

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM S-6

Initial registration statement filed on Form S-6 for unit investment trusts

Filing Date: **2001-08-03**
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FILER

NUVEEN TAX FREE UNIT TRUSTS SERIES 1251

CIK: **1120861** | State of Incorporation: **DE** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**
Type: **S-6** | Act: **33** | File No.: **333-66664** | Film No.: **01697053**

Mailing Address

*C/O JOHN NUVEEN & CO INC
333 W WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO IL 60606*

Business Address

*C/O JOHN NUVEEN & CO INC
333 W WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO IL 60606
3129177700*

<Page>

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 3, 2001

40 ACT FILE NO. 811-2271

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM S-6

For Registration under the Securities Act of 1933 of Securities of Unit
Investment Trusts Registered on Form N-8B-2

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A. Exact name of Trust: NUVEEN TAX-FREE UNIT TRUST, SERIES 1251

B. Name of Depositor: NUVEEN INVESTMENTS

C. Complete address of Depositor's principal executive offices:

333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

D. Name and complete address of agents for service:

NUVEEN INVESTMENTS
Attn: Alan G. Berkshire
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

CHAPMAN AND CUTLER
Attn: Eric F. Fess
111 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box)

/ / immediately upon filing pursuant to paragraph (b)

/ / on August 3, 2001 pursuant to paragraph (b) of rule 485

/ / 60 days after filing pursuant to paragraph (a)

/ / on August 3, 2001 pursuant to paragraph (a) of rule 485 or 486

E. Title of securities being registered: Units of fractional undivided beneficial interest.

F. Approximate date of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after the effective date of the Registration Statement.

/ / Check box if it is proposed that this filing will become effective on (date) at (time) pursuant to Rule 487.

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THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(A) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(A) MAY DETERMINE.

<Page>

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS DATED AUGUST 3, 2001

NUVEEN TAX-FREE UNIT TRUST

SERIES 1251
(A UNIT INVESTMENT TRUST)

The final Prospectus for a prior Series incorporated by reference herein is hereby used as a preliminary Prospectus for the above-stated Series. The narrative information and structure of the attached final Prospectus will be substantially the same as that of the final Prospectus for this Series. Although the incorporated Prospectus includes trusts as indicated therein, the specific trusts included in this Series when deposited may differ from such trusts. Information with respect to the actual trusts to be included, pricing, the number of Units, dates and summary information regarding the characteristics of securities to be deposited in this Series is not now available and will be different since each Series has a unique Portfolio. Accordingly the information contained herein with regard to the previous Series should be considered as being included for informational purposes only. Ratings of the securities in this Series are expected to be comparable to those of the securities deposited in the previous Series. However, the Estimated Current Return for this Series will depend on the interest rates and offering prices of the securities in this Series and may vary materially from that of the previous Series.

A REGISTRATION STATEMENT RELATING TO THE UNITS OF THIS SERIES HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION BUT HAS NOT YET BECOME EFFECTIVE. THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. WE MAY NOT SELL THESE SECURITIES UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IS EFFECTIVE. THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES AND IS NOT SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

(Incorporated herein by reference is the final prospectus for Nuveen Tax Free Unit Trust, Series 1249 (Registration No. 333-65596) as filed on August 3, 2001, which shall be used as a preliminary prospectus for the current series of the Fund.)

<Page>

CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION STATEMENT

A. Bonding Arrangements of Depositor:

The Depositor has obtained the following Stockbrokers Blanket Bonds for its officers, directors and employees:

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INSURER/POLICY NO.

AMOUNT

Reliance Insurance Company
B 262 6895

\$26,000,000

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B. THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:

- The facing sheet
- The Prospectus
- The signatures
- Consents of Counsel
- Exhibits

C. EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The Registration Statement contains a prospectus that may include separate unit investment trusts. The prospectus will consist of a Part A and a Part B. An Information Supplement will be supplied by amendment.

