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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JOHN HANCOCK TAX-ADVANTAGED GLOBAL SHAREHOLDER YIELD
FUND
ANNOUNCES RESULTS FROM
SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

BOSTON, MA (June 27, 2013) – John Hancock Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield Fund (NYSE: HTY) (the “Fund”), a closed-end fund advised by John Hancock Advisers, LLC, announced today that shareholders voted in favor of the proposal presented for shareholder approval at the special meeting held today.

At their special meeting of shareholders, shareholders of the Fund approved a new subadvisory agreement for the Fund with Epoch Investment Partners, Inc. (“Epoch”), which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund’s portfolio investments, other than the Fund’s options strategy. As previously announced, it was necessary to submit a new subadvisory agreement to shareholders for their approval as a result of an acquisition of Epoch’s parent company, Epoch Holding Corporation, by The Toronto Dominion Bank. The compensation payable to Epoch under the new subadvisory agreement is the same as under the prior subadvisory agreement.

Statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements as defined by the United States securities laws. You should exercise caution in interpreting and relying on forward-looking statements because they are subject to uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond the Fund’s control and could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

An investor should consider a Fund’s investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing.

About John Hancock Funds

The Boston-based mutual fund business unit of John Hancock Financial, John Hancock Funds, manages more than \$91 billion in open-end funds, closed-end funds, college savings assets, retirement plans and related party assets for individual and institutional investors at March 31, 2013.

About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial Corporation

John Hancock Financial is a division of Manulife Financial, a leading Canada-based financial services group with principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States, the Company offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were Cdn\$555 billion (US\$547 billion) at March 31, 2013.

Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at www.manulife.com.

The John Hancock unit, through its insurance companies, comprises one of the largest life insurers in the United States. John Hancock offers a broad range of financial products and services, including life insurance, annuities, fixed products, mutual funds, 401(k) plans, long-term care insurance, college savings, and other forms of business insurance. Additional information about John Hancock may be found at www.johnhancock.com.