# **PROSPECTUS**

# **BLACKROCK®**

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc.

▶ BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund (Class I)

This Prospectus contains information you should know before investing, including information about risks. Please read it before you invest and keep it for future reference.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Not FDIC Insured • May Lose Value • No Bank Guarantee

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# **Fund Overview**

# Key Facts About BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund

# **Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund (the "Fund") is to seek to match the performance of the Russell 2000® Index (the "Russell 2000" or the "Underlying Index") as closely as possible before the deduction of Fund expenses.

# Fees and Expenses of the Fund

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The expenses below do not include separate account fees and expenses, and would be higher if these fees and expenses were included. Please refer to your variable annuity or insurance contract (the "Contract") prospectus for information on the separate account fees and expenses associated with your Contract.

# Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)

The Fund is not subject to any shareholder fees.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	Class I Shares
Management Fee <sup>1</sup>	0.08%
Distribution and/or Service (12b-1 Fees)	None
Other Expenses <sup>2</sup>	0.14%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	0.22%
Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements <sup>1, 3</sup>	_
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements <sup>1, 3</sup>	0.22%

- As described in the "Management of the Funds" section of the Fund's prospectus, BlackRock Advisors, LLC ("BlackRock") has contractually agreed to waive the management fee with respect to any portion of the Fund's assets estimated to be attributable to investments in other equity and fixed-income mutual funds and exchange-traded funds managed by BlackRock or its affiliates that have a contractual management fee, through April 30, 2021. The contractual agreement may be terminated upon 90 days' notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. (the "Company") or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.
- Other Expenses are based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year.
- As described in the "Management of the Funds" section of the Fund's prospectus, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements (excluding Dividend Expense, Interest Expense, Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses and certain other Fund expenses) to 0.22% of average daily net assets through April 30, 2021. The Fund may have to repay some of these waivers and/or reimbursements to BlackRock in the two years following such waivers and/or reimbursements. BlackRock has also contractually agreed to reimburse fees in order to limit certain operational and recordkeeping fees to 0.05% of average daily net assets through April 30, 2021. Each of these contractual agreements may be terminated upon 90 days' notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Company or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

#### Example:

This Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect charges imposed by the Contract. See the Contract prospectus for information on such charges. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions and the net expenses shown in the fee table, your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	
Class I Shares	\$23	\$71	

## **Portfolio Turnover:**

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance.

# **Principal Investment Strategies of the Fund**

The Fund employs a "passive" management approach, attempting to invest in a portfolio of assets whose performance is expected to match approximately the performance of the Russell 2000. The Russell 2000 is composed of the common stocks of approximately the 1,001st through the 3,000th largest U.S. public companies by market capitalization. The Fund will be substantially invested in securities in the Russell 2000, and will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 90% of its assets in securities or other financial instruments that are components of or have economic characteristics similar to the securities included in the Russell 2000. The Fund may change its target index if Fund management believes a different index would better enable the Fund to match the performance of the market segment represented by the current index.

The Fund may invest in a statistically selected sample of stocks included in the Russell 2000 and in derivative instruments linked to the Russell 2000, which include equity index futures and total return swaps. The Fund may not invest in all of the common stocks in the Russell 2000, or in the same weightings as in the Russell 2000. The Fund chooses investments so that the market capitalizations, industry weightings and other fundamental characteristics of the stocks and derivative instruments chosen are similar to the Russell 2000 as a whole.

# Principal Risks of Investing in the Fund

Risk is inherent in all investing. The value of your investment in the Fund, as well as the amount of return you receive on your investment, may fluctuate significantly from day to day and over time. You may lose part or all of your investment in the Fund or your investment may not perform as well as other similar investments. The following is a summary description of the principal risks of investing in the Fund.

■ **Derivatives Risk** — The Fund's use of derivatives may increase its costs, reduce the Fund's returns and/or increase volatility. Derivatives involve significant risks, including:

Volatility Risk — Volatility is defined as the characteristic of a security, an index or a market to fluctuate significantly in price within a short time period. A risk of the Fund's use of derivatives is that the fluctuations in their values may not correlate with the overall securities markets.

Counterparty Risk — Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the other party in the transaction will not fulfill its contractual obligation.

Market and Liquidity Risk — The possible lack of a liquid secondary market for derivatives and the resulting inability of the Fund to sell or otherwise close a derivatives position could expose the Fund to losses and could make derivatives more difficult for the Fund to value accurately.

*Valuation Risk* — Valuation may be more difficult in times of market turmoil since many investors and market makers may be reluctant to purchase complex instruments or quote prices for them.

*Hedging Risk* — Hedges are sometimes subject to imperfect matching between the derivative and the underlying security, and there can be no assurance that the Fund's hedging transactions will be effective. The use of hedging may result in certain adverse tax consequences.

Tax Risk — Certain aspects of the tax treatment of derivative instruments, including swap agreements and commodity-linked derivative instruments, are currently unclear and may be affected by changes in legislation, regulations or other legally binding authority. Such treatment may be less favorable than that given to a direct investment in an underlying asset and may adversely affect the timing, character and amount of income the Fund realizes from its investments.

Regulatory Risk — Derivative contracts, including, without limitation, swaps, currency forwards and non-deliverable forwards, are subject to regulation under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") in the United States and under comparable regimes in Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. jurisdictions. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, certain derivatives are subject to margin requirements and swap dealers are required to collect margin from the Fund with respect to such derivatives. Specifically, regulations are now in effect that require swap dealers to post and collect variation margin (comprised of specified liquid instruments and subject to a required haircut) in connection with trading of over-the-counter ("OTC") swaps with the Fund. Shares of investment companies (other than certain money market funds) may not be posted as collateral under these regulations. Requirements for posting of initial margin in connection with OTC swaps will be phased-in through 2020. In addition, regulations adopted by prudential regulators that will begin to take effect in 2019 will require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many derivatives contracts, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as the Fund, to terminate such contracts, foreclose upon collateral, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. The implementation of these requirements with respect to derivatives, as well as regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act regarding clearing, mandatory trading and margining of other derivatives, may increase the costs and risks to the Fund of trading in these instruments and, as a result, may affect returns to investors in the Fund.

- **Equity Securities Risk** Stock markets are volatile. The price of equity securities fluctuates based on changes in a company's financial condition and overall market and economic conditions.
- Index Fund Risk An index fund has operating and other expenses while an index does not. As a result, while the Fund will attempt to track the Underlying Index as closely as possible, it will tend to underperform the index to some degree over time.
- Index-Related Risk There is no guarantee that the Fund will achieve a high degree of correlation to the Underlying Index and therefore achieve its investment objective. Market disruptions and regulatory restrictions could have an adverse effect on the Fund's ability to adjust its exposure to the required levels in order to track the Underlying Index. Errors in index data may occur from time to time and may not be identified and corrected for a period of time, and may have an adverse impact on the Fund and its shareholders.
- Leverage Risk Some transactions may give rise to a form of economic leverage. These transactions may include, among others, derivatives, and may expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. The use of leverage may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet any required asset segregation requirements. Increases and decreases in the value of the Fund's portfolio will be magnified when the Fund uses leverage.
- Market Risk and Selection Risk Market risk is the risk that one or more markets in which the Fund invests will go down in value, including the possibility that the markets will go down sharply and unpredictably. Selection risk is the risk that the securities selected by Fund management will underperform the markets, the relevant indices or the securities selected by other funds with similar investment objectives and investment strategies. This means you may lose money.
- **Passive Investment Risk** Because BlackRock does not select individual companies in the index that the Fund tracks, the Fund may hold securities of companies that present risks that an investment adviser researching individual securities might seek to avoid.
- Representative Sampling Risk Representative sampling is a method of indexing that involves investing in a representative sample of securities that collectively have a similar investment profile to the underlying index and resemble the underlying index in terms of risk factors and other key characteristics. The Fund may or may not hold every security in the underlying index. When the Fund deviates from a full replication indexing strategy to utilize a representative sampling strategy, the Fund is subject to an increased risk of tracking error, in that the securities selected in the aggregate for the Fund may not have an investment profile similar to those of the underlying index.
- **Small Cap Securities Risk** Small cap companies may have limited product lines or markets. They may be less financially secure than larger, more established companies. They may depend on a more limited management group than larger capitalized companies.
- Tracking Error Risk An inexact correlation between the securities of the underlying index and those of the Fund, the timing of cash flows, the Fund's size, rounding of prices and any regulatory changes or changes to the composition of the underlying index may cause the Fund to perform differently from the underlying index. Tracking error may also result because the Fund incurs fees and transaction expenses that the underlying index does not. The use of representative sampling will make the Fund particularly susceptible to tracking error, as it will likely increase the Fund's deviation from an underlying index.

#### **Performance Information**

Because the Fund has not commenced operations as of the date of this prospectus, it does not have historical performance information shown. Current performance information, including its current net asset value, can be obtained by phone at (800) 882-0052. The Fund will compare its performance to that of the Russell 2000.