D. UNDERTAKINGS:

The Information Supplement to the Trust will not include third party financial information.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant, Nuveen Tax-Free Unit Trust, Series 1251 has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized in the City of Chicago and State of Illinois on August 3, 2001.

NUVEEN TAX-FREE UNIT TRUST, SERIES
1251

(Registrant)

By NUVEEN INVESTMENTS

(Depositor)

By: /s/ Thomas C. Muntz

Vice President

Attest: /s/ Nicholas Dalmaso

Assistant Secretary

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

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SIGNATURE	TITLE*	DATE
<S> Timothy T. Schwertfeger	<C> Chairman, Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer and Director	<C> <C>))))

John P. Amboian	President and Director)	/s/ Larry W. Martin
)	Attorney-In-Fact**
)	
)	August 3, 2001
Margaret E. Wilson	Vice President and Controller)	
)	
)	
)	

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* The titles of the persons named herein represent their capacity in and relationship to Nuveen Investments, the Depositor.

** The powers of attorney for Messrs. Amboian and Schwertfeger and for Ms. Wilson were filed on May 3, 2000 as Exhibit 6.2 to Nuveen Unit Trusts, Series 94 (File No. 333-35488).

<Page>

CONSENT OF CHAPMAN AND CUTLER

The consent of Chapman and Cutler to the use of its name in the Prospectus included in the Registration Statement will be filed by amendment.

CONSENT OF STATE COUNSEL

The consents of special counsel to the Fund for state tax matters to the use of their names in the Prospectus included in the Registration Statement will be filed by amendment.

CONSENT OF KENNY S&P EVALUATION SERVICES

The consent of Kenny S&P Evaluation Services to the use of its name in the Prospectus included in the Registration Statement will be filed by amendment.

CONSENT OF CARTER, LEDYARD & MILBURN

The consent of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn to the use of its name in the Prospectus included in the Registration Statement will be filed by amendment.

CONSENT OF ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

The consent of Arthur Andersen LLP to the use of its report and to the reference to such firm in the Prospectus included in the Registration Statement will be filed by amendment.

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LIST OF EXHIBITS

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- 1.1(a) Copy of Standard Terms and Conditions of Trust between Nuveen Investments, Depositor, and The Chase Manhattan Bank, Trustee (filed as Exhibit 1.1(a) to the Sponsor's Amendment to the Registration Statement on Form S-6 relating to Series 823 of the Fund [File No. 33-62325] and incorporated herein by reference).
- 1.1(b) Trust Indenture and Agreement (to be supplied by amendment).
- 2.1 Copy of Certificate of Ownership (included in Exhibit 1.1(a) on pages 2 to 8, inclusive, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 2.2 Code of Ethics of the Trust(s) and Principal Underwriter (filed as Exhibit 2.2 to Amendment No. 3 to the Registration Statement on Form S-6 relating to Nuveen Unit Trusts, Series 82 [File No. 333-96279] filed on March 6, 2000 and incorporated herein by reference).
- 3.1 Opinion of counsel as to legality of securities being registered (to be supplied by amendment).
- 3.2 Opinion of counsel as to Federal income tax status of securities being registered (to be supplied by amendment).
- 3.3 Opinions of special state counsel to the Fund for state tax matters as to income tax status to residents of the respective states of the units of the respective trusts and consents to the use of their names in the Prospectus (to be supplied by amendment).
- 3.4 Corporate opinion of Trustee's counsel (to be supplied by amendment).
- 3.5 Opinion of Trustee's counsel as to New York tax status (to be supplied by amendment).
- 4.1 Consent of Kenny S+P Evaluation Services (to be supplied by amendment).
- 4.2 Consent of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn (to be supplied by amendment).
- 4.3 Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP (to be supplied by amendment).
- 6.1 List of Directors and Officers of Depositor and other related information (filed as Exhibit 6.1 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-6 relating to Nuveen Unit Trusts, Series 128 [File No. 333-64820] filed on July 18, 2001 and incorporated herein by reference).

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