Fund's Independent Registered Public Accountant Billed to the Fund**

Fiscal Year Ended	Audit Fees Billed to Fund	Audit-Related Fees Billed to Fund	Tax Fees Billed to Fund	All Other Fees Billed to Fund
November 30, 2008	\$49,967	\$0	\$8,134	\$0
2007	\$49,329	\$0	\$6,726	\$0

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

The above "Tax Fees" were billed for professional services rendered for tax return preparation.

### Services that the Fund's Independent Registered Public Accountant Billed to the Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers

The following table shows the amount of fees billed by E&Y to Deutsche Investment Management Americas, Inc. ("DIMA" or the "Adviser"), and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with DIMA ("Control Affiliate") that provides ongoing services to the Fund ("Affiliated Fund Service Provider"), for engagements directly related to the Fund's operations and financial reporting, during the Fund's last two fiscal years.

Fiscal Year Ended	Audit-Related Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers	Tax Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers	All Other Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers
November 30, 2008	\$0	\$382,000	\$0
2007	\$250,000	\$486,614	\$0

The "Audit-Related Fees" were billed for services in connection with agreed upon procedures related to fund mergers and the above "Tax Fees" were billed in connection with tax compliance services and agreed upon procedures.

### Non-Audit Services

The following table shows the amount of fees that E&Y billed during the Fund's last two fiscal years for non-audit services. The Audit Committee pre-approved all non-audit services that E&Y provided to the Adviser and any Affiliated Fund Service Provider that related directly to the Fund's operations and financial reporting. The Audit Committee requested and received information from E&Y about any non-audit services that E&Y rendered during the Fund's last fiscal year to the Adviser and any Affiliated Fund Service Provider. The Committee considered this information in evaluating E&Y's independence.

Fiscal Year Ended	Total Non-Audit Fees Billed to Fund	Total Non-Audit Fees billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers (engagements related directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund)	Total Non-Audit Fees billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers (all other engagements)	Total of (A), (B) and (C)
November 30, 2008	(A) \$8,134	(B) \$382,000	(C) \$1,324,733	\$1,714,867
2007	\$6,726	\$486,614	\$1,215,526	\$1,708,866

All other engagement fees were billed for services in connection with internal control reviews, agreed upon procedures and tax compliance for DIMA and other related entities that provide support for the operations of the fund.



\*\*\*

In connection with the audit of the 2007 and 2008 financial statements, the Fund entered into an engagement letter with E&Y. The terms of the engagement letter required by E&Y, and agreed to by the Audit Committee, include provisions in which the parties consent to the sole jurisdiction of federal courts in New York, Boston or the Northern District of Illinois, as well as a waiver of right to a trial by jury and an exclusion of punitive damages.

\*\*\*

E&Y advised the Fund's Audit Committee that certain arrangements between the Ernst & Young member firm in Germany ("E&Y Germany") and Deutsche Bank AG ("DB") had been determined to be inconsistent with the SEC auditor independence rules. DB is within the "Investment Company Complex" (as defined by SEC rules) and therefore covered by the SEC auditor independence rules applicable to the Fund. In 2006 and 2007, DB provided standard overdraft protection on a depository account and a guarantee of certain lease deposits to E&Y Germany. E&Y advised the Audit Committee that while neither of these arrangements was ever utilized by E&Y Germany, they could constitute lending type arrangements in violation of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X. (Rule 2-01(c)(1)(ii)(A) provides that an accountant is not independent when an accounting firm has a loan to or from an audit client.) E&Y advised the Audit Committee that E&Y believes its independence has not been impacted as it relates to the audits of the Fund. In reaching this conclusion, E&Y noted a number of factors, including that neither of the arrangements was ever utilized and, accordingly, E&Y Germany never had amounts outstanding to DB, these arrangements were immaterial to E&Y Germany and DB and the E&Y professionals responsible for the Fund's audits were not aware of these arrangements. E&Y informed the Audit Committee that E&Y Germany has cancelled the overdraft arrangements and has terminated the guarantee on the lease deposits.

**ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS**

The registrant has a separately-designated standing audit committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The registrant's audit committee consists of William McClayton (Chairman), Keith R. Fox, Kenneth C. Froewiss, Henry P. Becton, Jr., John W. Ballantine and William N. Searcy.

**ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

Not Applicable

**ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

AM has adopted and implemented the following policies and procedures, which it believes are reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best economic interest of clients, in accordance with its fiduciary duties and local regulation. These Proxy Voting Policies, Procedures and Guidelines shall apply to all accounts managed by US domiciled advisers and to all US client accounts managed by non US

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

regional offices. Non US regional offices are required to maintain procedures and to vote proxies as may be required by law on behalf of their non US clients. In addition, AM's proxy policies reflect the fiduciary standards and responsibilities for ERISA accounts.

The attached guidelines represent a set of global recommendations that were determined by the Global Proxy Voting Sub-Committee ("the GPVSC"). These guidelines were developed to provide AM with a comprehensive list of

recommendations that represent how AM will generally vote proxies for its clients. The recommendations derived from the application of these guidelines are not intended to influence the various AM legal entities either directly or indirectly by parent or affiliated companies. In addition, the organizational structures and documents of the various AM legal entities allows, where necessary or appropriate, the execution by individual AM subsidiaries of the proxy voting rights independently of any DB parent or affiliated company. This applies in particular to non U.S. fund management companies. The individuals that make proxy voting decisions are also free to act independently, subject to the normal and customary supervision by the management/boards of these AM legal entities.

### II. AM'S PROXY VOTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Proxy votes are the property of AM's advisory clients<sup>1</sup>. As such, AM's authority and responsibility to vote such proxies depend upon its contractual relationships with its clients. AM has delegated responsibility for effecting its advisory clients' proxy votes to Institutional Shareholder Services ("ISS"), an independent third-party proxy voting specialist. ISS votes AM's advisory clients' proxies in accordance with AM's proxy guidelines or AM's specific instructions. Where a client has given specific instructions as to how a proxy should be voted, AM will notify ISS to carry out those instructions. Where no specific instruction exists, AM will follow the procedures in voting the proxies set forth in this document. Certain Taft-Hartley clients may direct AM to have ISS vote their proxies in accordance with Taft Hartley voting Guidelines

Clients may in certain instances contract with their custodial agent and notify AM that they wish to engage in securities lending transactions. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the custodian to deduct the number of shares that are on loan so that they do not get voted twice.

### III. POLICIES

#### 1. *Proxy voting activities are conducted in the best economic interest of clients*

AM has adopted the following policies and procedures to ensure that proxies are voted in accordance with the best economic interest of its clients, as determined by AM in good faith after appropriate review.

#### 2. *The Global Proxy Voting Sub-Committee*

The Global Proxy Voting Sub-Committee (the "GPVSC") is an internal working group established by the applicable AM's Investment Risk Oversight Committee pursuant to a written charter. The GPVSC is responsible for overseeing AM's proxy voting activities, including:

- (i) adopting, monitoring and updating guidelines, attached as Exhibit A (the "Guidelines"), that provide how AM will generally vote proxies pertaining to a comprehensive list of common proxy voting matters;

---

<sup>1</sup> purposes of these Policies and Procedures, "clients" refers to persons or entities: for which AM serves as investment adviser or sub-adviser; for which AM votes proxies; and that have an economic or beneficial ownership interest in the portfolio securities of issuers soliciting such proxies.

- (ii) voting proxies where (A) the issues are not covered by specific client instruction or the Guidelines; (B) the Guidelines specify that the issues are to be determined on a case-by-case basis; or (C) where an exception to the Guidelines may be in the best economic interest of AM's clients; and

(iii) monitoring the Proxy Vendor Oversight's proxy voting activities (see below).

AM's Proxy Vendor Oversight, a function of AM's Operations Group, is responsible for coordinating with ISS to administer AM's proxy voting process and for voting proxies in accordance with any specific client instructions or, if there are none, the Guidelines, and overseeing ISS' proxy responsibilities in this regard.

#### 3. *Availability of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures and proxy voting record*

Copies of these Policies and Procedures, as they may be updated from time to time, are made available to clients as required by law and otherwise at AM's discretion. Clients may also obtain information on how their proxies were voted by AM as required by law and otherwise at

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

AM's discretion; however, AM must not selectively disclose its investment company clients' proxy voting records. The Proxy Vendor Oversight will make proxy voting reports available to advisory clients upon request. The investment companies' proxy voting records will be disclosed to shareholders by means of publicly-available annual filings of each company's proxy voting record for 12-month periods ended June 30 (see "Recordkeeping" below), if so required by relevant law.

### IV. PROCEDURES

The key aspects of AM's proxy voting process are as follows:

#### 1. *The GPVSC's Proxy Voting Guidelines*

The Guidelines set forth the GPVSC's standard voting positions on a comprehensive list of common proxy voting matters. The GPVSC has developed, and continues to update the Guidelines based on consideration of current corporate governance principles, industry standards, client feedback, and the impact of the matter on issuers and the value of the investments.

