

ROYCE FOCUS TRUST INC
Form DEF 14A
August 21, 2008
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-11(c) or Section 240.14a-12

ROYCE FOCUS TRUST, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

1) Amount Previously Paid:

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing Party:

4) Date filed:

ROYCE FOCUS TRUST, INC.

**1414 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

To the Stockholders of:

ROYCE FOCUS TRUST, INC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Meeting) of ROYCE FOCUS TRUST, INC. (the Fund) will be held at the offices of the Fund, 1414 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019 on Thursday, September 25, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. (Eastern time), for the following purposes:

1. To elect four Directors to the Fund's Board:
 - (i) two Directors to be elected by the holders of the Fund's Common Stock and its 6.00% Cumulative Preferred Stock (the Preferred Stock), voting together as a single class, and
 - (ii) two Directors to be elected only by the holders of the Fund's Preferred Stock voting as a separate class; and

2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.
The Board of Directors of the Fund has set the close of business on August 6, 2008 as the record date for determining those stockholders entitled to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof, and only holders of record at the close of business on that day will be entitled to vote.

IMPORTANT

To save the Fund the expense of additional proxy solicitation, please mark your instructions on the enclosed Proxy, date and sign it and return it in the enclosed envelope (which requires no postage if mailed in the United States), even if you expect to be present at the Meeting. If you have been provided with the opportunity on your proxy card or voting instruction form to provide voting instructions via telephone or the Internet, please take advantage of these prompt and efficient voting options. The accompanying Proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors, is revocable and will not affect your right to vote in person in the event that you attend the Meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

John E. Denneen
Secretary

August 25, 2008

PROXY STATEMENT

**ROYCE FOCUS TRUST, INC.
1414 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
September 25, 2008**

INTRODUCTION

The enclosed Proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors for use at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Meeting) of Royce Focus Trust, Inc. (the Fund), to be held at the offices of the Fund, 1414 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019, on Thursday, September 25, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. (Eastern time) and at any adjournments thereof. The approximate mailing date of this Proxy Statement is August 25, 2008.

All properly executed Proxies received prior to the Meeting will be voted at the Meeting in accordance with the instructions marked thereon or otherwise as provided therein. Unless instructions to the contrary are marked, Proxies will be voted FOR the election of the Director nominees of the Fund.

You may revoke your Proxy at any time before it is exercised by sending written instructions to the Secretary of the Fund at the Fund's address indicated above or by filing a new Proxy with a later date, and any stockholder attending the Meeting may vote in person, whether or not he or she has previously filed a Proxy.

The cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by the Fund, which will reimburse brokerage firms, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their expenses in forwarding proxy material to the beneficial owners of the Fund's shares. Some officers and employees of the Fund and/or Royce & Associates, LLC (R&A), the Fund's investment adviser, may solicit proxies personally and by telephone, if deemed desirable. Shareholders vote at the Meeting by casting ballots (in person or by proxy) which are tabulated by one or two persons, appointed by the Board of Directors before the Meeting, who serve as Inspectors and Judges of Voting at the Meeting and who have executed an Inspectors and Judges Oath.

The Board of Directors of the Fund has set the close of business on August 6, 2008 as the record date (the Record Date) for determining those stockholders entitled to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof, and only holders of record at the close of business on that day will be entitled to vote. Stockholders on the Record Date will be entitled to one vote for each outstanding share of Common Stock and 6.00% Cumulative Preferred Stock (the Preferred Stock) and, together with the Common Stock, Stock or

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shares) held (proportional voting rights for fractional shares held), with no shares having cumulative voting rights.