# Investment Manager

The Fund's investment manager is BlackRock Advisors, LLC (previously defined as "BlackRock").

# Portfolio Managers

Name	Portfolio Manager of the Fund Since	Title
Alan Mason	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.
Greg Savage, CFA	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.
Jennifer Hsui, CFA	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.
Creighton Jue, CFA	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.
Rachel Aguirre	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.

# **Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares**

Shares of the Fund currently are sold either directly or indirectly (through other variable insurance funds) to separate accounts of insurance companies (the "Insurance Companies") and certain accounts administered by the Insurance Companies (the "Accounts") to fund benefits under the Contracts issued by the Insurance Companies. Shares of the Fund may be purchased or sold each day the New York Stock Exchange is open.

The Fund does not have any initial or subsequent investment minimums. However, your Contract may require certain investment minimums. See your Contract prospectus for more information.

## **Tax Information**

Distributions made by the Fund to an Account, and exchanges and redemptions of Fund shares made by an Account, ordinarily do not cause the corresponding Contract holder to recognize income or gain for U.S. federal income tax purposes. See the Contract prospectus for information regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the distributions to Accounts and the holders of the Contracts.

# Payments to Broker/Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

BlackRock and its affiliates may make payments relating to distribution and sales support activities to the Insurance Companies and other financial intermediaries for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the Insurance Company or other financial intermediary and your individual financial professional to recommend the Fund over another investment. Visit your Insurance Company's website, which may have more information.

# Details About the Fund

Included in this prospectus are sections that tell you about buying and selling shares, management information, shareholder features of the BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund (the "Fund") and your rights as a shareholder.

## How the Fund Invests

# **Investment Objective**

The Fund seeks to match the performance of the Russell 2000® Index (the "Russell 2000" or the "Underlying Index") as closely as possible before the deduction of Fund expenses.

The Fund's investment objective is a non-fundamental policy of the Fund and may not be changed without 60 days' prior notice to shareholders.

## **Investment Process**

The Russell 2000 is composed of the common stocks of approximately the 1,001st through the 3,000th largest U.S. companies by market capitalization, as determined by Russell Investments ("Russell" or the "Index Provider"). The stocks represented in the Russell 2000 are issued by small capitalization U.S. companies in a wide range of businesses. The Russell 2000 is a market-weighted index, which means that the largest stocks represented in the index have the most effect on the index's performance. The Russell 2000 is generally considered broadly representative of the performance of publicly traded U.S. smaller-capitalization stocks. Russell's selection of a stock for the Russell 2000 does not mean that Russell believes the stock to be an attractive investment. Russell updates the Russell 2000 once each year, at which time there may be substantial changes in the composition of the index (and consequently, significant turnover in the Fund). Stocks of companies that merge, are acquired or otherwise cease to exist during the year are not replaced in the index.

The Fund will not attempt to buy or sell securities based on Fund management's economic, financial or market analysis, but will instead employ a "passive" investment approach. This means that Fund management will attempt to remain invested at all times in a portfolio of assets the performance of which is expected to match approximately that of the Russell 2000. The Fund will only buy or sell securities when Fund management believes it is necessary to do so in order to match the performance of the Russell 2000. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the Fund's portfolio turnover and trading costs will be lower than actively managed funds.

## **Principal Investment Strategies**

The Fund employs a "passive" management approach, attempting to invest in a portfolio of assets whose performance is expected to match approximately the performance of the Russell 2000. The Fund will be substantially invested in securities in the Russell 2000, and will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 90% of its assets in securities or other financial instruments that are components of or have economic characteristics similar to the securities included in the Russell 2000. The Fund may change its target index if Fund management believes a different index would better enable the Fund to match the performance of the market segment represented by the current index.

The Fund may invest in a statistically selected sample of stocks included in the Russell 2000 and in derivative instruments linked to the Russell 2000, which include equity index futures and total return swaps. The Fund may not invest in all of the common stocks in the Russell 2000, or in the same weightings as in the Russell 2000. The Fund chooses investments so that the market capitalizations, industry weightings and other fundamental characteristics of the stocks and derivative instruments chosen are similar to the Russell 2000 as a whole.

The past performance of the Underlying Index is not a guide to future performance. BlackRock does not guarantee the accuracy or the completeness of the Underlying Index or any data included therein and BlackRock shall have no liability for any errors, omissions or interruptions therein. BlackRock makes no warranty, express or implied, to the owners of shares of the Fund or to any other person or entity, as to results to be obtained by the Fund from the use of the Underlying Index or any data included therein. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall BlackRock have any liability for any special, punitive, direct, indirect or consequential damages (including lost profits), even if notified of the possibility of such damages.

## **Other Strategies**

In addition to the principal strategies discussed above, the Fund may also invest or engage in the following investments/strategies:

Fund management may also purchase stocks not included in the Russell 2000 when it believes that it would be a cost efficient way of approximating the Russell 2000's performance to do so. If Fund management uses these techniques, the Fund may not track the Russell 2000 as closely as it would if it were fully replicating the Russell 2000.

- **Borrowing** The Fund may borrow up to the limits set forth under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.
- **Depositary Receipts** The Fund may invest in securities of foreign issuers in the form of depositary receipts or other securities that are convertible into securities of foreign issuers. The Fund may invest in unsponsored depositary receipts.
- Illiquid/Restricted Securities The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities that it cannot sell within seven days at approximately current value. Restricted securities are securities that cannot be offered for public resale unless registered under the applicable securities laws or that have a contractual restriction that prohibits or limits their resale, such as Rule 144A securities. They may include private placement securities that have not been registered under the applicable securities laws. Restricted securities may not be listed on an exchange and may have no active trading market. Rule 144A securities are restricted securities that can be resold to qualified institutional buyers but not to the general public.
- Investment Companies The Fund has the ability to invest in other investment companies, such as exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), unit investment trusts, and open-end and closed-end funds. The Fund may invest in affiliated investment companies, including affiliated money market funds and affiliated ETFs.
- "New Issues" The Fund has the ability to invest in "new issues." "New issues" are initial public offerings ("IPOs") of equity securities.
- Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") The Fund may invest in REITs.
- Repurchase Agreements, Purchase and Sale Contracts The Fund may enter into certain types of repurchase agreements or purchase and sale contracts. Under a repurchase agreement, the seller agrees to repurchase a security at a mutually agreed-upon time and price. A purchase and sale contract is similar to a repurchase agreement, but purchase and sale contracts also provide that the purchaser receives any interest on the security paid during the period.
- **Securities Lending** The Fund may lend securities with a value up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to financial institutions that provide cash or securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government as collateral.
- Short-Term Money Market Instruments The Fund will also invest in short-term money market instruments as cash reserves. The Fund will not invest in options, futures, other derivative instruments or short-term money market instruments in order to lessen the Fund's exposure to common stocks as a defensive strategy, but will instead attempt to remain fully invested at all times.
- When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments The purchase or sale of securities on a when-issued basis or on a delayed delivery basis or through a forward commitment involves the purchase or sale of securities by the Fund at an established price with payment and delivery taking place in the future. The Fund enters into these transactions to obtain what is considered an advantageous price to the Fund at the time of entering into the transaction.

#### ABOUT THE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

The Fund is managed by a team of financial professionals. Alan Mason, Greg Savage, CFA, Jennifer Hsui, CFA, Creighton Jue, CFA and Rachel Aguirre are the portfolio managers and are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Please see "Management of the Funds — Portfolio Manager Information" for additional information about the portfolio management team.

## **Investment Risks**

This section contains a discussion of the general risks of investing in the Fund. The "Investment Objectives and Policies" section in the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") also includes more information about the Fund, its investments and the related risks. As with any fund, there can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective or that the Fund's performance will be positive for any period of time. An investment in the Fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any bank or governmental agency.

## **Principal Risks of Investing in the Fund:**

**Derivatives Risk** — The Fund's use of derivatives may increase its costs, reduce the Fund's returns and/or increase volatility. Derivatives involve significant risks, including:

Volatility Risk — The Fund's use of derivatives may reduce the Fund's returns and/or increase volatility. Volatility is defined as the characteristic of a security, an index or a market to fluctuate significantly in price within a short time period. A risk of the Fund's use of derivatives is that the fluctuations in their values may not correlate with the overall securities markets.

Counterparty Risk — Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the other party in the transaction will not fulfill its contractual obligation.

Market and Liquidity Risk — Some derivatives are more sensitive to interest rate changes and market price fluctuations than other securities. The possible lack of a liquid secondary market for derivatives and the resulting inability of the Fund to sell or otherwise close a derivatives position could expose the Fund to losses and could make derivatives more difficult for the Fund to value accurately. The Fund could also suffer losses related to its derivatives positions as a result of unanticipated market movements, which losses are potentially unlimited. Finally, BlackRock may not be able to predict correctly the direction of securities prices, interest rates and other economic factors, which could cause the Fund's derivatives positions to lose value.