The GPVSC will review the Guidelines as necessary to support the best economic interests of AM's clients and, in any event, at least annually. The GPVSC will make changes to the Guidelines, whether as a result of the annual review or otherwise, taking solely into account the best economic interests of clients. Before changing the Guidelines, the GPVSC will thoroughly review and evaluate the proposed change and the reasons therefore, and the GPVSC Chair will ask GPVSC members whether anyone outside of the AM organization (but within Deutsche Bank and its affiliates) or any entity that identifies itself as a AM advisory client has requested or attempted to influence the proposed change and whether any member has a conflict of interest with respect to the proposed change. If any such matter is reported to the GPVSC Chair, the Chair will promptly notify the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee (see below) and will defer the approval, if possible. Lastly, the GPVSC will fully document its rationale for approving any change to the Guidelines.

The Guidelines may reflect a voting position that differs from the actual practices of the public company(ies) within the Deutsche Bank organization or of the investment companies for which AM or an affiliate serves as investment adviser or sponsor. Investment companies, particularly closed-end investment companies, are different from traditional operating companies. These differences may call for differences in voting positions on the same matter. Further, the manner in which AM votes investment company proxies may differ from proposals for which a AM-advised or sponsored investment company solicits proxies from its shareholders. As reflected in the Guidelines, proxies solicited by closed-end (and open-end) investment companies are generally voted in accordance with the pre-determined guidelines of ISS. See Section IV.3.B.

Funds ("Underlying Funds") in which Topiary Fund Management Fund of Funds (each, a "Fund") invest, may from time to time seek to revise their investment terms (i.e. liquidity, fees, etc.) or investment structure. In such event, the Underlying Funds may require approval/consent from its investors to effect the relevant changes. Topiary Fund Management has adopted Proxy Voting Procedures which outline the process for these approvals.

#### 2. *Specific proxy voting decisions made by the GPVSC*

The Proxy Vendor Oversight will refer to the GPVSC all proxy proposals (i) that are not covered by specific client instructions or the Guidelines; or (ii) that, according to the Guidelines, should be evaluated and voted on a case-by-case basis.

Additionally, if, the Proxy Vendor Oversight, the GPVSC Chair or any member of the GPVSC, a portfolio manager, a research analyst or a sub-adviser believes that voting a particular proxy in accordance with the Guidelines may not be in the best economic interests of clients, that individual may bring the matter to the attention of the GPVSC Chair and/or the Proxy Vendor Oversight.<sup>2</sup>

If the Proxy Vendor Oversight refers a proxy proposal to the GPVSC or the GPVSC determines that voting a particular proxy in accordance with the Guidelines is not in the best economic interests of clients, the GPVSC will evaluate and vote the proxy, subject to the procedures below regarding conflicts.

The GPVSC endeavors to hold meetings to decide how to vote particular proxies sufficiently before the voting deadline so that the procedures below regarding conflicts can be completed before the GPVSC's voting determination.

#### 3. *Certain proxy votes may not be cast*

In some cases, the GPVSC may determine that it is in the best economic interests of its clients not to vote certain proxies. If the conditions below are met with regard to a proxy proposal, AM will abstain from voting:

- Neither the Guidelines nor specific client instructions cover an issue;

- ISS does not make a recommendation on the issue;

---

<sup>2</sup> Proxy Vendor Oversight generally monitors upcoming proxy solicitations for heightened attention from the press or the industry and for novel or unusual proposals or circumstances, which may prompt the Proxy Vendor Oversight to bring the solicitation to the attention of the GPVSC Chair. AM portfolio managers, AM research analysts and sub-advisers also may bring a particular proxy vote to the attention of the GPVSC Chair, as a result of their ongoing monitoring of portfolio securities held by advisory clients and/or their review of the periodic proxy voting record reports that the GPVSC Chair distributes to AM portfolio managers and AM research analysts.

- The GPVSC cannot convene on the proxy proposal at issue to make a determination as to what would be in the client's best interest. (This could happen, for example, if the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-committee found that there was a material conflict or if despite all best efforts being made, the GPVSC quorum requirement could not be met).

In addition, it is AM's policy not to vote proxies of issuers subject to laws of those jurisdictions that impose restrictions upon selling shares after proxies are voted, in order to preserve liquidity. In other cases, it may not be possible to vote certain proxies, despite good faith efforts to do so. For example, some jurisdictions do not provide adequate notice to shareholders so that proxies may be voted on a timely basis. Voting rights on securities that have been loaned to third-parties transfer to those third-parties, with loan termination often being the only way to attempt to vote proxies on the loaned securities. Lastly, the GPVSC may determine that the costs to the client(s) associated with voting a particular proxy or group of proxies outweighs the economic benefits expected from voting the proxy or group of proxies.

The Proxy Vendor Oversight will coordinate with the GPVSC Chair regarding any specific proxies and any categories of proxies that will not or cannot be voted. The reasons for not voting any proxy shall be documented.

#### **4. Conflict of Interest Procedures**

##### **A. Procedures to Address Conflicts of Interest and Improper Influence**

*Overriding Principle.* In the limited circumstances where the GPVSC votes proxies,<sup>3</sup> the GPVSC will vote those proxies in accordance with what it, in good faith, determines to be the best economic interests of AM's clients<sup>4</sup>

*Independence of the GPVSC.* As a matter of Compliance policy, the GPVSC and the Proxy Vendor Oversight are structured to be independent from other parts of Deutsche Bank. Members of the GPVSC and the employee responsible for Proxy Vendor Oversight are employees of AM. As such, they may not be subject to the supervision or control of any employees of Deutsche Bank Corporate and Investment Banking division ("CIB"). Their compensation cannot be based upon their contribution to any business activity outside of AM without prior approval of Legal and Compliance. They can have no contact with employees of Deutsche Bank outside of the Private Client and Asset Management division ("PCAM") regarding specific clients, business matters or initiatives without the prior approval of Legal and Compliance. They furthermore may not discuss proxy votes with any person outside of AM (and within AM only on a need to know basis).

---

<sup>3</sup> mentioned above, the GPVSC votes proxies (i) where neither a specific client instruction nor a Guideline directs how the proxy should be voted, (ii) where the Guidelines specify that an issue is to be determined on a case by case basis or (iii) where voting in accordance with the Guidelines may not be in the best economic interests of clients.

<sup>4</sup> The Proxy Vendor Oversight, who serves as the non-voting secretary of the GPVSC, may receive routine calls from proxy solicitors and other parties interested in a particular proxy vote. Any contact that attempts to exert improper pressure or influence shall be reported to the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee.

*Conflict Review Procedures.* There will be a committee (the "Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee") established within AM that will monitor for potential material conflicts of interest in connection with proxy proposals that are to be evaluated by the GPVSC. Promptly upon a determination that a vote shall be presented to the GPVSC, the GPVSC Chair shall notify the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee. The Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee shall promptly collect and review any information deemed reasonably appropriate to evaluate, in its reasonable judgment, if AM or any person participating in the proxy voting process has, or has the appearance of, a material conflict of interest. For the purposes of this policy, a conflict of interest shall be considered "material" to the extent that a reasonable person could expect the conflict to influence, or appear to influence, the GPVSC's decision on the particular vote at issue. GPVSC should provide the

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee a reasonable amount of time (no less than 24 hours) to perform all necessary and appropriate reviews. To the extent that a conflicts review can not be sufficiently completed by the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee the proxies will be voted in accordance with the standard guidelines.

The information considered by the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee may include without limitation information regarding (i) AM client relationships; (ii) any relevant personal conflict known by the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee or brought to the attention of that sub-committee; (iii) and any communications with members of the GPVSC (or anyone participating or providing information to the GPVSC) and any person outside of the AM organization (but within Deutsche Bank and its affiliates) or any entity that identifies itself as a AM advisory client regarding the vote at issue. In the context of any determination, the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee may consult with, and shall be entitled to rely upon, all applicable outside experts, including legal counsel.

Upon completion of the investigation, the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee will document its findings and conclusions. If the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee determines that (i) AM has a material conflict of interest that would prevent it from deciding how to vote the proxies concerned without further client consent or (ii) certain individuals should be recused from participating in the proxy vote at issue, the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee will so inform the GPVSC chair.

If notified that AM has a material conflict of interest as described above, the GPVSC chair will obtain instructions as to how the proxies should be voted either from (i) if time permits, the effected clients, or (ii) in accordance with the standard guidelines. If notified that certain individuals should be recused from the proxy vote at issue, the GPVSC Chair shall do so in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

Note: Any AM employee who becomes aware of a potential, material conflict of interest in respect of any proxy vote to be made on behalf of clients shall notify Compliance. Compliance shall call a meeting of the conflict review committee to evaluate such conflict and determine a recommended course of action.

*Procedures to be followed by the GPVSC.* At the beginning of any discussion regarding how to vote any proxy, the GPVSC Chair (or his or her delegate) will inquire as to whether any GPVSC member (whether voting or ex officio) or any person participating in the proxy voting process has a personal conflict of interest or has actual knowledge of an actual or apparent conflict that has not been reported to the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee.

