

Third Quarter 2016 Newsletter

Dear Participant,

Elections elicit strong emotions. High disapproval ratings for both candidates, as well as Donald Trump's unconventional candidacy, have taken these emotions to another level this cycle. Politics is one of many emotional biases that can work against investors trying to achieve their long-term financial goals. Candidates in office may influence how investors feel about the economy and markets and can get them off track. Separating political views from investment decisions is difficult, and while presidents can set an overall tone for the economy and markets, over the long term the underlying fundamentals of the economy and corporate profits matter more.

On that score, the picture is better than some in the media would have us believe. Economic data in September and early October suggest stronger growth in the second half of the year after subdued real gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the first half. A solid 192,000 jobs per month, on average, were created in the third quarter of 2016 (based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data). Consumer confidence has reached its highest level since the end of the Great Recession. Manufacturing activity rebounded in September and is expanding, based on Institute for Supply Management (ISM) data. In addition, the Conference Board's Leading Economic Index (LEI), an aggregate of economic indicators that tend to lead the overall economy, is signaling continued economic growth. All of this data suggest that the odds of a recession in the next year may be low.



To continue reading this letter, click [here](#).

For more information on the 2016 Presidential Election, please find three resources below:

- [An Election of Extremes - But a Government of Moderation](#)
- [Politics and Your Portfolio - How Presidential Elections Have Moved the Markets Over Time](#)
- [Presidential Parties and the Stock Market](#)

Below you will find three Life Stages you may encounter during your accumulation phase to retirement. In each of the Life Stages we will provide articles, calculators and resources to help you save, save more and retire on your own terms!



[Finding a Footing](#)

It doesn't matter where you are in life, now is the time to take action and save. This is where you can get some sense that whatever action you do take now will put you on track to be able to eventually retire.



[Building a Nest Egg](#)

Typically, at this stage, your life has gotten more complicated. This is also the time to check if you need a mid-course adjustment to be able to have the retirement paycheck you desire.



[Closing in on Retirement](#)

Congratulations! You are almost there! This is the stage to conduct a financial plan to be able to understand what you will actually need in retirement and fine tune your plan to ensure you get there.

Finding a Footing

Are you confident that your savings rate and investment strategy will allow for you to retire in 40, 30, 20, or 10 years from now?

- [Here's Your Guide to Repaying Your Federal Student Loans](#)
- [How Much Do I Need to Save for Retirement?](#)
- [Put Your Company-Sponsored Retirement Plan to Work for Your Worksheet](#)
- [Inflation and Retirement Calculator](#)
- [Inflation: The Sneaky Thief Video](#)

Building a Nest Egg

Do you need to take make any mid-course adjustments to keep you on track?

- [What Motivates Your Investment Moves](#)
- [Got Young Kids? Five Ways to Manage Costs](#)
- [Taking Control of Your Finances Worksheet](#)
- [Should I Pay Off Debt or Invest Calculator](#)
- [College Net Price Calculators Video](#)

Closing in on Retirement

Have you looked at your overall strategy to ensure that you get there? Contact Heffernan Retirement Services for an Overall Financial Review today!

- [Do You Know Who Your Beneficiaries Are?](#)
- [How Can I Make My Savings Last?](#)
- [Preparing for Retirement Worksheet](#)
- [Estimate Your Required Minimum Distribution Calculator](#)
- [Social Security and Medicare Update - 2016 Trustees Reports Video](#)

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