

PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE CO

Form 424B2

September 11, 2006

Pricing Supplement 9/11/2006 Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2) Rule 424(b)(5)
 Dated
 (To Prospectus dated February 16, 2006, and Registration Statement Nos. 333-129763 and
 Prospectus Supplement dated February 16, 2006) 333-129763-01

CUSIP: 74254PNG3

Principal Life Insurance Company
 Principal[®] Life CoreNotes[®] (Callable) (That are also Asset-Backed Securities) Issued Through and Obligations of
 Principal Life Income Fundings Trust 2006-61 (the Trust and Issuing Entity)

The description of this pricing supplement of the particular terms of the Principal[®] Life CoreNotes[®] offered hereby, and the Funding Agreement (specified below) issued by Principal Life Insurance Company (Principal Life) to the Trust, the payment obligations of which are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Guarantee (specified below) issued by Principal Financial Group, Inc. to the Trust, supplements the description of the general terms and provisions of the notes, the funding agreements and the guarantees set forth in the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement, to which reference is hereby made.

1. The Notes

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Principal Amount: | TBD | Purchasing Agent Discount: | 1.000% |
| Issue Price: | 100.0% | Original Issue Date: | 9/20/2006 |
| Net Proceeds to the Trust: | TBD | Stated Maturity Date: | 9/15/2011 |

Interest Payment Dates: The 15th day of every sixth month commencing on 3/15/2007

Initial Interest Payment Date: 3/15/2007

Regular Record Date: 15 calendar days prior to the Interest Payment Date

Type of Interest Rate: Fixed Rate Floating Rate

Interest Rate: 5.35%

Discount Note: Yes No

Terms of Survivor's Option:

Annual Put Limitation: \$2,000,000 or 2%; or
 \$_____ or _%

Individual Put Limitation: \$250,000; or
 \$_____

Trust Put Limitation: 2%; or
 \$_____

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Redemption Provisions: Yes No. If, Yes,
Initial Redemption Date: 9/15/2007
Redemption: In whole only and not in
part
 May be in whole or in part
Additional Other Terms: Any redemption date will be an Interest Payment Date falling on or
after the Initial Redemption Date
Repayment: Yes No
Authorized Denominations: \$1,000

*Principal[®] is a registered service mark of Principal Financial Services, Inc. and is used under license.
CoreNotes[®] is a registered service mark of Merrill Lynch & Co.*

Ratings:

The Notes issued under the Program are rated AA by Standard & Poor's (S&P).

Principal Life expects the Notes to be rated Aa2 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's).

Purchasing Agent(s) Purchasing Notes as Yes No. If, Yes,
Principal:

| Purchasing Agent(s) | Principal Amount |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Merrill Lynch | TBD |
| Total: | TBD |

State of Organization of the Trust: New York

Additional/Other Terms: None

2. The Funding Agreement

Funding Agreement Issuer: Principal Life Insurance Company

Funding Agreement No.: 4-53839

Deposit: TBD

Net Deposit: TBD

Effective Date: 9/20/2006

Stated Maturity Date: 9/15/2011

Interest Payment Dates: The 15th day of every sixth month commencing on 3/15/2007

Initial Interest Payment Date: 3/15/2007

Type of Interest Rate: Fixed Rate Floating Rate

Interest Rate: 5.35%

Discount Funding Agreement: Yes No

Terms of Survivor's Option:

Annual Put Limitation: \$2,000,000 or 2%; or
 \$_____or_%

Individual Put Limitation: \$250,000; or
 \$_____

Trust Put Limitation: 2%; or
 \$_____

Redemption: Yes No. If, Yes,

Initial Redemption Date: 9/15/2007

Redemption: In whole only and not in part
 May be in whole or in part

Additional Other Terms: Any redemption date will be an Interest Payment Date falling on or after the Initial Redemption Date

Repayment: Yes No

Ratings:

The Funding Agreement issued under the Program is rated AA by S&P.
Principal Life expects the Funding Agreement to be rated Aa2 by Moody's.

Additional/Other Terms: None

3. The Guarantee

Guarantee Issuer: Principal Financial Group, Inc.

Effective Date: 9/20/2006

Additional/Other Terms: None