The GPVSC Chair also will inquire of these same parties whether they have actual knowledge regarding whether any director, officer or employee outside of the AM organization (but within Deutsche Bank and its affiliates) or any entity that identifies itself as a AM advisory client, has: (i) requested that AM, the Proxy Vendor Oversight (or any member thereof) or a GPVSC member vote a particular proxy in a certain manner; (ii) attempted to influence AM, the Proxy Vendor Oversight (or any member thereof), a GPVSC member or any other person in connection with proxy voting activities; or (iii) otherwise communicated with a GPVSC member or any other person participating or providing information to the GPVSC regarding the particular proxy vote at issue, and which incident has not yet been reported to the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee.

If any such incidents are reported to the GPVSC Chair, the Chair will promptly notify the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee and, if possible, will delay the vote until the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee can complete the conflicts report. If a delay is not possible, the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee will instruct the GPVSC whether anyone should be recused from the proxy voting process, or whether AM should vote the proxy in accordance with the standard guidelines, seek instructions as to how to vote the proxy at issue from ISS or, if time permits, the effected clients. These inquiries and discussions will be properly reflected in the GPVSC's minutes.

*Duty to Report.* Any AM employee, including any GPVSC member (whether voting or ex officio), that is aware of any actual or apparent conflict of interest relevant to, or any attempt by any person outside of the AM organization (but within Deutsche Bank and its affiliates) or any entity that identifies itself as a AM advisory client to influence, how AM votes its proxies has a duty to disclose the existence of the situation to the GPVSC Chair (or his or her designee) and the details of the matter to the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee. In the case of any person participating in the deliberations on a specific vote, such disclosure should be made before engaging in any activities or participating in any discussion pertaining to that vote.

*Recusal of Members.* The GPVSC will recuse from participating in a specific proxy vote any GPVSC members (whether voting or ex officio) and/or any other person who (i) are personally involved in a material conflict of interest; or (ii) who, as determined by the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee, have actual knowledge of a circumstance or fact that could effect their independent judgment, in respect of such vote. The GPVSC will also exclude from consideration the views of any person (whether requested or volunteered) if the GPVSC or any member thereof knows, or if the Conflicts of Interest Management Sub-Committee has determined, that such other person has a material conflict of interest with respect to the particular proxy, or has attempted to influence the vote in any manner prohibited by these policies.

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

If, after excluding all relevant GPVSC voting members pursuant to the paragraph above, there are three or more GPVSC voting members remaining, those remaining GPVSC members will determine how to vote the proxy in accordance with these Policies and Procedures. If there are fewer than three GPVSC voting members remaining, the GPVSC Chair will vote the proxy in accordance with the standard guidelines, will obtain instructions as to how to have the proxy voted from, if time permits, the effected clients and otherwise from ISS.

### B. Investment Companies and Affiliated Public Companies

*Investment Companies.* As reflected in the Guidelines, all proxies solicited by open-end and closed-end investment companies are voted in accordance with the pre-determined guidelines of ISS, unless the investment company client directs AM to vote differently on a specific proxy or specific categories of proxies. However, regarding investment companies for which AM or an affiliate serves as investment adviser or principal underwriter, such proxies are voted in the same proportion as the vote of all other shareholders (i.e., “mirror” or “echo” voting). Master fund proxies solicited from feeder funds are voted in accordance with applicable provisions of Section 12 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Subject to participation agreements with certain Exchange Traded Funds (“ETF”) issuers that have received exemptive orders from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission allowing investing DWS funds to exceed the limits set forth in Section 12(d)(1)(A) and (B) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, DeAM will echo vote proxies for ETFs in which Deutsche Bank holds more than 25% of outstanding voting shares globally when required to do so by participation agreements and SEC orders.

*Affiliated Public Companies.* For proxies solicited by non-investment company issuers of or within the Deutsche Bank organization, e.g., Deutsche bank itself, these proxies will be voted in the same proportion as the vote of other shareholders (i.e., “mirror” or “echo” voting).

Note: With respect to the QP Trust (not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940), the Fund is not required to engage in echo voting and the investment adviser will use these Guidelines, and may determine, with respect to the QP Trust, to vote contrary to the positions in the Guidelines, consistent with the Fund’s best interest.

### C. Other Procedures That Limit Conflicts of Interest

AM and other entities in the Deutsche Bank organization have adopted a number of policies, procedures and internal controls that are designed to avoid various conflicts of interest, including those that may arise in connection with proxy voting, including:

- *Deutsche Bank Americas Restricted Activities Policy.* This policy provides for, among other things, independence of AM employees from CIB, and information barriers between AM and other affiliates. Specifically, no AM employee may be subject to the supervision or control of any employee of CIB. No AM employee shall have his or her compensation based upon his or her contribution to any business activity within the Bank outside of the business of AM, without the prior approval of Legal or Compliance. Further, no employee of CIB shall have any input into the compensation of a AM employee without the prior approval of Legal or Compliance. Under the information barriers section of this policy, as a general rule, AM employees who are associated with the investment process should have no contact with employees of Deutsche Bank or its affiliates, outside of PCAM, regarding specific clients, business matters, or initiatives. Further, under no circumstances should proxy votes be discussed with any Deutsche Bank employee outside of AM (and should only be discussed on a need-to-know basis within AM).

Other relevant internal policies include the Deutsche Bank Americas Code of Professional Conduct, the Deutsche Asset Management Information Sharing Procedures, the Deutsche Asset Management Code of Ethics, the Sarbanes-Oxley Senior Officer Code of Ethics, and the Deutsche Bank Group Code of Conduct. The GPVSC expects that these policies, procedures and internal controls will greatly reduce the chance that the GPVSC (or, its members) would be involved in, aware of or influenced by, an actual or apparent conflict of interest.

## V. **RECORDKEEPING**

At a minimum, the following types of records must be properly maintained and readily accessible in order to evidence compliance with this policy.

- AM will maintain a record of each vote cast by AM that includes among other things, company name, meeting date, proposals presented, vote cast and shares voted.
- The Proxy Vendor Oversight maintains records for each of the proxy ballots it votes. Specifically, the records include, but are not limited to:
  - The proxy statement (and any additional solicitation materials) and relevant portions of annual statements.
  - Any additional information considered in the voting process that may be obtained from an issuing company, its agents or proxy research firms.
  - Analyst worksheets created for stock option plan and share increase analyses.
  - Proxy Edge print-screen of actual vote election.

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

- AM will retain these Policies and Procedures and the Guidelines; will maintain records of client requests for proxy voting information; and will retain any documents the Proxy Vendor Oversight or the GPVSC prepared that were material to making a voting decision or that memorialized the basis for a proxy voting decision.
- The GPVSC also will create and maintain appropriate records documenting its compliance with these Policies and Procedures, including records of its deliberations and decisions regarding conflicts of interest and their resolution.
- With respect to AM's investment company clients, ISS will create and maintain records of each company's proxy voting record for 12-month periods ended June 30. AM will compile the following information for each matter relating to a portfolio security considered *at any shareholder meeting held during the period covered* by the report and with respect to which the company was entitled to vote:
  - The name of the issuer of the portfolio security;
  - The exchange ticker symbol of the portfolio security (if symbol is available through reasonably practicable means);
  - The Council on Uniform Securities Identification Procedures number for the portfolio security (if the number is available through reasonably practicable means);
  - The shareholder meeting date;
  - A brief identification of the matter voted on;
  - Whether the matter was proposed by the issuer or by a security holder;
  - Whether the company cast its vote on the matter;
  - How the company cast its vote (e.g., for or against proposal, or abstain; for or withhold regarding election of directors); and
  - Whether the company cast its vote for or against management.

Note: This list is intended to provide guidance only in terms of the records that must be maintained in accordance with this policy. In addition, please note that records must be maintained in accordance with the applicable AM Records Management Policy.

With respect to electronically stored records, "properly maintained" is defined as complete, authentic (unalterable) usable and backed-up. At a minimum, records should be retained for a period of not less than six years (or longer, if necessary to comply with applicable regulatory requirements), the first three years in an appropriate AM office.

### VI. THE GPVSC'S OVERSIGHT ROLE

In addition to adopting the Guidelines and making proxy voting decisions on matters referred to it as set forth above, the GPVSC will monitor the proxy voting process by reviewing summary proxy information presented by ISS. The GPVSC will use this review process to determine, among other things, whether any changes should be made to the Guidelines. This review will take place at least quarterly and will be documented in the GPVSC's minutes.

