LPL Financial

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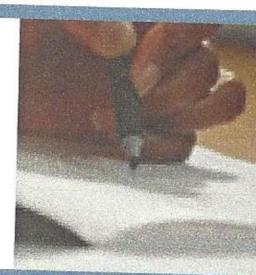

AZTEC Financial Group Newsletter

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It's that time of year again! Our annual open house will be on Thursday, November 10th from 4:30 - 7:30. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. I look forward to seeing you there!

We are also an Official Toys for Tots drop off location again this year. Feel free to bring a new unwrapped toy to the open house or any other time before December 11th. For each toy you drop off you will be entered into a raffle for a $100 Visa Gift Card! You do not need an appointment to drop off toys, nor do you need to be a client to be entered into the raffle for the Visa Gift card. Please consider stopping by and thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

I would like to thank everyone who submitted answers to our question last month. The winner of the drawing for October is Pete Labourdette. Congratulations, Pete!

This month's drawing will be for a $25 gift certificate to Red's Shoe Barn. With locations in Dover and Plaistow, Red's Shoe Barn has been providing the folks in New England with the highest quality shoes at a great value and with legendary service since 1958!

For more information, click HERE.

And the question is...

What percentage of men and women are currently married to their first spouse?

Click here to submit your answer by email. Good luck!

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Did You Know?

The current presidential race has been close and we know that every vote counts. But here's something you probably didn't know. In Arizona, if there is a tie at the end of the voting for local (and some state) positions, Lady Luck gets to choose. A little-used state statute says that tie votes in an election may be broken "by lot."

Although it's unclear how or why the statute was adopted, it went into effect in 1925. In 2008, a roll of the dice settled a tie for a school board seat. A game of Poker decided the Republican primary for the state Legislative District 6 in 1993 and, in the city of Show Low, three City Council elections were settled by drawing cards in 1978, 1979 and 1988.

Local Events!

Local Halloween Festivities: Various times, dates and locations. For more information, click HERE.

Children's Author Festival at Strawbery Banke: Saturday, November 5 from 11:00-2:00. For more information, click HERE.

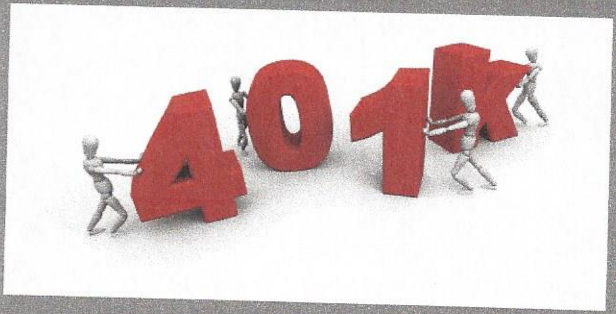
Craft and Holiday Fairs: Various times,dates and locations. For more information, click HERE.

Rock with the Docs: Friday, November 18 beginning at 6:00 pm at Rivermill at Dover Landing. For more information, click HERE.

Christmas at the Castle: Several dates from 10:00-4:30 at Castle in the Clouds in Moultonborough. For more information, click HERE.

These websites are provided for informational purposes only. We are not responsible for the website content.

Choices for Your 401(k) at a Former Employer



One of the common threads of a mobile workforce is that many individuals who leave their job are faced with a decision about what to do with their 401(k) account.[1]

Individuals have four basic choices with the 401(k) account they accrued at a previous employer.

Choice 1: Leave It with Your Previous Employer

You may choose to do nothing and leave your account in your previous employer's 401(k) plan. However, if your account balance is under a certain amount, be aware that your ex-employer may elect to distribute the funds to you.

While inertia is one of the primary reasons for not moving a 401(k), there may be reasons to keep it there-such as investments that are low cost or have limited availability outside of the plan.Other reasons are to maintain certain creditor protections that are unique to qualified retirement plans, or to retain the ability to borrow from it, if the plan allows for such loans to ex-employees.[2]

The primary downside is that individuals can become disconnected from the old account and pay less attention to the ongoing management of its investments.

Choice 2: Transfer to Your New Employer's 401(k) Plan

Provided your current employer's 401(k) accepts the transfer of assets from a pre-existing 401(k), you may want to consider moving these assets to your new plan.

The primary benefits to transferring are the convenience of consolidating your assets, retaining their strong creditor protections, and keeping them accessible via the plan's loan feature.

Provided their new plan has a competitive investment menu, many individuals prefer to transfer their account and make a full break with their former employer.

