# John Hancock Investment Management

# Please vote today

We need your input on an important proposal that affects your investment.



Online

www.proxyvotenow.com/jhbc

Phone 1-855-429-7135



Mail

by returning the enclosed proxy card(s)

A company of **III** Manulife Investment Management



August 6, 2021

# Please vote today.

Dear shareholder:

I am writing to ask you to approve a proposal that affects John Hancock Blue Chip Growth Fund. As a registered shareholder, you would be voting on behalf of the fund shares you own.

#### Approve greater flexibility in the fund's investment management

We are asking shareholders to approve an update of the fund's diversification status. We believe, based on our review of the fund's investment process, that the fund and its shareholders may benefit if the fund is operated as a "non-diversified" fund. Under the Securities Act of 1940, a fund must be classified as either diversified or non-diversified, where a diversified fund cannot invest more than 5% of its assets in any one security. Over the past few years, the fund's longtime management team has generally trended toward investing a larger percentage of the fund's assets in the securities of fewer companies. While a fund that holds fewer securities may experience more pronounced swings in performance, our review of the fund's investment process concluded that a change in status to non-diversified would give the fund's managers greater flexibility to pursue results for investors. We recommended this change to the fund's Trustees, and they agreed that a change in diversification status was in the best interests of shareholders.

#### How to vote

A special shareholder meeting to vote on this proposal has been scheduled for October 5, 2021. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be a virtual meeting held **via telephone only**.

#### Attending the meeting via telephone

To participate in the meeting, shareholders of the Fund must call 833-252-3690 no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 4, 2021 and provide your full name and address. You will then be provided with the conference call dial-in information to attend the shareholder meeting. Access to the meeting is limited to shareholders of the fund.

Please read the enclosed proxy statement, and vote your shares as described below. While you may attend the meeting by phone, **voting today** will save on the potential cost of future mailings required to obtain shareholder votes. You may vote your shares by proxy in one of three ways:

Online: www.proxyvotenow.com/jhbc

Phone: 855-429-7135

Mail: by returning the enclosed proxy card(s)

Sincerely,

/s/ Andrew G. Arnott

Andrew G. Arnott President and CEO John Hancock Investment Management Head of Wealth and Asset Management United States and Europe

#### JOHN HANCOCK BLUE CHIP GROWTH FUND a series of JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS II

#### 200 Berkeley Street Boston, Massachusetts 02116

# NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS To the shareholders of John Hancock Blue Chip Growth Fund (the "Fund") :

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of shareholders of the Fund will be held on **Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 2:00 P.M., Eastern Time** (the "Meeting"). In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Meeting will be a virtual meeting held **via telephone only**.

The Fund is sensitive to the health and travel concerns that shareholders may have and the protocols that federal, state, and local governments may impose at the time of the Meeting. Due to the difficulties arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the date, time, location or means of conducting the Meeting may change. In the event of such a change, the Fund will announce alternative arrangements for the Meeting as soon as possible. If there are any such changes to the Meeting, the Fund may not deliver additional soliciting materials to shareholders or otherwise amend the Fund's proxy materials. Instead, the Fund plans to announce these changes, if any, by: (i) issuing a press release at https://www.jhinvestments.com/about-us/press-releases and encourage you to check this website before the Meeting; and (ii) filing the announcement with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We are urging all shareholders to take advantage of voting by mail, the internet, or telephone, as provided on the attached proxy card.

#### Attending the Meeting via telephone

To participate in the Meeting, shareholders of the Fund must call 833-252-3690 no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 4, 2021 and provide your full name and address. You will then be provided with the conference call dial-in information to attend the Meeting. Telephonic access to the Meeting is limited to Shareholders of the Fund. Note that this Meeting is limited to shareholders of the Fund.

A Proxy Statement, which provides information about the purposes of the Meeting, is included with this notice. The Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

Proposal To change the classification of the Fund from "diversified" to "non-diversified".

Any other business that may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment of the Meeting.

#### The Board of Trustees recommends that you vote FOR the Proposal.

Each shareholder of record of the Fund as of the close of business on August 3, 2021, is entitled to receive notice of, and to vote at, the Meeting and at any adjournment thereof.

