

WESTERN ASSET MUNICIPAL PARTNERS FUND INC.  
Form N-CSRS  
July 27, 2011

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811-7362

Western Asset Municipal Partners Fund Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

620 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY  
(Address of principal executive offices)

10018  
(Zip code)

Robert I. Frenkel, Esq.  
Legg Mason & Co., LLC  
100 First Stamford Place,  
Stamford, CT 06902  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (888) 777-0102

Date of fiscal year end: November 30

Date of reporting period: May 31, 2011

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ITEM 1. REPORT TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The **Semi-Annual** Report to Stockholders is filed herewith.

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May 31, 2011

**Semi-Annual Report**

**Western Asset Municipal Partners Fund Inc.  
(MNP)**

INVESTMENT PRODUCTS: NOT FDIC INSURED • NO BANK GUARANTEE • MAY LOSE VALUE

II Western Asset Municipal Partners Fund Inc.

### **Fund objectives**

The Fund's primary investment objective is to seek a high level of current income which is exempt from regular federal income taxes,\* consistent with the preservation of capital. As a secondary investment objective, the Fund intends to enhance portfolio value by purchasing tax-exempt securities that, in the opinion of the investment manager, may appreciate in value relative to other similar obligations in the marketplace.

\* Certain investors may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax ( AMT ), and state and local taxes will apply. Capital gains, if any, are fully taxable. Please consult your personal tax or legal adviser.

### **What's inside**

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**Letter from the chairman**

**Dear Shareholder,**

We are pleased to provide the semi-annual report of Western Asset Municipal Partners Fund Inc. for the six-month reporting period ended May 31, 2011. Please read on for Fund performance information and a detailed look at prevailing economic and market conditions during the Fund's reporting period.

As always, we remain committed to providing you with excellent service and a full spectrum of investment choices. We also remain committed to supplementing the support you receive from your financial advisor. One way we accomplish this is through our website, [www.leggmason.com/cef](http://www.leggmason.com/cef). Here you can gain immediate access to market and investment information, including:

- Fund prices and performance,
- Market insights and commentaries from our portfolio managers, and
- A host of educational resources.

We look forward to helping you meet your financial goals.

Sincerely,

R. Jay Gerken, CFA

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

June 24, 2011



## Investment commentary

### Economic review

While economic indicators were somewhat mixed, the U.S. economy continued to expand over the six months ended May 31, 2011. Looking back, beginning with the fourth quarter of 2010, fears regarding moderating economic growth were replaced with optimism for a strengthening economy in 2011. However, toward the end of the reporting period, concerns regarding the sustainability of the economic recovery returned, negatively impacting some sectors of the equity and fixed-income markets. All told, investors who took on additional risk in their portfolios during the reporting period were generally rewarded.

Although the U.S. Department of Commerce continued to report positive U.S. gross domestic product ( GDP )i growth, the expansion has been less robust than has been realized during most other periods exiting a severe recession. According to the Commerce Department, GDP growth was 3.7%, 1.7%, 2.6% and 3.1% during the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2010, respectively. For calendar 2010 as a whole, the economy expanded 2.9%. The Commerce Department then reported that first quarter 2011 GDP growth was 1.9%. This moderation in growth during the first quarter was due to a variety of factors, including less robust export activity, a decline in government spending and a deceleration in consumer spending given rising oil and food prices.

Turning to the job market, while there were some periods of improvement during the reporting period, unemployment remained stubbornly high. After being 9.0% or higher since April 2009, the unemployment rate fell to 8.9% in February and 8.8% in March 2011. The job market then took two steps backward, as unemployment rose to 9.0% in April and 9.1% in May. Based on U.S. Department of Labor figures, the private sector which represents roughly 70% of the total U.S. workforce added only 83,000 jobs in May, the smallest amount since June 2010. As of the end of the reporting period, approximately 13.9 million Americans looking for work had yet to find a job, and roughly 45% of these individuals have been out of work for more than six months. In addition, while the Federal Reserve Board ( Fed )ii believes that unemployment will decline, it projects that it will remain relatively high, between 7.5% and 8.0% at the end of 2012.