### Attachment A – Global Proxy Voting Guidelines

Deutsche Asset Management

Global Proxy Voting Guidelines

As Amended October 2008

Table of contents

- I Board Of Directors And Executives
  - A Election Of Directors
  - B Classified Boards Of Directors
  - C Board And Committee Independence
  - D Liability And Indemnification Of Directors
  - E Qualifications Of Directors
  - F Removal Of Directors And Filling Of Vacancies
  - G Proposals To Fix The Size Of The Board
  
- H Proposals to Restrict Chief Executive Officer's Service on Multiple Boards
  
- I Proposals to Restrict Supervisory Board Members Service on Multiple Boards
  
- J Proposals to Establish Audit Committees
- II Capital Structure
  - A Authorization Of Additional Shares
  - B Authorization Of "Blank Check" Preferred Stock
  - C Stock Splits/Reverse Stock Splits
  - D Dual Class/Supervoting Stock
  - E Large Block Issuance
  - F Recapitalization Into A Single Class Of Stock
  - G Share Repurchases
  - H Reductions In Par Value
- III Corporate Governance Issues
  - A Confidential Voting
  - B Cumulative Voting
  - C Supermajority Voting Requirements
  - D Shareholder Right To Vote
- IV Compensation
  - A Establishment of a Remuneration Committee
  - B Executive And Director Stock Option Plans
  
  - C Employee Stock Option/Purchase Plans
  - D Golden Parachutes
  - E Proposals To Limit Benefits Or Executive Compensation
  - F Option Expensing
  - G Management board election and motion
  - H Remuneration (variable pay)
  - I Long-term incentive plans
  - J Shareholder Proposals Concerning "Pay For Superior Performance"
  - K Executive Compensation Advisory
- V Anti-Takeover Related Issues
  - A Shareholder Rights Plans ("Poison Pills")
  - B Reincorporation
  - C Fair-Price Proposals
  - D Exemption From State Takeover Laws



## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

- E Non-Financial Effects Of Takeover Bids
- VI Mergers & Acquisitions
- VII Social & Political Issues
  - A Labor & Human Rights
  - B Diversity & Equality
  - C Health & Safety
  - D Government/Military
  - E Tobacco
- VIII Environmental Issues
- IX Miscellaneous Items
  - A Ratification Of Auditors
  - B Limitation Of Non-Audit Services Provided By Independent Auditor
  - C Audit Firm Rotation
  - D Transaction Of Other Business
  - E Motions To Adjourn The Meeting
  - F Bundled Proposals
  - G Change Of Company Name
  - H Proposals Related To The Annual Meeting
  
- I Reimbursement Of Expenses Incurred From Candidate Nomination
- J Investment Company Proxies
- K International Proxy Voting

These Guidelines may reflect a voting position that differs from the actual practices of the public company (ies) within the Deutsche Bank organization or of the investment companies for which AM or an affiliate serves as investment adviser or sponsor.

NOTE: Because of the unique structure and regulatory scheme applicable to closed-end investment companies, the voting guidelines (particularly those related to governance issues) generally will be inapplicable to holdings of closed-end investment companies. As a result, determinations on the appropriate voting recommendation for closed-end investment company shares will be made on a case-by-case basis.

### **I. Board of Directors and Executives**

#### **A. Election of Directors**

Routine: AM Policy is to vote “for” the uncontested election of directors. Votes for a director in an uncontested election will be withheld in cases where a director has shown an inability to perform his/her duties in the best interests of the shareholders.

Proxy contest: In a proxy contest involving election of directors, a case-by-case voting decision will be made based upon analysis of the issues involved and the merits of the incumbent and dissident slates of directors. AM will incorporate the decisions of a third party proxy research vendor, currently, Institutional Shareholder Services (“ISS”) subject to review by the Proxy Voting Sub-Committee (GPVSC) as set forth in the AM’s Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures.

Rationale: The large majority of corporate directors fulfill their fiduciary obligation and in most cases support for management’s nominees is warranted. As the issues relevant to a contested election differ in each instance, those cases must be addressed as they arise.

#### **B. Classified Boards of Directors**

AM policy is to vote against proposals to classify the board and for proposals to repeal classified boards and elect directors annually.

Rationale: Directors should be held accountable on an annual basis. By entrenching the incumbent board, a classified board may be used as an anti-takeover device to the detriment of the shareholders in a hostile take-over situation.

#### **C. Board and Committee Independence**

AM policy is to vote:

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

1. “For” proposals that require that a certain percentage (majority up to 66 2/3%) of members of a board of directors be comprised of independent or unaffiliated directors.
2. “For” proposals that require all members of a company's compensation, audit, nominating, or other similar committees be comprised of independent or unaffiliated directors.
3. “Against” shareholder proposals to require the addition of special interest, or constituency, representatives to boards of directors.
4. “For” separation of the Chairman and CEO positions.
5. “Against” proposals that require a company to appoint a Chairman who is an independent director.

Rationale: Board independence is a cornerstone of effective governance and accountability. A board that is sufficiently independent from management assures that shareholders' interests are adequately represented. However, the Chairman of the board must have sufficient involvement in and experience with the operations of the company to perform the functions required of that position and lead the company.

No director qualifies as 'independent' unless the board of directors affirmatively determines that the director has no material relationship with the listed company (either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the company).

Whether a director is in fact not "independent" will depend on the laws and regulations of the primary market for the security and the exchanges, if any, on which the security trades.

### **D. Liability and Indemnification of Directors**

AM policy is to vote “for” management proposals to limit directors' liability and to broaden the indemnification of directors, unless broader indemnification or limitations on directors' liability would effect shareholders' interests in pending litigation.

Rationale: While shareholders want directors and officers to be responsible for their actions, it is not in the best interests of the shareholders for them to be to risk averse. If the risk of personal liability is too great, companies may not be able to find capable directors willing to serve. We support expanding coverage only for actions taken in good faith and not for serious violations of fiduciary obligation or negligence.

### **E. Qualifications of Directors**

AM policy is to follow management's recommended vote on either management or shareholder proposals that set retirement ages for directors or require specific levels of stock ownership by directors.

Rationale: As a general rule, the board of directors, and not the shareholders, is most qualified to establish qualification policies.

### **F. Removal of Directors and Filling of Vacancies**

AM policy is to vote “against” proposals that include provisions that directors may be removed only for cause or proposals that include provisions that only continuing directors may fill board vacancies.

Rationale: Differing state statutes permit removal of directors with or without cause. Removal of directors for cause usually requires proof of self-dealing, fraud or misappropriation of corporate assets, limiting shareholders' ability to remove directors except under extreme circumstances. Removal without cause requires no such showing.

Allowing only incumbent directors to fill vacancies can serve as an anti-takeover device, precluding shareholders from filling the board until the next regular election.

### **G. Proposals to Fix the Size of the Board**

AM policy is to vote:

1. “For” proposals to fix the size of the board unless: (a) no specific reason for the proposed change is given; or (b) the proposal is part of a package of takeover defenses.
2. “Against” proposals allowing management to fix the size of the board without shareholder approval.

Rationale: Absent danger of anti-takeover use, companies should be granted a reasonable amount of flexibility in fixing the size of its board.

### **H. Proposals to Restrict Chief Executive Officer's Service on Multiple Boards**

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

AM policy is to vote “For” proposals to restrict a Chief Executive Officer from serving on more than three outside boards of directors.

Rationale: Chief Executive Officer must have sufficient time to ensure that shareholders’ interests are represented adequately.

Note: A director’s service on multiple closed-end fund boards within a fund complex are treated as service on a single Board for the purpose of the proxy voting guidelines.

### ***I. Proposals to Restrict Supervisory Board Members Service on Multiple Boards (For FFT Securities)***

AM policy is to vote “for” proposals to restrict a Supervisory Board Member from serving on more than five supervisory boards.

Rationale: We consider a strong, independent and knowledgeable supervisory board as important counter-balance to executive management to ensure that the interests of shareholders are fully reflected by the company.

Full information should be disclosed in the annual reports and accounts to allow all shareholders to judge the success of the supervisory board controlling their company.

Supervisory Board Member must have sufficient time to ensure that shareholders’ interests are represented adequately.

Note: A director’s service on multiple closed-end fund boards within a fund complex are treated as service on a single Board for the purpose of the proxy voting guidelines.

### ***J. Proposals to Establish Audit Committees (For FFT and U.S. Securities)***

AM policy is to vote “for” proposals that require the establishment of audit committees.

Rationale: The audit committee should deal with accounting and risk management related questions, verifies the independence of the auditor with due regard to possible conflicts of interest. It also should determine the procedure of the audit process.

## **II. Capital Structure**

### ***A. Authorization of Additional Shares (For U.S. Securities)***

AM policy is to vote “for” proposals to increase the authorization of existing classes of stock that do not exceed a 3:1 ratio of shares authorized to shares outstanding for a large cap company, and do not exceed a 4:1 ratio of shares authorized to shares outstanding for a small-midcap company (companies having a market capitalization under one billion U.S. dollars.).

Rationale: While companies need an adequate number of shares in order to carry on business, increases requested for general financial flexibility must be limited to protect shareholders from their potential use as an anti-takeover device. Requested increases for specifically designated, reasonable business purposes (stock split, merger, etc.) will be considered in light of those purposes and the number of shares required.

### ***B. Authorization of “Blank Check” Preferred Stock (For U.S. Securities)***

AM policy is to vote:

1.

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

“Against” proposals to create blank check preferred stock or to increase the number of authorized shares of blank check preferred stock unless the company expressly states that the stock will not be used for anti-takeover purposes and will not be issued without shareholder approval.

2. “For” proposals mandating shareholder approval of blank check stock placement.

