**Firsthand Funds** 

**Proxy Voting** 

**Policy and Procedures** 

Last Updated: August 9, 2003

# Firsthand

Revision 2

## Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- I. Policy
- II. Fiduciary Duty
- III. Procedures
- IV. Revocation
- V. Annual Filing
- VI. Disclosures
- VII. Review of Policy

## FI Firsthand

Revision 2

Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures

#### FIRSTHAND FUNDS

#### PROXY VOTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Board of Trustees of Firsthand Funds (the "Trust") has determined that it is in the best interests of the Trust and its respective series (each, a "Fund" and collectively, the "Funds") for the Trust to adopt the following policy and procedures with respect to voting proxies relating to portfolio securities held by certain of the Funds.

#### I. Policy

It is the policy of the Trust to delegate the responsibility for voting proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Funds to Firsthand Capital Management, Inc. (the "Adviser") as a part of the Adviser's general management of the Funds' portfolios, subject to the Board's continuing oversight. The Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board") hereby delegates such responsibility to the Adviser, and directs the Adviser to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities held by each Fund consistent with the duties and procedures set forth below. The Adviser may retain one or more vendors to review, monitor and recommend how to vote proxies in a manner consistent with the duties and procedures set forth below, to ensure that such proxies are voted on a timely basis and to provide reporting and/or record retention services in connection with proxy voting for the Funds.

#### II. Fiduciary Duty

The right to vote a proxy with respect to portfolio securities held by a Fund is an asset of such Fund. The Adviser, to which authority to vote on behalf of the Funds is delegated, acts as a fiduciary of the Funds and must vote proxies in a manner consistent with the best interest of the Funds and their shareholders. In discharging this fiduciary duty, the Adviser must maintain and adhere to its policies and procedures for addressing conflicts of interest and must vote proxies in a manner substantially consistent with its policies, procedures and guidelines, as presented to the Board.

#### III. Procedures

The following are the procedures adopted by the Board for the administration of this policy:

A. <u>Review of Adviser Proxy Voting Procedures</u>. The Adviser shall present to the Board its policies, procedures and other guidelines for voting proxies at least annually, and must notify the Board promptly of material changes to any policies and procedures.

B. <u>Voting Record Reporting</u>. The Adviser shall provide the voting record information necessary for the completion and filing of Form N-PX to the Trust at least annually. Such voting record information shall be in a form acceptable to the Trust and shall be

FI Firsthand

**Revision 2** 

#### Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures

provided at such time(s) as are required for the timely filing of Form N-PX and at such additional time(s) as the Trust and the Adviser may agree to from time to time. With respect to those proxies that the Adviser has identified as involving a conflict of interest<sup>1</sup>, the Adviser shall submit a separate report indicating the nature of the conflict of interest and how that conflict was resolved with respect to the voting of the proxy.

C. <u>Record Retention</u>. The Adviser shall maintain such records with respect to the voting of proxies as may be required by the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and the rules promulgated thereunder or by the Investment Company Act of 1940 and the rules promulgated thereunder.

D. <u>Conflicts of Interest</u>. Any actual or potential conflicts of interest between a Fund's principal underwriter or Adviser and the applicable Fund's shareholders arising from the proxy voting process will be addressed by the Adviser and the Adviser's application of its proxy voting procedures pursuant to the delegation of proxy voting responsibilities to the Adviser. In the event that the Adviser notifies the officer(s) of the Trust that a conflict of interest cannot be resolved under the Adviser's Proxy Voting Procedures, such officer(s) are responsible for notifying the Audit Committee of the Trust of the irreconcilable conflict of interest and assisting the Audit Committee with any actions it determines are necessary.

#### IV. Revocation

The delegation by the Board of the authority to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities of the Funds is entirely voluntary and may be revoked by the Board, in whole or in part, at any time.

#### V. Annual Filing

The Trust shall file an annual report of each proxy voted with respect to portfolio securities of the Funds during the twelve-month period ended June 30 on Form N-PX not later than August 31 of each year.<sup>2</sup>

#### VI. Disclosures

A. The Trust shall include in its registration statement:

1. A description of this policy and of the policies and procedures used by the Adviser to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As it is used in this document, the term "conflict of interest" refers to a situation in which the principal underwriter, Adviser or affiliated persons of the principal underwriter or Adviser have an interest in a matter presented by a proxy other than the obligation it incurs as a service provider to the Funds which could potentially compromise the principal underwriter's or Adviser's independence of judgment and action with respect to the voting of the proxy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Trust must file its first report on Form N-PX not later than August 31, 2004, for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004.

## FI Firsthand

### Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures

2. A statement disclosing that information regarding how the Trust voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge, upon request, by calling the Trust's toll-free telephone number; or through a specified Internet address; or both; and on the Securities and Exchange Commission's (the "SEC") website.

B. The Trust shall include in its annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders:

1. A statement disclosing that a description of the policies and procedures used by or on behalf of the Trust to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities of the Funds is available without charge, upon request, by calling the Trust's toll-free telephone number; through a specified Internet address, if applicable; and on the SEC's website; and

2. A statement disclosing that information regarding how the Trust voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge, upon request, by calling the Trust's toll-free telephone number; or through a specified Internet address; or both; and on the SEC's website.

#### VII. Review of Policy

The Board shall review this policy to determine its sufficiency and shall make and approve any changes that it deems necessary from time to time.