Choice 3: Roll Over Assets to a Traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

The third choice is to roll assets over into a new or existing traditional IRA.[3] A traditional IRA may provide a wider range of investment choices than what may exist in your new 401(k) plan.

The drawback to this approach may be less creditor protection and the loss of access to these funds via a 401(k) loan feature.

Remember, don't feel rushed into making a decision. You have time to consider your choices and may want to seek professional guidance to answer any questions you may have.

Choice 4: Cash Out Account Value

The last choice is cashing out the account value. This gives you access to your money when you need it, and you have the freedom to invest in a broad range of investments.

However, the main drawback to this option is that there is a 10% early distribution tax applies, if under age 59½ (unless exception applies). In addition, if assets are used, rather than saved, there's a risk that your retirement savings will be depleted.

1. Distributions from 401(k) plans and most other employer-sponsored retirement plans are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Generally, once you reach age 70½, you must begin taking required minimum distributions.
2. A 401(k) loan not paid is deemed a distribution, subject to income taxes and a 10% tax penalty if the account owner is under 59½. If the account owner switches jobs or gets laid off, the 401(k) loan becomes immediately due. If the account owner does not have the cash to pay the balance, it will have tax consequences.
3. Withdrawals from traditional IRAs are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Generally, once you reach age 70½, you must begin taking required minimum distributions.

The Lowdown on Those Free Credit Scores

The Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act of 2003 provided individuals with valuable rights to the credit information that companies keep on them, but did you know the credit score provided to you may be different from the one provided to lenders?

The first thing you should know is that you have a right to see your credit report once annually without cost. To receive your free credit report you can visitwww.AnnualCreditReport.com. This report will contain important information that may affect your credit score.

While your credit report can be obtained for free, your credit score will cost you money, except if you have been denied a loan on the basis of your credit score, in which case you may obtain your credit score for free.
Your credit score is a numerical representation of your creditworthiness, which takes into account past and current credit activities, including any late payments, judgments, liens, bankruptcies and foreclosures.

When you see an offer for getting your free credit score, it may be a marketing-driven incentive to get you to sign up for a fee-based credit monitoring service. The score may be only available at no cost if you agree to sign up for a trial subscription and don't cancel prior to the end of that trial period.

The Dirty Little Secret of Credit Scores

Before you purchase your credit score, understand that the methodology used to calculate the score you buy is different from that used to determine the credit score lenders receive.

There are hundreds of methods for calculating an individual's credit score, and many lenders use private models with proprietary outcomes. Still, the correlation between the various possible scores is high (90%), says the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In other words, a "good" credit score by one standard will likely also be "good" by another.[1]

While knowing your credit score may be important, it may be more vital to review your credit report to correct any errors that may be hurting your score and take the necessary steps to improve your credit profile.

1. WalletHub.com, June 22, 2016

A House Divided

The latest research suggests that divorce rates in the U.S. have been falling in recent decades. Still, many people face the difficult crossroads that comes when their marriage ends.

Getting a divorce is a painful, emotional process. Don't be in such a hurry to reach a settlement that you make poor decisions that can have life-long consequences. If divorce is a possibility, here are a few financial ideas that may help you prepare.

The most important task you can do is getting your finances organized. Identify all your assets and make copies of important financial papers, such as deeds, tax returns, and investment records. When it comes to dividing up your assets, consider mediation as a low-cost alternative to litigation. Most states have equitable-distribution laws that require shared assets to be divided 50/50 anyway. When a divorce becomes contentious, attorney's fees can accumulate.

From a financial perspective, divorce means taking all the income previously used to run one household and stretching it out over two residences, two utility bills, two grocery lists, etc. There are other hidden costs as well, such as counseling for you or your children. Divorces also may require incurring one-time fees, such as a security deposit on a rental property, moving costs, or increased child-care.

Finally, dividing assets may sound simple but it can be quite complex. The forced sale of a home or investment portfolio may have tax consequences. Potential tax liability also can make two seemingly equal assets have varying net values. Additionally, when pulling apart a portfolio, it makes sense to consider how each asset will suit the prospective recipient in terms of risk tolerance and liquidity.

Remember, the information in this article is not intended as tax or legal advice. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation.

During a divorce, many factors are competing for attention. By understanding a few key concepts, you may be able to avoid making costly financial mistakes.

Marriage History for Americans

Only 40% of men and 37% of women are currently married to their first spouse.

