

Good To Know!

Weaver Financial

comprehensive financial planning
and investment advice

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5410 W 61st Pl, Ste 100
Mission, KS 66205

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Resource Tip:

Q: Want to track how politics may impact your retirement and investments?

A: Investment strategist Greg Valliere's daily e-newsletter on the Washington DC scene is excellent. Sign up [here](#).



Let's Do The Numbers

In a nutshell, in the U.S., stocks did very well while bonds earned a good amount. Overseas stocks did very well. A benchmark diversified, moderate-risk, portfolio (a la Morningstar research) is up 12% year-to-date. In the 4th quarter of 2018, that benchmark lost 7% so we've made up the lost ground.

What matters most? Interest rates and corporate earnings. Interest rates have moderated. The Federal Reserve Bank has indicated they're no longer on a slow upward march with interest rates, but rather are ready to cut rates if economic data signals that's needed. What might tip the kettle?

Trade and tariffs. Although trade issues with Mexico and Canada may be improving, those with Europe (autos) and most importantly China remain tenuous. Is a solution likely any time soon? Probably not. Will the market wax and wane based on political tweets? Most likely. Will the uncertainty impact businesses, damaging earnings? Yes. How much? It's not known yet.

S&P earnings are projected to grow 2-3% for 2019, a far cry below 2018's astounding 23% growth rate. With the S&P fully valued at 17X, some pros say everything will have to fall just right. By diversifying your portfolio, you garner the returns and risks of U.S. stocks, international stocks, and bonds - a prudent course for long-term investors.

Asset	YTD
Large companies	+19%
Small companies	+17%
Bonds	+ 6%
Int'l stocks	+15%

On KCUR's *Up-To-Date* radio



What's Your Credit Score? If it's low, start managing your credit to avoid paying more. Listen to my advice and others' [here](#).

In **THE KANSAS CITY STAR**,

Going on a trip? Get things in order! See Linked-In to connect to my article on Do-It-Yourself for Simple Estate Plans [here](#).

Which Account Do You Use For Withdrawals?

If you have a new source of funds, rethink possibilities. A client inherited funds from a parent two years ago. Previously they had withdrawn from IRAs to supplement income.

Withdrawals from a taxable inherited account usually have low tax consequences. But on IRA withdrawals, every dollar gets taxed.

If commingling is not an issue, if investment gains are not an issue, withdrawing from the taxable account minimizes taxes and keeps your tax-deferred accounts larger longer.

Want to drop out? Put RE-MOVE in the subject line, hit reply. No offense intended/taken.



Let's connect! 913.871.6151
Sandi@WeaverFinancialPlanning.com
WeaverFinancialPlanning.com