As of the Record Date, there were 18,937,795 shares of Common Stock and 1,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock of the Fund outstanding. The following persons were known to the Fund to be beneficial owners or owners of record of 5% or more of its outstanding shares of Common Stock or Preferred Stock as of the Record Date:

<u>Name and Address of Owner</u>	<u>Class/Series of Stock</u>	<u>Amount and Nature of Ownership</u>	<u>Percent of Class/Series</u>
Charles M. Royce c/o Royce & Associates, LLC 1414 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10019	Common	1,649,020 shares Beneficial* (sole voting and investment power)	8.71%
W. Whitney George c/o Royce & Associates, LLC 1414 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10019	Common	2,230,639 shares Beneficial** (sole voting and investment power)	11.78%
Cede & Co.*** Depository Trust Company P.O. Box #20 Bowling Green Station New York, NY 10028	Common 6.00% Preferred	18,142,514 shares Record*** 1,000,000 shares Record***	95.80% 100%

* Includes 278,867 shares held by Royce Family Fund, Inc., a charitable foundation established by Mr. Royce and members of his family.

** Includes 836,074 shares held by W. Whitney George Family Foundation, a charitable foundation established by Mr. George and members of his family.

*** Shares held by brokerage firms, banks and other financial intermediaries on behalf of beneficial owners are registered in the name of Cede & Co.

The Board of Directors knows of no business other than that stated in Proposal 1 of the Notice of Meeting that will be presented for consideration at the Meeting. If any other matter is properly presented at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof, it is the intention of the persons named on the enclosed proxy card to vote in accordance with their best judgment.

SUMMARY OF VOTING RIGHTS ON PROXY PROPOSALS

Proposal	Common Stockholders	Preferred Stockholders
Election of Directors	Common and Preferred Stockholders, voting together as a single class, elect two Directors	Preferred Stockholders, voting as a separate class, elect two additional Directors

PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the Meeting, four members of the Board of Directors of the Fund will be elected. The holders of both Common Stock and Preferred Stock, voting together as a single class, are entitled to elect seven directors. These seven directors are divided into three classes, each class having a term of three years. Each year the term of office of one class will expire. Donald R. Dwight and William L. Koke have each been nominated by the Board of Directors for a three-year term to expire at the Fund's 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. It should be noted that Donald R. Dwight and William L. Koke are scheduled to retire in accordance with the Board's retirement policy on December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2009, respectively. The classes of Directors are indicated below:

CLASS III DIRECTOR NOMINEES TO SERVE UNTIL 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Donald R. Dwight
William L. Koke

CLASS II DIRECTORS SERVING UNTIL 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Mark R. Fetting
Richard M. Galkin
Arthur S. Mehlman

CLASS I DIRECTORS SERVING UNTIL 2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Charles M. Royce
G. Peter O'Brien

The holders of Preferred Stock, voting as a separate class, are entitled to elect two directors to serve until the next Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation or removal. The Board of Directors has nominated the following two persons to continue as Directors of the Fund, to be elected by holders of the Preferred Stock: Stephen L. Isaacs and David L. Meister.

Each of these persons has agreed to serve if elected, and the Fund's management has no reason to believe that any of them will be unavailable for service as a Director. However, if any of them become unwilling or unable to serve, the persons named in the accompanying Proxy will vote for the election of such other persons, if any, as the Board of Directors may nominate.

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Certain biographical and other information concerning the existing Directors and the nominees who are interested persons as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the Investment Company Act), of the Fund, including their designated classes, is set forth below.

<u>Name, Address* and Principal Occupations During Past Five Years**</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Positions With the Fund</u>	<u>Length of Time Served</u>	<u>Current Term Expires</u>	<u>Elected By</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships</u>
Charles M. Royce*** President, Chief Investment Officer and Member of Board of Managers of Royce & Associates, LLC (R&A), investment adviser to the Fund, Royce Micro-Cap Trust (RMT), Royce Value Trust, Inc. (RVT), The Royce Fund (TRF) and Royce Capital Fund (RCF) (the Fund, RMT, RFT, TRF and RCF collectively, The Royce Funds).	68	Class I Director and President	1986	2009	Common and Preferred	28	Director of Technology Investment Capital Corp.