Valuation Risk — Valuation may be more difficult in times of market turmoil since many investors and market makers may be reluctant to purchase complex instruments or quote prices for them. Derivatives may also expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. Certain transactions in derivatives involve substantial leverage risk and may expose the Fund to potential losses that exceed the amount originally invested by the Fund.

Hedging Risk — When a derivative is used as a hedge against a position that the Fund holds, any loss generated by the derivative generally should be substantially offset by gains on the hedged investment, and vice versa. While hedging can reduce or eliminate losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains. Hedges are sometimes subject to imperfect matching between the derivative and the underlying security, and there can be no assurance that the Fund's hedging transactions will be effective. The use of hedging may result in certain adverse tax consequences noted below.

Tax Risk — The federal income tax treatment of a derivative may not be as favorable as a direct investment in an underlying asset and may adversely affect the timing, character and amount of income the Fund realizes from its investments. As a result, a larger portion of the Fund's distributions may be treated as ordinary income rather than capital gains. In addition, certain derivatives are subject to mark-to-market or straddle provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Internal Revenue Code"). If such provisions are applicable, there could be an increase (or decrease) in the amount of taxable dividends paid by the Fund. In addition, the tax treatment of certain derivatives, such as swaps, is unsettled and may be subject to future legislation, regulation or administrative pronouncements issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

Regulatory Risk — Derivative contracts, including, without limitation, swaps, currency forwards and non-deliverable forwards, are subject to regulation under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") in the United States and under comparable regimes in Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. jurisdictions. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, certain derivatives are subject to margin requirements and swap dealers are required to collect margin from the Fund with respect to such derivatives. Specifically, regulations are now in effect that require swap dealers to post and collect variation margin (comprised of specified liquid instruments and subject to a required haircut) in connection with trading of over-the-counter ("OTC") swaps with the Fund. Shares of investment companies (other than certain money market funds) may not be posted as collateral under these regulations. Requirements for posting of initial margin in connection with OTC swaps will be phased-in through 2020. In addition, regulations adopted by prudential regulators that will begin to take effect in 2019 will require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many derivatives contracts, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as the Fund, to terminate such contracts, foreclose upon collateral, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. The implementation of these requirements with respect to derivatives, as well as regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act regarding clearing, mandatory trading and margining of other derivatives, may increase the costs and risks to the Fund of trading in these instruments and, as a result, may affect returns to investors in the Fund.

Future regulatory developments may impact the Fund's ability to invest or remain invested in certain derivatives. Legislation or regulation may also change the way in which the Fund itself is regulated. BlackRock cannot predict the effects of any new governmental regulation that may be implemented on the ability of the Fund to use swaps or any other financial derivative product, and there can be no assurance that any new governmental regulation will not adversely affect the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

Risks Specific to Certain Derivatives Used by the Fund

Swaps — Swap agreements, including total return swaps that may be referred to as contracts for difference, are two-party contracts entered into for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. In a standard "swap" transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments, which can be adjusted for an interest factor. Swap agreements involve the risk that the party with whom the Fund has entered into the swap will default on its obligation to pay the Fund and the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its obligations to pay the other party to the agreement. Swap agreements may also involve the risk that there is an imperfect correlation between the return on the Fund's obligation to its counterparty and the return on referenced asset. In addition, swap agreements are subject to market and liquidity risk, leverage risk and hedging risk.

Forward Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts — Forward foreign currency exchange transactions are OTC contracts to purchase or sell a specified amount of a specified currency or multinational currency unit at a price and future date set at the time of the contract. Forward foreign currency exchange contracts do not eliminate fluctuations in the value of non-U.S. securities but rather allow the Fund to establish a fixed rate of exchange for a future point in time. This strategy can have the effect of reducing returns and minimizing opportunities for gain.

Indexed and Inverse Securities — Indexed and inverse securities provide a potential return based on a particular index of value or interest rates. The Fund's return on these securities will be subject to risk with respect to the value of the particular index. These securities are subject to leverage risk and correlation risk. Certain indexed and inverse securities have greater sensitivity to changes in interest rates or index levels than other securities, and the Fund's investment in such instruments may decline significantly in value if interest rates or index levels move in a way Fund management does not anticipate.

Futures — Futures are standardized, exchange-traded contracts that obligate a purchaser to take delivery, and a seller to make delivery, of a specific amount of an asset at a specified future date at a specified price. The primary risks associated with the use of futures contracts and options are: (a) the imperfect correlation between the change in market value of the instruments held by the Fund and the price of the futures contract or option; (b) the possible lack of a liquid secondary market for a futures contract and the resulting inability to close a futures contract when desired; (c) losses caused by unanticipated market movements, which are potentially unlimited; (d) the investment adviser's inability to predict correctly the direction of securities prices, interest rates, currency exchange rates and other economic factors; and (e) the possibility that the counterparty will default in the performance of its obligations.

**Equity Securities Risk** — Common and preferred stocks represent equity ownership in a company. Stock markets are volatile. The price of equity securities will fluctuate and can decline and reduce the value of a portfolio investing in equities. The value of equity securities purchased by the Fund could decline if the financial condition of the companies the Fund invests in declines or if overall market and economic conditions deteriorate. The value of equity securities may also decline due to factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or an increase in production costs and competitive conditions within an industry. In addition, the value may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a company or industry, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or generally adverse investor sentiment.

**Index Fund Risk** — An index fund has operating and other expenses while an index does not. As a result, while the Fund will attempt to track the Underlying Index as closely as possible, it will tend to underperform the index to some degree over time.

Index-Related Risk — As prescribed by this prospectus, in order to meet its investment objective, the Fund seeks to achieve a return which corresponds generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Underlying Index as published by the Index Provider. There is no assurance that the Index Provider will compile the Underlying Index accurately, or that the Underlying Index will be determined, composed or calculated accurately. While the Index Provider does provide descriptions of what the Underlying Index is designed to achieve, the Index Provider does not provide any warranty or accept any liability in relation to the quality, accuracy or completeness of data in respect of their indices, and does not guarantee that the Underlying Index will be in line with their described index methodology. BlackRock's mandate as described in this prospectus is to manage the Fund consistently with the Underlying Index provided to BlackRock. Consequently, BlackRock does not provide any warranty or guarantee for Index Provider errors. Errors in respect of the quality, accuracy and completeness of the data may occur from time to time and may not be identified and corrected for a period of time, particularly where the indices are less commonly used. Therefore gains, losses or costs associated with Index Provider errors will be borne by the Fund and its shareholders. For example, during a period where the Underlying Index contains incorrect constituents, a fund tracking such published Underlying Index would have market exposure to such constituents and would be underexposed to the Underlying Index's other constituents. As such, errors may result in a negative or positive performance impact to the Fund and its shareholders. Shareholders should understand that any gains from Index Provider errors will be kept by the Fund and its shareholders and any losses resulting from Index Provider errors will be borne by the Fund and its shareholders.

Apart from scheduled rebalances, the Index Provider may carry out additional ad hoc rebalances to the Underlying Index in order, for example, to correct an error in the selection of index constituents. Where the Underlying Index of the Fund is rebalanced and the Fund in turn rebalances its portfolio to bring it in line with its Underlying Index, any transaction costs and market exposure arising from such portfolio rebalancing will be borne directly by the Fund and its shareholders. Unscheduled rebalances to the Underlying Index may also expose the Fund to tracking error risk, which is the risk that its returns may not track exactly those of the Underlying Index. Therefore, errors and additional ad hoc rebalances carried out by the Index Provider to the Underlying Index may increase the costs and market exposure risk of the Fund.

**Leverage Risk** — Some transactions may give rise to a form of economic leverage. These transactions may include, among others, derivatives, and may expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. As an open-end investment

company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), the Fund is subject to the federal securities laws, including the Investment Company Act of 1940, the rules thereunder, and various SEC and SEC staff interpretive positions. In accordance with these laws, rules and positions, the Fund must "set aside" liquid assets (often referred to as "asset segregation"), or engage in other SEC- or staff-approved measures, to "cover" open positions with respect to certain kinds of instruments. The use of leverage may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet any required asset segregation requirements. Increases and decreases in the value of the Fund's portfolio will be magnified when the Fund uses leverage.

**Market Risk and Selection Risk** — Market risk is the risk that one or more markets in which the Fund invests will go down in value, including the possibility that the markets will go down sharply and unpredictably. Selection risk is the risk that the securities selected by Fund management will underperform the markets, the relevant indices or the securities selected by other funds with similar investment objectives and investment strategies. This means you may lose money.

**Passive Investment Risk** — Because BlackRock does not select individual companies in the index that the Fund tracks, the Fund may hold securities of companies that present risks that an investment adviser researching individual securities might seek to avoid.

