

## Staples 401(k) Plan is moving to Empower Retirement

At Staples we are committed to providing a retirement plan that best helps you pursue your retirement goals. That's why we're pleased to announce that **effective March 1, 2016, our 401(k) plan will be moving from our current retirement plan provider, John Hancock Retirement Plan Services, to Empower Retirement.**

### What does this mean for you?

Not much at this time, but the important thing to keep in mind is that there will be a **"blackout period" from 4 p.m. EST February 22, 2016 through the week of March 13, 2016.** This means that you will not have access to your account during this time because it will be in the process of being transferred to Empower. You will be able to make changes to your account any time before or after the transition is complete.

### Who is Empower Retirement?

Empower Retirement is the name of the newly combined retirement plan service organization composed of Putnam Investments defined contribution business, Great-West Financial<sup>®</sup>, and Great-West Financial Retirement Plan Services. These three companies have integrated to create one of the nation's leading providers of comprehensive retirement services capable of helping more than 7 million\* people just like you save for retirement.

\*Total participant accounts on the Empower Administrative System (EAS) as of June 30, 2015.

### Why did Staples choose Empower?

As we evaluated various plan providers we became confident that Empower is:

- Committed to providing exceptional account services, communications and participant services — all designed to help you pursue your retirement goals.
- Focused on helping you estimate and increase the amount of monthly income you are likely to have in retirement through engaging and interactive web tools — which is essential information as you plan for the future.

### What if I have additional questions?

- Click [here](#) to see FAQs about the transition to Empower. We will continue to communicate to you before, during and after the transition, so stayed tuned for more information.
- To help you understand the transition of your 401(k) plan to Empower, we have created a transition website to provide you with pertinent information regarding the change. The site is now available for you to access by clicking the link below:

<http://www.empower-retirement.com/info/staples/transition>

*Empower websites are best viewed using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Internet Explorer. This microsite will be available to you from now until the time your plan with Empower goes live during the week of March 13, 2016.*

**Core securities, when offered, are offered through GWFS Equities, Inc. and/or other broker-dealers.**

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