

# THE ADVANCED CONNECTION

*Remember  
to VOTE*

## ISSUE #22

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## Giving Thanks

Summer has clearly turned to fall here in Portland, leading us to start to think about the changing of the seasons. This holiday season will surely be different from any that we have experienced in the past. With everything that is happening in the world and in the news right now, we here at Advanced Wealth Management are taking some time to think about how much we have to be grateful for. We are very fortunate in many ways, not least because we have the opportunity to work with the wonderful clients and partners that make up our extended Advanced Wealth Management family.

This holiday season, we wish you all safety, health, happiness, and connectivity with family and friends. We encourage you to think of your friends and family, and those you know that might be particularly impacted this year. If you know someone who cannot see their family, travel, or participate in the traditions that they so look forward to, think of giving them a call and offering some connection, even if from miles away. If you are feeling isolated or alone, or if it has simply been a while since we last talked with you, please give us a call, as we would love the opportunity to check in with you and talk about your experiences, even if you don't have any financial concerns to discuss.



## A Fresh New Look

Our office has been in the process of updating our visual identity, and our newsletter is the first preview of our fresh new look! We are excited to share our new website with you next month! Additionally, Commonwealth Financial Network®, the firm we partner with to better serve you, also launched an updated brand expression last month that features new colors, logo, and a redesigned website. Over time, you will begin to see Commonwealth's new logo and colors on communications you receive from them, including your monthly statements.



## Season of Giving 2020 Brings An Extra Benefit

2020 has been a year of perspective, a year of change, and a year of challenges for many. As we approach what is commonly known as the Season of Giving in these final few months of the year, there are arguably more charities and organizations needing assistance than ever. In this light, we wanted to highlight a benefit unique to 2020 that was adopted through the passage of the CARES Act. This change was an incentive to encourage those who are fortunate enough to give to do so in this year of need.

Normally, in order to receive a tax deduction for charitable gifts made, you would need to itemize on your tax return, rather than taking the standard deduction. With the standard deduction for 2020 at \$12,400 for Single Filers and \$24,800 for Married Filing Jointly, the majority of filers do not reach these levels of deductions, and so they have no opportunity to obtain a tax benefit for their charitable donations. However, the CARES Act implemented an above the line charitable deduction for 2020, so that taxpayers who do not itemize can get a tax benefit for charitable donations.

For the 2020 tax year, Single filing taxpayers have the ability to deduct up to \$300 above the line for charitable donations, and \$600 for Married Filing Jointly taxpayers. While most of us don't give for the tax benefit, it is a nice bonus and incentive to give up to that level, if you are able. As always, please ensure the charities you choose to give to are 501(C3) qualified and to keep your receipts.

Also, anytime you are giving to charitable organizations, we encourage you to take advantage of any gift matching programs that your employer may offer. This only helps increase the impact of your donation!



## Year-End Deadlines

The year is rapidly coming to an end. For some, 2020 cannot end fast enough, for others there is still a lot to do. As the year comes to a close, if you believe any of the time sensitive items below might be relevant to your financial situation, please contact us immediately: [Roth Conversions](#), [Gifting Requests](#), [Tax Loss Harvesting](#), [Establishing Donor-Advised Fund accounts](#), [Maxing out 401ks](#)



## Markets and Elections

Do politics affect stock markets? Should we be concerned if candidate X is elected? Should we make changes to our accounts and investment strategy because of the upcoming presidential election?

These are all common questions that we, as financial advisors, field from our clients. It seems that each presidential election is filled with more emotion and “noise” than the last, causing sometimes intimidating headlines and news stories implying that if candidate X is elected, it will be devastating to the markets and economy. Yet, if we look back at history, there is no strong case that markets do better under a Republican or Democratic president. Therefore, we feel that you should not make investment decisions based on who you think will be elected and what you think their election will do for the markets.

We are here to encourage you to look beyond the news and the noise and not let your emotions dictate your investment decisions. We also suggest you try to get your news from more than one source and perspective, since no one source has a monopoly on the facts.

Investment success is more dependent upon the strength of the US economy, rather than which candidate or party is holding political offices. On a simple level, the economy is driven by consumers purchasing goods and services from companies. Will the outcome of the election stop you from

purchasing food, gas, technology products, etc.? The answer is likely no.

If you look at the economic growth in the US historically, you will see that the economy has grown dramatically over time, while we have had both Republicans and Democrats in office. Yes, there have been some time periods where growth was slow for a few decades, and others where growth was much more dramatic. While politics may affect the economy and markets in the short term, with tax policies and regulatory changes, it is not prudent to predict how politics will affect the economy or the financial markets.

It is not surprising to see some increased volatility in stock markets as the election approaches and shortly after. However, we encourage you to keep your long-term investment goals in mind and, of course, please reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss your accounts and financial life.



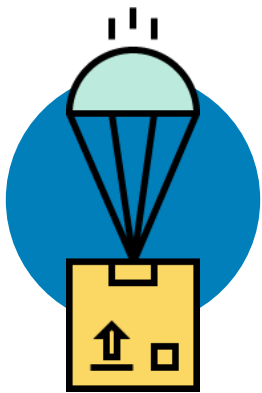
## Preparing for Disaster 2020 Style

From record-breaking wildfires raging across the western US, to historic flooding and a rare Derecho in the Midwest, double hurricanes on the Gulf Coast, and of course, the ongoing global pandemic, 2020 has brought a host of natural disasters unprecedented in our lifetimes.



As planners, we are always looking for ways to prepare for disasters and mitigate our exposure to risk. On a very basic level, this might include stocking up on nonperishables like bottled water, canned food, and first aid supplies (and don't forget the most coveted: toilet paper!). Keeping some cash in a safe at your home might also help you obtain the supplies you need in a localized emergency, as an extended power outage could temporarily prevent the use of debit or credit cards.

But what if a wildfire or flood required you to evacuate your home? Ideally you would have time to grab important financial documents like estate plans or life insurance policies. But as a backup, please consider allowing us to keep digital copies for you. We can scan and upload them to your secure Investor 360 client account, so you can access them anywhere there is internet. Be sure to reach out and let us know if this is something that interests you!



Finally, when was the last time you reviewed your homeowners insurance? Many older policies have inadequate coverage, especially if your home's value has appreciated since taking out the policy. It is also important to review the types of damages covered—or excluded—under your policy. Many people are unaware that their standard policy does not cover damages from flooding or earthquakes. Depending on where you live, it may be worth speaking with your insurance agent to determine whether it is time to consider a supplemental policy or an increase in coverage.

## IRA Annual Fee

The \$35 annual IRA maintenance fee will automatically be deducted from your retirement account on or around November 19th. If you prefer to have your fee paid by another method such as from another investment account, your bank account or personal check, please contact our office.



## Registered Financial Assistant

### Reanna Edds

Our operations team member, Reanna Edds, has been working hard this year to become a fully licensed Registered Financial Assistant. In early October, she officially completed and passed the final qualification examination needed, the Series 66. These licenses are often considered some of the most difficult to obtain, with topics ranging from providing investment advice, effecting securities transactions, understanding a wide-range of investment vehicles, to the fundamental laws and regulations that financial professionals must abide by. Having obtained both a Series 7 and Series 66 has helped prepare Reanna to better serve as a valuable assistant to the advisors in our office and to be a resource for clients. Congratulations Reanna!



## Office Closures

**Thanksgiving**  
November 26th & 27th

**Christmas**  
December 25th

**New Year's Day**  
January 1st

**MLK, Jr. Day**  
January 18th

**Presidents Day**  
February 15th

**Memorial Day**  
May 31

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