Rationale: Shareholders should be permitted to monitor the issuance of classes of preferred stock in which the board of directors is given unfettered discretion to set voting, dividend, conversion and other rights for the shares issued.

### **C. Stock Splits/Reverse Stock Splits**

AM policy is to vote “for” stock splits if a legitimate business purpose is set forth and the split is in the shareholders' best interests. A vote is cast “for” a reverse stock split only if the number of shares authorized is reduced in the same proportion as the reverse split or if the effective increase in authorized shares (relative to outstanding shares) complies with the proxy guidelines for common stock increases (see, Section II.A, above.)

Rationale: Generally, stock splits do not detrimentally effect shareholders. Reverse stock splits, however, may have the same result as an increase in authorized shares and should be analyzed accordingly.

### **D. Dual Class/Supervoting Stock**

AM policy is to vote “against” proposals to create or authorize additional shares of super-voting stock or stock with unequal voting rights.

Rationale: The “one share, one vote” principal ensures that no shareholder maintains a voting interest exceeding their equity interest in the company.

### **E. Large Block Issuance (For U.S. Securities)**

AM policy is to address large block issuances of stock on a case-by-case basis, incorporating the recommendation of an independent third party proxy research firm (currently ISS) subject to review by the GPVSC as set forth in AM's Proxy Policies and Procedures.

Additionally, AM supports proposals requiring shareholder approval of large block issuances.

Rationale: Stock issuances must be reviewed in light of the business circumstances leading to the request and the potential impact on shareholder value.

### **F. Recapitalization into a Single Class of Stock**

AM policy is to vote “for” recapitalization plans to provide for a single class of common stock, provided the terms are fair, with no class of stock being unduly disadvantaged.

Rationale: Consolidation of multiple classes of stock is a business decision that may be left to the board and/management if there is no adverse effect on shareholders.

### **G. Share Repurchases**

AM policy is to vote “for” share repurchase plans provided all shareholders are able to participate on equal terms.

Rationale: Buybacks are generally considered beneficial to shareholders because they tend to increase returns to the remaining shareholders.

### **H. Reductions in Par Value**

AM policy is to vote “for” proposals to reduce par value, provided a legitimate business purpose is stated (e.g., the reduction of corporate tax responsibility.)

Rationale: Usually, adjustments to par value are a routine financial decision with no substantial impact on shareholders.

## **III. Corporate Governance Issues**

### **A. Confidential Voting**

AM policy is to vote “for” proposals to provide for confidential voting and independent tabulation of voting results and to vote “against” proposals to repeal such provisions.

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Rationale: Confidential voting protects the privacy rights of all shareholders. This is particularly important for employee-shareholders or shareholders with business or other affiliations with the company, who may be vulnerable to coercion or retaliation when opposing management. Confidential voting does not interfere with the ability of corporations to communicate with all shareholders, nor does it prohibit shareholders from making their views known directly to management.

### **B. Cumulative Voting (For U.S. Securities)**

AM policy is to vote “against” shareholder proposals requesting cumulative voting and “for” management proposals to eliminate it. The protections afforded shareholders by cumulative voting are not necessary when a company has a history of good performance and does not have a concentrated ownership interest. Accordingly, a vote is cast “against” cumulative voting and “for” proposals to eliminate it if:

- a) The company has a five year return on investment greater than the relevant industry index,
  - b) All directors and executive officers as a group beneficially own less than 10% of the outstanding stock, *and*
  - c) No shareholder (or voting block) beneficially owns 15% or more of the company.
- Thus, failure of any one of the three criteria results in a vote for cumulative voting in accordance with the general policy.

Rationale: Cumulative voting is a tool that should be used to ensure that holders of a significant number of shares may have board representation; however, the presence of other safeguards may make their use unnecessary.

### **C. Supermajority Voting Requirements**

AM policy is to vote “against” management proposals to require a supermajority vote to amend the charter or bylaws and to vote “for” shareholder proposals to modify or rescind existing supermajority requirements.

\*Exception made when company holds a controlling position and seeks to lower threshold to maintain control and/or make changes to corporate by-laws.

Rationale: Supermajority voting provisions violate the democratic principle that a simple majority should carry the vote. Setting supermajority requirements may make it difficult or impossible for shareholders to remove egregious by-law or charter provisions. Occasionally, a company with a significant insider held position might attempt to lower a supermajority threshold to make it easier for management to approve provisions that may be detrimental to shareholders. In that case, it may not be in the shareholders interests to lower the supermajority provision.

### **D. Shareholder Right to Vote**

AM policy is to vote “against” proposals that restrict the right of shareholders to call special meetings, amend the bylaws, or act by written consent. Policy is to vote “for” proposals that remove such restrictions.

Rationale: Any reasonable means whereby shareholders can make their views known to management or effect the governance process should be supported.

## **IV. Compensation**

Annual Incentive Plans or Bonus Plans are often submitted to shareholders for approval. These plans typically award cash to executives based on company performance. Deutsche Bank believes that the responsibility for executive compensation decisions rest with the board of directors and/or the compensation committee, and its policy is not to second-guess the board’s award of cash compensation amounts to executives unless a particular award or series of awards is deemed excessive. If stock options are awarded as part of these bonus or incentive plans, the provisions must meet Deutsche Bank’s criteria regarding stock option plans, or similar stock-based incentive compensation schemes, as set forth below.

### **A. Establishment of a Remuneration Committee (For FFT Securities)**

AM policy is to vote “for” proposals that require the establishment of a remuneration committee.

Rationale: Corporations should disclose in each annual report or proxy statement their policies on remuneration. Essential details regarding executive remuneration including share options, long-term incentive plans and bonuses, should be disclosed in the annual report, so that investors can judge whether corporate pay policies and practices meet the standard.

The remuneration committee shall not comprise any board members and should be sensitive to the wider scene on executive pay. It should ensure that performance-based elements of executive pay are designed to align the interests of shareholders.

**B. Executive and Director Stock Option Plans**

AM policy is to vote “for” stock option plans that meet the following criteria:

- (1) The resulting dilution of existing shares is less than (a) 15 percent of outstanding shares for large capital corporations or (b) 20 percent of outstanding shares for small-mid capital companies (companies having a market capitalization under one billion U.S. dollars.)
- (2) The transfer of equity resulting from granting options at less than FMV is no greater than 3% of the over-all market capitalization of large capital corporations, or 5% of market cap for small-mid capital companies.
- (3) The plan does not contain express repricing provisions and, in the absence of an express statement that options will not be repriced; the company does not have a history of repricing options.
- (4) The plan does not grant options on super-voting stock.

AM will support performance-based option proposals as long as a) they do not mandate that all options granted by the company must be performance based, and b) only certain high-level executives are subject to receive the performance based options.

AM will support proposals to eliminate the payment of outside director pensions.

Rationale: Determining the cost to the company and to shareholders of stock-based incentive plans raises significant issues not encountered with cash-based compensation plans. These include the potential dilution of existing shareholders' voting power, the transfer of equity out of the company resulting from the grant and execution of options at less than FMV and the authority to reprice or replace underwater options. Our stock option plan analysis model seeks to allow reasonable levels of flexibility for a company yet still protect shareholders from the negative impact of excessive stock compensation. Acknowledging that small mid-capital corporations often rely more heavily on stock option plans as their main source of executive compensation and may not be able to compete with their large capital competitors with cash compensation, we provide slightly more flexibility for those companies.

**C. Employee Stock Option/Purchase Plans**

AM policy is to vote for employee stock purchase plans (ESPP's) when the plan complies with Internal Revenue Code 423, allowing non-management employees to purchase stock at 85% of FMV.

AM policy is to vote “for” employee stock option plans (ESOPs) provided they meet the standards for stock option plans in general. However, when computing dilution and transfer of equity, ESOPs are considered independently from executive and director option plans.

Rationale: ESOPs and ESPP's encourage rank-and-file employees to acquire an ownership stake in the companies they work for and have been shown to promote employee loyalty and improve productivity.

**D. Golden Parachutes**

AM policy is to vote “for” proposals to require shareholder approval of golden parachutes and for proposals that would limit golden parachutes to no more than three times base compensation. Policy is to vote “against” more restrictive shareholder proposals to limit golden parachutes.

Rationale: In setting a reasonable limitation, AM considers that an effective parachute should be less attractive than continued employment and that the IRS has opined that amounts greater than three times annual salary, are excessive.

**E. Proposals to Limit Benefits or Executive Compensation**

AM policy is to vote “against”

1. Proposals to limit benefits, pensions or compensation and
2. Proposals that request or require disclosure of executive compensation greater than the disclosure required by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulations.

Rationale: Levels of compensation and benefits are generally considered to be day-to-day operations of the company, and are best left unrestricted by arbitrary limitations proposed by shareholders.

**F. Option Expensing**

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

AM policy is to support proposals requesting companies to expense stock options.

