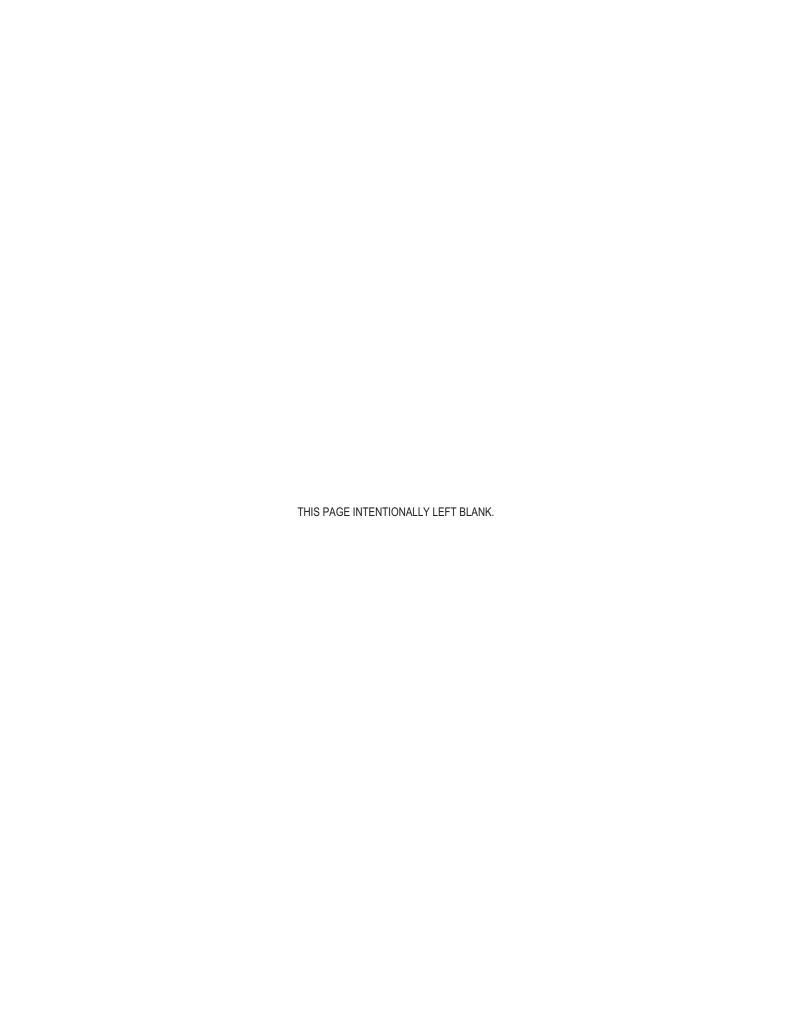
# BlackRock.

# 2020 Semi-Annual Report (Unaudited)

#### BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc.

• BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund



#### The Markets in Review

Dear Shareholder,

The last 12 months have been a time of sudden change in global financial markets, as a long period of growth and positive returns was interrupted in early 2020 by the emergence and spread of the coronavirus. For the first part of the reporting period, U.S. equities and bonds both delivered impressive returns, despite fears and doubts about the economy that were ultimately laid to rest with unprecedented monetary stimulus and a sluggish yet resolute performance from the U.S. economy. But as the threat from the coronavirus became more apparent throughout February and March 2020, leading countries around the world took economically disruptive countermeasures, causing equity prices to fall sharply. While markets have since recovered some of these losses as countries around the world begin reopening, there is still significant uncertainty surrounding the course of the pandemic, and an uptick in U.S. infection rates caused concern late in the reporting period.

Returns for most securities were robust for the first part of the reporting period, as investors began to realize that the U.S. economy was maintaining the modest yet steady growth that had characterized this economic cycle. However, once stay-at-home orders and closures of non-essential businesses became widespread, many workers were laid off and unemployment claims spiked. With large portions of the global economy on hold, all types of international equities ended the 12-month reporting period with negative performance, while in the United States large-capitalization stocks, which investors saw as more resilient than smaller companies, delivered solid returns.

The performance of different types of fixed-income securities diverged substantially due to a reduced investor appetite for risk. Treasuries benefited from the risk-off environment, and posted healthy returns, as the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield (which is inversely related to bond prices) fell to an all-time low. Investment-grade corporate bonds also delivered a solid return, while high-yield corporate returns were flat due to credit concerns.

The U.S. Federal Reserve (the "Fed") reduced interest rates three times in 2019, to support slowing economic growth. After the coronavirus outbreak, the Fed instituted two emergency rate cuts, pushing short-term interest rates close to zero. To stabilize credit markets, the Fed also announced a new bond-buying program, as did several other central banks around the world, including the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan.

Looking ahead, while coronavirus-related disruption has clearly hindered worldwide economic growth, we believe that the global expansion is likely to continue once the impact of the outbreak subsides. Several risks remain, however, including a potential resurgence of the virus amid loosened restrictions, policy fatigue among governments already deep into deficit spending, and structural damage to the financial system from lengthy economic interruptions.

Overall, we favor a moderately positive stance toward risk, and in particular toward credit given the extraordinary central bank measures taken in recent months. This support extends beyond investment-grade corporates and into high-yield, leading to attractive opportunities throughout the credit market. We believe that both U.S. Treasuries and sustainable investments can help provide portfolio resilience, and the disruption created by the coronavirus appears to be accelerating the shift toward sustainable investments. We remain neutral on equities overall while favoring European stocks, which are poised for a cyclical upside as re-openings continue.

In this environment, our view is that investors need to think globally, extend their scope across a broad array of asset classes, and be nimble as market conditions change. We encourage you to talk with your financial advisor and visit **blackrock.com** for further insight about investing in today's markets.

Sincerely,



Rob Kapito
President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC



Rob Kapito
President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC

#### Total Returns as of June 30, 2020

•	
6-Month	12-Month
(3.08)%	7.51%
(12.98)	(6.63)
(11.34)	(5.13)
(9.78)	(3.39)
0.60	1.63
12.68	14.21
6.14	8.74
1.97	4.23
(3.83)	0.00
	(3.08)% (12.98) (11.34) (9.78) 0.60 12.68 6.14

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Index performance is shown for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in an index.

# Money Market Overview For the 6-Month Period Ended June 30, 2020

At the onset of 2020, the economy was in a good place and interest rate policy was appropriate according to the Fed, but this outlook quickly changed upon the imposition of dramatic measures by authorities around the world to stem the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. In response, the Fed quickly enacted a series of unprecedented measures to channel credit to businesses and households and smooth market functioning.

The Fed's stimulus campaign began with an "emergency" 0.50% cut to the Federal Funds target rate on March 3, 2020. This action was followed up a few weeks later with a surprise 1% interest rate cut, bringing the range for the Federal Funds target rate to 0.00%-0.25%. This action included a commitment to keep rates low until the uncertainty has passed. Dusting off its crisis-era playbook, the Fed rebooted or rolled out various support facilities and continues to emphasize its support of credit and liquidity in order to stabilize markets.

The most impactful measure for money market funds, in our view, was the creation of the Money Market Liquidity Facility to purchases commercial paper and domestic and Yankee certificates of deposit from prime money market funds, and municipal debt and variable rate demand notes from municipal money market funds.

The facility was largely active and provided liquidity to money market funds by the end of the first quarter of 2020. In a nod to 2008, the Fed revived the following vehicles: the Commercial Paper Funding Facility to backstop the purchase of high-quality commercial paper from U.S. issuers; the Primary Dealer Credit Facility to provide low-cost funding against a broad range of collateral including commercial paper; and the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility to purchase asset-backed securities.

Other notable actions included the creation of new facilities to purchase investment- grade corporate debt through the Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility and Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility. A \$2 trillion fiscal aid package signed into law by President Trump along with a series of coordinated global fiscal and monetary actions complemented the Fed's sweeping measures.

While no new policy initiatives were announced at the June 10, 2020 Federal Open Market Committee meeting, Chairman Powell acknowledged during the post-meeting press conference that two additional policy tools, so-called forward guidance and the targeting of interest rates along the yield curve, were both discussed. Minutes of the meeting released on July 1 revealed that "participants generally indicated support for outcome-based forward guidance."

According to the Investment Company Institute ("ICI"), prime money market fund assets across the industry recouped over two-thirds of the outflows experienced during the first quarter of 2020, standing around \$761 billion at the quarter's end.

By contrast, over the second quarter, government money market fund assets industrywide declined more than \$160 billion since peaking at over \$3.9 trillion on May 13, 2020 per the ICI. According to Wrightson ICAP (a research firm that specializes in analysis of federal reserve operations and policy, economic data, and Treasury financing trends), net new Treasury bill supply was robust in the second quarter of 2020, totaling \$2.4 trillion. Rates across the Treasury bill curve were up modestly as of June 30 relative to the end of the first quarter of 2020, as markets digested heavy Treasury bill supply.

The three-month London Interbank Offered Rate overnight indexed swap spread—a gauge of stress in the financial system—declined to 0.24% as of June 30, 2020 from 1.38% as on March 31, 2020. A sign, in our view, of normalizing over the quarter.

Usage of the Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility—which is intended to serve as a backstop source of liquidity for prime and municipal money market funds—steadily declined throughout the second quarter. As of July 1, 2020, usage stood at around \$20.6 billion, which is down over \$32 billion from the peak level seen on April 8, 2020.

In our view, some of the excess liquidity that was amassed in money market funds in March and April is slowly being deployed elsewhere, and we expect to see additional outflows from money market funds in advance of the July 15 federal income tax filing date.

Net new Treasury bill issuance, in our assessment, could be tempered in the near term given the ample cash balance of over \$1.6 trillion in the Treasury General Account at the Fed as of July 1, 2020. Looking ahead, we believe a heavier-than-expected pace of disbursements from the Treasury General Account or passage of additional fiscal stimulus at the federal level could result in a resumption of more robust Treasury bill supply.

We expect credit spreads to remain range bound over the course of the third quarter of 2020. Going forward, we will be monitoring how successful economies are at restarting activity while controlling the coronavirus spread as well as the effectiveness of policy implementation.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Index performance is shown for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in an index.

#### **Investment Objective**

BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund's (the "Fund") investment objective is to seek to preserve capital, maintain liquidity and achieve the highest possible current income consistent with the foregoing.

#### **Fund Information**

#### **CURRENT SEVEN-DAY YIELDS**

	7-Day	
	SEC Yield	7-Day Yield
BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund	0.03%	0.03%

The 7-Day SEC Yields may differ from the 7-Day Yields shown above due to the fact that the 7-Day SEC Yields exclude distributed capital gains.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Performance results do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption of Fund shares.

#### PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

Asset Type	Percent of Net Assets
U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obligations	42%
Repurchase Agreements	40
U.S. Treasury Obligations	15
Other Assets Less Liabilities	3

#### **Disclosure of Expenses**

Shareholders of the Fund may incur the following charges: (a) transactional expenses; and (b) operating expenses, including investment advisory fees, service and distribution fees, and other fund expenses. The expense example shown below (which is based on a hypothetical investment of \$1,000 invested on January 1, 2020 and held through June 30, 2020) is intended to assist shareholders both in calculating expenses based on an investment in the Fund and in comparing these expenses with similar costs of investing in other mutual funds.

The expense example provides information about actual account values and actual expenses. In order to estimate the expenses a shareholder paid during the period covered by this report, shareholders can divide their account value by \$1,000 and then multiply the result by the number corresponding to their share class under the heading entitled "Expenses Paid During the Period."

The expense example also provides information about hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on the Fund's actual expense ratio and an assumed rate of return of 5% per year before expenses. In order to assist shareholders in comparing the ongoing expenses of investing in the Fund and other funds, compare the 5% hypothetical examples with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in shareholder reports of other funds.

The expenses shown in the expense example are intended to highlight shareholders' ongoing costs only and do not reflect transactional expenses, such as sales charges, if any. Therefore, the hypothetical example is useful in comparing ongoing expenses only, and will not help shareholders determine the relative total expenses of owning different funds. If these transactional expenses were included, shareholder expenses would have been higher.