Whether or not you expect to attend the Meeting, please complete and return the enclosed proxy card in the accompanying envelope. No postage is necessary if mailed in the United States. If shareholders do not return their proxies in sufficient numbers, it may result in the need for additional shareholder solicitation efforts.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting to Be Held on October 5, 2021: The Proxy Statement is available at: https://www.jhinvestments.com/resources/all-resources/other/john-hancock-bluechip-growth-fund-proxy-statement.

> By order of the Board of Trustees, Christopher Sechler Secretary

August 6, 2021 Boston, Massachusetts Your vote is important - Please vote your shares promptly.

Shareholders are invited to attend the Meeting by phone. Any shareholder who does not expect to attend the Meeting is urged to vote by:

- (i) completing the enclosed proxy card(s), dating and signing it, and returning it in the envelope provided, which needs no postage if mailed in the United States;
- (ii) following the touch-tone telephone voting instructions found below; or
- (iii) following the Internet voting instructions found below.

In order to avoid unnecessary expense, we ask for your cooperation in responding promptly, no matter how large or small your holdings may be.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXECUTING PROXY CARDS

The following general rules for executing proxy cards may be of assistance to you and help avoid the time and expense involved in validating your vote if you fail to execute your proxy card(s) properly.

Individual Accounts: Your name should be signed exactly as it appears on the proxy card(s).

Joint Accounts: Either party may sign, but the name of the party signing should conform exactly to a name shown on the proxy card(s).

All other accounts should show the capacity of the individual signing. This can be shown either in the form of the account registration itself or by the individual executing the proxy card(s).

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING BY TOUCH-TONE TELEPHONE

Read the enclosed Proxy Statement and have your proxy card(s) handy.

Call the toll-free number indicated on your proxy card(s).

Enter the control number found on the front of your proxy card(s).

Follow the recorded instructions to cast your vote.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING BY INTERNET

Read the enclosed Proxy Statement and have your proxy card(s) handy.

Go to the Web site on the proxy card(s).

Enter the control number found on the front of your proxy card(s).

Follow the instructions on the Web site.

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#### JOHN HANCOCK BLUE CHIP GROWTH FUND, a series of JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS II

#### PROXY STATEMENT SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 5, 2021

This Proxy Statement contains the information that a shareholder should know before voting on the proposal described in the notice. *The Fund will furnish, without charge, a copy of its Annual Report and Semiannual Report to any shareholder upon request by writing to the Fund at 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 or by calling 1-800-225-5291.* 

This Proxy Statement is being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of John Hancock Funds II (the "Trust") for use at the special meeting of shareholders of John Hancock Blue Chip Growth Fund (the "Fund"), a series of the Trust. The special meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 2:00 P.M., Eastern Time (the "Meeting"). In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Meeting will be a virtual meeting held **via telephone only**.

#### Attending the Meeting via telephone

To participate in the Meeting, shareholders of the Fund must call 833-252-3690 no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 4, 2021 and provide your full name and address. You will then be provided with the conference call dial-in information to attend the shareholder meeting. Telephonic access to the Meeting is limited to Shareholders of the Fund.

The Board is soliciting proxies from shareholders with respect to the proposal set forth below.

Proposal: To change the classification of the Fund from "diversified" to "non-diversified".

The definitive Proxy Statement and proxy card are intended to be first mailed to shareholders on or about August 16, 2021.

#### The Fund's Advisor, Administrator, Distributor, and Subadvisor

John Hancock Investment Management LLC (the "Advisor"), 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116, serves as the Fund's investment advisor and administrator. An affiliate of the Advisor, John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, serves as the Fund's distributor. T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. (the "Subadvisor"), 100 East Pratt Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202, serves as the Fund's subadvisor.

# **Record Ownership**

The Board has fixed the close of business on August 3, 2021 as the record date for determining shareholders eligible to vote at the Meeting (the "Record Date"). All shareholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to one vote for each share (and fractional votes for fractional shares) on all business of the Meeting or any adjournment of the Meeting. On the Record Date, 85,114,241.937 shares of beneficial interest of the Fund were outstanding.

As of the Record Date, none of the Trustees beneficially owned individually, and the Trustees and executive officers of the Fund as a group did not beneficially own, in excess of one percent of the outstanding shares of the Fund. Information regarding shareholders that hold 5% or more of the Fund's shares as of the Record Date is set forth in Appendix A to this Proxy Statement ("Outstanding Shares and Share Ownership'').

