

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM PRE 14A

Preliminary proxy statement not related to a contested matter or merger/acquisition

Filing Date: **1994-01-26** | Period of Report: **1994-05-05**
SEC Accession No. **0000759827-94-000001**

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FILER

PUTNAM AMERICAN GOVERNMENT INCOME FUND

CIK: **759827** | IRS No.: **042856297** | State of Incorpor.: **MA** | Fiscal Year End: **0930**
Type: **PRE 14A** | Act: **34** | File No.: **811-04178** | Film No.: **94502811**

Business Address
*ONE POST OFFICE SQ
BOSTON MA 02109
6172921000*

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant / X /
/ /
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant / /
/ /

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

/ X / Preliminary Proxy Statement
/ / Preliminary Additional Materials
/ / Definitive Proxy Statement
/ / Definitive Additional Materials
/ / Soliciting Material Pursuant to Sec. 240.14a-11(e) or
Sec. 240.14a-12

PUTNAM AMERICAN GOVERNMENT INCOME FUND
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement)

PAYMENT OF FILING FEE (CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX):

/ X / \$125 per Exchange Act Rules 0-11(c)(1)(ii),
14a-6(i)(1), or 14a-6(i)(2).
/ / \$500 per each party to the controversy pursuant
to Exchange Act Rule 14a-6(i)(3).
/ / Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules
14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.
(1) Title of each class of securities to which
transaction applies:
(2) Aggregate number of securities to which
transaction applies:
(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of
transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule
0-11:
(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

/ / Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided
by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing
for which the offsetting fee was paid previously.
Identify the previous filing by registration statement
number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its
filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
(3) Filing Party:
(4) Date Filed:

PUTNAM AMERICAN GOVERNMENT INCOME FUND
One Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

February , 1994

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 1994 Meeting of
Shareholders of your Fund, which will be held on May 5, 1994 at
1:00 p.m., Boston time, on the eighth floor of One Post Office
Square, Boston, Massachusetts.

The matters to be acted upon at the meeting -- (1) electing
Trustees, (2) ratifying the Trustees' selection of Price
Waterhouse as independent auditors of the Fund for its current
fiscal year and (3) approving or disapproving a new Distribution
Plan for the Fund -- ARE DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED NOTICE AND
PROXY STATEMENT.

The Trustees of your Fund have carefully considered the
Fund's current distribution arrangements in light of competitive
trends in the mutual fund industry and have approved the
recommendation of Putnam Mutual Funds Corp. that the Fund adopt a
new Distribution Plan. The Trustees have concluded that upon
implementation of the new Plan, a payment of limited ongoing fees
to investment dealers and to Putnam Mutual Funds Corp. not to
exceed an aggregate of 0.35% of the average net assets of the
Fund could well provide improved distribution arrangements for
the Fund, as well as improved services to shareholders. The
proposed new Distribution Plan is designed to achieve these
goals.

Although we would like very much to have each shareholder
attend the 1994 Meeting, we realize this is not possible.
Whether or not you plan to be present at the meeting, WE NEED
YOUR VOTE. WE URGE YOU TO COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED
PROXY CARD PROMPTLY. A POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR
THIS PURPOSE.

If you return your proxy promptly, you can help your Fund
avoid the expense of follow-up mailings to achieve a quorum so
that the meeting can be held. If you decide between now and May
that you can attend the meeting in person, you can revoke your
proxy at that time and vote your shares at the meeting. If your
shares are held in street name, only your bank or broker can vote
your shares, and only upon receipt of your specific instructions.
Please contact the person responsible for your account and
instruct him or her to execute a proxy card today.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting or receiving
your proxy so that your shares may be voted at the meeting.

Sincerely yours,
/s/George Putnam
George Putnam, Chairman

PUTNAM AMERICAN GOVERNMENT INCOME FUND

NOTICE OF THE 1994 MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To The Shareholders of Putnam American Government Income Fund:

The 1994 Meeting of Shareholders of Putnam American
Government Income Fund (the "Fund") will be held on May 5, 1994
at 1:00 p.m., Boston time, on the eighth floor of One Post Office
Square, Boston, Massachusetts, for the following purposes:

1. Electing Trustees, as described in Part I of the
attached Proxy Statement. (p.)
2. Ratifying or rejecting the selection of independent
accountants as auditors for the Fund for the current
fiscal year, as described in Part II of the attached
Proxy Statement. (p.)
3. Approving or disapproving a new Distribution Plan for
the Fund, as set forth in Exhibit B and as described in
Part III of the attached Proxy Statement. (p.)
4. Such other matters as may properly come before the
meeting.

By the Trustees

GEORGE PUTNAM, CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM F. POUNDS, VICE CHAIRMAN
JAMESON A. BAXTER ROBERT E. PATTERSON
HANS H. ESTIN DONALD S. PERKINS
JOHN A. HILL GEORGE PUTNAM, III
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SIGNATURE	THOMAS H. BROGAN
TITLE	SR. VICE PRESIDENT