				Actual		Hypothetical (a)						
		Beginning		Ending	Expenses		Beginning		Ending	E	Expenses	Annualized
	A	ccount Value	Α	Account Value	Paid During		Account Value	A	ccount Value	Pa	nid During	Expense
		(01/01/20)		(06/30/20)	the Period (b)	_	(01/01/20)		(06/30/20)	the	Period (b)	Ratio
Class I	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,003.40	\$ 1.49	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,023.37	\$	1.51	0.30%

<sup>(</sup>a) Hypothetical 5% annual return before expenses is calculated by prorating the number of days in the most recent fiscal half year divided by 366.

<sup>(</sup>b) Expenses are equal to the Fund's annualized expense ratio, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 182/366 (to reflect the one-half year period shown).

June 30, 2020

Security	Par (000)	Value	Security	Par (000)	Valu
U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obl	igations — 41.	8%	U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obl	igations (conti	nued)
Federal Farm Credit Bank Discount Notes(a):			(SOFR + 0.08%), 0.16%, 07/24/20 USD	265 \$	265,000
0.15%, 08/14/20 USD	770 \$		(LIBOR USD 1 Month - 0.03%),		
0.14%, 09/03/20	1,695	1,690,329	0.15%, 08/04/20	560	560,000
0.14%, 09/28/20	460	458,181	(SOFR + 0.03%), 0.11%, 08/05/20	335	335,000
0.15%, 10/02/20	545	544,268	(SOFR + 0.02%), 0.10%, 08/19/20	545	545,000
0.17%, 11/12/20	1,205	1,204,372	(LIBOR USD 1 Month - 0.05%),		
0.18%, 12/08/20	2,980	2,960,091	0.14%, 08/20/20	720	720,000
0.18%, 01/19/21	1,230	1,227,653	(SOFR + 0.03%), 0.11%, 08/21/20	245	245,000
0.18%, 01/20/21	270	268,660	(SOFR + 0.02%), 0.10%, 08/28/20	1,775	1,775,000
0.17%, 02/12/21	1,040	1,037,193	(SOFR + 0.09%), 0.16%, 09/11/20	1,460	1,460,000
0.17%, 03/11/21	1,000	998,805	(SOFR + 0.11%), 0.19%, 10/01/20	990	990,000
0.17%, 03/17/21	1,040	1,037,980	(SOFR + 0.12%), 0.20%, 10/07/20	500	500,000
0.15%, 06/01/21	1,155	1,152,958	(SOFR + 0.13%), 0.21%, 10/16/20	4,220	4,220,000
Federal Farm Credit Bank Variable Rate	1,100	1,102,000	(LIBOR USD 3 Month - 0.13%),	.,==0	.,,
Notes <sup>(b)</sup> :			0.18%, 12/21/20	1,350	1,350,000
(LIBOR USD 1 Month - 0.04%),			(LIBOR USD 3 Month - 0.17%),	1,000	1,000,000
0.15%, 09/11/20	510	509,997	1.18%, 01/08/21	700	700,000
	310	303,331	(SOFR + 0.05%), 0.13%, 01/22/21	310	310,000
(LIBOR USD 1 Month + 0.03%),	4.005	4 004 004	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
0.21%, 12/14/20	1,025	1,024,981	(SOFR + 0.04%), 0.12%, 02/09/21	1,825	1,824,812
(SOFR + 0.11%), 0.19%, 01/15/21	705	705,000	(SOFR + 0.08%), 0.16%, 03/04/21	560	560,000
(LIBOR USD 1 Month + 0.05%),			(SOFR + 0.12%), 0.20%, 03/12/21	890	890,000
0.24%, 04/16/21	1,185	1,185,000	(SOFR + 0.11%), 0.19%, 03/25/21	1,000	1,000,000
(US Treasury 3 Month Bill Money Market			(LIBOR USD 1 Month - 0.01%),		
Yield + 0.26%), 0.41%, 06/17/21	795	794,924	0.16%, 04/05/21	1,555	1,555,000
(LIBOR USD 1 Month + 0.16%),			(SOFR + 0.17%), 0.25%, 04/09/21	870	870,000
0.33%, 07/01/21	645	645,000	(LIBOR USD 1 Month - 0.02%),		
(US Treasury 3 Month Bill Money Market			0.16%, 04/27/21	865	864,794
Yield + 0.23%), 0.38%, 07/08/21	455	455,000	(SOFR + 0.08%), 0.16%, 07/08/21	650	650,000
(LIBOR USD 1 Month + 0.11%),			(SOFR + 0.09%), 0.16%, 09/10/21	1,580	1,580,000
0.29%, 07/09/21	260	260,000	(SOFR + 0.12%), 0.20%, 02/28/22	1,265	1,265,000
(LIBOR USD 1 Month + 0.13%),		,	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Discount	.,=00	.,200,000
0.31%, 10/08/21	300	300,000	Notes(a):		
(LIBOR USD 1 Month + 0.11%),	000	000,000	0.11%, 07/17/20	2,755	2,753,727
0.30%, 11/12/21	225	225,000			
	375	,	0.12%, 07/24/20	705	704,698
(SOFR + 0.19%), 0.27%, 11/18/21	3/3	375,000	0.12%, 07/28/20	1,085	1,084,463
Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corp., (US			Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Variable		
Treasury 3 Month Bill Money Market Yield +	070	000.070	Rate Notes <sup>(b)</sup> :		
0.12%), 0.27%, 05/02/22 <sup>(b)</sup>	270	269,970	(SOFR + 0.03%), 0.11%, 02/26/21	755	755,000
Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corp.			(SOFR + 0.18%), 0.26%, 12/13/21	1,390	1,390,000
Variable Rate Notes <sup>(b)</sup> :			Federal National Mortgage Association(b):		
(US Federal Funds Effective Rate			(SOFR + 0.36%), 0.44%, 01/20/22	2,600	2,600,000
(continuous series) + 0.10%),			(SOFR + 0.35%), 0.43%, 04/07/22	985	985,000
0.18%, 12/16/20	95	95,000	(SOFR + 0.39%), 0.47%, 04/15/22	1,470	1,470,000
(SOFR + 0.08%), 0.16%, 01/14/21	380	380,000	Federal National Mortgage Association		
(US Treasury 3 Month Bill Money Market			Discount Notes, 0.12%, 07/24/20 <sup>(a)</sup>	720	719,692
Yield + 0.15%), 0.30%, 12/13/21	535	534,227	Federal National Mortgage Association		,
(SOFR + 0.18%), 0.26%, 01/14/22	870	870,000	Variable Rate Notes, (SOFR + 0.07%),		
Federal Home Loan Bank, 0.20%, 06/17/21	480	479,964	0.15%, 12/11/20 <sup>(b)</sup>	715	715,000
Federal Home Loan Bank Discount Notes <sup>(a)</sup> :		,	0.1070, 12/11/20		7 10,000
0.10%, 07/06/20	3,785	3,784,174	Total U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obligati	one — 11 8%	
0.11%, 07/08/20	1,200	1,199,961	(Cost: \$83,710,968)		02 710 060
			(COSt. \$03,710,900)		83,710,968
0.11%, 07/15/20	885	884,463	H O T Oblication 45 00/		
0.12%, 07/22/20	2,235	2,234,844	U.S. Treasury Obligations — 15.2%		
0.12%, 07/31/20	3,595	3,590,315	U.S. Treasury Bills <sup>(a)</sup> :		
0.15%, 08/05/20	3,560	3,559,588	0.10%, 07/14/20	2,000	1,999,908
0.15%, 08/14/20	1,420	1,417,255	0.13%, 07/30/20	1,715	1,714,824
0.15%, 08/17/20	1,400	1,397,999	0.13%, 08/04/20	7,000	6,999,074
0.15%, 08/21/20	975	972,894	0.14%, 08/18/20	2,010	2,009,686
0.15%, 08/28/20	305	304,538			
0.18%, 12/04/20	1,215	1,211,314	0.13%, 08/20/20	355	354,256
0.16%, 06/11/21	840	838,390	0.14%, 08/27/20	1,140	1,138,457
Federal Home Loan Bank Variable Rate		,	0.14%, 09/10/20	455	453,439
Notes(b):			0.16%, 10/15/20	1,500	1,498,719
(LIBOR USD 1 Month + 0.01%),			0.16%, 10/22/20	2,450	2,448,826
0.18%, 07/10/20	1,645	1,645,000	0.16%, 10/29/20	595	594,700
0.1070, 01/10/20	1,040	1,070,000	0.18%, 11/10/20	1,085	1,084,293
			2020 BLACKROCK SEMI-ANNUAL		

June 30, 2020

Security	Par (000)	<u>Value</u>	Security P.		<u>Value</u>
U.S. Treasury Obligations (continued)			U.S. Treasury Obligations (continued)		
0.16%, 12/01/20 USD	600	\$ 599,582	(US Treasury 3 Month Bill Money Market		
0.16%, 02/25/21	2,000	1,997,610	Yield + 0.22%), 0.37%, 07/31/21 <sup>(b)</sup> USD 1,000	) ;	\$ 1,000,000
0.17%, 05/20/21	1,335	1,333,084	(US Treasury 3 Month Bill Money Market		
U.S. Treasury Notes:			Yield + 0.30%), 0.45%, 10/31/21 <sup>(b)</sup> 590	)	590,468
(US Treasury 3 Month Bill Money Market Yield + 0.05%), 0.20%, 10/31/20 <sup>(b)</sup>	3.000	2.998.956	Total U.S. Treasury Obligations — 15.2%	-	
1.75%, 11/15/20	190	190,095	(Cost: \$30,396,007)		30,396,007
2.63%, 11/15/20	530 210	531,921 209,965	Total Repurchase Agreements — 40.1%	-	00 500 000
2.00%, 11/30/20	125	125,174	(Cost: \$80,500,000)		80,500,000
2.00%, 01/15/21	350	353,085	Total Investments — 97.1% (Cost: \$194,606,975) <sup>(c)</sup>		404 000 075
Yield + 0.14%), 0.29%, 04/30/21 <sup>(b)</sup>	170	169,885	Other Assets Less Liabilities — 2.9%	_	194,606,975 5,828,308
			Net Assets — 100.0%	9	\$ 200,435,283

<sup>(</sup>a) Rates are the current rate or a range of current rates as of period end.

#### **Repurchase Agreements**

			Repurchas	se Agreements				Collateral	
Counterparty	Coupon Rate	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Par (000)	At Value (000)	Proceeds Including Interest	Position	Original Par	Positior Received At Value
Bank of America Securities, Inc	0.09%	06/30/20	07/01/20 \$	10,000 \$	10,000 \$	10,000,025	U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obligation, 2.99%, due 07/18/34	\$ 9,637,000	\$ 10,200,803
BNP Paribas SA	0.09	06/30/20	07/01/20	13,000	13,000	13,000,033	U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obligations and U.S. Treasury Obligations, 0.00% to 8.75%, due 07/15/20 to 05/20/50	31,085,367	13,260,000
Goldman Sachs & Co.	0.11	06/24/20	07/01/20	4,000	4,000	4,000,086	U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obligations and U.S. Treasury Obligations, 0.00% to 4.38%, due 08/06/20 to 02/15/48	4,036,886	4,080,000
JP Morgan Securities LLC	0.07	06/30/20	07/01/20	10,000	10,000	10,000,019	U.S. Treasury Obligation, 2.00%, due 07/31/20 . U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obligations, 6.00% to	10,100,800	10,200,068
	0.26 (a)	06/30/20	08/05/20	3,500	3,500	3,500,918	6.46%, due 02/20/42 to 07/16/43	58,988,496	3,675,003
Total JP Morgan Securities LL	.C			\$	13,500				\$ 13,875,071
Mizuho Securities USA	0.09	06/30/20	07/01/20	15,000	15,000	15,000,038	U.S. Government Sponsored Agency Obligation, 2.50%, due 06/01/50	14,798,130	15,450,001
Societe Generale SA	0.07	06/30/20	07/01/20	10,000	10,000	10,000,019	U.S. Treasury Obligations, 0.00% to 3.00%, due 08/13/20 to 11/15/45	7,782,741	 10,200,033

<sup>(</sup>b) Variable rate security. Rate shown is the rate in effect as of period end.

