

July 22, 2020

**NFMA RELEASES DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON BEST PRACTICES
IN CYBERSECURITY RISK DISCLOSURE FOR
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN MUNICIPAL OFFERINGS**

For Immediate Release

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The National Federation of Municipal Analysts (NFMA) announced today that it has released the draft White Paper on Best Practices in Cybersecurity Risk Disclosure for State & Local Governments in Municipal Offerings (White Paper). The paper is in the comment period until September 20, 2020.

The NFMA undertook the topic of cybersecurity because cyberattacks against state governments, local governments, 501c3 organizations, and conduit borrowers are becoming more commonplace. The costs to defend against cyberattacks and to remedy the damages caused by cyberattacks can be material, and present credit, fiscal and operational issues for issuers. "The NFMA believed it was important to provide municipal market participants with clear disclosure recommendations on cybersecurity event risk when crafting offering statements and meeting continuing disclosure responsibilities", according to Gilbert Southwell of Wells Capital Management, who was the lead author of the paper.

"The NFMA hopes that recommendations in this White Paper will serve as a benchmark for improved disclosure practices by issuers and underwriters. This White Paper in part reflects the NFMA's continued commitment to increasing its dialogue with industry groups and regulators. The NFMA believes in clear and straightforward communication with industry

participants. Transparency in disclosure remains essential to a well-functioning market”, said Nicole Byrd NFMA Chair.

Comments on the White Paper will be taken through September 20, 2020, and can be submitted to Lisa Good, NFMA Executive Director at lgood@nfma.org. The NFMA has written RBPs and white papers on nearly 30 different sectors and topics in the municipal bond market. To view all of the NFMA’s RBPs and white papers, go to www.nfma.org, and look under “Resources” for Best Practices in Disclosure and Position Statements.

Established in 1983, the NFMA is an organization of over 1,200 members, primarily research analysts, who evaluate credit and other associated risks in the municipal market. These individuals represent, among others, mutual funds, insurance companies, broker/dealers, bond insurers, rating agencies, and financial advisory firms.

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