## **PROPOSAL — APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO THE FUND'S DIVERSIFICATION STATUS**

#### Introduction

As a diversified fund under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), the Fund currently has a fundamental policy substantively the same as the following: that it may not with respect to 75% of its total assets invest more than 5% of its total assets (taken at current value) in the securities of any one issuer, or invest in more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer, except obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities and except securities of other investment companies. As a fundamental policy, any change to such policy requires shareholder approval. If the change in the Fund's diversification status is approved by shareholders, the Fund will operate as a non-diversified fund. The risk of operating as a non-diversified fund is that the Fund could have more concentrated ownership of certain issuers than if it was a diversified fund. Concentrated ownership of issuers may make the Fund more susceptible to economic, business, political or other factors affecting the issuers in which it invests. Accordingly, a non-diversified fund may involve more risk than a diversified fund. By changing the Fund's status to be non-diversified, portfolio management will have more flexibility in managing the Fund's investments as described herein.

Shareholders of the Fund are being asked to approve the change to the Fund's diversification status. The Advisor has recommended to the Board that this fundamental investment restriction be changed.

The Advisor believes, based on a review of the Fund's investment process, that the Fund and its shareholders may benefit if the Fund is operated as a "non-diversified" fund. Based on its experience and investment analysis, the Advisor believes that generally the ability for the Fund to invest more significantly in fewer securities may enhance the probability of improved performance over the long term. As a result, the Fund has, over the past few years, generally trended toward investing a larger percentage of the Fund's assets in the securities of fewer companies.

The Board has concluded that the proposed change to the diversification status is appropriate and will likely benefit the Fund and its shareholders. **The Board unanimously recommends that shareholders of the Fund approve the proposed change**.

If approved by the Fund's shareholders, the change to the Fund's diversification status will become effective when the Fund's SAI is revised or supplemented to reflect the change. Assuming that the proposed change is approved at the Meeting, the Fund expects to file a revision or supplement to its SAI on or about October 6, 2021.

If the proposed change is not approved by the Fund's shareholders, the current fundamental investment restriction regarding diversification will remain in effect and the Fund will continue to be managed as a diversified fund.

#### Change to the Fund's Diversification Status

The following table sets forth the Fund's current fundamental investment restriction regarding diversification and the proposed restriction.

Current Fundamental Restriction Regarding Diversification Proposed Fundamental Restriction Regarding Diversification	
The Fund has elected to be treated as a diversified investment company, as The Fund has elected to be treated as a non-dive	ersified investment company,
that term is used in the 1940 Act, as amended, and as interpreted or as that term is used in the 1940 Act, as amended	d, and as interpreted or
modified by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time. modified by regulatory authority having jurisdictive	on, from time to time.

**Discussion of Proposal.** A fund that is non-diversified typically may invest a higher percentage of its assets in the securities of a smaller number of issuers, may invest more of its assets in the securities of a single issuer, and may be affected more than a diversified fund by changes in the financial condition of any one issuer or by the financial markets' assessment of any such issuers.

The Board, including the Trustees of the Trust who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust, the Advisor, or the Subadvisor (the "Independent Trustees"), recommends that the Fund's shareholders vote "FOR" the Proposal.

\* \* \*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Required Vote for Proposal**

Approval of the Proposal will require the affirmative vote of a Majority of the Outstanding Voting Securities of the Fund, as defined below.

In this Proxy Statement, the term "Majority of the Outstanding Voting Securities" of the Fund means the affirmative vote of the lesser of:

- (1) 67% or more of the voting securities of the Fund, present at the Meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund are present at the Meeting or by proxy; or
- (2) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share of Class A, Class C, Class I, Class NAV, and Class 1 held and fractional votes for fractional shares held. Shareholders do not have appraisal rights in connection with the Proposal in this Proxy Statement.

### **Voting Procedures**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Meeting will be a virtual meeting held via telephone only.

#### Attending the Meeting via telephone

To participate in the Meeting, shareholders of the Fund must call 833-252-3690 no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 4, 2021 and provide your full name and address. You will then be provided with the conference call dial-in information to attend the shareholder meeting. Telephonic access to the Meeting is limited to Shareholders of the Fund.