Rationale: Although companies can choose to expense options voluntarily, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) does not yet require it, instead allowing companies to disclose the theoretical value of options as a footnote. Because the expensing of stock options lowers earnings, most companies elect not to do so. Given the fact that options have become an integral component of compensation and their exercise results in a transfer of shareholder value, AM agrees that their value should not be ignored and treated as “no cost” compensation. The expensing of stock options would promote more modest and appropriate use of stock options in executive compensation plans and present a more accurate picture of company operational earnings.

### **G. Management board election and motion (For FFT Securities)**

AM policy is to vote “against”:

- the election of board members with positions on either remuneration or audit committees;
- the election of supervisory board members with too many supervisory board mandates;
- “automatic” election of former board members into the supervisory board.

Rationale: Management as an entity, and each of its members, are responsible for all actions of the company, and are - subject to applicable laws and regulations - accountable to the shareholders as a whole for their actions.

Sufficient information should be disclosed in the annual company report and account to allow shareholders to judge the success of the company.

### **H. Remuneration (variable pay): (For FFT Securities)**

#### **Executive remuneration for Management Board**

AM policy is to vote “for” remuneration for Management Board that is transparent and linked to results.

Rationale: Executive compensation should motivate management and align the interests of management with the shareholders. The focus should be on criteria that prevent excessive remuneration; but enable the company to hire and retain first-class professionals.

Shareholder interests are normally best served when management is remunerated to optimise long-term returns. Criteria should include suitable measurements like return on capital employed or economic value added.

Interests should generally also be correctly aligned when management own shares in the company – even more so if these shares represent a substantial portion of their own wealth.

Its disclosure shall differentiate between fixed pay, variable (performance related) pay and long-term incentives, including stock option plans with valuation ranges as well as pension and any other significant arrangements.

#### **Executive remuneration for Supervisory Board**

AM policy is to vote “for” remuneration for Supervisory Board that is at least 50% in fixed form.

Rationale: It would normally be preferable if performance linked compensation were not based on dividend payments, but linked to suitable result based parameters. Consulting and procurement services should also be published in the company report.

#### **I. Long-term incentive plans (For FFT Securities)**

AM policy is to vote “for” long-term incentive plans for members of a management board that reward for above average company performance.

Rationale: Incentive plans will normally be supported if they:

- directly align the interests of members of management boards with those of shareholders;
- establish challenging performance criteria to reward only above average performance;
- measure performance by total shareholder return in relation to the market or a range of comparable companies;
- are long-term in nature and encourage long-term ownership of the shares once exercised through minimum holding periods;
- do not allow a repricing of the exercise price in stock option plans.

#### **J. Shareholder Proposals Concerning “Pay for Superior Performance”**

AM policy is to address pay for superior performance proposals on a case-by-case basis, incorporating the recommendation of an independent third party proxy research firm (currently ISS) subject to review by the GPVSC as set forth in AM’s Proxy Policies and Procedures.

Rationale: While AM agrees that compensation issues are better left to the discretion of management, they appreciate the need to monitor for excessive compensation practices on a case by case basis. If, after a review of the ISS metrics, AM is comfortable with ISS’s applying this calculation and will vote according to their recommendation.

#### **K. Executive Compensation Advisory**

AM policy is to follow management’s recommended vote on shareholder proposals to propose an advisory resolution seeking to ratify the compensation of the company’s named executive officers (NEOs) on an annual basis.

Rationale: AM believes that controls exist within senior management and corporate compensation committees, ensuring fair compensation to executives. This might allow shareholders to require approval for all levels of management’s compensation.

#### **V. Anti-Takeover Related Issues**

##### **A. Shareholder Rights Plans (“Poison Pills”)**

AM policy is to vote “for” proposals to require shareholder ratification of poison pills or that request boards to redeem poison pills, and to vote “against” the adoption of poison pills if they are submitted for shareholder ratification.



## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Rationale: Poison pills are the most prevalent form of corporate takeover defenses and can be (and usually are) adopted without shareholder review or consent. The potential cost of poison pills to shareholders during an attempted takeover outweighs the benefits.

### **B. Reincorporation**

AM policy is to examine reincorporation proposals on a case-by-case basis. The voting decision is based on: (1) differences in state law between the existing state of incorporation and the proposed state of incorporation; and (2) differences between the existing and the proposed charter/bylaws/articles of incorporation and their effect on shareholder rights. If changes resulting from the proposed reincorporation violate the corporate governance principles set forth in these guidelines, the reincorporation will be deemed contrary to shareholder's interests and a vote cast "against."

Rationale: Reincorporations can be properly analyzed only by looking at the advantages and disadvantages to their shareholders. Care must be taken that anti-takeover protection is not the sole or primary result of a proposed change.

### **C. Fair-Price Proposals**

AM policy is to vote "for" management fair-price proposals, provided that: (1) the proposal applies only to two-tier offers; (2) the proposal sets an objective fair-price test based on the highest price that the acquirer has paid for a company's shares; (3) the supermajority requirement for bids that fail the fair-price test is no higher than two-thirds of the outstanding shares; (4) the proposal contains no other anti-takeover provisions or provisions that restrict shareholders rights.

A vote is cast for shareholder proposals that would modify or repeal existing fair-price requirements that do not meet these standards.

Rationale: While fair price provisions may be used as anti-takeover devices, if adequate provisions are included, they provide some protection to shareholders who have some say in their application and the ability to reject those protections if desired.

### **D. Exemption from state takeover laws**

AM policy is to vote "for" shareholder proposals to opt out of state takeover laws and to vote "against" management proposals requesting to opt out of state takeover laws.

Rationale: Control share statutes, enacted at the state level, may harm long-term share value by entrenching management. They also unfairly deny certain shares their inherent voting rights.

### **E. Non-financial Effects of Takeover Bids**

Policy is to vote "against" shareholder proposals to require consideration of non-financial effects of merger or acquisition proposals.

Rationale: Non-financial effects may often be subjective and are secondary to AM's stated purpose of acting in its client's best economic interest.

## **VI. Mergers & Acquisitions**

Evaluation of mergers, acquisitions and other special corporate transactions (i.e., takeovers, spin-offs, sales of assets, reorganizations, restructurings and recapitalizations) are performed on a case-by-case basis incorporating information from an independent proxy research source (currently ISS.) Additional resources including portfolio management and research analysts may be considered as set forth in AM's Policies and Procedures.

## **VII. Social, Environmental & Political Issues**

Social and environmental issues are becoming increasingly important to corporate success. We incorporate social and environmental considerations into both our investment decisions and our proxy voting decisions – particularly if the financial performance of the company could be impacted.

With increasing frequency, shareholder proposals are submitted relating to social and political responsibility issues. Almost universally, the company management will recommend a vote "against" these proposals. These types of proposals cover an extremely wide range of issues. Many of the issues tend to be controversial and are subject to more than one reasonable, yet opposing, theory of support. More so than with other types of proxy proposals, social and political responsibility issues may not have a connection to the economic and corporate governance principles

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

effecting shareholders' interests. AM's policy regarding social and political responsibility issues, as with any other issue, is designed to protect our client shareholders' economic interests.

Occasionally, a distinction is made between a shareholder proposal requesting direct action on behalf of the board and a request for a report on (or disclosure of) some information. In order to avoid unduly burdening any company with reporting requirements, AM's policy is to vote against shareholder proposals that demand additional disclosure or reporting than is required by the Securities and Exchange Commission unless it appears there is a legitimate issue and the company has not adequately addressed shareholders' concerns.

### **A. Labor & Human Rights**

AM policy is to vote "against" adopting global codes of conduct or workplace standards exceeding those mandated by law.

Rationale: Additional requirements beyond those mandated by law are deemed unnecessary and potentially burdensome to companies

### **B. Diversity & Equality**

1. AM policy is to vote "against" shareholder proposals to force equal employment opportunity, affirmative action or board diversity.

Rationale: Compliance with State and Federal legislation along with information made available through filings with the EEOC provides sufficient assurance that companies act responsibly and make information public.

2. AM policy is also to vote "against" proposals to adopt the Mac Bride Principles. The Mac Bride Principles promote fair employment, specifically regarding religious discrimination.

Rationale: Compliance with the Fair Employment Act of 1989 makes adoption of the Mac Bride Principles redundant. Their adoption could potentially lead to charges of reverse discrimination.

### **C. Health & Safety**

1. AM policy is to vote "against" adopting a pharmaceutical price restraint policy or reporting pricing policy changes.

Rationale: Pricing is an integral part of business for pharmaceutical companies and should not be dictated by shareholders (particularly pursuant to an arbitrary formula.) Disclosing pricing policies may also jeopardize a company's competitive position in the marketplace.

2. AM policy is to vote "against" shareholder proposals to control the use or labeling of and reporting on genetically engineered products.

Rationale: Additional requirements beyond those mandated by law are deemed unnecessary and potentially burdensome to companies.

### **D. Government/Military**

1. AM policy is to vote against shareholder proposals regarding the production or sale of military arms or nuclear or space-based weapons, including proposals seeking to dictate a company's interaction with a particular foreign country or agency.

Rationale: Generally, management is in a better position to determine what products or industries a company can and should participate in. Regulation of the production or distribution of military supplies is, or should be, a matter of government policy.