**Representative Sampling Risk** — Representative sampling is a method of indexing that involves investing in a representative sample of securities that collectively have a similar investment profile to the underlying index and resemble the underlying index in terms of risk factors and other key characteristics. The Fund may or may not hold every security in the underlying index. When the Fund deviates from a full replication indexing strategy to utilize a representative sampling strategy, the Fund is subject to an increased risk of tracking error, in that the securities selected in the aggregate for the Fund may not have an investment profile similar to those of the underlying index.

**Small Cap Securities Risk** — Small cap companies may have limited product lines or markets. They may be less financially secure than larger, more established companies. They may depend on a small number of key personnel. If a product fails or there are other adverse developments, or if management changes, the Fund's investment in a small cap company may lose substantial value. In addition, it is more difficult to get information on smaller companies, which tend to be less well known, have shorter operating histories, do not have significant ownership by large investors and are followed by relatively few securities analysts.

The securities of small cap companies generally trade in lower volumes and are subject to greater and more unpredictable price changes than larger cap securities or the market as a whole. In addition, small cap securities may be particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates, borrowing costs and earnings. Investing in small cap securities requires a longer term view.

**Tracking Error Risk** — An inexact correlation between the securities of the underlying index and those of the Fund, the timing of cash flows, the Fund's size, rounding of prices and any regulatory changes or changes to the composition of the underlying index may cause the Fund to perform differently from the underlying index. Tracking error may also result because the Fund incurs fees and transaction expenses that the underlying index does not. The use of representative sampling will make the Fund particularly susceptible to tracking error, as it will likely increase the Fund's deviation from an underlying index.

# The Fund may also be subject to certain other risks associated with its investments and investment strategies, including:

**Borrowing Risk** — Borrowing may exaggerate changes in the net asset value of Fund shares and in the return on the Fund's portfolio. Borrowing will cost the Fund interest expense and other fees. The costs of borrowing may reduce the Fund's return. Borrowing may cause the Fund to liquidate positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations.

**Concentration Risk** — The Fund reserves the right to concentrate its investments (*i.e.*, invest 25% or more of its total assets in securities of issuers in a particular industry) to approximately the same extent that the Underlying Index concentrates in a particular industry. To the extent the Fund concentrates in a particular industry, it may be more susceptible to economic conditions and risks affecting that industry.

**Depositary Receipts Risk** — Depositary receipts are generally subject to the same risks as the foreign securities that they evidence or into which they may be converted. In addition to investment risks associated with the underlying issuer, depositary receipts expose the Fund to additional risks associated with the non-uniform terms that apply to depositary receipt programs, credit exposure to the depository bank and to the sponsors and other parties with whom the depository bank establishes the programs, currency risk and liquidity risk. The issuers of unsponsored depositary receipts are not obligated to disclose information that is, in the United States, considered material. Therefore, there may be less information available regarding these issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the market value of the depositary receipts.

**Expense Risk** — Fund expenses are subject to a variety of factors, including fluctuations in the Fund's net assets. Accordingly, actual expenses may be greater or less than those indicated. For example, to the extent that the Fund's net assets decrease due to market declines or redemptions, the Fund's expenses will increase as a percentage of Fund net assets. During periods of high market volatility, these increases in the Fund's expense ratio could be significant.

**Investment in Other Investment Companies Risk** — As with other investments, investments in other investment companies, including ETFs, are subject to market and selection risk. In addition, if the Fund acquires shares of investment companies, including ones affiliated with the Fund, shareholders bear both their proportionate share of expenses in the Fund (including management and advisory fees) and, indirectly, the expenses of the investment companies (to the extent not offset by BlackRock through waivers to the Fund's management fees). To the extent the Fund is held by an affiliated fund, the ability of the Fund itself to hold other investment companies may be limited.

**Liquidity Risk** — Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are difficult to purchase or sell. The Fund's investments in illiquid securities may reduce the returns of the Fund because it may be difficult to sell the illiquid securities at an advantageous time or price. To the extent that the Fund's principal investment strategies involve derivatives or securities with substantial market and/or credit risk, the Fund will tend to have the greatest exposure to liquidity risk. Liquid investments may become illiquid after purchase by the Fund, particularly during periods of market turmoil. Illiquid investments may be harder to value, especially in changing markets, and if the Fund is forced to sell these investments to meet redemption requests or for other cash needs, the Fund may suffer a loss. In addition, when there is illiquidity in the market for certain securities, the Fund, due to limitations on illiquid investments, may be subject to purchase and sale restrictions.

"New Issues" Risk — "New Issues" are IPOs of equity securities. Investments in companies that have recently gone public have the potential to produce substantial gains for the Fund. However, there is no assurance that the Fund will have access to profitable IPOs and therefore investors should not rely on these past gains as an indication of future performances. The investment performance of the Fund during periods when it is unable to invest significantly or at all in IPOs may be lower than during periods when the Fund is able to do so. In addition, as the Fund increases in size, the impact of IPOs on the Fund's performance will generally decrease. Securities issued in IPOs are subject to many of the same risks as investing in companies with smaller market capitalizations. Securities issued in IPOs have no trading history, and information about the companies may be available for very limited periods. In addition, the prices of securities sold in IPOs may be highly volatile or may decline shortly after the initial public offering. When an initial public offering is brought to the market, availability may be limited and the Fund may not be able to buy any shares at the offering price, or, if it is able to buy shares, it may not be able to buy as many shares at the offering price as it would like.

**Money Market Securities Risk** — If market conditions improve while the Fund has invested some or all of its assets in high quality money market securities, this strategy could result in reducing the potential gain from the market upswing, thus reducing the Fund's opportunity to achieve its investment objective.

**REIT Investment Risk** — In addition to the risks facing real estate-related securities, such as a decline in property values due to increasing vacancies, a decline in rents resulting from unanticipated economic, legal or technological developments or a decline in the price of securities of real estate companies due to a failure of borrowers to pay their loans or poor management, investments in REITs involve unique risks. REITs may have limited financial resources, may trade less frequently and in limited volume and may be more volatile than other securities.

**Repurchase Agreements and Purchase and Sale Contracts Risks** — If the other party to a repurchase agreement or purchase and sale contract defaults on its obligation under the agreement, the Fund may suffer delays and incur costs or lose money in exercising its rights under the agreement. If the seller fails to repurchase the security in either situation and the market value of the security declines, the Fund may lose money.

**Securities Lending Risk** — Securities lending involves the risk that the borrower may fail to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. As a result, the Fund may lose money and there may be a delay in recovering the loaned securities. The Fund could also lose money if it does not recover the securities and/or the value of the collateral falls, including the value of investments made with cash collateral. These events could trigger adverse tax consequences for the Fund.

**Valuation Risk** — The price the Fund could receive upon the sale of any particular portfolio investment may differ from the Fund's valuation of the investment, particularly for securities that trade in thin or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair valuation methodology or a price provided by an independent pricing service. As a result, the price received upon the sale of an investment may be less than the value ascribed by the Fund, and the Fund could realize a greater than expected loss or lesser than expected gain upon the sale of the investment. Pricing services that value fixed-income securities generally utilize a range of market-based and security-specific inputs and assumptions, as well as considerations about general market conditions, to establish a price. Pricing services generally value fixed-income securities assuming orderly transactions of an institutional round lot size, but may be held or transactions may be conducted in such securities in smaller, odd lot sizes. Odd lots may trade at lower prices than institutional round lots.

The Fund's ability to value its investments may also be impacted by technological issues and/or errors by pricing services or other third-party service providers.

When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments Risk — When-issued and delayed delivery securities and forward commitments involve the risk that the security the Fund buys will lose value prior to its delivery. There also is the risk that the security will not be issued or that the other party to the transaction will not meet its obligation. If this occurs, the Fund may lose both the investment opportunity for the assets it set aside to pay for the security and any gain in the security's price.

# **Financial Highlights**

Financial Highlights for the Fund are not available because, as of the effective date of this prospectus, the Fund has not commenced operations and, therefore, has no financial highlights to report.

# Other Important Information

	BlackRock Variable Series Funds
	Class I Shares
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# **Account Information**

# The Insurance Companies

Shares of the BlackRock International Index V.I. Fund and the BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund (each a "Fund," and collectively, the "Funds") are sold to separate accounts of insurance companies (the "Insurance Companies") either directly or indirectly (through other variable insurance funds) to fund certain variable life insurance contracts and/or variable annuities (the "Contracts") issued by the Insurance Companies.