<u>Name, Address* and Principal Occupations During Past Five Years**</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Positions With the Fund</u>	<u>Length of Time Served</u>	<u>Current Term Expires</u>	<u>Elected By</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships</u>
Mark R. Fetting*** President and Chief Executive Officer of Legg Mason, Inc.; Member of Board of Managers of R&A. Mr. Fetting's prior business experience includes having served as Senior Executive Vice President of Legg Mason, Inc.; Division President and Senior Officer of Prudential Financial Group, Inc. and related companies; Partner, Greenwich Associates; and Vice President, T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.	53	Class II Director	2001	2010	Common and Preferred	42 (Director/Trustee of all Royce Funds consisting of 28 portfolios; Director/Trustee of the Legg Mason Family of Funds consisting of 14 portfolios)	None

* Mr. Royce's address is c/o Royce & Associates, LLC, 1414 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019. Mr. Fetting's address is c/o Legg Mason, Inc., 100 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

** Each of the Directors or nominees is also a director/trustee of certain other investment companies for which R&A acts as an investment adviser.

*** Interested person, as defined in the Investment Company Act, of the Fund.
Elected by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Interested Persons

Messrs. Royce and Fetting are interested persons of the Fund within the meaning of Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act due to the positions they hold with R&A and its affiliate Legg Mason, respectively, and their stock ownership in Legg Mason. There are no family relationships between any of the Fund's Directors and officers.

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Certain biographical and other information concerning the existing Directors and nominees who are not interested persons, as defined in the Investment Company Act, of the Fund, including their designated classes, is set forth below.

<u>Name, Address* and Principal Occupations During Past Five Years**</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Positions With the Fund</u>	<u>Length of Time Served</u>	<u>Current Term Expires</u>	<u>Elected By</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships</u>
Donald R. Dwight President of Dwight Partners, Inc., corporate communications consultants; and Chairman (from 1982 until March 1998) and Chairman Emeritus (since March 1998) of Newspapers of New England, Inc. Mr. Dwight's prior experience includes having served as Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as President and Publisher of Minneapolis Star and Tribune Company, and as Trustee of the registered investment companies constituting the Eaton Vance Funds.	77	Class III Director	1998	2008	Common and Preferred	28	None
Richard M. Galkin Private investor. Mr. Galkin's prior business experience includes having served as President of Richard M. Galkin Associates, Inc., telecommunications consultants, President of Manhattan Cable Television (a subsidiary of Time Inc.), President of Haverhills Inc. (another Time Inc. subsidiary), President of Rhode Island Cable Television and Senior Vice President of Satellite Television Corp. (a subsidiary of Comsat).	70	Class II Director	1986	2010	Common and Preferred	28	None

Name, Address* and Principal Occupations During Past Five Years**	Age	Positions With the Fund	Length of Time Served	Current Term Expires	Elected By	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen	Other Public Company Directorships
Stephen L. Isaacs President of The Center for Health and Social Policy (since September 1996); Attorney and President of Health Policy Associates, Inc., consultants. Mr. Isaacs's prior business experience includes having served as Director of Columbia University Development Law and Policy Program and Professor at Columbia University (until August 1996).	69	Director	1986	2008	Preferred only	28	None
William L. Koke Private investor. Mr. Koke's prior business experience includes having served as President of Shoreline Financial consultants, Director of Financial Relations of SONAT, Inc., Treasurer of Ward Foods, Inc. and President of CFC, Inc.	74	Class III Director	2001	2008	Common and Preferred	28	None
Arthur S. Mehlman Director of The League for People with Disabilities, Inc.; Director of University of Maryland Foundation (non-profits). Formerly: Director of University of Maryland College Park Foundation (non-profit)(from 1998 to 2005); Partner, KPMG LLP (international accounting firm) (from 1972 to 2002); Director of Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (from July 1984 to June 2002).	66	Class II Director	2004	2010	Common and Preferred	42 (Director/Trustee of all Royce Funds consisting of 28 portfolios; Director/Trustee of the Legg Mason Family of Funds consisting of 14 portfolios)	Director of Municipal Mortgage & Equity, LLC

