

Neuberger Municipal Intermediate Bond Fund

TICKER: Institutional Class: NMNLX, Class A: NMNAX, Class C: NMNCX, Investor Class: NMUIX

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Performance Highlights

The Municipal Intermediate Fund posted a positive return (Inst., "A", net of fees) in the first quarter of 2026 and outperformed the benchmark.

Market Environment

Fixed Income Performance

In March, U.S. and global investment grade (IG) fixed income delivered negative total returns of -1.76% and -1.78%, respectively, as measured by the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (USD hedged), respectively. For 1Q 2026, the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (USD hedged) returned -0.05% and -0.15%, respectively, as gains in January and February partially offset the sharp March selloff. Risk assets mostly declined in March and the first quarter (with a few exceptions in the month and quarter) as sovereign yields rose materially across major markets, credit spreads widened and investor demand for spread sectors softened amid heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, global policy uncertainty and a more cautious risk backdrop.

Quarter

U.S. government yields moved broadly higher across the curve in the first quarter of 2026. The 2-year yield increased by 32 basis points (bps) to 3.80%, while the 5-year yield rose by 21 bps to 3.94%. The 10-year yield climbed by 15 bps to 4.32%, and the 30-year yield edged up by 6 bps to 4.91%. The 10-year TIPS yield moved higher by 7 bps, closing the quarter at 2.00%. The Federal Reserve (the Fed) held its target rate steady at 3.75–3.50% over the period. We believe these shifts reflect ongoing adjustments to expectations regarding inflation, economic growth, and the fiscal outlook.

Credit Markets and Spreads

In March, most fixed income spread sectors widened, with Senior Floating Rate Loans being the lone exception, tightening modestly. Over the first quarter, spread widening was broad-based and more pronounced, with only U.S. Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities tightening over the period. We believe these moves reflected elevated uncertainty around the geopolitical situation in the Middle East, trade policy and the global growth outlook, which weighed on risk sentiment and outweighed still-supportive credit fundamentals across many sectors. Defensive positioning and supply/demand dynamics continued to influence spread behavior, while market focus on asset quality and macro sensitivity persisted.

Overall, demand for fixed income turned more cautious through March, as investors adopted a more defensive posture amid broad-

based spread widening, trade policy uncertainty, and concerns over the global growth outlook. While underlying support from elevated yields and resilient corporate fundamentals persisted, risk sentiment weighed on appetite across higher-beta sectors.

U.S. Economy

- Nonfarm payrolls for February declined by 92k, versus expectations for a gain of roughly 55k, reflecting a notable slowdown in labor market momentum. The unemployment rate held at 4.4%, modestly higher than expectations and levels seen earlier in 2025.
- Average hourly earnings rose 0.4% MoM in February, above consensus expectations of 0.3%, with wages up 3.8% YoY, indicating that wage pressures remain present despite weaker job growth.
- U.S. headline CPI for February was 2.4% YoY, while core CPI was 2.5% YoY, both unchanged from January and in line with consensus expectations, suggesting inflation has stabilized modestly above the Fed's 2% target.
- Retail sales rose 0.6% in February, above consensus of roughly 0.5% and better than January's slight decline of -0.2%. Retail sales are up 3.7% versus a year ago. Sales excluding autos increased 0.5%, also exceeding expectations, pointing to continued resilience in consumer spending.

U.S. economic activity appears to remain resilient, though recent data point to a softer labor market. Job growth has weakened, the unemployment rate remains a bit higher relative to earlier in the cycle, and wage growth, while still firm, in our view, has not fully dissipated. Inflation has stabilized near current levels, and consumer spending continues to grow at a moderate pace. Against this backdrop, markets appear to continue to anticipate additional Fed easing later in 2026 as policymakers balance labor market softening against inflation remaining modestly above target. That said, given the conflict in the Middle East and its implications, markets have scaled back expectations for the number of cuts in 2026.

Investment grade U.S. municipal bonds, as measured by the ICE BofA Municipal Securities Index, delivered a slightly negative return of -.18% during the first quarter. For the quarter, 1-3 year munis generated a return of .54% and the 3-7 year part of the curve

returned -.17%. Longer maturities, in the 22+ year range, slightly underperformed shorter bonds with a return of -.28%. The Bloomberg Taxable Municipal Index outperformed tax-exempts with a return of .43%. Per Bloomberg, total municipal issuance (tax-exempt only) for the quarter was \$138 billion or 11% higher than it was for the same quarter a year earlier. With regard to credit, BBB rated securities slightly outperformed AAA and AA rated bonds during the quarter. Revenue bonds outperformed general obligations during the quarter. Within the revenue bond sector, transportation and housing bonds outperformed while education related credits underperformed.