The long-ailing housing market continued to show signs of strain during the reporting period. Looking back, sales increased in the spring of 2010 largely due to the government's \$8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers. This proved to be only a temporary boost, as sales subsequently weakened after the tax credit expired at the end of April. Existing-home sales did rebound somewhat toward the end of 2010 and in January 2011, as mortgage rates remained relatively low. However, according to the National Association of Realtors ( NAR ), existing-home sales then declined a sharp 8.9% in February. After a 3.5% increase in March, existing-home sales fell 1.8% and 3.8% in April and May, respectively. At the end of May, the inventory of unsold homes was a 9.3 month supply at the current sales level, versus a 9.0 month supply in April. Existing-home prices remained disappointingly low, with the NAR reporting that the median existing-home price for all housing types was \$166,500 in May 2011, down 4.6% from May 2010.

Even the manufacturing sector, one of the stalwarts of the economy in recent

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**Investment commentary (continued)**

years, softened at the end of the reporting period. Based on the Institute for Supply Management's PMI<sup>iii</sup>, the manufacturing sector grew twenty-two consecutive months since it began expanding (a reading below 50 indicates a contraction, whereas a reading above 50 indicates an expansion) in August 2009. In January 2011, the manufacturing sector expanded at its fastest pace since May 2004, with a reading of 60.8 versus 58.5 for the previous month. Manufacturing activity remained strong during the next three months and was 60.4 in April. However, it then declined to 53.5 in May, the lowest reading in the past twelve months. This was attributed, in part, to supply disruptions triggered by the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

**Financial market overview**

To a large extent, the financial markets were characterized by healthy investor risk appetite and solid results by stocks and lower-quality bonds. However, the financial markets experienced several periods of heightened volatility during the reporting period. The markets experienced sell-offs in mid-February, mid-March and May 2011. During those periods, investors tended to favor the relative safety of U.S. Treasury securities. These setbacks proved to be only temporary and risk aversion was generally replaced with solid demand for riskier assets.

Due to signs that certain areas of the economy were moderating in the middle of 2010 (prior to the beginning of the reporting period), the Fed took further actions to spur the economy. At its August 2010 meeting, the Fed announced an ongoing program that calls for using the proceeds from maturing agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities to purchase longer-dated Treasury securities.

In addition, the Fed remained cautious given pockets of weakness in the economy. At its meeting in September 2010, the Fed said, "The Committee will continue to monitor the economic outlook and financial developments and is prepared to provide additional accommodation if needed to support the economic recovery. . . . This led to speculation that the Fed may again move to purchase large amounts of agency and Treasury securities in an attempt to avoid a double-dip recession and ward off deflation.

The Fed then took additional action in early November 2010. Citing that "the pace of recovery in output and employment continues to be slow, the Fed announced another round of quantitative easing to help stimulate the economy, entailing the purchase of \$600 billion of long-term U.S. Treasury securities by the end of the second quarter of 2011. This, coupled with its previously announced program to use the proceeds of maturing securities to purchase Treasuries, means the Fed could buy a total of \$850 billion to \$900 billion of Treasury securities by the end of June 2011.

At its meeting in June 2011, the Fed said, "Information received since the Federal Open Market Committee met in April indicates that the economic recovery is continuing at a moderate pace, though somewhat more slowly than the Committee had expected. . . . To promote the ongoing economic recovery and to help ensure that inflation, over time, is at levels consistent with its mandate, the Committee decided today to keep the target range for the federal funds rate<sup>iv</sup> at 0 to 1/4 percent. The Committee continues to anticipate that economic conditions—including low rates of resource utilization and a subdued outlook for inflation over the





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medium run are likely to warrant exceptionally low levels for the federal funds rate for an extended period. The Fed also announced that it will complete its \$600 billion Treasury securities purchase program at the end of June.

#### **Fixed income market review**

In November 2010 (prior to the beginning of the reporting period), financial troubles in Ireland resulted in a re-emergence of the European sovereign debt crisis. This caused a number of the spread sectors (non-Treasuries) to weaken during the month. While most U.S. spread sectors regained their footing during the first five months of the reporting period, others, such as emerging market debt, produced mixed results given ongoing uncertainties in Europe, concerns regarding economic growth in China and its potential impact on the global economy, geopolitical unrest in the Middle East and the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. In May, the U.S. spread sectors generally posted positive results, but underperformed equal-duration Treasuries. This occurred as economic data were often worse-than-expected and Treasuries rallied sharply given increased investor risk aversion.