<sup>(</sup>c) Cost for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

June 30, 2020

			Repurchase	e Agreement	S			Collateral		
Counterparty	Coupon Rate	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Par (000)	At Value (000)	Proceeds Including Interest	Position	Original F	Par	Position Received, At Value
TD Securities USA LLC.	0.07%	06/30/20	07/01/20 \$	10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000,019	U.S. Treasury Obligations, 1.13% to 2.25%, due 02/28/21 to 01/31/24	\$ 9,944,3	00 \$	10,200,048
Wells Fargo Securities LLC	0.07	06/30/20	07/01/20	5,000	5,000 \$ 80,500	5,000,010	U.S. Treasury Obligation, 1.75%, due 11/30/21 .	4,981,6	00	5,100,059 82,366,015

<sup>(</sup>e) Variable rate security. Rate as of period end and maturity is the date the principal owed can be recovered through demand.

#### Fair Value Hierarchy as of Period End

Various inputs are used in determining the fair value of investments. For information about the Fund's policy regarding valuation of investments, refer to the Notes to Financial Statements.

The following table summarizes the Fund's investments categorized in the disclosure hierarchy:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets: Investments:				
Short-Term Securities	\$ 	\$ 194,606,975	\$ 	\$ 194,606,975

The breakdown of the Fund's investments into major categories is disclosed in the Schedule of Investments above.

# Statement of Assets and Liabilities (unaudited)

June 30, 2020

		BlackRock Government oney Market V.I. Fund
ASSETS		
Investments at value — unaffiliated (cost — \$114,106,975).	\$	114,106,975
Cash		6,208,900 80,500,000
Investments sold		339,904 159,148
Interest — unaffiliated		21,978
From affiliate(s)		923
Prepaid expenses		1,554
Total assets	_	201,339,382
LIABILITIES Payables: Investments purchased Capital shares redeemed Investment advisory fees Other affiliates Professional fees Other accrued expenses Total liabilities		594,700 127,259 31,680 660 59,855 89,945 904,099
NET ASSETS	\$	200,435,283
NET ASSETS CONSIST OF Paid-in capital	\$	200,411,189
Accumulated earnings		24,094
NET ASSETS	\$	200,435,283
NET ASSET VALUE  Class I — Based on net assets of \$200,435,283 and 200,410,725 shares outstanding, 3.3 billion shares authorized, \$0.10 par value	\$	1.00

See notes to financial statements.

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# Statement of Operations (unaudited)

Six Months Ended June 30, 2020

	BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund
INVESTMENT INCOME	
Interest — unaffiliated	
Total investment income	330,300
EXPENSES	
Investment advisory	507,396
Transfer agent	44,452
Professional	42,300
Printing	40,271
Accounting services	20,410
Custodian	6,757
Directors and Officer	3,489
Miscellaneous	2,734
Total expenses	667,809
Less:	(004 400)
Fees waived and/or reimbursed by the Manager	(321,403)
Transfer agent fees waived and/or reimbursed	
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed	
Net investment income	694,538
REALIZED GAIN	
Net realized gain from investments	4,576
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	
RET INORENCE IN RET ROCE TO RECOEFINO FROM OF ENATIONS	\$ 699,114

# Statements of Changes in Net Assets

	Bla		ent Mo ınd	nt Money Market V.I. nd		
	Six Months Ended 06/30/20 (unaudited)			Year Ended 12/31/19		
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS						
OPERATIONS  Net investment income .  Net realized gain .  Net increase in net assets resulting from operations.	\$	694,538 4,576 699,114	\$	3,931,343 4,798 3,936,141		
DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS (a)  Decrease in net assets resulting from distributions to shareholders		(694,538)		(3,931,343)		
CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS  Net proceeds from sale of shares  Reinvestments of distributions  Cost of shares redeemed  Net increase (decrease) in net assets derived from capital transactions.		119,976,898 686,739 (121,551,011) (887,374)		90,279,997 3,926,355 (92,332,532) 1,873,820		
NETASSETS						
Total increase (decrease) in net assets		(882,798) 201,318,081		1,878,618 199,439,463		
End of period	\$	200,435,283	\$	201,318,081		

<sup>(</sup>a) Distributions for annual periods determined in accordance with U.S. federal income tax regulations.

# Financial Highlights

(For a share outstanding throughout each period)

	BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund											
	Class I											
	Six N	Months Ended	Year Ended December 31,									
		(unaudited)		2019		2018		2017		2016		2015
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	1.00
Net investment income		0.0034		0.0196		0.0160		0.0064		0.0013		0.0000 <sup>(a)</sup>
Net realized gain (loss)		0.0000 <sup>(a)</sup>		0.0000 <sup>(a)</sup>		(0.0001)		0.0000 <sup>(a)</sup>		0.0000 <sup>(a)</sup>		0.0001
Net increase from investment operations		0.0034		0.0196		0.0159		0.0064		0.0013		0.0001
Distributions (b)												
From net investment income		(0.0034)		(0.0196)		(0.0159)		(0.0064)		(0.0013)		(0.0000)(c
From net realized gain		_		$(0.0000)^{(c)}$		_		(0.0000) <sup>(c)</sup>		(0.0000) <sup>(c)</sup>		(0.0001)
Total distributions		(0.0034)		(0.0196)		(0.0159)		(0.0064)		(0.0013)		(0.0001)
Net asset value, end of period	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	1.00
Total Return (d)												
Based on net asset value		0.34% <sup>(e)</sup>		1.98%		1.61%		0.65%		0.13%		0.01%
Ratios to Average Net Assets												
Total expenses		0.66% <sup>(f)</sup>		0.64%		0.80% <sup>(g)</sup>		0.72%		0.62%		0.61%
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed		0.30% <sup>(f)</sup>		0.30%		0.30% <sup>(g)</sup>		0.30%		0.30%		0.18%
Net investment income		0.68% <sup>(f)</sup>		1.96%		1.60%		0.63%		0.13%		0.00%
Supplemental Data												
Net assets, end of period (000)	\$	200,435	\$	201,318	\$	199,439	\$	135,659	\$	151,523	\$	152,118

<sup>(</sup>a) Amount is less than \$0.00005 per share.

<sup>(</sup>b) Distributions for annual periods determined in accordance with U.S. federal income tax regulations.

<sup>(</sup>c) Amount is greater than \$(0.00005) per share.

<sup>(</sup>d) Where applicable, excludes insurance-related fees and expenses and assumes the reinvestment of distributions.

<sup>(</sup>e) Aggregate total return.

<sup>(</sup>f) Annualized.

<sup>(</sup>g) Includes reorganization costs associated with the Fund's reorganization. Without these costs, total expenses and total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed would have been 0.72% and 0.29%, respectively.

## Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited)

#### 1. ORGANIZATION

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. (the "Company") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), as an open-end management investment company. The Company is organized as a Maryland corporation that is comprised of 15 separate funds. The funds offer shares to insurance companies for their separate accounts to fund benefits under certain variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts. The financial statements presented are for BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is classified as diversified.

The Fund operates as a "government money market fund" under Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act. The Fund is not subject to liquidity fees or temporary suspensions of redemptions due to declines in the Fund's weekly liquid assets.

The Fund, together with certain other registered investment companies advised by BlackRock Advisors, LLC (the "Manager") or its affiliates, is included in a complex of equity, multi-asset, index and money market funds referred to as the BlackRock Multi-Asset Complex.

#### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"), which may require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The Fund is considered an investment company under U.S. GAAP and follows the accounting and reporting guidance applicable to investment companies. Below is a summary of significant accounting policies:

Investment Transactions and Income Recognition: For financial reporting purposes, investment transactions are recorded on the dates the transactions are executed. Realized gains and losses on investment transactions are determined on the identified cost basis. Interest income, including amortization and accretion of premiums and discounts on debt securities, is recognized on an accrual basis.

Distributions: Distributions from net investment income are declared daily and paid monthly. Distributions of capital gains are distributed at least annually and are recorded on the ex-dividend dates. The character and timing of distributions are determined in accordance with U.S. federal income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. GAAP.

Indemnifications: In the normal course of business, the Fund enters into contracts that contain a variety of representations that provide general indemnification. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown because it involves future potential claims against the Fund, which cannot be predicted with any certainty.

Other: Expenses directly related to the Fund are charged to the Fund. Other operating expenses shared by several funds, including other funds managed by the Manager, are prorated among those funds on the basis of relative net assets or other appropriate methods.

#### 3. INVESTMENT VALUATION AND FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Investment Valuation Policies: U.S. GAAP defines fair value as the price the Fund would receive to sell an asset or pay to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Fund's investments are valued under the amortized cost method which approximates current market value in accordance with Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act. Under this method, investments are valued at cost when purchased and, thereafter, a constant proportionate accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums are recorded until the maturity of the security. The Fund seeks to maintain its net asset value per share at \$1.00, although there is no assurance that it will be able to do so on a continuing basis.

Fair Value Hierarchy: Various inputs are used in determining the fair value of investments. These inputs to valuation techniques are categorized into a fair value hierarchy consisting of three broad levels for financial statement purposes as follows:

- · Level 1 Unadjusted price quotations in active markets/exchanges for identical assets or liabilities that the Fund has the ability to access
- Level 2 Other observable inputs (including, but not limited to, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in markets that are active, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets or liabilities (such as interest rates, yield curves, volatilities, prepayment speeds, loss severities, credit risks and default rates) or other market—corroborated inputs)
- Level 3 Unobservable inputs based on the best information available in the circumstances, to the extent observable inputs are not available (including the BlackRock Global Valuation Methodologies Committee's assumptions used in determining the fair value of investments)

The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3. The inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, for disclosure purposes, the fair value hierarchy classification is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The categorization of a value determined for investments is based on the pricing transparency of the investments and is not necessarily an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities.

#### 4. SECURITIES AND OTHER INVESTMENTS

Repurchase Agreements: Repurchase agreements are commitments to purchase a security from a counterparty who agrees to repurchase the same security at a mutually agreed upon date and price. On a daily basis, the counterparty is required to maintain collateral subject to the agreement and in value no less than the agreed upon repurchase amount. Repurchase agreements may be traded bilaterally, in a tri-party arrangement or may be centrally cleared through a sponsoring agent. Subject to the

Notes to Financial Statements

#### Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited) (continued)

custodial undertaking associated with a tri-party repurchase arrangement and for centrally cleared repurchase agreements, a third party custodian maintains accounts to hold collateral for the fund and its counterparties. Typically, the fund and counterparty are not permitted to sell, re-pledge or use the collateral absent a default by the counterparty or the fund, respectively.

In the event the counterparty defaults and the fair value of the collateral declines, the fund could experience losses, delays and costs in liquidating the collateral.

Repurchase agreements are entered into by the fund under Master Repurchase Agreements (each, an "MRA"). The MRA permits the fund, under certain circumstances including an event of default (such as bankruptcy or insolvency), to offset payables and/or receivables with collateral held by and/or posted to the counterparty. As a result, one single net payment is created. Bankruptcy or insolvency laws of a particular jurisdiction may impose restrictions on or prohibitions against such a right of offset in the event of the MRA counterparty's bankruptcy or insolvency. Based on the terms of the MRA, the fund receives securities as collateral with a market value in excess of the repurchase price at maturity. Upon a bankruptcy or insolvency of the MRA counterparty, the fund would recognize a liability with respect to such excess collateral. The liability reflects the fund's obligation under bankruptcy law to return the excess to the counterparty.

#### 5. INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES

Investment Advisory: The Company, on behalf of the Fund, entered into an Investment Advisory Agreement with the Manager, the Fund's investment adviser and an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc. ("BlackRock"), to provide investment advisory and administrative services. The Manager is responsible for the management of the Fund's portfolio and provides the personnel, facilities, equipment and certain other services necessary to the operations of the Fund.