Portfolio Review

Neuberger Municipal Intermediate Bond Fund posted a positive return ("Inst., "A", net of fees) in the first quarter of 2026 and outperformed the benchmark. Security selection, curve positioning and sector allocation were all positive contributors to a strong quarter. The Fund's relative duration was an offset.

Outlook

We entered this year optimistic about the muni market's prospects. Despite nonstop news flow both domestically and internationally, the market got off to a solid start from a total return standpoint in January and February. All of that changed in March, when the military conflict with Iran began. Historically, when a war or geopolitical crisis starts, we have seen a flight-to-quality trade, and assets like U.S. Treasuries and high-quality municipal bonds perform well—but not this time. Given the location of the conflict and closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the impact on energy markets was profound.

Initially, the market developed a view that, with a sharp increase in oil prices, inflation would be front and center, and central banks would potentially have to tighten monetary policy. Before the war started, the market had expected the Fed to deliver 2.5 rate cuts in 2026. Shortly after, the market started pricing in the possibility of a rate hike. As a result, U.S. Treasuries sold off and munis, which were already trading at fuller valuations, underperformed in March. For the quarter, the investment grade municipals posted a slightly negative total return.

The bright side of a fixed income sell-off, however, is often higher yields and the potential for more income going forward. The yields on high-grade 10-year municipals increased by over 50 bps in March,¹ and they are higher than where they started the year. Municipal valuations relative to U.S. Treasuries have also improved. In addition, despite its smooth absorption by the market, supply has been heavy so far in 2026, and we expect that trend to continue. In our view, this combination of higher yields, better valuations and plentiful supply should represent a compelling entry point for the market.

From a positioning perspective, generally, we shifted to a more cautious duration view in the latter part of February, given lower absolute yields and fuller municipal valuations. More recently, we have favored extending portfolios and shifting duration positioning

back to neutral. With yields moving higher and supply abundant, we think this is a good time to bring duration a little "closer to home." All things equal, we see significant opportunities to buy quality, given the current level of yields and general tighter spreads (yields over Treasuries) for lower-rated investment-grade bonds. Finally, rates volatility may provide opportunities to execute tax-loss swaps; we will look to be proactive on that front when it makes economic sense.

¹Source: Bloomberg. Data as of March 31, 2026.

NEUBERGER MUNICIPAL INTERMEDIATE BOND FUND RETURNS (%)

	March 2026	1Q 2026	YTD	(ANNUALIZED AS OF 03/31/26)				
				1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
At NAV								
Institutional Class	-1.79	0.21	0.21	4.49	3.24	0.8	1.82	4.14
Class A	-1.83	0.12	0.12	4.11	2.86	0.43	1.44	3.98
Class C	-1.98	-0.16	-0.16	3.33	2.06	-0.34	0.67	3.66
Investor Class	-1.80	0.17	0.17	4.33	3.09	0.65	1.66	4.08
With Sales Charge								
Class A	-6.01	-4.13	-4.13	-0.30	1.40	-0.44	1.00	3.86
Class C	-2.96	-1.15	-1.15	2.33	2.06	-0.34	0.67	3.66
Bloomberg 7-Year G.O. Index	-2.55	-0.69	-0.69	4.28	2.30	0.85	1.92	4.78

Performance data quoted represent past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original costs. Results are shown on a "total return" basis and include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distributions. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For current performance data, including current to the most recent month end, please visit www.nb.com/performance.

The inception date of the Municipal Intermediate Bond Fund Class A, Class C and Institutional Class is 6/21/10. The inception date of the Investor Class is 7/9/87. Performance prior to the inception date of Class A, Class C and Institutional Class is that of the Investor Class adjusted to reflect applicable sales charges but not class-specific operating expenses. Average Annual Total Returns with sales charge reflect deduction of current maximum initial sales charge of 4.25% for Class A shares and applicable contingent deferred sales charges (CDSC) for Class C shares. The maximum CDSC for Class C shares is 1%, which is reduced to 0% after 1 year.

EXPENSE RATIOS (%)

	Gross Expense	Total (net) Expense
Institutional Class	0.48	0.30
Class A	0.89	0.67
Class C	1.68	1.42
Investor Class	0.68	0.45

Total (net) expense represents the total annual operating expenses that shareholders pay (after the effect of fee waivers and/or expense reimbursement). The Fund's investment manager has contractually undertaken to waive and/or reimburse certain fees and expenses of the Fund so that the total annual operating expenses are capped (excluding interest, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes including any expenses relating to tax reclaims, dividend and interest expenses relating to short sales, and extraordinary expenses; if any; consequently, total (net) expenses may exceed the contractual cap) through 10/31/2029 for Class A at 0.67%, Class C at 1.42%, Institutional Class at 0.30%; and Investor Class at 0.45% (each as a % of average net assets). Absent such arrangements, which cannot be changed without Board approval, the returns may have been lower. Information as of the most recent prospectuses dated 2/28/2026, as amended and supplemented.