Shares of the Funds are owned by the Insurance Companies, not Contract owners. A Contract owner has no direct interest in the shares of a Fund, but only in the Contract. A Contract is described in the prospectus for that Contract. That prospectus describes the relationship between changes in the value of shares of a Fund, and the benefits provided under a Contract. The prospectus for a Contract also describes various fees payable to the Insurance Company and charges to the separate account made by the Insurance Company with respect to the Contract. While this prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information (the "SAI") are intended for use by Contract owners, because shares of the Funds will be sold only to the Insurance Companies for the separate accounts, the terms "you," "your," "shareholder" and "shareholders" in this prospectus may refer to the Insurance Companies.

More than one Insurance Company may invest in each Fund. It is possible that a difference may arise among the interests of Insurance Companies that invest in a Fund or the holders of different types of Contracts — for example, if applicable state insurance law or Contract owner instructions prevent an Insurance Company from continuing to invest in a Fund following a change in the Fund's investment policies, or if different tax laws apply to variable life insurance contracts and variable annuities. The Funds and the Insurance Companies will attempt to monitor events to prevent such differences from arising. If a conflict between Insurance Companies occurs, or between life insurance policies and annuity contracts, however, a Fund may be required to take actions that are adverse to the interests of a particular Insurance Company and its Contract owners, or to the interests of holders of a particular type of Contract.

If approved by the Board of Directors (the "Board") of BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. (the "Company"), BlackRock, on behalf of the Funds, may enter into agreements with a Service Organization, as defined below, pursuant to which a Fund will pay a Service Organization for administrative, networking, recordkeeping, subtransfer agency and shareholder services. These payments are based on a percentage of the average daily net assets of Fund shareholders serviced by a Service Organization. The aggregate amount of these payments may be substantial.

From time to time, BlackRock Advisors, LLC ("BlackRock"), BlackRock Investments, LLC (the "Distributor") and their affiliates may compensate affiliated and unaffiliated Insurance Companies and other financial intermediaries ("Service Organizations") for the sale and distribution of shares of the Funds. These payments would be in addition to the Fund payments described above, if approved by the Board, and may be a fixed dollar amount, may be based on the number of customer accounts maintained by the Service Organization, may be based on a percentage of the value of shares sold to, or held by, customers of the Service Organization or may be calculated on another basis. The aggregate amount of these payments by BlackRock, the Distributor and their affiliates may be substantial and, in some circumstances, may create an incentive for a Service Organization, its employees or associated persons to recommend or sell shares of the Funds to you. Please contact your Service Organization for details about payments it may receive from the Funds or from BlackRock, the Distributor or their affiliates. For more information, see the SAI.

# How to Buy and Sell Shares

The Company is offering through this prospectus Class I Shares in each of its Funds to the Insurance Companies. The price of shares purchased by the Insurance Companies is based on the next calculation of the per share net asset value of a Fund after an order is placed. The Company may reject any order to buy shares and may suspend the sale of shares at any time. The Company will redeem all full and fractional shares of the Funds for cash. The price of redeemed shares is based on the next calculation of net asset value after a redemption order is placed. The value of shares at the time of redemption may be more or less than the shareholder's cost, depending in part on the net asset value of such shares at such time.

#### **Short-Term Trading Policy**

The Company's Board has determined that the interests of long-term shareholders and a Fund's ability to manage its investments may be adversely affected when shares are repeatedly bought, sold or exchanged in response to short-term market fluctuations — also known as "market timing." The Funds are not designed for market timing organizations or other entities using programmed or frequent purchases and sales or exchanges. The exchange privilege is not intended as a vehicle for short-term trading. Excessive purchase and sale or exchange activity may interfere with portfolio management, increase expenses and taxes and may have an adverse effect on the performance of a Fund and its returns

to shareholders. For example, large flows of cash into and out of a Fund may require the management team to allocate a significant amount of assets to cash or other short-term investments or sell securities, rather than maintaining such assets in securities selected to achieve a Fund's investment objective. Frequent trading may cause a Fund to sell securities at less favorable prices, and transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions, can reduce a Fund's performance.

A fund's investment in non-U.S. securities is subject to the risk that an investor may seek to take advantage of a delay between the change in value of such fund's portfolio securities and the determination of the fund's net asset value as a result of different closing times of U.S. and non-U.S. markets by buying or selling fund shares at a price that does not reflect their true value. A similar risk exists for funds that invest in securities of small capitalization companies, securities of issuers located in emerging markets or high yield securities ("junk bonds") that are thinly traded and therefore may have actual values that differ from their market prices. This short-term arbitrage activity can reduce the return received by long-term shareholders. Each Fund will seek to eliminate these opportunities by using fair value pricing, as described in "Management of the Funds — Valuation of Fund Investments" below.

The Funds discourage market timing and seek to prevent frequent purchases and sales or exchanges of Fund shares that they determine may be detrimental to a Fund or long-term shareholders. The Board has approved the policies discussed below to seek to deter market timing activity. The Board has not adopted any specific numerical restrictions on purchases, sales and exchanges of Fund shares because certain legitimate strategies will not result in harm to a Fund or its shareholders.

If as a result of its own investigation, information provided by a financial intermediary or other third party, or otherwise, a Fund believes, in its sole discretion, that your short-term trading is excessive or that you are engaging in market timing activity, it reserves the right to reject any specific purchase or exchange order. If a Fund rejects your purchase or exchange order, you will not be able to execute that transaction, and such Fund will not be responsible for any losses you therefore may suffer. For transactions placed directly with a Fund, such Fund may consider the trading history of accounts under common ownership or control for the purpose of enforcing these policies. Transactions placed through the same financial intermediary on an omnibus basis may be deemed part of a group for the purpose of this policy and may be rejected in whole or in part by a Fund. Certain accounts, such as omnibus accounts and accounts at financial intermediaries, however, include multiple investors and such accounts typically provide a Fund with net purchase or redemption and exchange requests on any given day where purchases, redemptions and exchanges of shares are netted against one another and the identity of individual purchasers, redeemers and exchangers whose orders are aggregated may not be known by a Fund. While the Funds monitor for market timing activity, the Funds may be unable to identify such activities because the netting effect in omnibus accounts often makes it more difficult to locate and eliminate market timers from the Funds. The Distributor has entered into agreements with respect to financial professionals, and other financial intermediaries that maintain omnibus accounts with the transfer agent pursuant to which such financial professionals and other financial intermediaries undertake to cooperate with the Distributor in monitoring purchase, exchange and redemption orders by their customers in order to detect and prevent short-term or excessive trading in the Funds' shares through such accounts. Identification of market timers may also be limited by operational systems and technical limitations. In the event that a financial intermediary is determined by a Fund to be engaged in market timing or other improper trading activity, the Fund's Distributor may terminate such financial intermediary's agreement with the Distributor, suspend such financial intermediary's trading privileges or take other appropriate actions.

There is no assurance that the methods described above will prevent market timing or other trading that may be deemed abusive.

The Funds may from time to time use other methods that they believe are appropriate to deter market timing or other trading activity that may be detrimental to the Funds or long-term shareholders.

# Management of the Funds

# **BlackRock**

BlackRock, each Fund's investment adviser, manages each Fund's investments and its business operations subject to the oversight of the Board of each of the Funds. While BlackRock is ultimately responsible for the management of the Funds, it is able to draw upon the trading, research and expertise of its asset management affiliates for portfolio decisions and management with respect to certain portfolio securities. BlackRock is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc.

BlackRock, a registered investment adviser, was organized in 1994 to perform advisory services for investment companies. BlackRock and its affiliates had approximately \$6.317 trillion in investment company and other portfolio assets under management as of March 31, 2018.

Each Fund has entered into a management agreement (the "Management Agreement") with BlackRock. Under the Management Agreement, BlackRock receives for its services to each Fund a fee at an annual rate described below. The fee is computed daily on a Fund-by-Fund basis and payable monthly.

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
BlackRock International Index V.I. Fund	0.08%
BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund	0.08%

BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive the management fee with respect to any portion of each Fund's assets estimated to be attributable to investments in other equity and fixed-income mutual funds and exchange-traded funds managed by BlackRock or its affiliates that have a contractual management fee, through April 30, 2021 for each Fund. The contractual agreement may be terminated upon 90 days' notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Company or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

BlackRock has agreed to cap net expenses (excluding (i) interest, taxes, dividends tied to short sales, brokerage commissions, and other expenditures which are capitalized in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; (ii) expenses incurred directly or indirectly by a Fund as a result of investments in other investment companies and pooled investment vehicles; (iii) other expenses attributable to, and incurred as a result of, a Fund's investments; and (iv) extraordinary expenses (including litigation expenses) not incurred in the ordinary course of a Fund's business, if any) of Class I shares of each Fund at the levels shown below and, in the case of contractual caps, in a Fund's fees and expenses table in the "Fund Overview" section of this prospectus. Items (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) in the preceding sentence are referred to in this prospectus as "Dividend Expense, Interest Expense, Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses and certain other Fund expenses." To achieve these expense caps, BlackRock has agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses if these operating expenses exceed a certain limit.