For such services, the Fund pays the Manager a monthly fee at an annual rate equal to the following percentages of the average daily value of the Fund's net assets:

	Investment
Average Daily Net Assets	Advisory Fees
First \$1 Billion	0.500%
\$1 Billion - \$2 Billion	0.450
\$2 Billion - \$3 Billion	0.400
\$3 Billion - \$4 Billion	0.375
\$4 Billion - \$7 Billion	0.350
\$7 Billion - \$10 Billion	0.325
\$10 Billion - \$15 Billion	0.300
Greater than \$15 Billion	0.290

Distribution Fees: The Company, on behalf of the Fund, entered into a Distribution Agreement with BlackRock Investments, LLC, an affiliate of the Manager.

**Transfer Agent:** On behalf of the Fund, the Manager entered into agreements with insurance companies and other financial intermediaries ("Service Organizations"), some of which may be affiliates. Pursuant to these agreements, the Service Organizations provide the Fund with administrative, networking, recordkeeping, sub-transfer agency and shareholder services to underlying investor accounts. For these services, the Service Organizations receive an annual fee per shareholder account, which will vary depending on share class and/or net assets of Fund shareholders serviced by the Service Organizations. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, the Fund did not pay any amounts to affiliates in return for these services.

Expense Limitations, Waivers and Reimbursements: The Manager has voluntarily agreed to waive a portion of its investment advisory fees and/or reimburse operating expenses to enable the Fund to maintain minimum levels of daily net investment income if applicable. These amounts, if any, are reported in the Statement of Operations as fees waived and/or reimbursed by the Manager. The Manager may discontinue the waiver and/or reimbursement at any time. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, there were no fees waived and/or reimbursed by the Manager under this agreement.

For the six months ended June 30, 2020, the Fund reimbursed the Manager \$1,194 for certain accounting services, which is included in accounting services in the Statement of Operations.

The Manager contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses in order to limit expenses, excluding interest expense, dividend expense, tax expense, acquired fund fees and expenses, and certain other fund expenses, which constitute extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business ("expense limitation"), to 0.30% of average daily net assets of Class I Shares.

The Manager has agreed not to reduce or discontinue this contractual expense limitation through April 30, 2021, unless approved by the Board of Directors of the Company, including a majority of the directors who are not "interested persons" of the Company, as defined in the 1940 Act ("Independent Directors"), or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, the Manager waived and/or reimbursed \$321,403 and \$41,964, which is included in fees waived and/or reimbursed by the Manager and transfer agent fees waived and/or reimbursed, respectively, in the Statement of Operations.

**Directors and Officers:** Certain directors and/or officers of the Company are directors and/or officers of BlackRock or its affiliates. The Fund reimburses the Manager for a portion of the compensation paid to the Company's Chief Compliance Officer, which is included in Directors and Officer in the Statement of Operations.

#### 6. INCOME TAX INFORMATION

It is the Fund's policy to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, applicable to regulated investment companies, and to distribute substantially all of its taxable income to its shareholders. Therefore, no U.S. federal income tax provision is required.

#### Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited) (continued)

The Fund files U.S. federal and various state and local tax returns. No income tax returns are currently under examination. The statute of limitations on the Fund's U.S. federal tax returns generally remains open for each of the four years ended December 31, 2019. The statutes of limitations on the Fund's state and local tax returns may remain open for an additional year depending upon the jurisdiction.

Management has analyzed tax laws and regulations and their application to the Fund as of June 30, 2020, inclusive of the open tax return years, and does not believe that there are any uncertain tax positions that require recognition of a tax liability in the Fund's financial statements.

#### 7. PRINCIPAL RISKS

In the normal course of business, the Fund invests in securities or other instruments and may enter into certain transactions, and such activities subject the Fund to various risks, including among others, fluctuations in the market (market risk) or failure of an issuer to meet all of its obligations. The value of securities or other instruments may also be affected by various factors, including, without limitation: (i) the general economy; (ii) the overall market as well as local, regional or global political and/or social instability; (iii) regulation, taxation or international tax treaties between various countries; or (iv) currency, interest rate and price fluctuations. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issues, recessions, or other events could have a significant impact on the Fund and its investments. The Fund's prospectus provides details of the risks to which the Fund is subject.

An outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus has developed into a global pandemic and has resulted in closing borders, quarantines, disruptions to supply chains and customer activity, as well as general concern and uncertainty. The impact of this pandemic, and other global health crises that may arise in the future, could affect the economies of many nations, individual companies and the market in general in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. This pandemic may result in substantial market volatility and may adversely impact the prices and liquidity of a fund's investments. The duration of this pandemic and its effects cannot be determined with certainty.

Counterparty Credit Risk: The Fund may be exposed to counterparty credit risk, or the risk that an entity may fail to or be unable to perform on its commitments related to unsettled or open transactions. The Fund manages counterparty credit risk by entering into transactions only with counterparties that the Manager believes have the financial resources to honor their obligations and by monitoring the financial stability of those counterparties. Financial assets, which potentially expose the Fund to market, issuer and counterparty credit risks, consist principally of financial instruments and receivables due from counterparties. The extent of the Fund's exposure to market, issuer and counterparty credit risks with respect to these financial assets is approximately their value recorded in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, less any collateral held by the Fund.

#### 8. CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS

Transactions in capital shares for each class were as follows:

	Six Month 06/3	ed	Year E 12/3			
	Shares		Amount	Shares		Amount
Class I						
Shares sold	119,976,898	\$	119,976,898	90,266,065	\$	90,279,997
Shares issued in reinvestment of distributions	686,739		686,739	3,926,355		3,926,355
Shares redeemed	(121,551,011)		(121,551,011)	(92,332,532)		(92,332,532)
Net increase (decrease)	(887,374)	\$	(887,374)	1,859,888	\$	1,873,820

#### 9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated the impact of all subsequent events on the Fund through the date the financial statements were issued and has determined that there were no subsequent events requiring adjustment or additional disclosure in the financial statements.

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# Glossary of Terms Used in this Report

# Currency

USD United States Dollar

## **Portfolio Abbreviations**

LIBOR London Interbank Offered Rate SOFR Secured Overnight Financing Rate

The Board of Directors (the "Board." the members of which are referred to as "Board Members") of BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. (the "Corporation") met on April 7. 2020 (the "April Meeting") and May 11-13, 2020 (the "May Meeting") to consider the approval of the investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") between the Corporation, on behalf of BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Core V.I. Fund (the "Large Cap Core V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund (the "Large Cap Value V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund (the "U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Basic Value V.I. Fund (the "Basic Value V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund (the "Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Equity Dividend V.I. Fund (the "Equity Dividend V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund (the "Global Allocation V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund (the "Government Money Market V.I. Fund"), BlackRock International V.I. Fund (the "International V.I. Fund"), BlackRock International Index V.I. Fund (the "International Index V.I. Fund"), BlackRock 60/40 Target Allocation ETF V.I. Fund (the "60/40 Target Allocation ETF V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund (the "Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund (the "Managed Volatility V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund (the "Small Cap Index V.I. Fund") and BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund (the "S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund") (each, a "Fund," and collectively the "Funds"), each a series of the Corporation, and BlackRock Advisors, LLC (the "Manager"), the Corporation's investment advisor. The Board also considered the approval of the sub-advisory agreements between the Manager and (a) BlackRock International Limited ("BIL") with respect to International V.I. Fund and Managed Volatility V.I. Fund (the "BIL Sub-Advisory Agreements"); (b) BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited ("BNA") with respect to Managed Volatility V.I. Fund (the "BNA Sub-Advisory Agreement"); and (c) BlackRock (Singapore) Limited ("BSL" and together with BIL and BNA, the "Sub-Advisors") with respect to Managed Volatility V.I. Fund (the "BSL Sub-Advisory Agreement" and together with the BIL Sub-Advisory Agreements and the BNA Sub-Advisory Agreement, the "Sub-Advisory Agreements"). The Manager and the Sub-Advisors are referred to herein as "BlackRock." The Advisory Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreements are referred to herein as the "Agreements."

#### **Activities and Composition of the Board**

On the date of the May Meeting, the Board consisted of fourteen individuals, twelve of whom were not "interested persons" of the Corporation as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (the "Independent Board Members"). The Board Members are responsible for the oversight of the operations of the Corporation and perform the various duties imposed on the directors of investment companies by the 1940 Act. The Independent Board Members have retained independent legal counsel to assist them in connection with their duties. The Chair of the Board is an Independent Board Member. The Board has established five standing committees: an Audit Committee, a Governance and Nominating Committee, a Compliance Committee, a Performance Oversight Committee and an Ad Hoc Topics Committee, each of which is chaired by an Independent Board Member and composed of Independent Board Members (except for the Ad Hoc Topics Committee, which also has one interested Board Member).

#### The Agreements

Consistent with the requirements of the 1940 Act, the Board considers the continuation of the Agreements on an annual basis. The Board has four quarterly meetings per year, each typically extending for two days, and additional in-person and telephonic meetings throughout the year, as needed. While the Board also has a fifth one-day meeting to consider specific information surrounding the renewal of the Agreements, the Board's consideration entails a year-long deliberative process whereby the Board and its committees assess BlackRock's services to the Funds. In particular, the Board assessed, among other things, the nature, extent and quality of the services provided to each Fund by BlackRock, BlackRock's personnel and affiliates, including (as applicable): investment management services; accounting oversight; administrative and shareholder services; oversight of each Fund's service providers; risk management and oversight; and legal, regulatory and compliance services. Throughout the year, including during the contract renewal process, the Independent Board Members were advised by independent legal counsel, and met with independent legal counsel in various executive sessions outside of the presence of BlackRock's management.

During the year, the Board, acting directly and through its committees, considers information that is relevant to its annual consideration of the renewal of the Agreements, including the services and support provided by BlackRock to each Fund and its shareholders. BlackRock also furnished additional information to the Board in response to specific questions from the Board. This additional information is discussed further in the section titled "Board Considerations in Approving the Agreements." Among the matters the Board considered were: (a) with respect to each Fund, investment performance for one-year, three-year, five-year, and/or since inception periods, as applicable, against peer funds, an applicable benchmark, and other performance metrics, as applicable, as well as BlackRock senior management's and portfolio managers' analyses of the reasons for any outperformance or underperformance relative to its peers, benchmarks, and other performance metrics, as applicable; (b) fees, including advisory, administration, if applicable, and other amounts paid to BlackRock and its affiliates by each Fund for services; (c) Fund operating expenses and how BlackRock allocates expenses to each Fund; (d) the resources devoted to, risk oversight of, and compliance reports relating to, implementation of each Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions, and meeting regulatory requirements; (e) BlackRock's and the Corporation's adherence to applicable compliance policies and procedures; (f) the nature, character and scope of non-investment management services provided by BlackRock and its affiliates and the estimated cost of such services; (g) BlackRock's and other service providers' internal controls and risk and compliance oversight mechanisms; (h) BlackRock's implementation of the proxy voting policies approved by the Board; (i) the use of brokerage commissions and execution quality of portfolio transactions; (j) BlackRock's implementation of the Corporation's valuation and liquidity procedures; (k) an analysis of management fees for products with similar investment mandates across the open-end fund, exchange-traded fund ("ETF"), closed-end fund, sub-advised mutual fund, separately managed account, collective investment trust, and institutional separate account product channels, as applicable, and the similarities and differences between these products and the services provided as compared to each Fund; (I) BlackRock's compensation methodology for its investment professionals and the incentives and accountability it creates, along with investment professionals' investments in the fund(s) they manage; and (m) periodic updates on BlackRock's business.

#### **Board Considerations in Approving the Agreements**

The Approval Process: Prior to the April Meeting, the Board requested and received materials specifically relating to the Agreements. The Independent Board Members are continuously engaged in a process with their independent legal counsel and BlackRock to review the nature and scope of the information provided to the Board to better assist its deliberations. The materials provided in connection with the April Meeting included, among other things: (a) information independently compiled and prepared by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge"), based on either a Lipper classification or Morningstar category, regarding each Fund's fees and expenses as compared with a peer group of funds as determined by Broadridge ("Expense Peers") and the investment performance of each Fund as compared with a peer group of funds ("Performance Peers"); (b) information on the composition of the Expense Peers and Performance Peers, and a description of Broadridge's methodology; (c) information on the estimated profits realized by BlackRock and its affiliates pursuant to the Agreements and a discussion of fall-out benefits to BlackRock and its affiliates; (d) a general analysis provided by BlackRock concerning investment management fees received in connection with other types of investment products, such as institutional accounts,

sub-advised mutual funds, ETFs, closed-end funds, open-end funds, and separately managed accounts under similar investment mandates, as well as the performance of such other products, as applicable; (e) a review of non-management fees; (f) the existence, impact and sharing of potential economies of scale, if any, with the Funds; (g) a summary of aggregate amounts paid by each Fund to BlackRock; (h) sales and redemption data regarding each Fund's shares; and (i) various additional information requested by the Board as appropriate regarding BlackRock's and each Fund's operations.

