Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc. Form N-CSRS
July 24, 2017
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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED

MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-22265

Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor, New York, NY 10018

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

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Robert I. Frenkel, Esq.

Legg Mason & Co., LLC

100 First Stamford Place

Stamford, CT 06902

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (888) 777-0102

Date of fiscal year end: November 30

Date of reporting period: May 31, 2017

ITEM 1. REPORT TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The **Semi-Annual** Report to Stockholders is filed herewith.

Semi-Annual Report

May 31, 2017

WESTERN ASSET

MUNICIPAL DEFINED OPPORTUNITY TRUST INC. (MTT)

INVESTMENT PRODUCTS: NOT FDIC INSURED NO BANK GUARANTEE MAY LOSE VALUE

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Fund objectives

The Fund s primary investment objective is to provide high current income exempt from federal income tax* and then to liquidate on or about April 30, 2021 and distribute all of the Fund s net assets to shareholders. As a secondary investment objective, the Fund will seek total return. There can be no assurance the Fund s investment objectives will be achieved.

As a fundamental policy, the Fund seeks to achieve its primary investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its net assets in investment grade municipal securities, the interest on which is exempt from federal income tax.

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^{*}Certain investors may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax (AMT), and state and local taxes will apply. Capital gains, if any, are fully taxable. Please consult your personal tax or legal adviser.

Letter from the chairman

Dear Shareholder.

We are pleased to provide the semi-annual report of Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc. for the six-month reporting period ended May 31, 2017. Please read on for Fund performance information and a detailed look at prevailing economic and market conditions during the Fund s reporting period.

As always, we remain committed to providing you with excellent service and a full spectrum of investment choices. We also remain committed to supplementing the support you receive from your financial advisor. One way we accomplish this is through our website, www.lmcef.com. Here you can gain immediate access to market and investment information, including:

Fund prices and performance,

Market insights and commentaries from our portfolio managers, and

A host of educational resources.

We look forward to helping you meet your financial goals.

Sincerely,

Jane Trust, CFA

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

June 30, 2017

Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc.

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Investment commentary

Economic review

The pace of U.S. economic activity fluctuated during the six months ended May 31, 2017 (the reporting period). Looking back, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that third quarter 2016 U.S. gross domestic product (GDP growth was 3.5%, the strongest reading in two years. However, fourth quarter 2016 GDP growth then moderated to 2.1%. Finally, the U.S. Department of Commerce s final reading for first quarter 2017 GDP growth released after the reporting period ended was 1.4%. The deceleration in growth reflected downturns in private inventory investment and personal consumption expenditures, along with more modest state and local government spending.

Job growth in the U.S. was solid overall and a tailwind for the economy during the reporting period. When the reporting period ended on May 31, 2017, the unemployment rate was 4.3%, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor. This was the lowest unemployment rate since May 2001. The percentage of longer-term unemployed moderately declined over the period. In May 2017, 24.0% of Americans looking for a job had been out of work for more than six months, versus 24.2% when the period began.

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Market review

Q. How did the Federal Reserve Board (the Fedi respond to the economic environment?

A. Looking back, after an extended period of maintaining the federal funds rateⁱⁱⁱ at a historically low range between zero and 0.25%, the Fed increased the rate at its meeting on December 16, 2015. This marked the first rate hike since 2006. In particular, the U.S. central bank raised the federal funds rate to a range between 0.25% and 0.50%. The Fed then kept rates on hold at each meeting prior to its meeting in mid-December 2016. On December 14, 2016, the Fed raised rates to a range between 0.50% and 0.75%.

After holding rates steady at its meeting that concluded on February 1, 2017, the Fed raised rates to a range between 0.75% and 1.00% at its meeting that ended on March 15, 2017. Finally, at its meeting that concluded on June 14, 2017 after the reporting period ended the Fed raised rates to a range between 1.00% and 1.25%. The Fed also said that it planned to reduce its balance sheet, saying, The Committee is maintaining its existing policy of reinvesting principal payments from its holdings of agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities in agency mortgage-backed securities and of rolling over maturing Treasury securities at auction. The Committee currently expects to begin implementing a balance sheet normalization program this year, provided that the economy evolves broadly as anticipated.

