

# **Synovus Financial Corp.**

## **Sustainable Investment Statement**

### **Introduction**

We have developed this sustainable investment statement for clients, prospective clients, team members, investors and other key stakeholders of Synovus Financial Corp. (the “Company” or “Synovus”) so that they may better understand how Synovus defines and approaches these different aspects of sustainable investing.

This statement was developed through stakeholder engagement including the Board’s Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and senior executives from multiple Synovus departments and divisions based on a peer review and recommendations of an external consultant.

### **Sustainability Governance**

Synovus’ Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for approving this statement and overseeing its implementation as a part of its oversight responsibility of the Company’s environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) strategies, initiatives, and policies. This statement will continue to be updated to reflect material changes as needed.

### **Scope**

This statement applies to Synovus and its subsidiaries and affiliates.

### **Definitions**

The field of sustainable investing is inclusive of many different types of investment capabilities. Synovus deploys these capabilities in different ways depending on the nature of the investment business.

#### *Active Ownership or Investment Stewardship*

Active ownership, also called investment stewardship, is how shareholders leverage proxy voting and direct engagement for objectives such as financial value creation, improved transparency, or affecting change to business practices.

#### *ESG Analysis*

ESG refers to environmental, social, and governance considerations that may affect an asset’s financial value over the long-term, and the integration of that analysis into investment decision making.

#### *Impact Investing*

Impact investing is the selection of securities based on the beneficial consequences that the asset may have on the environment or society, for example, in areas such as healthcare, education or the environment.

### *Responsible Investing*

Defined by the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) as a strategy and practice to incorporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in investment decisions and active ownership.

### *Sustainable Investing*

Sustainable investing may refer to ESG integration, impact investing, values-based investing, active ownership or investing for financial sustainability over long-term horizons. Synovus uses this term to refer to this broad set of investment capabilities.

### *Values-Based Investing*

Values-based investing is the explicit inclusion or exclusion of securities based on moral or ethical reasons. Historically known as socially responsible investing, values-based investing has long been popular with the faith-based investment community and has been associated with exclusions on alcohol, tobacco and gambling for example.

## **Application of Sustainable Investment Capabilities to Different Business Units**

We apply the principles of sustainable investing primarily in two ways:

1. On behalf of investments where Synovus is the beneficial owner, for example, in our credit analysis for the lending portfolio, and
2. On behalf of investments where Synovus is an advisor to clients that are the beneficial owners, for example, in our wealth management businesses.

### *Sustainable Investment Philosophy in Credit Analysis*

Synovus believes that evaluating ESG factors may lead to more complete investment analysis and better-informed investment decisions. As part of the investment due diligence process in credit analysis, Synovus assesses various factors that may include but are not limited to financial performance, industry trends, quality of management, reputational and other risks, as well as ESG factors to the extent that they may be financially relevant. The factors included in our evaluation process continue to evolve and are assessed and adjusted on an ongoing basis. However, Synovus does not make investment decisions based solely on impact, ESG or values-based criteria nor do we currently market ourselves as such.

### *Sustainable Investment Philosophy for our Clients*

As it pertains to sustainable investing and our wealth management clients, we recognize that our clients have varying interests, including faith-based and moral belief systems and different environmental and social interests. As such, we help our clients align their moral or ethical belief systems with our services and products to the extent that we can, yet always consistent with our duty as a fiduciary. For example, we offer clients the ability to invest in select funds that may be marketed as “ESG” through our GLOBALT division.

## **Corporate Alignment with the Investment Statement**

Synovus' corporate approach to sustainability is aligned with the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board to consider how to leverage ESG for long-term financial value creation at Synovus. For a comprehensive view into our corporate sustainability, please refer to the [Synovus ESG webpage](#).