At the April Meeting, the Board reviewed materials relating to its consideration of the Agreements. As a result of the discussions that occurred during the April Meeting, and as a culmination of the Board's year-long deliberative process, the Board presented BlackRock with questions and requests for additional information. BlackRock responded to these questions and requests with additional written information in advance of the May Meeting.

At the May Meeting, the Board concluded its assessment of, among other things: (a) the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by BlackRock; (b) the investment performance of each Fund as compared to its Performance Peers and to other metrics, as applicable; (c) the advisory fee and the estimated cost of the services and estimated profits realized by BlackRock and its affiliates from their relationship with the Funds; (d) each Fund's fees and expenses compared to its Expense Peers; (e) the existence and sharing of potential economies of scale; (f) any fall-out benefits to BlackRock and its affiliates as a result of BlackRock's relationship with the Funds; and (g) other factors deemed relevant by the Board Members.

The Board also considered other matters it deemed important to the approval process, such as other payments made to BlackRock or its affiliates relating to securities lending and cash management, and BlackRock's services related to the valuation and pricing of each Fund's portfolio holdings. The Board noted the willingness of BlackRock personnel to engage in open, candid discussions with the Board. The Board did not identify any particular information as determinative, and each Board Member may have attributed different weights to the various items considered.

A. Nature, Extent and Quality of the Services Provided by BlackRock: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, reviewed the nature, extent and quality of services provided by BlackRock, including the investment advisory services and the resulting performance of each Fund. Throughout the year, the Board compared each Fund's performance to the performance of a comparable group of mutual funds, relevant benchmark, and performance metrics, as applicable. The Board met with BlackRock's senior management personnel responsible for investment activities, including the senior investment officers. The Board also reviewed the materials provided by each Fund's portfolio management team discussing the Fund's performance, investment strategies and outlook.

The Board considered, among other factors, with respect to BlackRock: the number, education and experience of investment personnel generally and each Fund's portfolio management team; research capabilities; investments by portfolio managers in the funds they manage; portfolio trading capabilities; use of technology; commitment to compliance; credit analysis capabilities; risk analysis and oversight capabilities; and the approach to training and retaining portfolio managers and other research, advisory and management personnel. The Board also considered BlackRock's overall risk management program, including the continued efforts of BlackRock and its affiliates to address cybersecurity risks and the role of BlackRock's Risk & Quantitative Analysis Group. The Board engaged in a review of BlackRock's compensation structure with respect to each Fund's portfolio management team and BlackRock's ability to attract and retain high-quality talent and create performance incentives.

In addition to investment advisory services, the Board considered the nature and quality of the administrative and other non-investment advisory services provided to each Fund. BlackRock and its affiliates provide the Funds with certain administrative, shareholder and other services (in addition to any such services provided to the Funds by third-parties) and officers and other personnel as are necessary for the operations of the Funds. In particular, BlackRock and its affiliates provide the Funds with administrative services including, among others: (i) responsibility for disclosure documents, such as the prospectus, the summary prospectus (as applicable), the statement of additional information and periodic shareholder reports; (ii) oversight of daily accounting and pricing; (iii) responsibility for periodic filings with regulators; (iv) overseeing and coordinating the activities of third-party service providers, including, among others, each Fund's custodian, fund accountant, transfer agent, and auditor; (v) organizing Board meetings and preparing the materials for such Board meetings; (vi) providing legal and compliance support; (vii) furnishing analytical and other support to assist the Board in its consideration of strategic issues such as the merger, consolidation or repurposing of certain open-end funds; and (viii) performing or managing administrative functions necessary for the operation of each Fund, such as tax reporting, expense management, fulfilling regulatory filing requirements, overseeing each Fund's distribution partners, and shareholder call center and other services. The Board reviewed the structure and duties of BlackRock's fund administration, shareholder services, and legal & compliance departments and considered BlackRock's policies and procedures for assuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

B. The Investment Performance of the Funds and BlackRock: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, also reviewed and considered the performance history of each Fund. In preparation for the April Meeting, the Board was provided with reports independently prepared by Broadridge, which included an analysis of each Fund's performance as of December 31, 2019, as compared to its Performance Peers. Broadridge ranks funds in quartiles, ranging from first to fourth, where first is the most desirable quartile position and fourth is the least desirable. In connection with its review, the Board received and reviewed information regarding the investment performance of each Fund as compared to its Performance Peers and, with respect to 60/40 Target Allocation ETF V.I. Fund, Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund, Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund, Large Cap Core V.I. Fund, Large Cap Value V.I. Fund, Global Allocation V.I. Fund, Basic Value V.I. Fund, U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund and International V.I. Fund, the respective Morningstar open-end fund category ("Morningstar Open-End Category"); with respect to Managed Volatility V.I. Fund, in light of the Fund's outcome-oriented investment objective, certain performance metrics ("Outcome-Oriented Performance Metrics"); with respect to International Index V.I. Fund, Small Cap Index V.I. Fund and S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund, the performance of the Fund as compared with its benchmark; and, with respect to Government Money Market V.I. Fund, a weighted average benchmark of similar funds, as defined by BlackRock ("Benchmark Weighted Average"). The Board and its Performance Oversight Committee regularly review, and meet with Fund management to discuss, the performance of each Fund throughout the year.

In evaluating performance, the Board focused particular attention on funds with less favorable performance records. The Board also noted that while it found the data provided by Broadridge generally useful, it recognized the limitations of such data, including in particular, that notable differences may exist between a fund and its Performance Peers (for example, the investment objectives and strategies). Further, the Board recognized that the performance data reflects a snapshot of a period as of a particular date and that selecting a different performance period could produce significantly different results. The Board also acknowledged that long-term performance could be impacted by even one period of significant outperformance or underperformance, and that a single investment theme could have the ability to disproportionately affect long-term performance.

The Board noted that for each of the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, Equity Dividend V.I. Fund ranked in the first quartile against its Performance Peers.

The Board noted that for the one-, three-, and five-year periods reported, 60/40 Target Allocation ETF V.I. Fund ranked in the first, first and second quartiles, respectively, against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the

Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, International V.I. Fund ranked in the first, first and second quartiles, respectively, against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund ranked in the second, first and first quartile, respectively, against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board.

The Board noted that for each of the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, Global Allocation V.I. Fund ranked in the second quartile against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board noted significant changes to the Fund's portfolio management team under the senior leadership of BlackRock's Global Fixed Income Chief Investment Officer and an expansion of resources.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund ranked in the third, first and first quartiles, respectively, against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Fund's underperformance relative to its Morningstar Open-End Category during the applicable periods.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, Large Cap Core V.I. Fund ranked in the third, second and second quartiles, respectively against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Fund's underperformance relative to its Morningstar Open-End Category during the applicable periods.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, Large Cap Value V.I. Fund ranked in the third, second and second quartiles, respectively, against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Fund's underperformance relative to its Morningstar Open-End Category during the applicable periods.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund ranked in the third, fourth and third quartiles, respectively against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Fund's underperformance relative to its Morningstar Open-End Category during the applicable periods.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, Basic Value V.I. Fund ranked in the third, fourth and fourth quartiles, respectively, against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Fund's underperformance relative to its Morningstar Open-End Category during the applicable periods. The Board was informed that, among other things, longer-term performance was impacted by the investment team's focus on value and related positioning in more volatile areas of the market.

The Board and BlackRock discussed BlackRock's strategy for improving the Fund's investment performance. Discussions covered topics such as performance attribution, the Fund's investment personnel, and the resources appropriate to support the Fund's investment processes.

The Board noted that for each of the one-and three-year periods reported, Government Money Market V.I. Fund outperformed its Benchmark Weighted Average. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Benchmark Weighted Average is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board.

The Board reviewed and considered the Fund's performance relative to Managed Volatility V.I. Fund's Outcome-Oriented Performance Metrics including a total return target. The Board noted that for each of the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, the Fund underperformed its total return target. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Outcome-Oriented Performance Metrics are an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Fund's underperformance relative to its total return target during the applicable periods.

The Board noted that for the one-year period reported, S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund's net performance was within the tolerance range of its benchmark. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that net performance relative to the benchmark is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board.

The Board noted that for the one-year period reported, International Index V.I. Fund's net performance above the tolerance range of its benchmark. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that net performance relative to the benchmark is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Fund's above tolerance performance relative to its benchmark over the period.

The Board noted that for the one-year period reported, Small Cap Index V.I. Fund's net performance was above the tolerance range of its benchmark. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that net performance relative to the benchmark is an appropriate performance metric for the Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Fund's above tolerance performance relative to its benchmark over the period.

C. Consideration of the Advisory/Management Fees and the Estimated Cost of the Services and Estimated Profits Realized by BlackRock and its Affiliates from their Relationship with the Funds: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, reviewed each Fund's contractual management fee rate compared with those of its Expense Peers. The contractual management fee rate represents a combination of the advisory fee and any administrative fees, before taking into account any reimbursements or fee waivers. The Board also compared each Fund's total expense ratio, as well as its actual management fee rate, to those of its Expense Peers. The total expense ratio represents a fund's total net operating expenses, including any 12b-1 or non-12b-1 service fees. The total expense ratio gives effect to any expense

reimbursements or fee waivers, and the actual management fee rate gives effect to any management fee reimbursements or waivers. The Board considered the services provided and the fees charged by BlackRock and its affiliates to other types of clients with similar investment mandates, as applicable, including institutional accounts and sub-advised mutual funds (including mutual funds sponsored by third parties).

The Board received and reviewed statements relating to BlackRock's financial condition. The Board reviewed BlackRock's profitability methodology and was also provided with an estimated profitability analysis that detailed the revenues earned and the expenses incurred by BlackRock for services provided to each Fund. The Board reviewed BlackRock's estimated profitability with respect to each Fund and other funds the Board currently oversees for the year ended December 31, 2019 compared to available aggregate estimated profitability data provided for the prior two years. The Board reviewed BlackRock's estimated profitability with respect to certain other U.S. fund complexes managed by BlackRock and/or its affiliates. The Board reviewed BlackRock's assumptions and methodology of allocating expenses in the estimated profitability analysis, noting the inherent limitations in allocating costs among various advisory products. The Board recognized that profitability may be affected by numerous factors including, among other things, fee waivers and expense reimbursements by BlackRock, the types of funds managed, precision of expense allocations and business mix. The Board thus recognized that calculating and comparing profitability at the individual fund level is difficult.

The Board noted that, in general, individual fund or product line profitability of other advisors is not publicly available. The Board reviewed BlackRock's overall operating margin, in general, compared to that of certain other publicly traded asset management firms. The Board considered the differences between BlackRock and these other firms, including the contribution of technology at BlackRock, BlackRock's expense management, and the relative product mix.

The Board considered whether BlackRock has the financial resources necessary to attract and retain high quality investment management personnel to perform its obligations under the Agreements and to continue to provide the high quality of services that is expected by the Board. The Board further considered factors including but not limited to BlackRock's commitment of time, assumption of risk, and liability profile in servicing the Funds, including in contrast to what is required of BlackRock with respect to other products with similar investment mandates across the open-end fund, ETF, closed-end fund, sub-advised mutual fund, separately managed account, collective investment trust, and institutional separate account product channels, as applicable.