Q. Did Treasury yields trend higher or lower during the reporting period?

A. Treasury yields moved sharply higher after the November 2016 U.S. presidential elections given expectations for improving growth and higher inflation. While they subsequently fell from their peak in mid-March 2017, all told short-term Treasury yields moved higher during the six months ended May 31, 2017. In contrast, long-term Treasury yields edged lower over the reporting period as a whole. Two-year Treasury yields began the reporting period at 1.11% and ended the period at 1.28%. Their low for the period of 1.10% occurred on December 7, 2016, and their peak of 1.40% took place on March 13 and March 14, 2017. Ten-year Treasury yields began the reporting period at 2.37% and ended the period at 2.21%. Their low of 2.18% occurred on April 18, 2017, and their peak of 2.62% occurred on March 13, 2017.

Q. How did the municipal bond market perform versus the taxable bond market over the reporting period?

A. The municipal bond market outperformed its taxable bond counterpart during the reporting period. For the six months ended May 31, 2017, the Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index^{iv} and the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index^v returned 5.16% and 2.52%, respectively. The municipal market posted positive returns during all six months of the reporting period. This was driven by overall solid fundamentals and generally positive investor demand.

Performance review

For the six months ended May 31, 2017, Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc. returned 2.76% based on its net asset value (NAV^i and 5.08% based on its New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) market price per share. The Fund s unmanaged benchmark, the Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index, returned 5.16%

Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc.

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Investment commentary (cont d)

for the same period. The Lipper General and Insured Municipal Debt (Unleveraged) Closed-End Funds Category Average^{vii} returned 4.39% over the same time frame. Please note that Lipper performance returns are based on each fund s NAV.

Certain investors may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax, and state and local taxes will apply. Capital gains, if any, are fully taxable. Please consult your personal tax or legal adviser.

During this six-month period, the Fund made distributions to shareholders totaling \$0.58 per share. As of May 31, 2017, the Fund estimates that all of the distributions were sourced from net investment income.* The performance table shows the Fund s six-month total return based on its NAV and market price as of May 31, 2017. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Performance Snapshot as of May 31, 2017 (unaudited)

6-Month
Price Per Share
\$21.53 (NAV)
\$2.58 (Market Price)
\$5.08%

All figures represent past performance and are not a guarantee of future results. Performance figures for periods shorter than one year represent cumulative figures and are not annualized.

** Total returns are based on changes in NAV or market price, respectively. Returns reflect the deduction of all Fund expenses, including management fees, operating expenses, and other Fund expenses. Returns do not reflect the deduction of brokerage commissions or taxes that investors may pay on distributions or the sale of shares.

Total return assumes the reinvestment of all distributions, including returns of capital, if any, at NAV.

Total return assumes the reinvestment of all distributions, including returns of capital, if any, in additional shares in accordance with the Fund s Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

Looking for additional information?

The Fund is traded under the symbol MTT and its closing market price is available in most newspapers under the NYSE listings. The daily NAV is available on-line under the symbol XMTTX on most financial websites. Barron s and the Wall Street Journal s Monday edition both carry closed-end fund tables that provide additional information. In addition, the Fund issues a quarterly press release that can be found on most major financial websites as well as www.lmcef.com (click on the name of the Fund).

In a continuing effort to provide information concerning the Fund, shareholders may call 1-888-777-0102 (toll free), Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time, for the Fund s current NAV, market price and other information.