<u>Name, Address* and Principal Occupations During Past Five Years**</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Positions With the Fund</u>	<u>Length of Time Served</u>	<u>Current Term Expires</u>	<u>Elected By</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships</u>
David L. Meister Consultant. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Tennis Channel (from June 2000 to March 2005). Mr. Meister's prior business experience includes having served as Chief Executive Officer of Seniorlife.com, a consultant to the communications industry, President of Financial News Network, Senior Vice President of HBO, President of Time-Life Films and Head of Broadcasting for Major League Baseball.	68	Director	1986	2008	Preferred only	28	None
G. Peter O'Brien Trustee Emeritus of Colgate University (since 2005); Board Member of Hill House, Inc. (since 1999). Formerly: Trustee of Colgate University (from 1996 to 2005); President of Hill House, Inc. (from 2001 to 2005); and Managing Director/Equity Capital Markets Group of Merrill Lynch & Co. (from 1971 to 1999).	62	Class I Director	2001	2009	Common and Preferred	42 (Director/Trustee of all Royce Funds consisting of 28 portfolios; Director/Trustee of the Legg Mason Family of Funds consisting of 14 portfolios)	Director of Technology Investment Capital Corp.

* Messrs. Dwight, Galkin, Isaacs, Koke, Mehlman, Meister and O'Brien's address is c/o Royce & Associates, LLC, 1414 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019.

** Each of the Directors or nominees is a director/trustee of certain other investment companies for which R&A acts as an investment adviser. Messrs. Dwight, Galkin, Isaacs, Koke, Mehlman, Meister and O'Brien are each a member of the Fund's Audit Committee and its Nominating Committee.

Audit Committee Report

The Board of Directors has a standing Audit Committee (the "Audit Committee"), which consists of the Directors who are not interested persons of the Fund within the meaning of Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act and who are independent as defined in the listing standards of

the New York Stock Exchange (the Independent Directors). The current members of the Audit Committee are Donald R. Dwight, Richard M. Galkin, Stephen L. Isaacs, William L. Koke, Arthur S. Mehlman, David L. Meister and G. Peter O'Brien. Mr. Galkin serves as Chairman of the Audit Committee and Mr. Mehlman has been designated as the Audit Committee Financial Expert, as defined under Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulations.

The principal purposes of the Audit Committee are to (i) assist Board oversight of the (a) integrity of the Fund's financial statements; (b) independent accountants' qualifications and independence; and (c) performance of the Fund's independent accountants and (ii) prepare, or oversee the preparation of any audit committee report required by rules of the SEC to be included in the Fund's proxy statement for its annual meeting of stockholders. The Board of Directors has adopted an Audit Committee Charter for the Fund attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The Audit Committee also has (i) received written disclosures and the letter required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 from Tait, Weller & Baker (TW&B), independent auditors for the Fund, and (ii) discussed certain matters required to be discussed under the requirements of The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board with TW&B. The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of non-audit services by the Fund's independent auditors is compatible with maintaining their independence.

At its meeting held on February 13, 2008, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the audit of the Fund's financial statements as of December 31, 2007 and for the fiscal year then ended with Fund management and TW&B. Had any material concerns arisen during the course of the audit and the preparation of the audited financial statements mailed to stockholders and included in the Fund's 2007 Annual Report to Stockholders, the Audit Committee would have been notified by Fund management or TW&B. The Audit Committee received no such notifications. At the same meeting, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Fund's audited financial statements be included in the Fund's 2007 Annual Report to Stockholders.