The Board noted that Large Cap Core V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that Small Cap Index V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board also noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board also noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that International Index V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board also noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that Basic Value V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio ranked in the first and second quartiles, respectively, relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

BlackRock has reviewed with the Board that the varying fee structure for fund of funds can limit the value of management fee comparisons. The Board noted that 60/40 Target Allocation ETF V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio ranked in the first and second quartiles, respectively, relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. Additionally, the Board noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio ranked in the first and second quartiles, respectively, relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that Equity Dividend V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio ranked in the first and second quartiles, respectively, relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that International V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio ranked in the second and fourth quartiles, respectively, relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis. In addition, the Board noted that BlackRock and the Board agreed to a lower contractual expense cap, on a class-by-class basis. After discussions between the Board, including Independent Board Members, and BlackRock, the Board and BlackRock agreed to a continuation of the contractual cap.

The Board noted that Managed Volatility V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio ranked in the third and second quartiles, respectively, relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that Global Allocation V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the second quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the second quartile relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the second quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio ranked in the second and fourth quartiles, respectively, relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that Government Money Market V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the third quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the third quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that the Large Cap Value V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the fourth quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile relative to the Fund's Expense Peers. Additionally, the Board noted that BlackRock had voluntarily agreed to waive a portion of the advisory fee payable by the Fund. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis.

With respect to Large Cap Core V.I. Fund, Large Cap Value V.I. Fund, U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund, Basic Value V.I. Fund, Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund, Equity Dividend V.I. Fund, Global Allocation V.I. Fund, Government Money Market V.I. Fund, International V.I. Fund, 60/40 Target Allocation ETF V.I. Fund, Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund and Managed Volatility V.I. Fund, the Board noted that each Fund has an advisory fee arrangement that includes breakpoints that adjust the fee rate downward as the size of the pertinent Fund increases above certain contractually specified levels. The Board noted that if the size of the pertinent Fund were to decrease, the Fund could lose the benefit of one or more breakpoints.

With respect to Large Cap Core V.I. Fund, Large Cap Value V.I. Fund, U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund, Basic Value V.I. Fund, Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund, Equity Dividend V.I. Fund, Global Allocation V.I. Fund, International V.I. Fund, International V.I. Fund, Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund, Managed Volatility V.I. Fund, Small Cap Index V.I. Fund and S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund, the Board noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on certain operational and recordkeeping fees for each Fund on a class-by-class basis.

- D. Economies of Scale: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, considered the extent to which economies of scale might be realized as the assets of the Funds increase, including the existence of fee waivers and/or expense caps, as applicable, noting that any contractual fee waivers and contractual expense caps had been approved by the Board. In its consideration, the Board further considered the continuation and/or implementation of fee waivers and/or expense caps, as applicable. The Board also considered the extent to which each Fund benefits from such economies of scale in a variety of ways and whether there should be changes in the advisory fee rate or breakpoint structure in order to enable the Funds to more fully participate in these economies of scale. The Board considered each Fund's asset levels and whether the current fee schedule was appropriate.
- E. Other Factors Deemed Relevant by the Board Members: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, also took into account other ancillary or "fall-out" benefits that BlackRock or its affiliates may derive from BlackRock's respective relationships with the Funds, both tangible and intangible, such as BlackRock's ability to leverage its investment professionals who manage other portfolios and its risk management personnel, an increase in BlackRock's profile in the investment advisory community, and the engagement of BlackRock's affiliates as service providers to the Funds, including for administrative, distribution, securities lending and cash management services. The Board also considered BlackRock's overall operations and its efforts to expand the scale of, and improve the quality of, its operations. The Board also noted that, subject to applicable law, BlackRock may use and benefit from third-party research obtained by soft dollars generated by certain registered fund transactions to assist in managing all or a number of its other client accounts.

In connection with its consideration of the Agreements, the Board also received information regarding BlackRock's brokerage and soft dollar practices. The Board received reports from BlackRock which included information on brokerage commissions and trade execution practices throughout the year.

The Board noted the competitive nature of the open-end fund marketplace, and that shareholders are able to redeem their Fund shares if they believe that the pertinent Fund's fees and expenses are too high or if they are dissatisfied with the performance of the Fund.

#### Conclusion

The Board, including the Independent Board Members, unanimously approved the continuation of (i) the Advisory Agreement between the Manager and the Corporation, on behalf of each Fund, (ii) the BIL Sub-Advisory Agreements between the Manager and BIL with respect to International V.I. Fund and Managed Volatility V.I. Fund, (iii) the BNA Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Manager and BNA with respect to Managed Volatility V.I. Fund and (iv) BSL Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Manager and BSL with respect to Managed Volatility V.I. Fund, each for a one-year term ending June 30, 2021. Based upon its evaluation of all of the aforementioned factors in their totality, as well as other information, the Board, including the Independent Board Members, was satisfied that the terms of the Agreements were fair and reasonable and in the best interest of each Fund, as pertinent, and its shareholders. In arriving at its decision to approve the Agreements, the Board did not identify any single factor or group of factors as all-important or controlling, but considered all factors together, and different Board Members may have attributed different weights to the various factors considered. The Independent Board Members were also assisted by the advice of independent legal counsel in making this determination.

# Disclosure of Investment Advisory Agreement

The Board of Directors (the "Board," the members of which are referred to as "Board Members") of BlackRock Variable Series Funds II, Inc. (the "Company") met on April 16, 2020 (the "April Meeting") and May 20-21, 2020 (the "May Meeting") to consider the approval of the investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement" or the "Agreement") between the Company, on behalf of BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund (the "High Yield V.I. Fund"), BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund (the "Total Return V.I. Fund") and BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund (the "U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund" and together with the High Yield V.I. Fund and the Total Return V.I. Fund, the "Funds" and each, a "Fund"), and BlackRock Advisors, LLC (the "Manager" or "BlackRock"), each Fund's investment advisor.

#### **Activities and Composition of the Board**

On the date of the May Meeting, the Board consisted of ten individuals, eight of whom were not "interested persons" of the Company as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (the "Independent Board Members"). The Board Members are responsible for the oversight of the operations of each Fund and perform the various duties imposed on the directors of investment companies by the 1940 Act. The Independent Board Members have retained independent legal counsel to assist them in connection with their duties. The Co-Chairs of the Board are Independent Board Members. The Board has established five standing committees: an Audit Committee, a Governance and Nominating Committee, a Compliance Committee, a Performance Oversight Committee and an Executive Committee, each of which is chaired by an Independent Board Member and composed of Independent Board Members (except for the Executive Committee, which also has one interested Board Member).

#### The Agreement

Consistent with the requirements of the 1940 Act, the Board considers the continuation of the Agreement on an annual basis. The Board has four quarterly meetings per year, each typically extending for two days, and additional in-person and telephonic meetings throughout the year, as needed. While the Board also has a fifth one-day meeting to consider specific information surrounding the renewal of the Agreement, the Board's consideration entails a year-long deliberative process whereby the Board and its committees assess BlackRock's services to each Fund. In particular, the Board assessed, among other things, the nature, extent and quality of the services provided to each Fund by BlackRock, BlackRock's personnel and affiliates, including (as applicable): investment management services; accounting oversight; administrative and shareholder services; oversight of each Fund's service providers; risk management and oversight; and legal, regulatory and compliance services. Throughout the year, including during the contract renewal process, the Independent Board Members were advised by independent legal counsel, and met with independent legal counsel in various executive sessions outside of the presence of BlackRock's management.

During the year, the Board, acting directly and through its committees, considers information that is relevant to its annual consideration of the renewal of the Agreement, including the services and support provided by BlackRock to each Fund and its shareholders. BlackRock also furnished additional information to the Board in response to specific questions from the Board. This additional information is discussed further in the section titled "Board Considerations in Approving the Agreement." Among the matters the Board considered were: (a) investment performance for one-year, three-year, five-year, and/or since inception periods, as applicable, against peer funds, applicable benchmarks, and other performance metrics, as applicable, as well as BlackRock senior management's and portfolio managers' analyses of the reasons for any outperformance or underperformance relative to its peers, benchmarks, and other performance metrics, as applicable; (b) fees, including advisory, administration, if applicable, and other amounts paid to BlackRock and its affiliates by each Fund for services; (c) Fund operating expenses and how BlackRock allocates expenses to each Fund; (d) the resources devoted to, risk oversight of, and compliance reports relating to, implementation of each Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions, and meeting regulatory requirements; (e) BlackRock's and each Fund's adherence to applicable compliance policies and procedures; (f) the nature, character and scope of non-investment management services provided by BlackRock and its affiliates and the estimated cost of such services; (g) BlackRock's and other service providers' internal controls and risk and compliance oversight mechanisms; (h) BlackRock's implementation of the proxy voting policies approved by the Board; (i) execution quality of portfolio transactions; (j) BlackRock's implementation of each Fund's valuation and liquidity procedures; (k) an analysis of management fees for products with similar investment mandates across the open-end fund, exchange-traded fund ("ETF"), closed-end fund, sub-advised mutual fund, separately managed account, collective investment trust, and institutional separate account product channels, as applicable, and the similarities and differences between these products and the services provided as compared to each Fund; (I) BlackRock's compensation methodology for its investment professionals and the incentives and accountability it creates, along with investment professionals' investments in the fund(s) they manage; and (m) periodic updates on BlackRock's business.

#### **Board Considerations in Approving the Agreement**

The Approval Process: Prior to the April Meeting, the Board requested and received materials specifically relating to the Agreement. The Independent Board Members are continuously engaged in a process with their independent legal counsel and BlackRock to review the nature and scope of the information provided to the Board to better assist its deliberations. The materials provided in connection with the April Meeting included, among other things: (a) information independently compiled and prepared by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge"), based on either a Lipper classification or Morningstar category, regarding each Fund's fees and expenses as compared with a peer group of funds as determined by Broadridge ("Expense Peers") and the investment performance of each Fund as compared with a peer group of funds ("Performance Peers"); (b) information on the composition of the Expense Peers and Performance Peers and a description of Broadridge's methodology; (c) information on the estimated profits realized by BlackRock and its affiliates pursuant to the Agreement and a discussion of fall-out benefits to BlackRock and its affiliates; (d) a general analysis provided by BlackRock concerning investment management fees received in connection with other types of investment products, such as institutional accounts, sub-advised mutual funds, ETFs, closed-end funds, open-end funds, and separately managed accounts, under similar investment mandates, as well as the performance of such other products, as applicable; (e) a review of non-management fees; (f) the existence, impact and sharing of potential economies of scale, if any, with each Fund; (g) a summary of aggregate amounts paid by each Fund to BlackRock; (h) sales and redemption data regarding each Fund's shares; and (i) various additional information requested by the Board as appropriate regarding BlackRock's and each Fund's operations.

At the April Meeting, the Board reviewed materials relating to its consideration of the Agreement. As a result of the discussions that occurred during the April Meeting, and as a culmination of the Board's year-long deliberative process, the Board presented BlackRock with questions and requests for additional information. BlackRock responded to these questions and requests with additional written information in advance of the May Meeting. Topics covered included: (a) the methodology for measuring estimated fund profitability; (b) economies of scale; (c) fund expenses and potential fee waivers; and (d) differences in services provided and management fees between open-end funds and other product channels.

At the May Meeting, the Board concluded its assessment of, among other things: (a) the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by BlackRock; (b) the investment performance of each Fund as compared to its Performance Peers and to other metrics, as applicable; (c) the advisory fee and the estimated cost of the services and

# Disclosure of Investment Advisory Agreement (continued)

estimated profits realized by BlackRock and its affiliates from their relationship with each Fund; (d) each Fund's fees and expenses compared to its Expense Peers; (e) the existence and sharing of potential economies of scale; (f) any fall-out benefits to BlackRock and its affiliates as a result of BlackRock's relationship with each Fund; and (g) other factors deemed relevant by the Board Members.

The Board also considered other matters it deemed important to the approval process, such as other payments made to BlackRock or its affiliates relating to securities lending and cash management, and BlackRock's services related to the valuation and pricing of Fund portfolio holdings. The Board noted the willingness of BlackRock's personnel to engage in open, candid discussions with the Board. The Board did not identify any particular information as determinative, and each Board Member may have attributed different weights to the various items considered.