# All properly executed and timely received proxies will be voted in accordance with specifications thereon, or in the absence of specifications, for approval of the proposal. A proxy that is not timely received will not be voted.

**Revocation of Proxies.** Proxies may be revoked at any time before the Meeting either: (i) by a written revocation received by the Secretary of the Trust; (ii) by a properly executed later-dated proxy received by the Secretary of the Trust; or (iii) by being present at the Meeting and notifying the Secretary of the Trust (without complying with any formalities) at any time before the proxy is voted that the shareholder wishes to vote. Attendance at the Meeting will not in and of itself revoke a proxy. Shareholders may revoke a proxy as often as they wish before the Meeting. Only the latest dated, properly executed proxy card received prior to or at the Meeting will be counted.

**Quorum.** Shareholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment of the Meeting. The holders of a simple majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund at the close of business on that date present at the Meeting or by proxy will constitute a quorum for the Meeting.

Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share held and proportionate fractional votes for fractional shares held.

In the event the necessary quorum to transact business or the vote required to approve a proposal is not obtained at the Meeting, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the Meeting with respect to any proposal in accordance with applicable law to permit further solicitation of proxies. Any adjournment of the Meeting will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a simple majority of the Fund's shares cast at the Meeting, and any adjournment with respect to any proposal will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a simple majority of the shares entitled to vote on the proposal cast at the Meeting. The persons named as proxies will vote for or against any adjournment in their discretion.

**Abstentions and Broker "Non-Votes."** Abstentions and broker non-votes (*i.e.*, shares held by brokers or nominees as to which: (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or the persons entitled to vote; and (ii) the broker or nominee indicates on the proxy that it does not have discretionary voting power on a particular matter) are counted as shares entitled to vote but not present at the Meeting in determining whether a quorum is present and do not count as votes cast for a proposal. Therefore, abstentions and broker non-votes have the same effect as a vote "against" a proposal.

Cost of Preparation of Proxy Materials. The costs of the preparation of these proxy materials will be borne by the Fund and are estimated to be \$35,000.

*Distribution and Solicitation of Proxies.* In addition to the preparation of these proxy materials, proxies will be mailed and may be solicited by telephone, by fax, by email, or in person by the Trustees, officers and employees of the Trust; by personnel of the Advisor, its affiliates, or by broker-dealer firms. DiCosta Partners, an investor communications firm, has been retained to assist in the mailing and solicitation of proxies at a cost of approximately \$85,000. The costs of the distribution of these proxy materials and any proxy solicitation will be borne by the Fund.

#### **Telephone Voting**

In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, by fax, by email or at the Meeting, the Trust may also arrange to have votes recorded by telephone by officers and employees of the Trust or by the personnel of the Advisor, the transfer agent or solicitor. The telephone voting procedure is designed to verify a shareholder's identity, to allow a shareholder to authorize the voting of shares in accordance with the shareholder's instructions and to confirm that the voting instructions have been properly recorded.

A shareholder will be called on a recorded line at the telephone number in the Fund's account records and will be asked to provide certain identifying information.

The shareholder will then be given an opportunity to authorize proxies to vote his or her shares at the Meeting in accordance with the shareholder's instructions.

Alternatively, a shareholder may call the Fund's Voice Response Unit to vote by taking the following steps:

- Read the Proxy Statement and have your proxy card(s) at hand.
- Call the toll-free-number located on your proxy card(s).
- Enter the "control number" found on the front of your proxy card(s).
- Follow recorded instructions to cast your vote.

With both methods of telephone voting, to ensure that the shareholder's instructions have been recorded correctly, the shareholder will also receive a confirmation of the voting instructions. If the shareholder decides after voting by telephone to attend the Meeting, the shareholder can revoke the proxy at that time and vote the shares at the Meeting.

### **Internet Voting**

You will also have the opportunity to submit your voting instructions via the Internet by utilizing a program provided through a vendor. Voting via the Internet will not affect your right to vote if you decide to attend the Meeting. Do not mail the proxy card(s) if you are voting via the Internet. To vote via the Internet, you will need the "control number" that appears on your proxy card(s). These Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate shareholder identities, to allow shareholders to give their voting instructions and to confirm that shareholders' instructions have been recorded properly. If you are voting via the Internet, you should understand that there may be costs associated with electronic access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies, which you must bear.