An investor should consider Neuberger Municipal Intermediate Bond Fund's investment objectives, risks and fees and expenses carefully before investing. This and other important information can be found in the Fund's prospectus, and if available summary prospectus, which you can obtain by calling 877.628.2583. Please read the prospectus, and if available the summary prospectus, carefully before making an investment.

Shares in the Fund may fluctuate, sometimes significantly, based on interest rates, market conditions, credit quality and other factors. In a rising interest rate environment, the value of an income fund is likely to fall. Conversely, in a declining interest rate environment, the value of an income fund is likely to rise. The market's behavior is unpredictable and there can be no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its goal. The value of an individual security or particular type of security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole. Bonds are subject to the credit risk of the issuer. To the extent the Fund invests more heavily in particular sectors, its performance will be especially sensitive to developments that significantly affect those sectors. There can be no guarantee that the Portfolio Managers will be successful in their attempts to manage the risk exposure of the Fund or will appropriately evaluate or weigh the multiple factors involved in investment decisions, including issuer, market and/or instrument-specific analysis, valuation and financially material environmental, social and governance factors.

Lower rated debt securities (also known as "junk bonds") involve greater risks, may fluctuate more widely in price and yield, and carry a greater risk of default than investment-grade bonds. They may fall in price during times when the economy is weak or is expected to become weak. The municipal securities market could be significantly affected by adverse political and legislative changes, as well as uncertainties related to taxation or the rights of municipal security holders. Changes in the financial health of a municipality may make it difficult for it to pay interest and principal when due. In addition, changes in the financial condition of one or more individual municipal issuers or insurers of municipal issuers can affect the overall municipal securities market. To the extent that the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in the municipal securities of a particular state or U.S. territory or possession, there is greater risk that political, regulatory, economic or other developments within that jurisdiction may have a significant impact on the Fund's investment performance. Changes in market conditions may directly impact the liquidity and valuation of municipal securities, which may, in turn, adversely affect the yield and value of the Fund's municipal securities investments. An inability to sell a portfolio position can adversely affect the Fund's value or prevent the Fund from being able to take advantage of other investment opportunities. Unexpected episodes of illiquidity, including due to market factors, instrument or issuer-specific factors and/or unanticipated outflows, may limit the Fund's ability to pay redemption proceeds within the allowable time period. Some municipal securities, including those in the high yield market, may include transfer restrictions similar to restricted securities (e.g., may only be transferred to qualified institutional buyers and purchasers meeting other qualification requirements set by the issuer). As such, it may be difficult to sell municipal securities at a time when it may otherwise be desirable to do so or the Fund may be able to sell them only at prices that are less than what the Fund regards as their fair market value. Declines in real estate prices and general business activity may reduce the tax revenues of state and local governments. In recent periods an increasing number of municipal issuers have defaulted on obligations, been downgraded, or commenced insolvency proceedings. Financial difficulties of municipal issuers may continue or get worse. Because many municipal securities are issued to finance

similar types of projects, especially those related to education, health care, housing, transportation, and utilities, conditions in those sectors can affect the overall municipal securities market. Income from tax-free municipal bond funds may be subject to state and local taxation and the Alternative Minimum Tax. Municipal securities backed by current or anticipated revenues from a specific project or specific asset (so-called "private activity bonds") may be adversely impacted by declines in revenue from the project or asset. Declines in general business activity could affect the economic viability of facilities that are the sole source of revenue to support private activity bonds. To the extent that the Fund invests in private activity bonds, a part of its dividends may be an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax. Please see the Fund's prospectus for additional important information about taxation of municipal securities.

The **Bloomberg 7-Year General Obligation Index** is an unmanaged total return performance benchmark for the intermediate-term, 7-year, investment-grade General Obligations (State and Local) tax-exempt bond market. Please note that indices do not take into account any fees and expenses of investing in the individual securities that they track, and that individuals cannot invest directly in any index. Data about the performance of this index are prepared or obtained by Neuberger and include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distribution. The Fund may invest in many securities not included in the above-described index.

Performance quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Opinions expressed are as of the date herein and are subject to change without notice. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The material herein is based upon information that we consider reliable, but we do not represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such. This material is not intended to be a formal research report and should not be construed as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security.

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