Both short- and long-term Treasury yields fluctuated during the six months ended May 31, 2011. When the period began, two- and ten-year Treasury yields were 0.45% and 2.81%, respectively. Both two- and ten-year yields moved sharply higher in late 2010 and early 2011 given expectations for stronger growth in 2011 and the potential for rising inflation. On February 14, 2011, two-year Treasury yields peaked at 0.87%, while ten-year Treasuries peaked at 3.75% on February 8, 2011. Treasury yields then declined as investor risk aversion increased given the uprising in Libya and, later, given the tragic events in Japan. Yields again moved higher toward the end of March as investor risk appetite resumed, but then declined in April and May given disappointing economic data. When the period ended on May 31, 2011, two-year Treasury yields were where they began the period at 0.45% and ten-year Treasury yields were 3.05%.

The municipal bond market modestly outperformed its taxable bond counterpart over the six months ended May 31, 2011. Over that period, the Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index<sup>vi</sup> and the Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Index<sup>vii</sup> returned 2.04% and 1.91%, respectively. During the first month of the period, the municipal bond market was negatively impacted by a sharp increase in issuance of Build America Bonds in advance of the expiration of the popular program at the end of 2010. These new securities were not readily absorbed by investor demand. In January 2011, there were some high profile issues regarding the financial well-being of some municipal bond issuers. However, the municipal market posted positive returns for three of the last four months of the period given improving tax revenues, a sharp decline in new issuance and an increase in demand from non-traditional municipal investors, such as insurance companies and hedge funds.

#### **Performance review**

For the six months ended May 31, 2011, Western Asset Municipal Partners Fund Inc. returned 3.80% based on its net asset value ( NAV )<sup>viii</sup> and 3.76% based on its New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ) market price per share. The Fund's unmanaged benchmark, the Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index, returned 2.04% for the same period. The Lipper General & Insured Municipal

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**Investment commentary (continued)**

Debt (Leveraged) Closed-End Funds Category Averageix returned 2.12% over the same time frame. Please note that Lipper performance returns are based on each fund's NAV.

Certain investors may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax, and state and local taxes will apply. Capital gains, if any, are fully taxable. Please consult your personal tax or legal adviser.

During this six-month period, the Fund made distributions to common stock shareholders totaling \$0.41 per share, which may have included a return of capital. The performance table shows the Fund's six-month total return based on its NAV and market price as of May 31, 2011. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

**Performance Snapshot as of May 31, 2011 (unaudited)**

	<b>6-Month Total Return*</b>
<b>Price Per Share</b>	
\$14.60 (NAV)	3.80%
\$13.95 (Market Price)	3.76%

**All figures represent past performance and are not a guarantee of future results. Performance figures for periods shorter than one year represent cumulative figures and are not annualized.**

\* **Total returns are based on changes in NAV or market price, respectively.**

**Total return assumes the reinvestment of all distributions, including returns of capital, if any, at NAV.**

**Total return assumes the reinvestment of all distributions, including returns of capital, if any, in additional shares in accordance with the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan.**

**Looking for additional information?**

## Edgar Filing: WESTERN ASSET MUNICIPAL PARTNERS FUND INC. - Form N-CSRS

The Fund is traded under the symbol **MNP** and its closing market price is available in most newspapers under the NYSE listings. The daily NAV is available on-line under the symbol **XMNPX** on most financial websites. *Barron's* and the *Wall Street Journal's* Monday edition both carry closed-end fund tables that provide additional information. In addition, the Fund issues a quarterly press release that can be found on most major financial websites as well as [www.leggmason.com/cef](http://www.leggmason.com/cef).

In a continuing effort to provide information concerning the Fund, shareholders may call 1-888-777-0102 (toll free), Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time, for the Fund's current NAV, market price and other information.

As always, thank you for your confidence in our stewardship of your assets.

Sincerely,

R. Jay Gerken, CFA

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

June 24, 2011

**RISKS:** *An investment in the Fund is subject to risk, including the possible loss of the principal amount that you invest in the Fund. Diversification does not assure against market loss. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall, reducing the value of the Fund's fixed-income securities. Lower-rated, higher-yielding bonds are subject to greater credit risk than higher-rated obligations. Municipal securities purchased by the Fund may be adversely*

*affected by changes in the financial condition of municipal issuers and insurers, regulatory and political developments, uncertainties and public perceptions, and other factors. The Fund may use derivatives, such as options and futures, which can be illiquid, may disproportionately increase losses, and have a potentially large impact on Fund performance.*

All investments are subject to risk including the possible loss of principal. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All index performance reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes. Please note that an investor cannot invest directly in an index.

The information provided is not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results or investment advice. Views expressed may differ from those of the firm as a whole.

