

# **Trade Rationale**

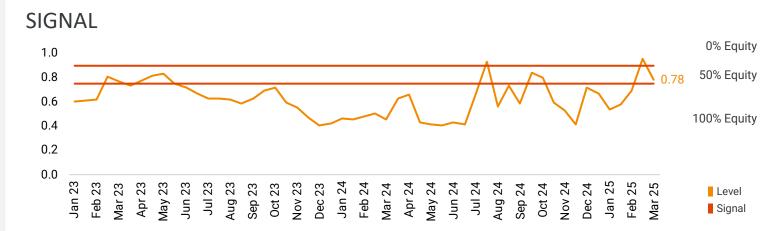
**APRIL 2025** 

## **Volatility Level Element**

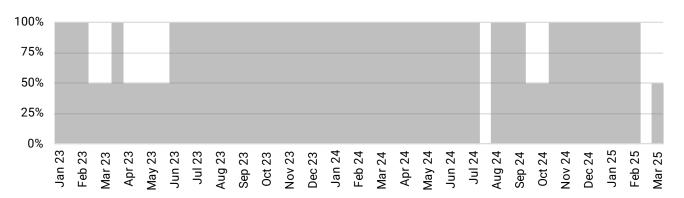


#### TRADE RATIONALE

Expected volatility continues to indicate higher levels of risk ahead but is substantially lower than two weeks ago. As investors become "numb" to tariff headlines and economic data continues to be "good enough," markets are no longer expecting an economic Armageddon to emerge. However, expected volatility remains elevated for the near term. To reflect this, we'll remain neutral until expectations move one way or the other.



#### HISTORICAL EXPOSURE

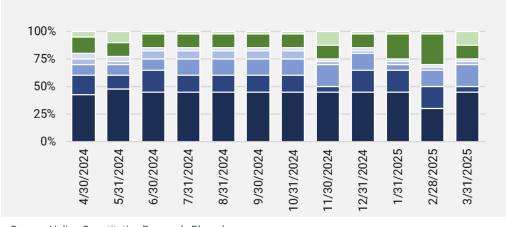


### Active<sup>2</sup> & Active<sup>2</sup> + Equity Style Element



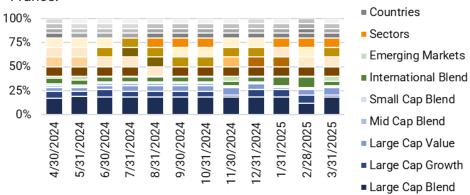
#### ACTIVE 2

The Active 2 Equity strategy made several notable allocation changes at the end of March. Despite a deterioration in overall market trends, allocation adjustments were made to reflect shifting relative and absolute outlooks across asset styles. The forecast for Large Cap Blend remains negative, but its relative trends have improved—supporting an increased tilt toward that category. Large Cap Value maintains favorable relative trends, resulting in a slight increase in allocation. Emerging Markets have seen a notable improvement in outlook, leading to increased exposure. In contrast, both the outlook and relative trends for International Blend have worsened, prompting a reduction in that position. The prior allocations to Mid-Cap Blend and Small-Cap Blend remain unchanged.



#### ACTIVE 2+

The Active 2+ Equity strategy made notable changes to its core asset style allocations while also adjusting one sector and one country allocation. Across the primary core asset styles, the prior allocations to Large Cap Growth and International Blend were reduced in favor of Large Cap Blend, Large Cap Value, and Emerging Markets. These shifts reflect evolving market conditions, where relative strength and improving outlooks guided the repositioning toward areas with more favorable trends. Despite the shifts, a broad tilt to US large-cap stocks remains, with a more balanced tilt across Large Cap Blend and Large Cap Value. Changes within the strategy's sector allocations include removing Technology in favor of Industrials while maintaining the allocations for Communications, Financials, and Utilities, all due to attractive relative trends. Also, due to better relative trends, the United Kingdom replaced France.



Source: Helios Quantitative Research, Bloomberg

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## Active<sup>2</sup> & Active<sup>2</sup> + Fixed Income Style Element

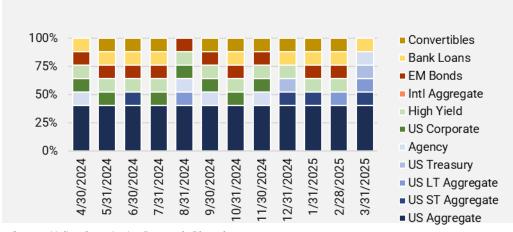


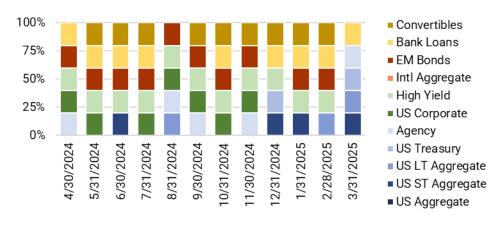
#### ACTIVE 2

The Active 2 Fixed Income strategy conducts an in-depth assessment of asset classes, considering model outlooks, trend analysis, and other key indicators. Recent economic changes caused the model to reevaluate its perspective, where it deemed US High Yield, EM Bonds and Convertibles with negative outlooks, thus redistributing their allocations. US ST Aggregate, US Treasury and Agency all received a share, while US LT Aggregate and Bank Loans remain unchanged.

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### **Model Changes**



#### Revo Turnkey

Equity: Increase Lg Cap Blend, Lg Cap Value, and Emerging Markets. Reduce Lg Cap Growth and Int'l Blend.

Fixed Income: Move out of US High Yield, EM Bonds, & Convertibles. Add US ST Agg, US Treasury, and Agency.

#### Revo Blend/Spectrum

Equity: Increase Lg Cap Blend, Lg Cap Value, Emerging Markets, Communications, Financials, & Utilities (Spectrum 70 also slightly increases exposure in foreign countries). Reduce Lg Cap Growth and Int'l Blend. Swap Technology for Utilities. Swap France for UK.

Fixed Income: Move out of US High Yield, EM Bonds, Convertibles and reduce US LT Agg & Bank loans. Add US ST Agg, US Treasury, and Agency.



## **Definitions & Disclosures**

METHODS, DEFINITIONS, AND MORE

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Helios Adaptive Index, Helios Alpha Index, Helios Equity Index, Helios Dynamic Risk 5% Index, Helios Dynamic Risk 7% Index, Helios Dynamic Risk 10% Index,

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