Thank you for your investment in Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc. As always, we appreciate that you have

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^{*}These estimates are not for tax purposes. The Fund will issue a Form 1099 with final composition of the distributions for tax purposes after year-end. A return of capital is not taxable and results in a reduction in the tax basis of a shareholder s investment. For more information about a distribution s composition, please refer to the Fund s distribution press release or, if applicable, the Section 19 notice located in the press release section of our website, www.lmcef.com (click on the name of the Fund).

chosen us to manage your assets and we remain focused on achieving the Fund s investment goals.

Sincerely,

Jane Trust, CFA

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

June 30, 2017

RISKS: The Fund is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company designed primarily as a long-term investment and not as a trading vehicle. The Fund is not intended to be a complete investment program and, due to the uncertainty inherent in all investments, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund s common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Similar to stocks, the Fund's share price will fluctuate with market conditions and, at the time of sale, may be worth more or less than the original investment. Shares of closed-end funds often trade at a discount to their net asset value. Because the Fund is non-diversified, it may be more susceptible to economic, political or regulatory events than a diversified fund. The Fund s investments are subject to a number of risks such as credit risk, inflation risk and interest rate risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall, reducing the value of the fixed-income securities held by the Fund. The Fund may invest in lower-rated high-yield bonds, known as junk bonds, which are subject to greater liquidity and credit risk (risk of default) than higher-rated obligations. Municipal securities purchased by the Fund may be adversely affected by changes in the financial condition of municipal issuers and insurers, regulatory and political developments, uncertainties and public perceptions, and other factors. The Fund may use derivatives, such as options and futures, which can be illiquid, may disproportionately increase losses, and have a potentially large impact on Fund performance. Investing in securities issued by other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that invest primarily in municipal securities, involves risks similar to those of investing directly in the securities in which those investment companies invest. To the extent the Fund invests in securities of other investment companies, Fund stock holders will indirectly pay a portion of the operating costs of such companies, in addition to the expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operation. The Fund may invest up to 10% of its assets in securities that have the economic effects of leverage which can increase the risk and volatility of the Fund.

All investments are subject to risk including the possible loss of principal. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All index performance reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes. Please note that an investor cannot invest directly in an index.

The information provided is not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results or investment advice. Views expressed may differ from those of the firm as a whole.

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Investment commentary (cont d)

- i Gross domestic product (GDP) is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.
- ii The Federal Reserve Board (the Fed) is responsible for the formulation of U.S. policies designed to promote economic growth, full employment, stable prices and a sustainable pattern of international trade and payments.
- iii The federal funds rate is the rate charged by one depository institution on an overnight sale of immediately available funds (balances at the Federal Reserve) to another depository institution; the rate may vary from depository institution to depository institution and from day to day.
- iv The Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index is a market value weighted index of investment grade municipal bonds with maturities of one year or more.
- Y The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index is a broad-based bond index comprised of government, corporate, mortgage- and asset-backed issues, rated investment grade or higher, and having at least one year to maturity.
- vi Net asset value (NAV) is calculated by subtracting total liabilities, including liabilities associated with financial leverage (if any), from the closing value of all securities held by the Fund (plus all other assets) and dividing the result (total net assets) by the total number of the common shares outstanding. The NAV fluctuates with changes in the market prices of securities in which the Fund has invested. However, the price at which an investor may buy or sell shares of the Fund is the Fund is market price as determined by supply of and demand for the Fund is shares.
- vii Lipper, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reuters, provides independent insight on global collective investments. Returns are based on the six-month period ended May 31, 2017, including the reinvestment of all distributions, including returns of capital, if any, calculated among the 4 funds in the Fund s Lipper category.

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Fund at a glance (unaudited)

Investment breakdown (%) as a percent of total investments

The bar graph above represents the composition of the Fund s investments as of May 31, 2017 and November 30, 2016 and does not include derivatives such as futures contracts. The Fund is actively managed. As a result, the composition of the Fund s investments is subject to change at anytime.