With respect to Class I shares of each Fund, as set forth in the table below, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees and/or expenses in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements. In addition, BlackRock has contractually agreed to reimburse fees in order to limit operational and recordkeeping fees to the amounts noted in the table below.

Contractual Caps1 on **Total Annual Fund** Operating Expenses<sup>2</sup> (excluding Dividend **Expense, Interest** Contractual Caps1 on **Expense, Acquired Fund** fees paid by Fund Fees and Expenses and for Operational and certain other **Recordkeeping Services** Fund expenses) BlackRock International Index V.I. Fund 0.27% 0.05% BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. 0.22% 0.05%

- The contractual caps for each Fund are in effect through April 30, 2021. The contractual agreement may be terminated, with respect to each Fund, upon 90 days' notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Company or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.
- <sup>2</sup> As a percentage of average daily net assets and based on current fees.

With respect to each Fund, BlackRock has voluntarily agreed to waive its management fees by the amount of advisory fees the Fund pays to BlackRock indirectly through its investment in affiliated money market funds (the "affiliated money market fund waiver").

The amount of the contractual waivers and/or reimbursements of fees and expenses made pursuant to the contractual cap on net expenses will be reduced by the amount of the affiliated money market fund waiver.

With respect to the contractual agreements to cap net expenses described above, if during a Fund's fiscal year the operating expenses of a share class, that at any time during the prior two fiscal years received a waiver and/or reimbursement from BlackRock, are less than the current expense limit for that share class, the share class is required to repay BlackRock up to the lesser of (a) the amount of fees waived or expenses reimbursed during those prior two fiscal years under the agreement and (b) an amount not to exceed either (x) the current expense limit of that share class or (y) the expense limit of the share class in effect at the time that the share class received the applicable waiver and/or reimbursement, provided that: (1) the Fund of which the share class is a part has more than \$50 million in assets and (2) BlackRock or an affiliate serves as the Fund's manager or administrator. This repayment applies only to the contractual caps on net expenses and does not apply to the contractual management fee waiver described above or any voluntary waivers that may be in effect from time to time.

A discussion of the basis for the Board's approval of the Management Agreement with BlackRock will be included in each Fund's annual shareholder report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.

From time to time, a manager, analyst, or other employee of BlackRock or its affiliates may express views regarding a particular asset class, company, security, industry, or market sector. The views expressed by any such person are the views of only that individual as of the time expressed and do not necessarily represent the views of BlackRock or any other person within the BlackRock organization. Any such views are subject to change at any time based upon market or other conditions and BlackRock disclaims any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied on as investment advice and, because investment decisions for a Fund are based on numerous factors, may not be relied on as an indication of trading intent on behalf of a Fund.

**Legal Proceedings.** On May 27, 2014, certain purported investors in the BlackRock Global Allocation Fund, Inc. ("Global Allocation") and the BlackRock Equity Dividend Fund ("Equity Dividend") filed a consolidated complaint (the "Consolidated Complaint") in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey against BlackRock, BlackRock Investment Management, LLC and BlackRock International Limited (collectively, the "Defendants") under the caption *In re BlackRock Mutual Funds Advisory Fee Litigation*. The Consolidated Complaint, which purports to be brought derivatively on behalf of Global Allocation and Equity Dividend, alleges that the Defendants violated Section 36(b) of the Investment Company Act by receiving allegedly excessive investment advisory fees from Global Allocation and Equity Dividend. The Consolidated Complaint seeks, among other things, to recover on behalf of Global Allocation and Equity Dividend all allegedly excessive advisory fees received by the Defendants in the period beginning one year prior to the filing of the lawsuit and ending on the date of judgment, along with purported lost investment returns on those amounts, plus interest. The Defendants believe the claims in the Consolidated Complaint are without merit and intend to vigorously defend the action.

# **Portfolio Manager Information**

Information regarding the portfolio managers of each Fund is set forth below. Further information regarding the portfolio managers, including other accounts managed, compensation, ownership of Fund shares, and possible conflicts of interest, is available in the Funds' SAI.

## BlackRock International Index V.I. Fund and BlackRock Small Cap Index V.I. Fund

Each Fund is managed by Alan Mason, Greg Savage, CFA, Jennifer Hsui, CFA, Creighton Jue, CFA and Rachel Aguirre who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund.

Portfolio Manager	Primary Role	Since	Title and Recent Biography
Alan Mason	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund's portfolio, including setting each Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Funds.	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2009; Managing Director of Barclays Global Investors ("BGI") from 2008 to 2009; Principal of BGI from 1996 to 2008.
Greg Savage, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund's portfolio, including setting each Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Funds.	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2010; Director of BlackRock, Inc. in 2009; Principal of BGI from 2007 to 2009; Associate of BGI from 1999 to 2007.

Portfolio Manager	Primary Role	Since	Title and Recent Biography
Jennifer Hsui, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund's portfolio, including setting each Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Funds.	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2011; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2011; Principal of BGI from 2006 to 2009.
Creighton Jue, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund's portfolio, including setting each Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Funds.	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2011; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2011; Principal of BGI from 2000 to 2009.
Rachel M. Aguirre	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund's portfolio, including setting each Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Funds.	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2018; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2012 to 2017; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2011; Principal and Portfolio Manager of BGI from 2005 to 2009.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

The investment activities of BlackRock and its affiliates (including BlackRock, Inc. and The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. and their affiliates, directors, partners, trustees, managing members, officers and employees (collectively, the "Affiliates")) in the management of, or their interest in, their own accounts and other accounts they manage, may present conflicts of interest that could disadvantage the Funds and their shareholders.

BlackRock and its Affiliates provide investment management services to other funds and discretionary managed accounts that follow investment programs similar to that of the Funds. BlackRock and its Affiliates are involved worldwide with a broad spectrum of financial services and asset management activities and may engage in the ordinary course of business in activities in which their interests or the interests of their clients may conflict with those of a Fund. One or more Affiliates act or may act as an investor, investment banker, research provider, investment manager, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, financier, underwriter, adviser, market maker, trader, prime broker, lender, index provider, agent and principal, and have other direct and indirect interests, in securities, currencies, commodities, derivatives and other instruments in which a Fund may directly or indirectly invest. Thus, it is likely that a Fund will have multiple business relationships with and will invest in, engage in transactions with, make voting decisions with respect to, or obtain services from entities for which an Affiliate performs or seeks to perform investment banking or other services. Specifically, a Fund may invest in securities of, or engage in other transactions with, companies with which an Affiliate has developed or is trying to develop investment banking relationships or in which an Affiliate has significant debt or equity investments or other interests. A Fund also may invest in securities of. or engage in other transactions with, companies for which an Affiliate provides or may in the future provide research coverage. An Affiliate may have business relationships with, and purchase, or distribute or sell services or products from or to, distributors, consultants or others who recommend a Fund or who engage in transactions with or for a Fund, and may receive compensation for such services. A Fund may also make brokerage and other payments to Affiliates in connection with the Fund's portfolio investment transactions. An Affiliate may engage in proprietary trading and advise accounts and funds that have investment objectives similar to those of a Fund and/or that engage in and compete for transactions in the same types of securities, currencies and other instruments as the Fund. This may include transactions in securities issued by other open-end and closed-end investment companies (which may include investment companies that are affiliated with the Fund and BlackRock, to the extent permitted under the Investment Company Act). The trading activities of these Affiliates are carried out without reference to positions held directly or indirectly by a Fund and may result in an Affiliate having positions in certain securities that are senior or junior to, or have interests different from or adverse to, the securities that are owned by the Fund.

No Affiliate is under any obligation to share any investment opportunity, idea or strategy with a Fund. As a result, an Affiliate may compete with a Fund for appropriate investment opportunities. The results of a Fund's investment activities, therefore, may differ from those of an Affiliate and of other accounts managed by an Affiliate, and it is possible that a Fund could sustain losses during periods in which one or more Affiliates and other accounts achieve profits on their trading for proprietary or other accounts. The opposite result is also possible.

In addition, a Fund may, from time to time, enter into transactions in which an Affiliate or its other clients have an adverse interest. Furthermore, transactions undertaken by Affiliate-advised clients may adversely impact a Fund. Transactions by one or more Affiliate-advised clients or BlackRock may have the effect of diluting or otherwise disadvantaging the values, prices or investment strategies of a Fund. A Fund's activities may be limited because of

regulatory restrictions applicable to one or more Affiliates, and/or their internal policies designed to comply with such restrictions.

Under a securities lending program approved by the Board, the Funds have retained BlackRock Investment Management, LLC, an Affiliate of BlackRock to serve as the securities lending agent for the Funds to the extent that the Funds participate in the securities lending program. For these services, the lending agent will receive a fee from the Funds, including a fee based on the returns earned on the Funds' investment of the cash received as collateral for the loaned securities. In addition, one or more Affiliates may be among the entities to which the Funds may lend their portfolio securities under the securities lending program.

