BUILDING AND PRESERVING WEALTH INVESTMENTS | TAX | RETIREMENT | INSURANCE | ESTATE

Quarterly Update January 2025

Year End **TAX Documents**

The following are a few year-end tax documents and their expected post time from Fidelity & Schwab

Consolidated 1099 Mid-Feb

May include:

- 1099-INT
- 1099-DIV
- 1099-MISC
- 1099-B
- 1099-R
- **1099-NEC**

Individual 1099

- 1099-R-Jan
- 1099-SA-Jan/Mid-Feb

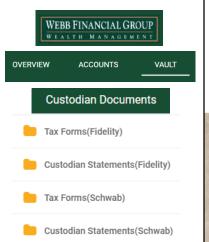
Other Forms

- 1095-A-Jan
- 5498-May 31
- 5498-SA-May 31

You can retrieve these documents on your WFG Web Portal:

Portal URL: https:// main.vhlsoft.com/auth/ users/webportal/wfg

- Login
- VAULT
- Custodian Documents
- Tax Forms



Happy New Year 2025

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. I begin with gratitude that 2024 was another good year for the stock market and for investment accounts. We hope 2025 will be even better.

Did you know that our founding fathers did not include income tax as part of the original framework of the United States?

In 1909, progressives in Congress attached a provision for income tax to a tariff bill. Hoping to kill the idea for good, conservatives proposed a permanent income tax as a constitutional amendment because they did not believe it would ever be ratified by the States. Much to their surprise, the 16th Amendment was approved in 1913 establishing Congress' right to impose a federal income tax.



Gary Webb, RFC



Clearly the tax code has changed dramatically over the years, and it will continue to do so. At the start in 1913, the top tax rate was 7%. Between 1913 and 2024, it was as high as 95%

in 1944 and as low as 25% in the 1920s. Today it is 37% which is historically considered a low tax rate.

We enjoyed a very strong 2024 stock market with the S&P500, Dow & Nasdaq indexes all hitting new highs - especially in late November and December 2024. Regardless of the headlines that came our way for the last eight quarters (inflation, high interest rates, government shutdowns, etc.), the broader equity indexes continued to climb.

Expectations for lower rates combined with declining inflation remain front and center, tying the rate cut to a need to stimulate the labor markets as opposed to being a response to a struggling economy.

There was some market volatility last September, but that pessimism was short-lived. The Fed cut rates by 50 basis points, and the worries faded in the eyes of major stock indexes again. Could rate cuts result in a pickup in inflation that most feel is in the rear-view mirror? It's possible. We will see if the Fed can thread this narrow needle to combat the effects of inflation on the economy.

If headlines dictated economic performance, long-term investors wouldn't be in the position they are in today given the market news over the last couple of years!

As you refine your goals for 2025, plan well for a successful & joy-filled year and keep in mind:

"A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life." ~Charles Darwin



2024 CHARITY GIVING

- University of Minnesota Foundation
- Kids-n-Kinship
- ALS Association
- Bennett Clayton Foundation
- Eagan Rotary
- Tee It Up For The Troops
- Adult & Teen Challenge
- Wounded Warrior Projects
- Alzheimer's Association
- Focus on the Family
- Sunshine Acres
- Mission Enablers
- Juvenile Diabetes Research FDN
- Boys & Girls Club of the Twin Cities
- Tunnels to Towers
- Doctors without Borders

• United Way

Every year we donate to many great charities, foundations and causes.

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All of us at Webb Financial Group wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year!



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In compliance with the SEC rules and regulations, we would like to offer you the most recent copy of our ADV II brochure. Please call if you would like a copy.

Webb Financial Group provides comprehensive wealth management solutions to individuals and businesses. For over forty years, we have helped our clients achieve financial security.

Michael Bischoff, CFP® & COO Gary Webb, RFC®, CKA® & CEO

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Michelle Brennan, FPQP[®] Financial Paraplanner Kristi Mattiuz, Controller

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WARNING Signs of a Scam

It's important to protect yourself and recognize the signs of a scam or phishing attack. There are many tricks that scammers use to get your personal and financial information or to get you to click on a link.



Here are some signs to look for when getting a request from someone you don't know.

SCAMMERS will

PRETEND to be from an organization you know

- They may pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government and use a real name like the Social Security Administration, IRS, Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official.
- Technology can be used to change the caller ID name and phone number-the information displayed might not be real.

Say there is a PROBLEM or PRIZE

- Phrases such as "there is a problem with your accounts", "you are in trouble with the government", "you owe money", "someone in the family has an emergency" or "there is a virus on your computer" are used to cause alarm.
- Others will say you've won a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to collect the prize.

PRESSURE you to act immediately

- They want action before there is time to think. When on the phone, they tell you not to hang up so you can't think about the situation or check out their story.
- Threats to arrest, sue, or take away your driver's license are some tactics used to apply pressure.

Place a WARNING message on your screen

- Some warning messages can be scams designed to trick you into calling a fake tech support number, allowing access to your system, or providing personal information.
- Other warning messages indicate a potential problem such as a security threat, a hardware malfunction, or a software issue, prompting action to address it.

Some ways to PREVENT a Scam

- Know that scammers want a payment. Don't do it!
- Block unwanted calls and text messages from numbers not saved in your phone.
- Do not give personal or financial information in response to a request that was not expected.
- Do not click on any links or attachments over email or text message from someone you don't know.
- Resist the pressure to act immediately give yourself time to think it through.
- Stop and talk to someone you trust.