2. AM policy is to vote "against" shareholder proposals regarding political contributions and donations.

Rationale: The Board of Directors and Management, not shareholders, should evaluate and determine the recipients of any contributions made by the company.

3. AM policy is to vote "against" shareholder proposals regarding charitable contributions and donations.

Rationale: The Board of Directors and Management, not shareholders, should evaluate and determine the recipients of any contributions made by the company.

### **E. Tobacco**

1. AM policy is to vote "against" shareholder proposals requesting additional standards or reporting requirements for tobacco companies as well as "against" requesting companies to report on the intentional manipulation of nicotine content.

Rationale: Where a tobacco company's actions meet the requirements of legal and industry standards, imposing additional burdens may detrimentally effect a company's ability to compete. The disclosure of nicotine content information could affect the company's rights in any pending or future litigation.

2. Shareholder requests to spin-off or restructure tobacco businesses will be opposed.

Rationale: These decisions are more appropriately left to the Board and management, and not to shareholder mandate.

**VIII. Environmental Issues**

AM policy is to follow management's recommended vote on CERES Principles or other similar environmental mandates (e.g., those relating to Greenhouse gas emissions or the use of nuclear power).

Rationale: Environmental issues are extensively regulated by outside agencies and compliance with additional requirements often involves significant cost to companies.

**IX. Miscellaneous Items**

**A. Ratification of Auditors**

AM policy is to vote "for" a) the management recommended selection of auditors and b) proposals to require shareholder approval of auditors.

Rationale: Absent evidence that auditors have not performed their duties adequately, support for management's nomination is warranted.

**B. Limitation of non-audit services provided by independent auditor**

AM policy is to support proposals limiting non-audit fees to 50% of the aggregate annual fees earned by the firm retained as a company's independent auditor.

Rationale: In the wake of financial reporting problems and alleged audit failures at a number of companies, AM supports the general principle that companies should retain separate firms for audit and consulting services to avoid potential conflicts of interest. However, given the protections afforded by the recently enacted Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (which requires Audit Committee pre-approval for non-audit services and prohibits auditors from providing specific types of services), and the fact that some non-audit services are legitimate audit-related services, complete separation of audit and consulting fees may not be warranted. A reasonable limitation is appropriate to help ensure auditor independence and it is reasonable to expect that audit fees exceed non-audit fees.

**C. Audit firm rotation**

AM policy is to support proposals seeking audit firm rotation unless the rotation period sought is less than five years.

Rationale: While the Sarbanes-Oxley Act mandates that the lead audit partner be switched every five years, AM believes that rotation of the actual audit firm would provide an even stronger system of checks and balances on the audit function.

**D. Transaction of Other Business**

AM policy is to vote against "transaction of other business" proposals.

Rationale: This is a routine item to allow shareholders to raise other issues and discuss them at the meeting. As the nature of these issues may not be disclosed prior to the meeting, we recommend a vote against these proposals. This protects shareholders voting by proxy (and not physically present at a meeting) from having action taken at the meeting that they did not receive proper notification of or sufficient opportunity to consider.

**E. Motions to Adjourn the Meeting**

AM Policy is to vote against proposals to adjourn the meeting.

Rationale: Management may seek authority to adjourn the meeting if a favorable outcome is not secured. Shareholders should already have had enough information to make a decision. Once votes have been cast, there is no justification for management to continue spending time and money to press shareholders for support.

**F. Bundled Proposals**

AM policy is to vote against bundled proposals if any bundled issue would require a vote against it if proposed individually.

Rationale: Shareholders should not be forced to "take the good with the bad" in cases where the proposals could reasonably have been submitted separately.

**G. Change of Company Name**

## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

AM policy is to support management on proposals to change the company name.

Rationale: This is generally considered a business decision for a company.

### **H. Proposals Related to the Annual Meeting**

AM Policy is to vote in favor of management for proposals related to the conduct of the annual meeting (meeting time, place, etc.)

Rationale: These are considered routine administrative proposals.

### **I. Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred from Candidate Nomination**

AM policy is to follow management's recommended vote on shareholder proposals related to the amending of company bylaws to provide for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in connection with nominating one or more candidates in a contested election of directors to the corporation's board of directors.

Rationale: Corporations should not be liable for costs associated with shareholder proposals for directors.

### **J. Investment Company Proxies**

Proxies solicited by investment companies are voted in accordance with the recommendations of an independent third party, currently ISS. However, regarding investment companies for which AM or an affiliate serves as investment adviser or principal underwriter, such proxies are voted in the same proportion as the vote of all other shareholders. Proxies solicited by master funds from feeder funds will be voted in accordance with applicable provisions of Section 12 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Investment companies, particularly closed-end investment companies, are different from traditional operating companies. These differences may call for differences in voting positions on the same matter. For example, AM could vote "for" staggered boards of closed-end investment companies, although AM generally votes "against" staggered boards for operating companies. Further, the manner in which AM votes investment company proxies may differ from proposals for which a AM-advised investment company solicits proxies from its shareholders. As reflected in the Guidelines, proxies solicited by closed-end (and open-end) investment companies are voted in accordance with the pre-determined guidelines of an independent third-party.

Subject to participation agreements with certain Exchange Traded Funds ("ETF") issuers that have received exemptive orders from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission allowing investing DWS funds to exceed the limits set forth

in Section 12(d)(1)(A) and (B) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, DeAM will echo vote proxies for ETFs in which Deutsche Bank holds more than 25% of outstanding voting shares globally when required to do so by participation agreements and SEC orders.

Note: With respect to the QP Trust (not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940), the Fund is not required to engage in echo voting and the investment adviser will use these Guidelines, and may determine, with respect to the QP Trust, to vote contrary to the positions in the Guidelines, consistent with the Fund's best interest.

### **K. International Proxy Voting**

The above guidelines pertain to issuers organized in the United States, Canada and Germany. Proxies solicited by other issuers are voted in accordance with international guidelines or the recommendation of ISS and in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

**IMPORTANT:** The information contained herein is the property of Deutsche Bank Group and may not be copied, used or disclosed in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, reprographic, recording or otherwise) without the prior written permission of Deutsche Bank Group.

**ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

**Portfolio Manager Team Disclosure**

The Fund is managed by a Team of investment professionals who collaborate to implement the Fund's investment strategy. The Team is led by a Lead Portfolio Manager who is responsible for developing the Fund's investment strategy. Each Portfolio Manager on the team has authority over all aspects of the Fund's investment portfolio, including but not limited to, purchases and sales of individual securities, portfolio construction techniques, portfolio risk assessment, and the management of daily cash flows in accordance with portfolio holdings.

The following individuals handle the day-to-day management of the Fund.

Philip G. Condon, Managing Director of Deutsche Asset Management and Lead Portfolio Manager of the Fund.

- Joined Deutsche Asset Management in 1983 and the Fund team in 1998.
- Over 31 years of investment industry experience.
- BA and MBA, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Rebecca Flinn, Director of Deutsche Asset Management and Portfolio Manager of the Fund.

- Joined Deutsche Asset Management in 1986 and the Fund in 1998.
- Over 22 years of investment industry experience.
- BA, University of Redlands, California

**Compensation of Portfolio Managers**

Portfolio managers are eligible for total compensation comprised of base salary and discretionary incentive compensation.

**Base Salary** – Base salary generally represents a smaller percentage of portfolio managers' total compensation than discretionary incentive compensation. Base salary is linked to job function, responsibilities and financial services industry peer comparison through the use of extensive market data surveys.

**Discretionary Incentive Compensation** –Generally,discretionary incentive compensation comprises a greater proportion of total compensation as a portfolio manager’s seniority and compensation levels increase. Discretionary incentive compensation is determined based on an analysis of a number of factors, including among other things, the performance of Deutsche Bank, the performance of the Asset Management division, and the employee’s individual contribution. In evaluating individual contribution, management will consider a combination of quantitative and qualitative factors. A portion of the portfolio manager’s discretionary incentive compensation may be delivered in long-term equity programs (usually in the form of Deutsche Bank equity) (the “Equity Plan”). Top performing portfolio managers may earn discretionary incentive compensation that is a multiple of their base salary.

- The quantitative analysis of a portfolio manager’s individual performance is based on, among other factors, performance of all of the accounts managed by the portfolio manager (which includes the fund and any other accounts managed by the portfolio manager) over a one-, three-, and five-year period relative to the appropriate Morningstar and Lipper peer group universes and/or benchmark index(es) with respect to each account. Additionally, the portfolio manager’s retail/institutional asset mix is weighted, as appropriate for evaluation purposes. Generally the benchmark index used is a benchmark index set forth in the fund's prospectus to which the fund's performance is compared. Additional or different appropriate peer group or benchmark indices may also be used. Primary weight is given to pre-tax portfolio performance over three-year and five-year time periods (adjusted as appropriate if the portfolio manager has served for less than five years) with lesser consideration given to portfolio performance over a one-year period. The increase or decrease in a fund’s assets due to the purchase or sale of fund shares is not considered a material factor.
- The qualitative analysis of a portfolio manager’s individual performance is based on, among other things, the results of an annual management and internal peer review process, and management's assessment of overall portfolio manager contributions to investor relations, the investment process and overall performance (distinct from fund and other account performance). Other factors, including contributions made to the investment team, as well as adherence to Compliance Policies and Procedures, Risk Management procedures, the firm’s Code of Ethics and “living the values” of the Advisor are also factors.