To vote via the Internet:

- Read the Proxy Statement and have your proxy card(s) at hand.
- Go to the Web site on the proxy card(s).
- Enter the "control number" found on the front of your proxy card(s).
- Follow the instructions on the Web site.

To ensure that your instructions have been recorded correctly, you will receive a confirmation of your voting instructions immediately after your submission.

# Shareholders Sharing the Same Address

As permitted by law, only one copy of this Proxy Statement may be delivered to shareholders residing at the same address, unless such shareholders have notified the Fund of their desire to receive multiple copies of the shareholder reports and other materials that the Fund sends. If you would like to receive an additional copy, please contact the Fund by writing to 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, or by calling toll-free 1-800-225-5291. The Fund will then promptly deliver, upon request, a separate copy of this Proxy Statement to any shareholder residing at an address to which only one copy was mailed. Shareholders wishing to receive separate copies of the Fund's shareholder reports and other materials in the future, and shareholders sharing an address that wish to receive a single copy if they are receiving multiple copies, also should send a request as indicated.

### **Other Matters**

The Board does not know of any matters to be presented at the Meeting other than those described in this Proxy Statement. If any other matters properly come before the Meeting, the shares represented by proxies will be voted in accordance with the best judgment of the person or persons voting the proxies.

The Trust is not required to hold annual meetings of shareholders and, therefore, it cannot be determined when the next meeting of shareholders will be held. Shareholder proposals to be presented at any future meeting of shareholders of the Trust must be received by the Trust a reasonable time before the Trust's solicitation of proxies for that meeting in order for such proposals to be considered for inclusion in the proxy materials related to that meeting.

#### BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 6, 2021, Boston, Massachusetts

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROXIES BE RETURNED PROMPTLY. THEREFORE, SHAREHOLDERS WHO DO NOT EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE URGED TO COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD(S) IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO VOTE BY TOUCH-TONE TELEPHONE OR THE INTERNET. IF SHAREHOLDERS DO NOT RETURN THEIR PROXIES IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS, IT MAY RESULT IN THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SHAREHOLDER SOLICITATION EFFORTS.

# APPENDIX A — OUTSTANDING SHARES AND SHARE OWNERSHIP

To the best knowledge of the Trust, as of the Record Date, the following shareholders owned beneficially or of record 5% or more of the outstanding classes of shares of the Fund. A shareholder who owns beneficially more than 25% of any class of the Fund is deemed to be a control person and therefore could determine the outcome of a shareholder meeting with respect to a proposal directly affecting that share class.

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage Owned	Type of Ownership
EDWARD D JONES & CO FOR THE BENEFIT OF CUSTOMERS 12555 MANCHESTER ROAD SAINT LOUIS MO 63131-3710	A	63.21%	Record
AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT SVC 707 2ND AVE S MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-2405	A	5.58%	Record
EDWARD D JONES & CO FOR THE BENEFIT OF CUSTOMERS 12555 MANCHESTER ROAD SAINT LOUIS MO 63131-3710	С	30.26%	Record
AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT SVC 707 2ND AVE S MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-2405	С	18.73%	Record
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLZ JERSEY CITY NJ 07399-0001	С	13.34%	Record
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC FEBO CUSTOMERS MUTUAL FUNDS 200 LIBERTY ST # 1WFC NEW YORK NY 10281-1003	C	9.68%	Record
LPL FINANCIAL OMNIBUS CUSTOMER ACCOUNT ATTN: MUTUAL FUND TRADING 4707 EXECUTIVE DRIVE SAN DIEGO CA 92121-3091	С	7.62%	Record
JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (USA) 200 BERKELEY ST BOSTON MA 02116-5022	NAV	74.78%	Beneficial
JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (USA) 201 TOWNSEND STREET, SUITE 900 LANSING, MI 48933	1	94.21%	Beneficial
JOHN HANCOCK LIFE OF NEW YORK 100 SUMMIT LAKE DRIVE, SECOND FLOOR VALHALLA, NY 10595	1	5.79%	Beneficial



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