The activities of Affiliates may give rise to other conflicts of interest that could disadvantage the Funds and their shareholders. BlackRock has adopted policies and procedures designed to address these potential conflicts of interest. See the SAI for further information.

#### Valuation of Fund Investments

When an Insurance Company purchases shares, the Insurance Company pays the net asset value. This is the offering price. Shares are also redeemed at their net asset value. Each Fund calculates its net asset value of each class of its shares each day the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open, generally as of the close of regular trading hours on the NYSE, based on prices at the time of closing. The NYSE generally closes at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time). The net asset value used in determining your share price is the next one calculated after your purchase or redemption order is received. Each business day, the Funds' net asset values are transmitted electronically to the Insurance Companies that use the Funds as underlying investment options for Contracts.

Equity securities and other instruments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at market value, which is generally determined using the last reported closing price or, if a reported closing price is not available, the last traded price on the exchange or market on which the security or instrument is primarily traded at the time of valuation. The Funds value fixed-income portfolio securities and non-exchange traded derivatives using last available bid prices or current market quotations provided by dealers or prices (including evaluated prices) supplied by the Funds' approved independent third-party pricing services, each in accordance with valuation procedures approved by the Board. Pricing services may use matrix pricing or valuation models that utilize certain inputs and assumptions to derive values. Pricing services generally value fixed-income securities assuming orderly transactions of institutional round lot size, but the Fund may hold or transact in such securities in smaller, odd lot sizes. Odd lots may trade at lower prices than institutional round lots. Short-term debt securities with remaining maturities of 60 days or less may be valued on the basis of amortized cost.

Foreign currency exchange rates are generally determined as of the close of business on the NYSE. Foreign securities owned by the Funds may trade on weekends or other days when a Fund does not price its shares. As a result, the Funds' net asset value may change on days when you will not be able to purchase or redeem a Fund's shares. Generally, trading in foreign securities, U.S. Government securities, money market instruments and certain fixed-income securities is substantially completed each day at various times prior to the close of business on the NYSE. The values of such securities used in computing the net asset value of a Fund's shares are determined as of such times.

When market quotations are not readily available or are not believed by BlackRock to be reliable, a Fund's investments are valued at fair value. Fair value determinations are made by BlackRock in accordance with procedures approved by the Board. BlackRock may conclude that a market quotation is not readily available or is unreliable if a security or other asset or liability does not have a price source due to its lack of liquidity, if BlackRock believes a market quotation from a broker-dealer or other source is unreliable, where the security or other asset or other liability is thinly traded (e.g., municipal securities, certain small cap and emerging growth companies and certain non-U.S. securities) or where there is a significant event subsequent to the most recent market quotation. For this purpose, a "significant event" is deemed to occur if BlackRock determines, in its business judgment prior to or at the time of pricing a Fund's assets or liabilities, that it is likely that the event will cause a material change to the last closing market price of one or more assets or liabilities held by the Fund. For instance, significant events may occur between the foreign market close and the close of business on the NYSE that may not be reflected in the computation of the Funds' net assets. If such event occurs, those instruments may be fair valued. Similarly, foreign securities whose values are affected by volatility that occurs in U.S. markets on a trading day after the close of foreign securities markets may be fair valued.

For certain foreign securities, a third-party vendor supplies evaluated, systematic fair value pricing based upon the movement of a proprietary multi-factor model after the relevant foreign markets have closed. This systematic fair value pricing methodology is designed to correlate the prices of foreign securities following the close of the local markets to the price that might have prevailed as of a Fund's pricing time.

Fair value represents a good faith approximation of the value of a security. The fair value of one or more securities may not, in retrospect, be the price at which those assets could have been sold during the period in which the particular fair values were used in determining a Fund's net asset value.

A Fund may accept orders from certain authorized financial intermediaries or their designees. A Fund will be deemed to receive an order when accepted by the financial intermediary or designee and the order will receive the net asset value next computed by the Fund after such acceptance. If the payment for a purchase order is not made by a designated later time, the order will be canceled and the financial intermediary could be held liable for any losses.

# **Dividends and Taxes**

Each Fund declares dividends and reinvest dividends at least annually in additional shares of the respective Funds.

Each Fund has elected to be treated, and intends to qualify each year, as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). In order to qualify to be taxed as a regulated investment company, each Fund must meet certain income and asset diversification tests and distribution requirements. As regulated investment companies, the Funds will not be subject to federal income tax on their net investment income and net capital gains that they distribute to their shareholders.

Short-term capital gain earned by an underlying fund will be ordinary income when distributed to the Fund and will not be offset by the Fund's capital losses. Upon the sale or other disposition by the Fund of shares of an underlying fund, the Fund will realize a capital gain or loss which will be long-term or short-term, generally depending on the Fund's holding period for the shares. Losses realized upon such redemptions may result in a substantial number of "wash sales" and deferral, perhaps indefinitely, of realized losses to the Fund.

A Fund or an underlying fund, if invested in non-U.S. securities, may be subject to non-U.S. income taxes and non-U.S. financial transactions taxes. Each Fund and underlying fund that is permitted to do so may elect to "pass through" to its investors, including a Fund, the amount of non-U.S. income taxes paid by the Fund or underlying fund. A Fund itself will be eligible to elect to "pass through" such amounts to its stockholders and may do so, depending upon circumstances.

In addition, each Fund intends to meet certain diversification and investor control requirements applicable to regulated investment companies underlying variable insurance products. The requirements generally provide that, as of the end of each calendar quarter or within 30 days thereafter, no more than 55% of the total assets of a Fund may be represented by any one investment, no more than 70% by any two investments, no more than 80% by any three investments, and no more than 90% by any four investments. For this purpose, all securities of the same issuer are considered a single investment, but in the case of Government securities, each Government agency or instrumentality is considered to be a separate issuer. An alternative diversification test may be satisfied under certain circumstances.

If a Fund should fail to comply with the diversification or investor control requirements or were to otherwise fail to qualify for the special tax treatment afforded regulated investment companies under the Code, Contracts invested in the Fund would not be treated as annuity, endowment, or life insurance contracts for federal tax purposes, and income and gain earned inside the Contracts in current and prior years would be taxed currently to the Contract holders and would remain taxable in future years as well, even if the Fund were to become adequately diversified.

Dividends paid by the Company may be included in an Insurance Company's gross income. The tax treatment of these dividends depends on the Insurance Company's tax status. A description of an Insurance Company's tax status is contained in the prospectus for the Contract.

# General Information

# **Shareholder Documents**

Please contact your Insurance Company for a copy of the Funds' annual and semi-annual reports.

## **Certain Fund Policies**

## **Anti-Money Laundering Requirements**

The Funds are subject to the USA PATRIOT Act (the "Patriot Act"). The Patriot Act is intended to prevent the use of the U.S. financial system in furtherance of money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities. Pursuant to requirements under the Patriot Act, the Funds are required to obtain sufficient information from shareholders to enable it to form a reasonable belief that it knows the true identity of its shareholders. This information will be used to verify the identity of investors or, in some cases, the status of financial professionals. Such information may be verified using third-party sources. This information will be used only for compliance with the Patriot Act or other applicable laws, regulations and rules in connection with money laundering, terrorism or economic sanctions.

The Funds reserve the right to reject purchase orders from persons who have not submitted information sufficient to allow the Funds to verify their identity. The Funds also reserve the right to redeem any amounts in the Funds from persons whose identity it is unable to verify on a timely basis. It is the Funds' policy to cooperate fully with appropriate regulators in any investigations conducted with respect to potential money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities.

# **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 website.

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.

# Statement of Additional Information

If you would like further information about the Funds, including how the Funds invest, please see the SAI.

For a discussion of the Funds' policies and procedures regarding the selective disclosure of their portfolio holdings, please see the SAI.

# Glossary

This glossary contains an explanation of some of the common terms used in this prospectus. For additional information about the Funds, please see the SAI.

**Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses** — fees and expenses charged by other investment companies in which a Fund invests a portion of its assets.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses — expenses that cover the costs of operating a Fund.

**Contract** — the Funds offer their shares only to participating insurance companies. These insurance companies write variable annuity and/or variable life insurance contracts that allow the contract owner to choose a Fund as an investment option. The contract owner does not become a Fund shareholder.

**Distribution Fees** — fees used to support a Fund's marketing and distribution efforts, such as compensating financial professionals and other financial intermediaries, advertising and promotion.