A. Nature, Extent and Quality of the Services Provided by BlackRock: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, reviewed the nature, extent and quality of services provided by BlackRock, including the investment advisory services, and the resulting performance of each Fund. Throughout the year, the Board compared Fund performance to the performance of a comparable group of mutual funds, relevant benchmarks, and performance metrics, as applicable. The Board met with BlackRock's senior management personnel responsible for investment activities, including the senior investment officers. The Board also reviewed the materials provided by each Fund's portfolio management team discussing each Fund's performance, investment strategies and outlook.

The Board considered, among other factors, with respect to BlackRock: the number, education and experience of investment personnel generally and each Fund's portfolio management team; research capabilities; investments by portfolio managers in the funds they manage; portfolio trading capabilities; use of technology; commitment to compliance; credit analysis capabilities; risk analysis and oversight capabilities; and the approach to training and retaining portfolio managers and other research, advisory and management personnel. The Board also considered BlackRock's overall risk management program, including the continued efforts of BlackRock and its affiliates to address cybersecurity risks and the role of BlackRock's Risk & Quantitative Analysis Group. The Board engaged in a review of BlackRock's compensation structure with respect to each Fund's portfolio management team and BlackRock's ability to attract and retain high-quality talent and create performance incentives.

In addition to investment advisory services, the Board considered the nature and quality of the administrative and other non-investment advisory services provided to each Fund. BlackRock and its affiliates provide each Fund with certain administrative, shareholder and other services (in addition to any such services provided to each Fund by third-parties) and officers and other personnel as are necessary for the operations of each Fund. In particular, BlackRock and its affiliates provide each Fund with administrative services including, among others: (i) responsibility for disclosure documents, such as the prospectus, the summary prospectus (as applicable), the statement of additional information and periodic shareholder reports; (ii) oversight of daily accounting and pricing; (iii) responsibility for periodic filings with regulators; (iv) overseeing and coordinating the activities of third-party service providers including, among others, each Fund's custodian, fund accountant, transfer agent, and auditor; (v) organizing Board meetings and preparing the materials for such Board meetings; (vi) providing legal and compliance support; (vii) furnishing analytical and other support to assist the Board in its consideration of strategic issues such as the merger, consolidation or repurposing of certain open-end funds; and (viii) performing or managing administrative functions necessary for the operation of each Fund, such as tax reporting, expense management, fulfilling regulatory filing requirements, overseeing each Fund's distribution partners, and shareholder call center and other services. The Board reviewed the structure and duties of BlackRock's fund administration, shareholder services, and legal & compliance departments and considered BlackRock's policies and procedures for assuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

B. The Investment Performance of each Fund and BlackRock: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, also reviewed and considered the performance history of each Fund. In preparation for the April Meeting, the Board was provided with reports independently prepared by Broadridge, which included an analysis of each Fund's performance as of December 31, 2019, as compared to its Performance Peers. Broadridge ranks funds in quartiles, ranging from first to fourth, where first is the most desirable quartile position and fourth is the least desirable. In connection with its review, the Board received and reviewed information regarding the investment performance of each Fund as compared to its Performance Peers and the respective Morningstar open-end fund category ("Morningstar Open-End Category"). The Board and its Performance Oversight Committee regularly review and meet with Fund management to discuss the performance of each Fund throughout the year.

In evaluating performance, the Board focused particular attention on funds with less favorable performance records. The Board also noted that while it found the data provided by Broadridge generally useful, it recognized the limitations of such data, including in particular, that notable differences may exist between a fund and its Performance Peers (for example, the investment objectives and strategies). Further, the Board recognized that the performance data reflects a snapshot of a period as of a particular date and that selecting a different performance period could produce significantly different results. The Board also acknowledged that long-term performance could be impacted by even one period of significant outperformance or underperformance, and that a single investment theme could have the ability to disproportionately affect long-term performance.

The Board noted that for each of the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, the High Yield V.I. Fund ranked in the first quartile against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the High Yield V.I. Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, the Total Return V.I. Fund ranked in the second, second, and third quartiles, respectively, against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the Total Return V.I. Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the Total Return V.I. Fund's underperformance relative to its Morningstar Open-End Category during the applicable period.

The Board noted that for the one-, three- and five-year periods reported, the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund ranked in the second, third and third quartiles, respectively, against its Morningstar Open-End Category. The Board noted that BlackRock believes that the Morningstar Open-End Category is an appropriate performance metric for the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund, and that BlackRock has explained its rationale for this belief to the Board. The Board and BlackRock reviewed the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund's underperformance relative to its Morningstar Open-End Category during the applicable periods.

C. Consideration of the Advisory/Management Fees and the Estimated Cost of the Services and Estimated Profits Realized by BlackRock and its Affiliates from their Relationship with each Fund: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, reviewed each Fund's contractual management fee rate compared with those of its Expense Peers. The contractual management fee rate represents a combination of the advisory fee and any administrative fees, before taking into account any reimbursements or fee waivers. The Board also compared each Fund's total expense ratio, as well as its actual management fee rate, to those of its Expense Peers. The total expense ratio represents a fund's total net operating expenses, including any 12b-1 or non-12b-1 service fees. The total expense ratio gives effect to any expense reimbursements or fee waivers, and the actual management fee rate gives effect to any management fee reimbursements or waivers. The Board considered the services

# Disclosure of Investment Advisory Agreement (continued)

provided and the fees charged by BlackRock and its affiliates to other types of clients with similar investment mandates, as applicable, including institutional accounts and sub-advised mutual funds (including mutual funds sponsored by third parties).

The Board received and reviewed statements relating to BlackRock's financial condition. The Board reviewed BlackRock's profitability methodology and was also provided with an estimated profitability analysis that detailed the revenues earned and the expenses incurred by BlackRock for services provided to each Fund. The Board reviewed BlackRock's estimated profitability with respect to each Fund and other funds the Board currently oversees for the year ended December 31, 2019 compared to available aggregate estimated profitability data provided for the prior two years. The Board reviewed BlackRock's estimated profitability with respect to certain other U.S. fund complexes managed by the Manager and/or its affiliates. The Board reviewed BlackRock's assumptions and methodology of allocating expenses in the estimated profitability analysis, noting the inherent limitations in allocating costs among various advisory products. The Board recognized that profitability may be affected by numerous factors including, among other things, fee waivers and expense reimbursements by the Manager, the types of funds managed, precision of expense allocations and business mix. The Board thus recognized that calculating and comparing profitability at the individual fund level is difficult.

The Board noted that, in general, individual fund or product line profitability of other advisors is not publicly available. The Board reviewed BlackRock's overall operating margin, in general, compared to that of certain other publicly traded asset management firms. The Board considered the differences between BlackRock and these other firms, including the contribution of technology at BlackRock, BlackRock's expense management, and the relative product mix.

The Board considered whether BlackRock has the financial resources necessary to attract and retain high quality investment management personnel to perform its obligations under the Agreement and to continue to provide the high quality of services that is expected by the Board. The Board further considered factors including but not limited to BlackRock's commitment of time, assumption of risk, and liability profile in servicing each Fund, including in contrast to what is required of BlackRock with respect to other products with similar investment mandates across the open-end fund, ETF, closed-end fund, sub-advised mutual fund, separately managed account, collective investment trust, and institutional separate account product channels, as applicable.

The Board noted that the High Yield V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile, relative to the High Yield V.I. Fund's Expense Peers. The Board also noted that the High Yield V.I. Fund has an advisory fee arrangement that includes breakpoints that adjust the fee rate downward as the aggregate assets of the High Yield V.I. Fund, combined with the assets of the Total Return V.I. Fund, increase above certain contractually specified levels. The Board noted that if the size of the High Yield V.I. Fund or the Total Return V.I. Fund were to decrease, the High Yield V.I. Fund could lose the benefit of one or more breakpoints. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the High Yield V.I. Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis. Additionally, the Board noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on certain operational and recordkeeping fees for the High Yield V.I. Fund on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that the Total Return V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the second quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio each ranked in the first quartile, relative to the Total Return V.I. Fund's Expense Peers. The Board also noted that the Total Return V.I. Fund has an advisory fee arrangement that includes breakpoints that adjust the fee rate downward as the aggregate assets of the Total Return V.I. Fund, combined with the assets of the High Yield V.I. Fund, increase above certain contractually specified levels. The Board noted that if the size of the Total Return V.I. Fund or the High Yield V.I Fund were to decrease, the Total Return V.I. Fund could lose the benefit of one or more breakpoints. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the Total Return V.I. Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the Total Return V.I. Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis. Additionally, the Board noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on certain operational and recordkeeping fees for the Total Return V.I. Fund on a class-by-class basis.

The Board noted that the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund's contractual management fee rate ranked in the first quartile, and that the actual management fee rate and total expense ratio ranked in the first and third quartiles, respectively, relative to the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund's Expense Peers. The Board also noted that the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund has an advisory fee arrangement that includes breakpoints that adjust the fee rate downward as the size of the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund were to decrease, the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund could lose the benefit of one or more breakpoints. The Board further noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund's total expenses as a percentage of the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund's average daily net assets on a class-by-class basis. Additionally, the Board noted that BlackRock and the Board have contractually agreed to a cap on certain operational and recordkeeping fees for the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund on a class-by-class basis. In addition, the Board noted that BlackRock has voluntarily agreed to waive a portion of the advisory fee payable by the U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund. An advisory fee waiver has been in effect since 2016, that amount of which may have varied from time to time. After discussion between the Board, including the Independent Board Members, and BlackRock, the Board and BlackRock agreed to a continuation of the current 26 basis point voluntary advisory fee waiver.

- D. Economies of Scale: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, considered the extent to which economies of scale might be realized as the assets of each Fund increase, including the existence of fee waivers and/or expense caps, as applicable, noting that any contractual fee waivers and contractual expense caps had been approved by the Board. In its consideration, the Board further considered the continuation and/or implementation of fee waivers and/or expense caps, as applicable. The Board also considered the extent to which each Fund benefits from such economies of scale in a variety of ways, and whether there should be changes in the advisory fee rate or breakpoint structure in order to enable each Fund to more fully participate in these economies of scale. The Board considered each Fund's asset levels and whether the current fee schedule was appropriate.
- E. Other Factors Deemed Relevant by the Board Members: The Board, including the Independent Board Members, also took into account other ancillary or "fall-out" benefits that BlackRock or its affiliates may derive from BlackRock's respective relationships with each Fund, both tangible and intangible, such as BlackRock's ability to leverage its investment professionals who manage other portfolios and its risk management personnel, an increase in BlackRock's profile in the investment advisory community, and the engagement of BlackRock's affiliates as service providers to each Fund, including for administrative, distribution, securities lending and cash management services. The Board also considered BlackRock's overall operations and its efforts to expand the scale of, and improve the quality of, its operations. The Board also noted that, subject to applicable law, BlackRock may use and benefit from third-party research obtained by soft dollars generated by certain registered fund transactions to assist in managing all or a number of its other client accounts.

In connection with its consideration of the Agreement, the Board also received information regarding BlackRock's brokerage and soft dollar practices. The Board received reports from BlackRock which included information on brokerage commissions and trade execution practices throughout the year.

The Board noted the competitive nature of the open-end fund marketplace, and that shareholders are able to redeem their Fund shares if they believe that each Fund's fees

# Disclosure of Investment Advisory Agreement (continued)

and expenses are too high or if they are dissatisfied with the performance of each Fund.

#### Conclusion

The Board, including the Independent Board Members, unanimously approved the continuation of the Advisory Agreement between the Manager and the Company, on behalf of each Fund, for a one-year term ending June 30, 2021. Based upon its evaluation of all of the aforementioned factors in their totality, as well as other information, the Board, including the Independent Board Members, was satisfied that the terms of the Agreement were fair and reasonable and in the best interest of each Fund and its shareholders. In arriving at its decision to approve the Agreement, the Board did not identify any single factor or group of factors as all-important or controlling, but considered all factors together, and different Board Members may have attributed different weights to the various factors considered. The Independent Board Members were also assisted by the advice of independent legal counsel in making this determination.