- i Gross domestic product ( GDP ) is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.
- ii The Federal Reserve Board ( Fed ) is responsible for the formulation of policies designed to promote economic growth, full employment, stable prices and a sustainable pattern of international trade and payments.
- iii The Institute for Supply Management 's PMI is based on a survey of purchasing executives who buy the raw materials for manufacturing at more than 350 companies. It offers an early reading on the health of the manufacturing sector.
- iv The federal funds rate is the rate charged by one depository institution on an overnight sale of immediately available funds (balances at the Federal Reserve) to another depository institution; the rate may vary from depository institution to depository institution and from day to day.
- v Duration is the measure of the price sensitivity of a fixed-income security to an interest rate change of 100 basis points. Calculation is based on the weighted average of the present values for all cash flows.
- vi The Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index is a market value weighted index of investment grade municipal bonds with maturities of one year or more.
- vii The Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Index is a broad-based bond index comprised of government, corporate, mortgage- and asset-backed issues, rated investment grade or higher, and having at least one year to maturity.
- viii Net asset value ( NAV ) is calculated by subtracting total liabilities and outstanding preferred stock (if any) from the closing value of all securities held by the Fund (plus all other assets) and dividing the result (total net assets) by the total number of the common shares outstanding. The NAV fluctuates with changes in the market prices of securities in which the Fund has invested. However, the price at which an investor may buy or sell shares of the Fund is the Fund 's market price as determined by supply of and demand for the Fund 's shares.
- ix Lipper, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reuters, provides independent insight on global collective investments. Returns are based on the six-month period ended May 31, 2011, including the reinvestment of all distributions, including returns of capital, if any, calculated among the 83 funds in the Fund 's Lipper category.

**Fund at a glance (unaudited)**

**Investment breakdown (%) as a percent of total investments**

The bar graph above represents the composition of the Fund's investments as of May 31, 2011 and November 30, 2010 and does not include derivatives such as futures contracts. The Fund is actively managed. As a result, the composition of the Fund's investments is subject to change at any time.

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**Spread duration (unaudited)**

**Economic Exposure    May 31, 2011**

Spread duration measures the sensitivity to changes in spreads. The spread over Treasuries is the annual risk-premium demanded by investors to hold non-Treasury securities. Spread duration is quantified as the % change in price resulting from a 100 basis points change in spreads. For a security with positive spread duration, an increase in spreads would result in a price decline and a decline in spreads would result in a price increase. This chart highlights the market sector exposure of the Fund's sectors relative to the selected benchmark sectors as of the end of the reporting period.

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MNP	Western Asset Municipal Partners Fund Inc.
BC Muni Bond	Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index

**Effective duration (unaudited)**

**Interest Rate Exposure May 31, 2011**

Effective duration measures the sensitivity to changes in relevant interest rates. Effective duration is quantified as the % change in price resulting from a 100 basis points change in interest rates. For a security with positive effective duration, an increase in interest rates would result in a price decline and a decline in interest rates would result in a price increase. This chart highlights the interest rate exposure of the Fund's sectors relative to the selected benchmark sectors as of the end of the reporting period.

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MNP	Western Asset Municipal Partners Fund Inc.
BC Muni Bond	Barclays Capital Municipal Bond Index



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**Schedule of investments (unaudited)**

May 31, 2011

**Western Asset Municipal Partners Fund Inc.**

<b>Security</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>	<b>Face Amount</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Municipal Bonds 96.2%</b>				
<i>Arizona 1.7%</i>				
Glendale, AZ, Transportation Excise Tax Revenue, NATL	5.000%	7/1/28	\$2,855,000	\$ 2,931,600
Phoenix, AZ, Civic Improvement Corp., Water System Revenue	5.000%	7/1/29	1,000,000	1,059,910
<b>Total Arizona</b>				<b>3,991,510</b>
<i>California 13.3%</i>				
California Health Facilities Finance Authority Revenue, Catholic Healthcare West	5.625%	7/1/32	5,000,000	5,004,250
California State, GO	5.250%	10/1/21	2,500,000	2,802,050
California State, GO, Unrefunded Balance	5.125%	6/1/24	35,000	35,025
California Statewide CDA Revenue, Insured Health Facility L.A., Jewish Home, CA, Mortgage Insurance	5.000%	11/15/28	1,500,000	1,454,115
Los Angeles, CA, Department of Water & Power Revenue, Power Systems, Subordinated, AGM	5.000%	7/1/35	5,000,000	