**Management Fee** — a fee paid to BlackRock for managing a Fund.

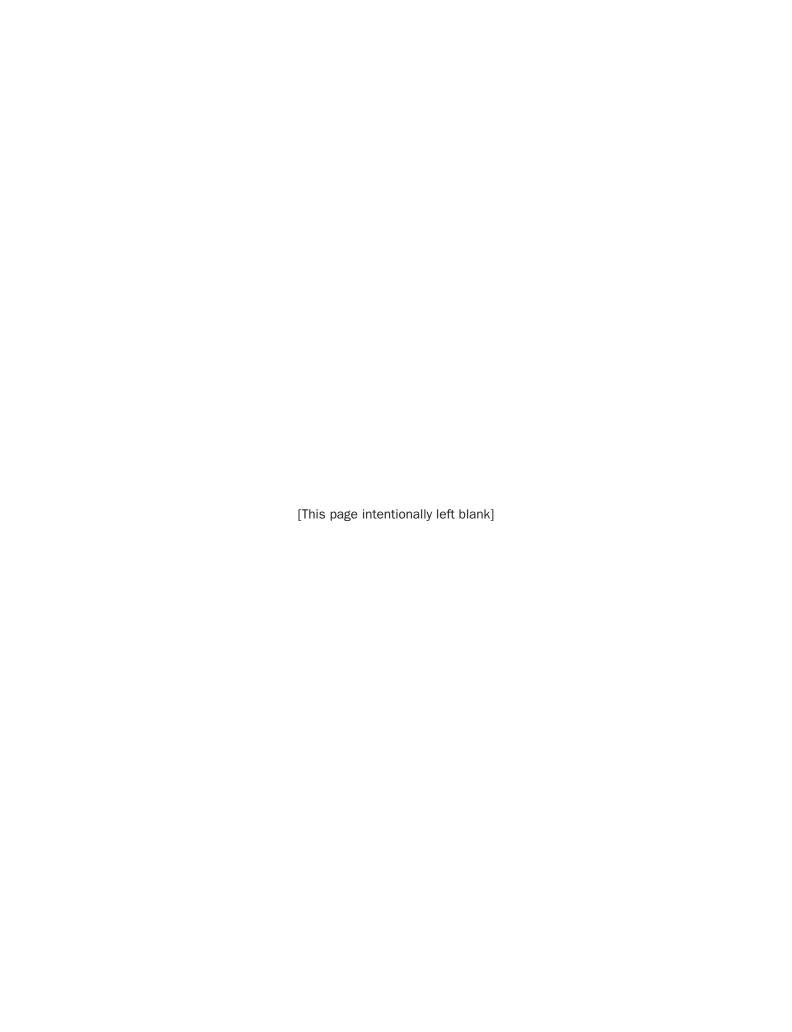
**MSCI EAFE Index (Europe, Australia, Far East)** — a free-float adjusted, market-capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of developed markets, excluding the United States and Canada.

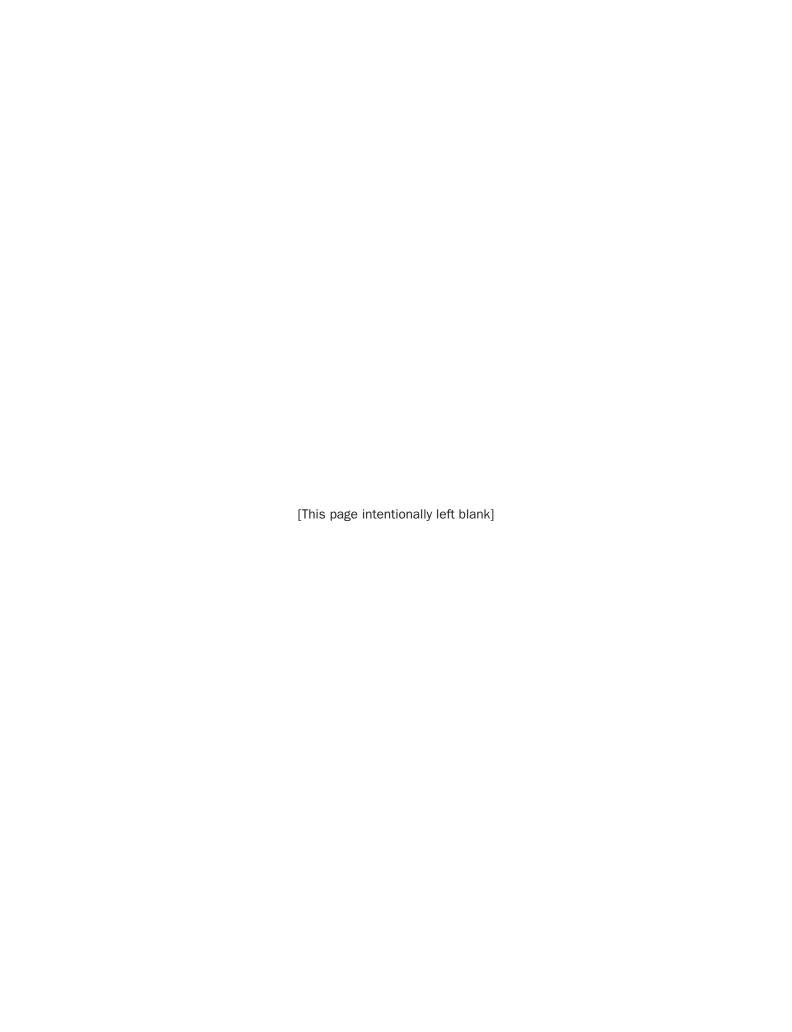
Other Expenses — include accounting, transfer agency, custody, professional fees and registration fees.

**Russell 2000**® **Index** — an unmanaged index that is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

**Service Fees** — fees used to compensate securities dealers and other financial intermediaries for certain shareholder servicing activities.

Shareholder Fees — these fees include sales charges that you may pay when you buy or sell shares of a Fund.





# For More Information

# **Funds and Service Providers**

## **THE FUNDS**

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. 100 Bellevue Parkway Wilmington, Delaware 19809

Written Correspondence:
P.O. Box 9819
Providence, Rhode Island 02940-8019

Overnight Mail: 4400 Computer Drive Westborough, Massachusetts 01588 (800) 441-7762

## **MANAGER**

BlackRock Advisors, LLC 100 Bellevue Parkway Wilmington, Delaware 19809

## **TRANSFER AGENT**

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. 301 Bellevue Parkway Wilmington, Delaware 19809

# INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Deloitte & Touche LLP 200 Berkeley Street Boston, Massachusetts 02116

#### **ACCOUNTING SERVICES PROVIDER**

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. 383 Madison Avenue, Floor 11 New York, New York 10179

## **DISTRIBUTOR**

BlackRock Investments, LLC 40 East 52nd Street New York, New York 10022

## **CUSTODIAN**

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. 383 Madison Avenue, Floor 11 New York, New York 10179

#### **COUNSEL**

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP 787 Seventh Avenue New York, New York 10019-6099 This prospectus contains important information you should know before investing, including information about risks. Please read it before you invest and keep it for future reference. More information about the Funds is available at no charge upon request. This information includes:

#### **Annual/Semi-Annual Reports**

These reports contain additional information about each of the Fund's investments. The annual report describes each Fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings, and discusses recent market conditions, economic trends and Fund investment strategies that significantly affected a Fund's performance for the last fiscal year.

#### Statement of Additional Information ("SAI")

A Statement of Additional Information, dated May 31, 2018 has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). The SAI, which includes additional information about each Fund, may be obtained free of charge, along with the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports, by calling (800) 441-7762 or visiting www.blackrock.com/prospectus/insurance. The SAI, as supplemented from time to time, is incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

#### **BlackRock Investor Services**

Representatives are available to discuss mutual fund prospectuses, literature, programs and services available. Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Eastern time), Monday-Friday. Call: (800) 441-7762.

#### **Purchases and Redemptions**

Call your financial professional or BlackRock Investment Services at (800) 441-7762.

#### World Wide Web

General Fund information and specific Fund performance, including the SAI and annual/semi-annual reports, mutual fund prospectuses and literature, can be accessed free of charge at www.blackrock.com/prospectus. Mutual fund prospectuses can also be requested via this website.

#### Written Correspondence

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. PO Box 9819
Providence, Rhode Island 02940-8019

#### **Overnight Mail**

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. 4400 Computer Drive Westborough, Massachusetts 01588

#### Internal Wholesalers/Broker Dealer Support

Available on any business day to support investment professionals. Call: (800) 882-0052

#### **Portfolio Characteristics and Holdings**

A description of each Fund's policies and procedures related to disclosure of portfolio characteristics and holdings is available in the SAI.

For information about portfolio holdings and characteristics, BlackRock fund shareholders and prospective investors may call (800) 882-0052.

#### **Securities and Exchange Commission**

You may also view and copy public information about each Fund, including the SAI, by visiting the EDGAR database on the SEC's website (http://www.sec.gov) or the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Copies of this information can be obtained, for a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov, or by writing to the Public Reference Room of the SEC, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information about obtaining documents on the SEC's website without charge may be obtained by calling (800) SEC-0330.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. No one is authorized to provide you with information that is different from information contained in this prospectus.

The SEC has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT FILE NO. 811-03290

