

5 TO-DOS WORTH CONSIDERING THIS SUMMER

The summer months can go by quickly. For many, the days can be occupied with work, weekend celebrations, family obligations, vacations, etc. As you begin what may be a very busy season, we have provided a short list of planning items to keep you on track with your financial goals and objectives.

1. Revisit Investment Strategy and Asset Allocation

With the Federal Reserve raising interest rates aggressively over the past year or so, the bond market has changed rapidly in a very short time period. This may provide opportunities for advisors to discuss with their clients the composition of the fixed income portion of their portfolios and determine whether any changes are necessary or beneficial, especially those with near-term obligations. For those nearing retirement, or who have recently entered retirement, on-going discussions with your advisor are recommended to determine if any strategy changes are necessary or whether you should stay the course.

2. Making Sure Your Estate Plan Is Current

Sigma has begun an initiative to ensure that our clients' estate plans are not only in place, but are up to date with their current goals and objectives.

Although this may require some additional time requirements if it is determined certain documents need to be updated, it can save you and your heirs time, money, and stress taking care of it now as opposed to waiting. Making sure beneficiary designations are accurate, any applicable trusts are established and funded with proper Primary and Successor Trustees, Powers of Attorney (financial & health care) are assigned, an executor is chosen, and drafting wills are just a few items worth considering with your attorney. If you are not already working with an estate planning attorney, Sigma can be a resource for introductions to ensure you find the right fit. For clients who will be affected by the Lifetime Gift & Estate Tax Exemption which is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, now may be a good time to begin the process of determining any applicable changes to your strategy.

3. Meet With a Tax Professional

Now that we are out of primary tax season, tax professionals are more likely to be available for scheduling appointments to discuss how this year is shaping up. Coordinating with tax professionals is something we encourage. Additionally, there are likely opportunities where portfolio management and carefully considered tax counsel can work in

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conjunction with one another for our client's benefit. Any coordination that you would like us to have with your tax preparer can be initiated just by speaking with your advisor.

4. Gather Updated Social Security Statements & Other Documentation

If you haven't already, gathering your most recent Social Security Statement (www.ssa.gov) and providing them to your advisor can be helpful when it comes to retirement planning. With recent inflation-adjustments, the chances of having an old statement on file could now be considered stale information. It would also be wise to go through any statements you haven't looked at in a while as a refresher. This could include unmanaged accounts, annuities, life insurance policies, long-term care policies, etc. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to discuss any of these items with your advisor at Sigma to gain guidance as to how they fit into your financial plan.

5. Don't Forget to Spend Time Where It Matters Most

For my family and I, we are looking forward to my brother and sister-in-law's first born arriving in August, my fiancé and I are in the middle of planning a winter wedding, and this summer our goal is to visit friends and family on weekend trips that we have planned across the state. We are extremely fortunate and excited for another summer season.

Daniel J. Robinson, CFP®

Did you know in addition to our monthly Sigma Summaries, we have an excellent blog written by members of our own Investment Committee? The blog topics include investments, economic outlook, financial planning, and includes our new weekly report "Sigma Signals". Click here to start receiving the blog or visit <https://sigmainvestments.com/blog/> to see prior posts.

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Please remember to contact Sigma Investment Counselors if there are any changes in your financial situation or investment objectives