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Spread duration (unaudited)

Economic exposure May 31, 2017

Total Spread Duration

MTT 3.93 years Benchmark 5.96 years

Spread duration measures the sensitivity to changes in spreads. The spread over Treasuries is the annual risk-premium demanded by investors to hold non-Treasury securities. Spread duration is quantified as the % change in price resulting from a 100 basis points change in spreads. For a security with positive spread duration, an increase in spreads would result in a price decline and a decline in spreads would result in a price increase. This chart highlights the market sector exposure of the Fund s portfolio and the exposure relative to the selected benchmark as of the end of the reporting period.

Benchmark Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index

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Effective duration (unaudited)

Interest rate exposure May 31, 2017

Total Effective Duration

MTT 4.33 years Benchmark 6.10 years

Effective duration measures the sensitivity to changes in relevant interest rates. Effective duration is quantified as the % change in price resulting from a 100 basis points change in interest rates. For a security with positive effective duration, an increase in interest rates would result in a price decline and a decline in interest rates would result in a price increase. This chart highlights the interest rate exposure of the Fund s sectors relative to the selected benchmark sectors as of the end of the reporting period.

Benchmark Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index

MTT Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc.

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Schedule of investments (unaudited)

May 31, 2017

Western Asset Municipal Defined Opportunity Trust Inc.

		Maturity	Face	
Security	Rate	Date	Amount	Value
Municipal Bonds 99.2%				
Alabama 2.9%				
Jefferson County, AL, Sewer Revenue, Convertible CAB, Subordinated Lien	0.000%	10/1/50	\$ 9,470,000	\$ 7,537,552 (a)
Arizona 3.4%				
Navajo Nation, AZ, Revenue	5.000%	12/1/25	350,000	381,822 (b)
Salt Verde, AZ, Financial Corp. Senior Gas Revenue	5.000%	12/1/32	7,110,000	8,509,106
Total Arizona				8,890,928
California 3.9%				
California State Health Facilities Financing Authority Revenue, Kaiser Permanente	4.000%	11/1/38	200,000	209,186
California State PCFA, Water Furnishing Revenue	5.000%	11/21/45	3,500,000	3,745,315 (b)(c)
California Statewide CDA, Student Housing Revenue, Provident Group-Pomona				
Properties LLC	5.600%	1/15/36	790,000	858,722
Lower Tule River, CA, Irrigation District Revenue, COP	5.000%	8/1/40	1,000,000	1,088,710
M-S-R Energy Authority, CA, Gas Revenue	6.125%	11/1/29	2,000,000	2,580,760
River Islands, CA, Public Financing Authority Special Tax, Community Facilities				
District No. 2003-1	5.000%	9/1/27	740,000	781,448
University of California, CA, Revenue	4.000%	5/15/46	1,000,000	1,049,860
Total California				10,314,001
Colorado 4.4%				
Base Village Metropolitan District #2 Co., GO	5.750%	12/1/46	500,000	512,825
Colorado State Health Facilities Authority Revenue, Adventist Health System/Sunbelt				
Obligated Group	5.000%	11/15/23	3,000,000	3,573,600 (a)(d)
Public Authority for Colorado Energy, Natural Gas Purchase Revenue	6.125%	11/15/23	6,000,000	7,395,540
Total Colorado				11,481,965
Florida 3.1%				
Citizens Property Insurance Corp., FL, Revenue, Senior Secured, High Act	6.000%	6/1/17	5,900,000	5,900,000
Florida State Development Finance Corp., Senior Living Revenue:				
Tuscan Isle Champions Gate Project	5.625%	6/1/26	275,000	273,754 (b)
Tuscan Isle Champions Gate Project	6.000%	6/1/30	150,000	148,799 (b)
Florida State Municipal Power Agency Revenue, All Requirements Power	6.250%	10/1/31	1,000,000	1,120,440 (e)
Miami-Dade County, FL, Health Facilities Authority Hospital Revenue, Nicklaus				
Children s Hospital	5.000%	8/1/42	350,000	398,058