NEWSLETTER

Fiduciary Financial Planners and Investment Managers

Registered Investment Advisor

2026 Retirement Savings Updates

The IRS released the updated retirement savings limits for 2026, giving investors a bit more room to boost their tax-advantaged savings. IRA contribution limits will rise to $7,500 (up from $7,000 in 2025), with the catch-up contribution for those age 50+ increasing to $1,100. [irs.gov] Workplace retirement plans are also getting a lift: employees can now contribute up to $24,500 to 401(k), 403(b), and most 457 plans—an increase from $23,500 in 2025. Catch-up contributions for savers age 50+ rise to $8,000, and those ages 60–63 continue to benefit from the higher $11,250 catch-up limit under SECURE 2.0. These adjustments expand planning opportunities for 2026—making now a great time to revisit your savings strategy.

Welcome Spring!

With spring underway, it's the perfect time to revisit your financial priorities and set clear goals for the months ahead. Whether your focus is retirement, investment growth, college savings, or simply staying organized, a thoughtful review now can help strengthen your financial path. To discuss your strategy or update your plan, contact our office—we're here to help you move confidently through 2026.

And as new opportunities emerge this season, it's a great moment to ensure your planning is aligned with what matters most to you and your family.

~ Todd, Scott, Arthur, Kevin, Jeremy, Chris, Betsy, Derek and Marissa

CFP® & ChFC®: Understanding the Benefits

Both the CFP® and ChFC® designations reinforce an advisor's commitment to acting in a client's best interest through a fiduciary standard. The CFP® designation offers strong public recognition and assures clients they are receiving broad, holistic financial guidance supported by rigorous ethical expectations.

The ChFC® designation provides additional depth, supplying advisors with advanced, real-world planning tools that support more complex or specialized financial needs. At Wealth Management Resources, our advisors hold both the CFP® and ChFC® credentials, giving clients the advantage of comprehensive, well-rounded expertise paired with specialized insight—helping them navigate their financial lives with clarity and confidence.

A Primer in College Funding & Education Savings

"You can borrow for college, but you cannot borrow for your retirement"

Education remains one of the most important investments families make. With tuition costs rising faster than inflation, planning for college is a cornerstone of comprehensive financial planning. As of 2026, the average annual tuition at a four-year public university exceeds $11,000 (in-state) and $29,000 (out-of-state), while many private universities surpass $45,000 annually. These figures do not include room, board, or ancillary costs. (Source FMEX 2025)

529 Plans - A Cornerstone Strategy

The 529 savings plan remains one of the more efficient vehicle for education funding:

• **Tax Advantages** – Earnings grow tax-deferred, and withdrawals for qualified expenses are tax-free.

• **State Incentives** – Many states offer deductions or credits for contributions.

• **Flexibility**– Funds can now be used for K–12 tuition, apprenticeships, and up to $10,000 of student loan repayment.

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Advisors can help families optimize contributions by aligning them with annual gift tax exclusions. In 2026, individuals can contribute up to $19,000 per beneficiary ($38,000 for married couples) without incurring gift tax, with the option to “superfund” five years’ worth at once.

Financial Aid and Other Tools

- **Financial Aid**– File FAFSA to apply for Federal, State and School aid, available each October.
- **UGMA/UTMA Custodial Accounts** – Provide flexibility but lack the tax benefits of 529s.
- **Scholarships and Grants** – Advisors can help families explore overlooked funding sources.

Why Diversification Still Matters in Volatile Markets

Recent market volatility has served as an important reminder of why diversification remains a core principle of sound portfolio management. When headlines are dominated by uncertainty, sharp market swings, or geopolitical concerns, portfolios that rely too heavily on a narrow group of investments can be more vulnerable to sudden declines.

A diversified portfolio is designed to help manage that risk by spreading investments across multiple asset classes, sectors, and regions. Rather than depending too much on any one holding or segment of the market, diversification seeks to create a more balanced investment structure that can better withstand changing market conditions.

At Wealth Management Resources, Inc., diversification is a central part of our investment process. Our portfolios are constructed with exposure across equities, fixed income, real estate, and, where appropriate, commodities. One of the ways we implement this approach is through exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, which can provide broad exposure to many underlying securities within a single investment. Used thoughtfully, ETFs can offer an efficient and cost-conscious way to build diversified portfolios across a wide range of asset classes.

Periods of volatility also highlight the importance of ongoing portfolio monitoring and rebalancing. Over time, market movements can cause allocations to drift away from their intended targets. Rebalancing helps bring the portfolio back in line with a client’s long-term objectives by trimming areas that have grown beyond their intended weight and adding to areas that may have lagged. This disciplined process can help maintain the portfolio’s risk profile and support long-term consistency.

While no investment strategy can eliminate risk or prevent all losses, recent market conditions have reinforced the value of a disciplined, diversified approach. In our view, diversification is not simply a theory for uncertain times. It is a practical strategy that can help investors stay focused, manage risk, and remain aligned with their long-term goals.

Trump Accounts: What We Know (So Far)

We've been getting questions about the new Trump Account program for children, and wanted to share a quick high-level update. The main opportunity is the government's $1,000 contribution (for eligible children), and we encourage families to take advantage of it. Current guidance indicates the process starts by completing IRS Form 4547, which is used to establish the account and request the government contribution.

Because this is a brand-new program, details and guidance are still developing, and we expect continued updates from the IRS/Treasury. We're staying on top of this and will keep clients informed as rules, custodians, and implementation details become clearer.

From a practical standpoint, based on what's been released so far, these accounts appear to have restricted investment options and limits on additional contributions. For most families, we still expect a 529 plan to be the best place for your own ongoing education savings—while the Trump Account may at some point be a helpful complement alongside it.

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