The quantitative analysis of a portfolio manager’s performance is given more weight in determining discretionary incentive compensation than the qualitative portion.

Certain portfolio managers may also participate in the Equity Plan. The amount of equity awarded under the long-term equity programs is generally based on the individual’s total compensation package and may comprise from 0% to 30% of the total compensation award. As discretionary incentive compensation increases, the percentage of compensation awarded in Deutsche Bank equity also increases. Portfolio managers may receive a portion of their equity compensation in the form of shares in the proprietary mutual funds that they manage or support.

#### **Fund Ownership of Portfolio Managers**

The following table shows the dollar range of shares owned beneficially and of record by each member of the Fund’s portfolio management team in the Fund as well as in all DWS Funds as a group (i.e. those funds advised by Deutsche Asset Management or its affiliates), including investments by their immediate family members sharing the same household and amounts invested through retirement and deferred compensation plans. This information is provided as of the Fund’s most recent fiscal year end.

<b>Name of Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of</b>	<b>Dollar Range of All DWS Fund Shares</b>
	<b>Fund Shares Owned</b>	<b>Owned</b>
	\$100,001 - \$500,000	Over \$1,000,000

# Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Philip G. Condon

Rebecca Flinn - \$100,001 - \$500,000

## Conflicts of Interest

In addition to managing the assets of the Fund, the Fund's portfolio managers may have responsibility for managing other client accounts of the Advisor or its affiliates. The tables below show, for each portfolio manager, the number and asset size of (1) SEC registered investment companies (or series thereof) other than the Fund, (2) pooled investment vehicles that are not registered investment companies and (3) other accounts (e.g., accounts managed for individuals or organizations) managed by each portfolio manager. Total assets attributed to each portfolio manager in the tables below include total assets of each account managed by them, although the manager may only manage a portion of such account's assets. The tables also show the number of performance based fee accounts, as well as the total assets of the accounts for which the advisory fee is based on the performance of the account. This information is provided as of the Fund's most recent fiscal year end.

### Other SEC Registered Investment Companies Managed:

Name of Portfolio Manager	Number of Registered Investment Companies	Total Assets of Registered Investment Companies	Number of Investment Company Accounts with Performance Based Fee	Total Assets of Performance- Based Fee Accounts
Philip G. Condon	8	\$7,137,942,354	None	-
Rebecca Flinn	2	\$1,231,409,201	None	-

### Other Pooled Investment Vehicles Managed:

Name of Portfolio Manager	Number of Pooled Investment Vehicles	Total Assets of Pooled Investment Vehicles	Number of Pooled Investment Vehicle Accounts with Performance-Based Fee	Total Assets of Performance- Based Fee Accounts
Philip G. Condon	1	\$1,349,539	None	-
Rebecca Flinn	None	-	None	-

**Other Accounts Managed:**

<b>Name of Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Number of Other Accounts</b>	<b>Total Assets of Other Accounts</b>	<b>Number of Other Accounts with Performance- Based Fee</b>	<b>Total Assets of Performance- Based Fee Accounts</b>
Philip G. Condon	None	-	None	-
Rebecca Flinn	None	-	None	-

In addition to the accounts above, an investment professional may manage accounts in a personal capacity that may include holdings that are similar to, or the same as, those of the Funds. The Advisor has in place a Code of Ethics that is designed to address conflicts of interest and that, among other things, imposes restrictions on the ability of portfolio managers and other “access persons” to invest in securities that may be recommended or traded in the Funds and other client accounts.

Real, potential or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has day-to-day portfolio management responsibilities with respect to more than one fund or account, including the following:

- Certain investments may be appropriate for the Fund and also for other clients advised by the Advisor, including other client accounts managed by the Fund’s portfolio management team. Investment decisions for the Fund and other clients are made with a view to achieving their respective investment objectives and after consideration of such factors as their current holdings, availability of cash for investment and the size of their investments generally. A particular security may be bought or sold for only one client or in different amounts and at different times for more than one but less than all clients. Likewise, because clients of the Advisor may have differing investment strategies, a particular security may be bought for one or more clients when one or more other clients are selling the security. The investment results achieved for the Fund may differ from the results achieved for other clients of the Advisor. In addition, purchases or sales of the same security may be made for two or more clients on the same day. In such event, such transactions will be allocated among the clients in a manner believed by the Advisor to be most equitable to each client, generally utilizing a pro rata allocation methodology. In some cases, the allocation procedure could potentially have an adverse effect or positive effect on the price or amount of the securities purchased or sold by the Fund. Purchase and sale orders for the Fund may be combined with those of other clients of the Advisor in the interest of achieving the most favorable net results to the Fund and the other clients.
- To the extent that a portfolio manager has responsibilities for managing multiple client accounts, a portfolio manager will need to divide time and attention among relevant accounts. The Advisor attempts to minimize these conflicts by aligning its portfolio management teams by investment strategy and by employing similar investment models across multiple client accounts.
- In some cases, an apparent conflict may arise where the Advisor has an incentive, such as a performance-based fee, in managing one account and not with respect to other accounts it manages. The Advisor will not determine allocations based on whether it receives a performance-based fee from the client. Additionally, the Advisor has in place supervisory oversight processes to periodically monitor performance deviations for accounts with like strategies.
- The Advisor and its affiliates and the investment team of the Funds may manage other mutual funds and separate accounts on a long-short basis. The simultaneous management of long and short portfolios creates potential conflicts of interest including the risk that short sale



## Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

activity could adversely affect the market value of the long positions (and vice versa), the risk arising from sequential orders in long and short positions, and the risks associated with receiving opposing orders at the same time. The Advisor has adopted procedures that it believes are reasonably designed to mitigate these potential conflicts of interest. Included in these procedures are specific guidelines developed to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all clients whose accounts are managed by each

Fund's portfolio management team. The Advisor and the portfolio management team have established monitoring procedures, a protocol for supervisory reviews, as well as compliance oversight to ensure that potential conflicts of interest relating to this type of activity are properly addressed.

The Advisor is owned by Deutsche Bank AG, a multi-national financial services company. Therefore, the Advisor is affiliated with a variety of entities that provide and/or engage in commercial banking, insurance, brokerage, investment banking, financial advisory, broker-dealer activities (including sales and trading), hedge funds, real estate and private equity investing, in addition to the provision of investment management services to institutional and individual investors. Since Deutsche Bank AG, its affiliates, directors, officers and employees (the "Firm") are engaged in businesses and have interests other than managing asset management accounts, such other activities involve real, potential or apparent conflicts of interest. These interests and activities include potential advisory, transactional and financial activities and other interests in securities and companies that may be directly or indirectly purchased or sold by the Firm for its clients' advisory accounts. These are considerations of which advisory clients should be aware and which may cause conflicts that could be to the disadvantage of the Advisor's advisory clients. The Advisor has instituted business and compliance policies, procedures and disclosures that are designed to identify, monitor and mitigate conflicts of interest and, as appropriate, to report them to the Fund's Board.

### ITEM 9. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid per Share	(c)	(d)
			Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
December 1 through December 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 1 through January 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 1 through February 28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
March 1 through March 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
April 1 through April 30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
May 1 through May 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
June 1 through June 30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
July 1 through July 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
August 1 through August 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
September 1 through September 30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
October 1 through October 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
November 1 through November 30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----

**ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

The primary function of the Nominating and Governance Committee is to identify and recommend individuals for membership on the Board and oversee the administration of the Board Governance Guidelines. Shareholders may recommend candidates for Board positions by forwarding their correspondence by U.S. mail or courier service to Chairman of the Board, P.O. Box 100176, Cape Coral, FL 33910.

**ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

(a) The Chief Executive and Financial Officers concluded that the Registrant's Disclosure Controls and Procedures are effective based on the evaluation of the Disclosure Controls and Procedures as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report.

(b) There have been no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal controls over financial reporting.

**ITEM 12. EXHIBITS**

(a)(1) Code of Ethics pursuant to Item 2 of Form N-CSR is filed and attached hereto as EX-99.CODE ETH.

(a)(2) Certification pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30a-2(a)) is filed and attached hereto as Exhibit 99.CERT.

(b) Certification pursuant to Rule 30a-2(b) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30a-2(b)) is furnished and attached hereto as Exhibit 99.906CERT.

# Edgar Filing: DWS STRATEGIC MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Form N-CSR Item F

## SIGNATURES

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

Registrant: DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust

By: /s/Michael G. Clark  
Michael G. Clark

President

Date: January 28, 2009

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

Registrant: DWS Strategic Municipal Income Trust

By: /s/Michael G. Clark  
Michael G. Clark

President

Date: January 28, 2009

By: /s/Paul Schubert  
Paul Schubert

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Date: January 28, 2009

