STEIN FINANCIAL GROUP

GOOD LIFE NEWSLETTER



Margie's Motivation

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."

— Michael Jordan

The Market Minute

The Market Doesn't Vote. Should Your Portfolio?



Anthony Gerbi

Most people have strong opinions about elections. But should those opinions influence how their retirement savings are invested? With the November midterm elections upon us, it's a question worth considering.

Election results can have real economic consequences. Changes in control of Congress can influence taxes, government spending, regulations, and the direction of future legislation. All of those things can affect businesses and investors.

But here's where things get interesting: The stock market doesn't always react to elections the way people expect. In fact, research from Charles Schwab examining midterm elections since 1974 found that the S&P 500 averaged a 5.7% gain in the three months following an election, with positive returns in 11 of the 13 periods studied.

Does that mean stocks are guaranteed to rise after this election? Of course not. Past performance doesn't guarantee future results, and plenty of other economic factors influence markets.

What it does illustrate is that uncertainty surrounding an election can sometimes matter as much to investors as the actual outcome. Once an election is behind us, markets can begin focusing on what comes next rather than what might happen.

So what should you actually be watching?

For those approaching or already enjoying retirement, I think there are a few questions that matter considerably more than which political party controls Congress:

- Do you have enough accessible cash to avoid selling investments during a downturn?
- Is your investment strategy appropriate for when you'll need to use the money?
- Are there potential changes to tax laws or retirement rules that could affect your financial plan?

Those are questions worth revisiting regardless of who wins an election.

I certainly pay attention to elections and their potential economic consequences. There may be policy changes that require adjustments to a client's financial plan, particularly involving taxes or retirement income. But making major investment decisions based on election predictions is a very different proposition.

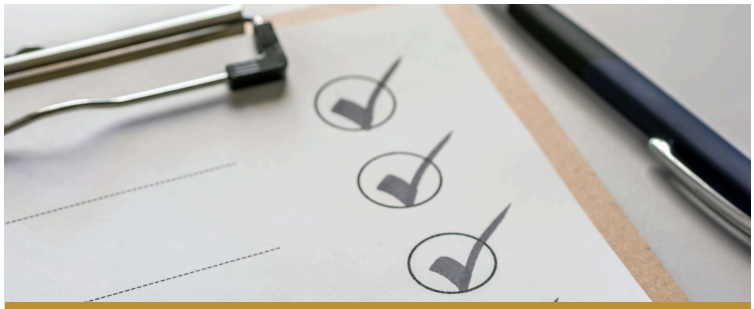
My takeaway is simple: Elections matter, and the policies that follow can matter even more. But your retirement strategy should be built around your financial needs, not the political headlines of the moment.



Our Monthly Pick

US midterms add new risk to stock market beset by noise

The upcoming midterm elections are adding another layer of undertainty to an already complex market environment. But how much will the results really matter for investors? Explore how political shifts could affect markets and why inflation, interest rates, and global events may have a greater influence on investment performance.



Your November Financial Checklist

- **Review your Medicare coverage**: Review your plan and schedule an appointment with a Medicare broker if you need help.
- **Plan your year-end giving**: Review charitable donations and consider whether a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) makes sense for you.
- **Stop by for coffee and pie**: Join our November Coffee Chat to say hi to the team and pick up your free pie!



Amy's Adventures

A Little Taste of Japan in Edina

If you have kids or grandkids in your life, you've probably noticed how popular Asian pop culture has become. Stores selling collectible blind boxes and squishy toys seem to be popping up everywhere. My niece recently celebrated her birthday and received a whole bunch of these mystery toys. And my nephew has become so interested in Japanese culture that he's been practicing Japanese on Duolingo every single day for almost two years.

Cheesecake happens to be one of my favorite desserts, so when I heard about Mooni Mooni, a new Japanese cheesecake café in Edina, I was intrigued. If you've never had Japanese cheesecake, it's quite different from the traditional American version. Instead of being rich and dense, it's light, fluffy, and less sweet, almost like a cross between cheesecake and a soufflé. But what really makes it fun is its signature jiggle. The whole cheesecake actually wiggles when you give it a little shake.

Mooni Mooni is a fun little adventure because you can watch the cheesecakes being prepared, and when a fresh batch is ready, they ring a bell and brand each cake with their logo. The café itself is bright orange, fun, and perfect for photos. They also offer egg tarts, mochi cakes, and other sweet treats. So if you're looking to score a few points with the younger folks in your life, take them to Mooni Mooni for a fun outing. And even if you don't have any kids or grandkids to impress, who needs an excuse to eat cheesecake?

Mooni Mooni
7575 France Avenue South, Edina
moonimooni.com

Q&A: Anthony Answers

When should I be considering Roth conversions?

The timing of a Roth conversion can make a big difference in your long-term tax picture. Converting money from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA means paying taxes on the amount converted today in exchange for potential tax-free withdrawals in retirement. For some people, lower-income years before retirement or before required minimum distributions (RMDs) begin can present a good opportunity.

But is earlier always better? Not necessarily. The right timing depends on your current tax bracket, expected future income, and how a conversion could affect other areas of your financial plan. Looking at the bigger picture can help you determine whether a Roth conversion makes sense for you and when to consider one.



Erin's Event Column

Your Money After the Midterms

NOV 5 12pm

Register

Coffee Chat with Stein Financial Group: Coffee, Pie, & Giving Thanks

NOV 19 10am-12pm

RSVP

What's New on YouTube

Webinar Replay: Roth IRAs–Paying Tax With a Plan

Let's Connect!

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