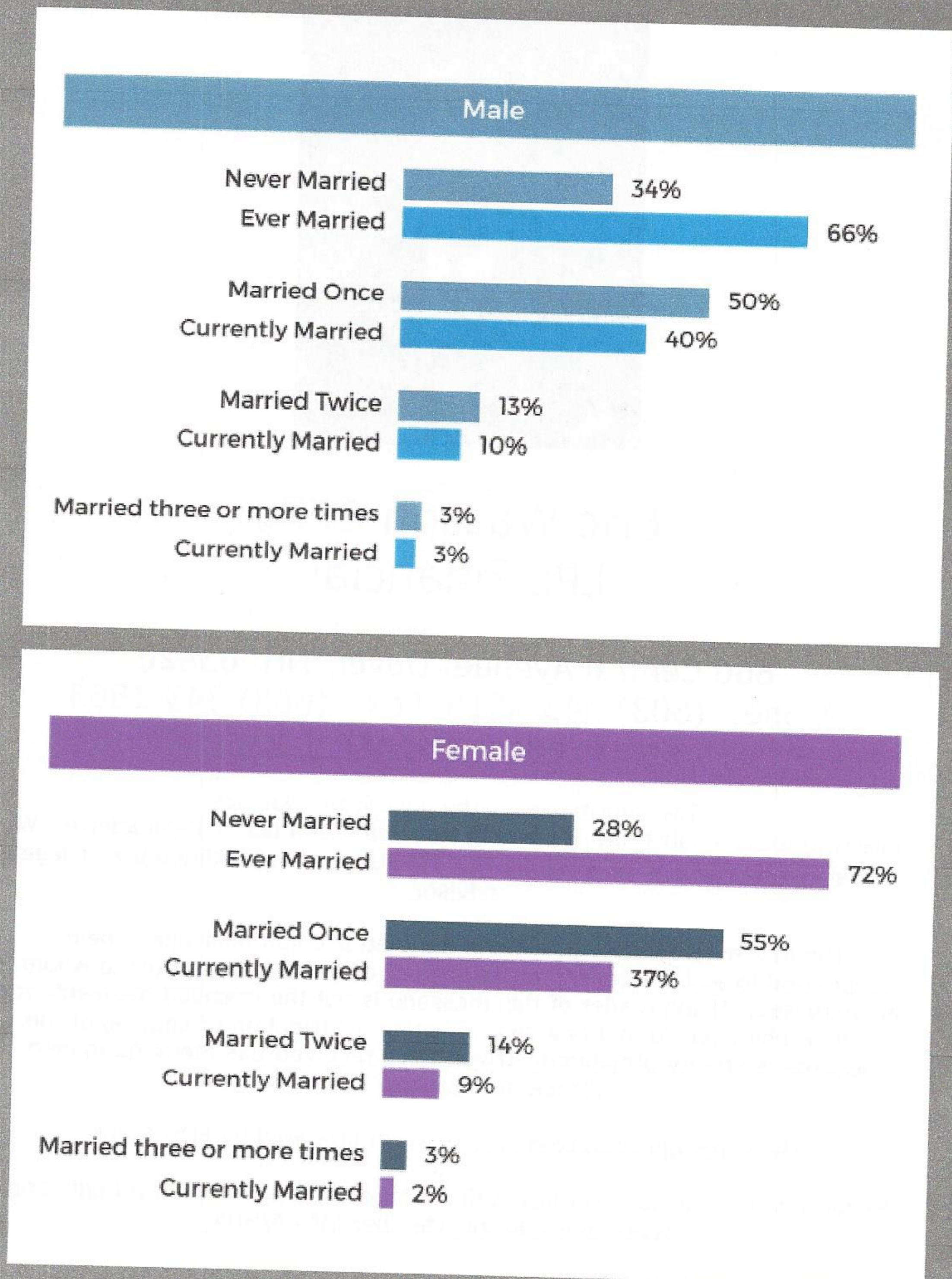


Chart Source: U.S. Census Bureau, March 2015. "Ever married" indicates those who have been married once or more times.

1. The Washington Post, April 6, 2016

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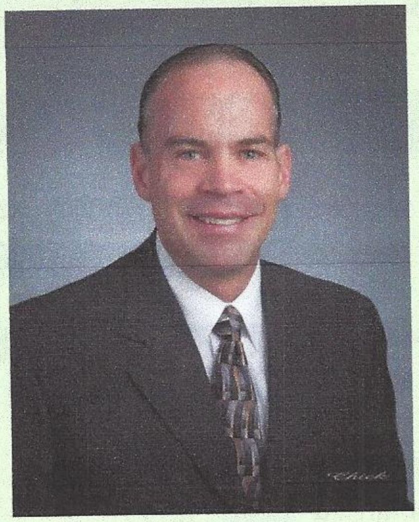

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