# Disclosure of Sub-Advisory Agreements

The Board of Directors (the "Board," and the members of which are referred to as "Board Members") of BlackRock Variable Series Funds II, Inc. (the "Company"), on behalf of its series BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund (the "Fund"), met in person on February 19, 2020 (the "February Meeting") to consider the initial approval of the sub-advisory agreement (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement") between BlackRock Advisors, LLC (the "Manager"), the Fund's investment advisor, and BlackRock International Limited, with respect to the Fund. The Sub-Advisory Agreement was substantially similar to the sub-advisory agreements previously approved with respect to certain other portfolios in the BlackRock Fixed-Income Complex.

On the date of the February Meeting, the Board consisted of ten individuals, eight of whom were not "interested persons" of the Company as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (the "Independent Board Members"). Pursuant to the 1940 Act, the Board is required to consider the initial approval of the Sub-Advisory Agreement.

At the February Meeting, the Board reviewed materials relating to its consideration of the proposed Sub-Advisory Agreement. The Fund's investment advisory agreement with the Manager was most recently approved by the Board at in-person meetings on May 1, 2019 (the "May Meeting") and June 5-6, 2019 (the "June Meeting"). A discussion of the basis for the Board's approval of this agreement at the May and June Meetings is included in the Fund's semi-annual shareholder report for the reporting period ended June 30, 2019. The factors considered by the Board at the February Meeting in connection with approval of the proposed Sub-Advisory Agreement were substantially the same as the factors considered at the May and June Meetings.

Following discussion, all the Board Members present at the February Meeting, including all the Independent Board Members present, approved the Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Manager and BlackRock International Limited, with respect to the Fund for a two-year term beginning on the effective date of the Sub-Advisory Agreement. Based upon its evaluation of all of the aforementioned factors in their totality, the Board, including the Independent Board Members, was satisfied that the terms of the Sub-Advisory Agreement were fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. In arriving at its decision to approve the Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Board did not identify any single factor or group of factors as all-important or controlling, but considered all factors together, and different Board Members may have attributed different weights to the various factors considered. The Independent Board Members were also assisted by the advice of independent legal counsel in making this determination.

# Disclosure of Sub-Advisory Agreements (continued)

The Board of Directors (the "Board," and the members of which are referred to as "Board Members") of BlackRock Variable Series Funds II, Inc. (the "Company"), on behalf of its series BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund (the "Fund"), met on April 16, 2020 (the "April Meeting") to consider the initial approval of the sub-advisory agreement (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement") between BlackRock Advisors, LLC (the "Manager"), the Fund's investment advisor, and BlackRock International Limited, with respect to the Fund. The Sub-Advisory Agreement was substantially similar to the sub-advisory agreements previously approved with respect to certain other portfolios in the BlackRock Fixed-Income Complex.

On the date of the April Meeting, the Board consisted of ten individuals, eight of whom were not "interested persons" of the Company as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (the "Independent Board Members"). Pursuant to the 1940 Act, the Board is required to consider the initial approval of the Sub-Advisory Agreement.

At the April Meeting, the Board reviewed materials relating to its consideration of the proposed Sub-Advisory Agreement. The Fund's investment advisory agreement with the Manager was most recently approved by the Board at in-person meetings on May 1, 2019 (the "May Meeting") and June 5-6, 2019 (the "June Meeting"). A discussion of the basis for the Board's approval of this agreement at the May and June Meetings is included in the Fund's semi-annual shareholder report for the reporting period ended June 30, 2019. The factors considered by the Board at the April Meeting in connection with approval of the proposed Sub-Advisory Agreement were substantially the same as the factors considered at the May and June Meetings.

Following discussion, all the Board Members present at the April Meeting, including all the Independent Board Members present, approved the Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Manager and BlackRock International Limited, with respect to the Fund for a two-year term beginning on the effective date of the Sub-Advisory Agreement. Based upon its evaluation of all of the aforementioned factors in their totality, the Board, including the Independent Board Members, was satisfied that the terms of the Sub-Advisory Agreement were fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. In arriving at its decision to approve the Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Board did not identify any single factor or group of factors as all-important or controlling, but considered all factors together, and different Board Members may have attributed different weights to the various factors considered. The Independent Board Members were also assisted by the advice of independent legal counsel in making this determination.

#### **Director and Officer Information**

#### BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc.

Mark Stalnecker, Chair of the Board and Director

Bruce R. Bond. Director

Susan J. Carter, Director

Collette Chilton, Director

Neil A. Cotty, Director

Lena G. Goldberg, Director

Henry R. Keizer. Director

Cynthia A. Montgomery, Director

Donald C. Opatrny, Director

Joseph P. Platt. Director

Kenneth L. Urish. Director

Claire A. Walton, Director

Robert Fairbairn, Director

John M. Perlowski, Director, President and Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer McGovern, Vice President

Neal J. Andrews, Chief Financial Officer

Jay M. Fife, Treasurer

Charles Park, Chief Compliance Officer

Lisa Belle, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer

Janey Ahn, Secretary

#### Investment Adviser and Administrator

BlackRock Advisors, LLC Wilmington, DE 19809

#### Sub-Advisers

BlackRock International Limited <sup>(a)</sup> Edinburgh, EH3 8BL United Kingdom

BlackRock Asset Management

North Asia Limited (b)

Hong Kong

BlackRock (Singapore) Limited (b)

079912 Singapore

#### Accounting Agent

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

New York, NY 10179

#### **Transfer Agent**

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc.

Wilmington, DE 19809

- (a) For BlackRock International V.I. Fund and BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund.
- (b) For BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund.

(c) For BlackRock 60/40 Target Allocation ETF V.I. Fund, BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Core V.I. Fund, BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund, BlackRock Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund, BlackRock Basic Value V.I. Fund, BlackRock Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund, BlackRock Equity Dividend V.I. Fund, BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund, BlackRock International Index V.I. Fund, BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund, BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund and BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund.

#### Custodians

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (c) New York, NY 10179

Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. (d) Boston, MA 02109

#### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Deloitte & Touche LLP Boston, MA 02116

#### Distributor

BlackRock Investments, LLC New York, NY 10022

#### Legal Counsel

Sidley Austin LLP New York, NY 10019

#### Address of the Funds

100 Bellevue Parkway Wilmington, DE 19809

<sup>(</sup>d) For BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund, BlackRock International V.I. Fund and BlackRock Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund.

#### **Director and Officer Information**

#### BlackRock Variable Series Funds II, Inc.

Richard E. Cavanagh, Co-Chair of the Board and Director Karen P. Robards, Co-Chair of the Board and Director

Michael J. Castellano, Director Cynthia L. Egan, Director Frank J. Fabozzi, Director

R. Glenn Hubbard, Director W. Carl Kester, Director

Catherine A. Lynch, Director Robert Fairbairn, Director

John M. Perlowski, Director, President and Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer McGovern, Vice President Neal J. Andrews, Chief Financial Officer

Jay M. Fife, Treasurer

Charles Park, Chief Compliance Officer

Lisa Belle, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer

Janey Ahn, Secretary

Effective February 19, 2020, Henry Gabbay resigned as a Director of the Company.

#### **Investment Adviser and Administrator**

BlackRock Advisors, LLC Wilmington, DE 19809

#### Sub-Advisers

BlackRock International Limited (a) Edinburgh, EH3 8BL United Kingdom

BlackRock (Singapore) Limited (b) 079912 Singapore

#### **Accounting Agent**

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. New York, NY 10179

#### Transfer Agent

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. Wilmington, DE 19809

#### Custodian

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. New York, NY 10179

#### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Deloitte & Touche LLP Boston, MA 02116

#### Distributor

BlackRock Investments, LLC New York, NY 10022

#### Legal Counsel

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP New York, NY 10019

#### Address of the Funds

100 Bellevue Parkway Wilmington, DE 19809

<sup>(</sup>a) For BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund, BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund and BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund.

<sup>(</sup>b) For BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund.

#### Additional Information

#### **General Information**

#### Householding

The Funds will mail only one copy of shareholder documents, including prospectuses, annual and semi-annual reports and proxy statements, to shareholders with multiple accounts at the same address. This practice is commonly called "householding" and is intended to reduce expenses and eliminate duplicate mailings of shareholder documents. Mailings of your shareholder documents may be householded indefinitely unless you instruct us otherwise. If you do not want the mailing of these documents to be combined with those for other members of your household, please call the Funds at (800) 441-7762.

#### Availability of Quarterly Schedule of Investments

The Funds (except BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund) file their complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year as an exhibit to their reports on Form N-PORT. The Funds' Forms N-PORT are available on the SEC's website at sec.gov.

The BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC each month on Form N-MFP. The Fund's reports on Form N-MFP are available on the SEC's website at sec.gov. The Fund makes portfolio holdings available to shareholders on its website at blackrock.com.

#### **Availability of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

A description of the policies and procedures that the Funds use to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities is available upon request and without charge (1) by calling (800) 441-7762; (2) at **blackrock.com/prospectus/insurance**; and (3) on the SEC's website at sec.gov.

#### Availability of Proxy Voting Record

Information about how the Funds voted proxies relating to securities held in the Funds' portfolios during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available upon request and without charge (1) at **blackrock.com/prospectus/insurance**; or by calling (800) 441-7762 and (2) on the SEC's website at sec.gov.

#### BlackRock's Mutual Fund Family

BlackRock offers a diverse lineup of open-end mutual funds crossing all investment styles and managed by experts in equity, fixed-income and tax-exempt investing. Visit blackrock.com for more information.

#### Shareholder Privileges

#### **Account Information**

Call us at (800) 441-7762 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM ET on any business day to get information about your account balances, recent transactions and share prices. You can also visit **blackrock.com** for more information.

#### **Automatic Investment Plans**

Investor class shareholders who want to invest regularly can arrange to have \$50 or more automatically deducted from their checking or savings account and invested in any of the BlackRock funds.

#### Systematic Withdrawal Plans

Investor class shareholders can establish a systematic withdrawal plan and receive periodic payments of \$50 or more from their BlackRock funds, as long as their account balance is at least \$10,000.

#### **Retirement Plans**

Shareholders may make investments in conjunction with Traditional, Rollover, Roth, Coverdell, Simple IRAs, SEP IRAs and 403(b) Plans.

## Additional Information (continued)

#### **BlackRock Privacy Principles**

BlackRock is committed to maintaining the privacy of its current and former fund investors and individual clients (collectively, "Clients") and to safeguarding their non-public personal information. The following information is provided to help you understand what personal information BlackRock collects, how we protect that information and why in certain cases we share such information with select parties.

If you are located in a jurisdiction where specific laws, rules or regulations require BlackRock to provide you with additional or different privacy-related rights beyond what is set forth below, then BlackRock will comply with those specific laws, rules or regulations.

BlackRock obtains or verifies personal non-public information from and about you from different sources, including the following: (i) information we receive from you or, if applicable, your financial intermediary, on applications, forms or other documents; (ii) information about your transactions with us, our affiliates, or others; (iii) information we receive from a consumer reporting agency; and (iv) from visits to our websites.

BlackRock does not sell or disclose to non-affiliated third parties any non-public personal information about its Clients, except as permitted by law or as is necessary to respond to regulatory requests or to service Client accounts. These non-affiliated third parties are required to protect the confidentiality and security of this information and to use it only for its intended purpose.

We may share information with our affiliates to service your account or to provide you with information about other BlackRock products or services that may be of interest to you. In addition, BlackRock restricts access to non-public personal information about its Clients to those BlackRock employees with a legitimate business need for the information. BlackRock maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that are designed to protect the non-public personal information of its Clients, including procedures relating to the proper storage and disposal of such information.

# Want to know more?

blackrock.com | 800-441-7762

This report is only for distribution to shareholders of the Funds of BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. and BlackRock Variable Series Funds II, Inc. Past performance results shown in this report should not be considered a representation of future performance. Investment return and principal value of non-money market fund shares will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. You could lose money by investing in the Funds. Although BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it cannot guarantee it will do so. An investment in BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund's sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the Fund at any time. Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Total return information assumes reinvestment of all distributions. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance data quoted. For current month-end performance information, call (800) 626-1960. BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund's current 7-day yield more closely reflects the current earnings of the Fund than the total returns quoted. Statements and other information herein are as dated and are subject to change.

VS-6/20-SAR



