

**Report of Organizational Actions
 Affecting Basis of Securities**

▶ See separate instructions.

Part I Reporting Issuer

1 Issuer's name <u>John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund</u>		2 Issuer's employer identification number (EIN) <u>27-5412302</u>	
3 Name of contact for additional information <u>John Hancock Investments</u>	4 Telephone No. of contact <u>800-225-5291</u>	5 Email address of contact <u>https://www.jhinvestments.com/ContactUs.aspx</u>	
6 Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) of contact <u>200 Berkeley Street</u>		7 City, town, or post office, state, and ZIP code of contact <u>Boston, MA 02116</u>	
8 Date of action <u>12/31/2023</u>		9 Classification and description <u>Regulated Investment Company (RIC) Closed End Fund</u>	
10 CUSIP number <u>47804L102</u>	11 Serial number(s)	12 Ticker symbol <u>HEQ</u>	13 Account number(s)

Part II Organizational Action Attach additional statements if needed. See back of form for additional questions.

14 Describe the organizational action and, if applicable, the date of the action or the date against which shareholders' ownership is measured for the action ▶ As summarized on the attached statement, John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund made four distributions to shareholders that represented in part non-taxable returns of capital.

15 Describe the quantitative effect of the organizational action on the basis of the security in the hands of a U.S. taxpayer as an adjustment per share or as a percentage of old basis ▶ The return of capital portion in each distribution reduced the shareholder's tax basis in his or her shares held.

16 Describe the calculation of the change in basis and the data that supports the calculation, such as the market values of securities and the valuation dates ▶ The tax basis of the shareholder's shares is decreased by the per share amount of each non-taxable return of capital multiplied by the number of shares held by the shareholder at the time of the corresponding distribution.

Part II Organizational Action *(continued)*

17 List the applicable Internal Revenue Code section(s) and subsection(s) upon which the tax treatment is based ▶ Pursuant to IRC Sec. 301(c)(1), the portion of a distribution which is a dividend (as defined in IRC Sec. 316), is includable in gross income. Pursuant to IRC Sec. 301(c)(2), the portion of distribution which is not a dividend, shall be applied against and reduce the adjusted tax basis of the stock.

18 Can any resulting loss be recognized? ▶ No loss is recognized on the return of capital distribution. The reduction in shareholder basis may affect the amount of gain or loss realized on the sale of the shares.

19 Provide any other information necessary to implement the adjustment, such as the reportable tax year ▶ This organizational action is reportable with respect to the taxable year ended December 31, 2023.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here Signature ▶ _____ Date ▶ _____

Paid Preparer Use Only	Print your name ▶ <i>A signed copy is maintained by the issuer</i>	Title ▶	
	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date
	Firm's name ▶	Firm's EIN ▶	
	Firm's address ▶	Phone no.	

JHF - Hedged Equity & Income Fund
 27-5412302
 Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2023
 Supplemental Attachment to Form 8937

Cusip	Ticker Symbol	Record date	Ex-Dividend Date	Payable Date	Total Distribution Per Share	Non Taxable Return of Capital Per share	Income Distribution Per Share	Long Term Capital Gain Distribution Per Share
47804L102	HEQ	3/13/2023	3/10/2023	3/31/2023	0.290000	0.145820	0.144180	0.00000
47804L102	HEQ	6/12/2023	6/9/2023	6/30/2023	0.290000	0.145820	0.144180	0.00000
47804L102	HEQ	9/11/2023	9/8/2023	9/29/2023	0.250000	0.125707	0.124293	0.00000
47804L102	HEQ	12/11/2023	12/8/2023	12/29/2023	0.250000	0.125707	0.124293	0.00000