Nominating Committee

The Board of Directors has a Nominating Committee composed of the seven Independent Directors, namely Messrs. Dwight, Galkin, Isaacs, Koke, Mehlman, Meister and O'Brien. Messrs. Galkin and O'Brien serve as Co-Chairmen of the Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors has adopted a Nominating Committee Charter which was previously filed as an Exhibit to the proxy statement filed with the SEC on behalf of the Fund on August 23, 2007.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and recommending to the Board of Directors individuals believed to be qualified to become Board members in the event that a position is vacated or created. The Nominating Committee will consider Director candidates recommended by stockholders. In considering potential nominees, the Nominating Committee will take into consideration (i) the contribution which the person can make to the Board, with consideration given to the person's business and professional experience, education and such other factors as the Committee may consider relevant; (ii) the character and integrity of the person; (iii) whether or not the person is an interested person as defined in the Investment Company Act and whether the person is otherwise qualified under applicable laws and regulations to serve as a Director or Independent Director of the Fund; (iv) whether or not the person has any relationships that might impair his independence, such as any business, financial or family relationships with Fund management, the investment adviser of the Fund, Fund service providers or their affiliates; (v) whether or not the person is financially literate pursuant to the New York Stock Exchange's audit committee membership standards; (vi) whether or not the person serves on boards of, or is otherwise affiliated with, competing financial service organizations or their related investment company complexes; (vii) whether or not the person is willing to serve as, and willing and able to commit the time necessary for the performance of the duties of, a Director of the Fund; and (viii) whether or not the selection and nomination of the person would be consistent with the requirements of the Fund's retirement policies.

To have a candidate considered by the Nominating Committee, a stockholder must submit the recommendation in writing and must include biographical information and set forth the qualifications of the proposed nominee. The stockholder recommendation and information described above must be sent to the Fund's Secretary, John E. Denneen, c/o Royce Focus Trust, Inc., 1414 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019.

Although the Board of Directors does not have a standing compensation committee, the Independent Directors review their compensation annually.

Committee and Board of Directors Meetings

During the year ended December 31, 2007, the Board of Directors held six meetings, the Audit Committee held two meetings and the Nominating Committee did not hold any meetings. Each Director then in office attended 75% or more of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors and the total number of meetings of the Audit Committee held during that year.

Compensation of Directors and Affiliated Persons

Each Independent Director receives a base fee of \$2,600 per year plus \$250 for each meeting of the Board of Directors attended. No Director received remuneration for services as a Director for the year ended December 31, 2007 in addition to or in lieu of this standard arrangement.

Set forth below is the aggregate compensation paid by the Fund and the total compensation paid by The Royce Funds to each Independent Director of the Fund for the year ended December 31, 2007.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation From the Fund</u>	<u>Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Benefits upon Retirement</u>	<u>Total Compensation From The Royce Funds Paid to Directors</u>	<u>Total Compensation From the Fund and Fund Complex Paid to Directors¹</u>
Donald R. Dwight, Director ²	\$3,850	None	None	\$105,000	\$105,000
Richard M. Galkin, Director	3,850	None	None	105,000	105,000
Stephen L. Isaacs, Director	3,850	None	None	105,000	105,000
William L. Koke, Director ³	3,850	None	None	105,000	105,000
Arthur S. Mehlman, Director	3,850	None	None	105,000	231,250
David L. Meister, Director	3,850	None	None	105,000	105,000
G. Peter O'Brien, Director	3,600	None	None	98,000	213,000

¹ Represents aggregate compensation paid to each Director during the calendar year ended December 31, 2007 from the Fund Complex. The Fund Complex includes the 28 portfolios of The Royce Funds and the 14 portfolios of the Legg Mason Family of Funds.

² Includes \$770 from the Fund (\$21,000 from the Fund and other Royce Funds) deferred during 2007 at the election of Mr. Dwight under The Royce Funds Deferred Compensation Plan for trustees/directors.

³ Includes \$1,100 from the Fund (\$30,000 from the Fund and other Royce Funds) deferred during 2007 at the election of Mr. Koke under The Royce Funds Deferred Compensation Plan for trustees/directors.

Officers of the Fund

Officers of the Fund are elected each year by the Fund's Board of Directors. The following sets forth information concerning the Fund's office