

## Client Newsletter – April 2024

### ADVISOR'S PERSPECTIVES

1. This is an excellent time of the year, following tax return preparation, to assess your investment portfolio and savings allocations related to tax efficiency. Changes in the Secure Act 2.0 affect a broad set of education and retirement savings plan rules. Our Ongoing Financial Planning Calendar covers these topics in April and May.
2. Due to sustained inflation above the Federal Reserve's target, Fed Rate reductions are unlikely before late 2024. Thus, interest rates paid on Money Market funds, CDs and other comparable investments should remain in the 5% range, offering much better return than bank savings and checking accounts. If you have significant balances in bank accounts, we should discuss higher-yielding options with comparable risk.
3. Social Security: the program can pay all promised benefits without changes until 2033. Benefit payments will need to be reduced by 20% starting in 2034, unless changes to the program are made. Proposed changes focus on two primary areas: 1) increasing the age when full benefits are paid, and 2) increasing the maximum income level upon which SS taxes are paid by workers. I believe a combination of these changes will be made to avoid a broad 20% reduction in payments.
4. Portfolio allocation: we continue to promote diversified portfolios of U.S. equities, International equities and fixed income securities, with weighting adjusted to reflect our clients' time horizon and risk tolerance.

### CLIENT RESOURCE UPDATE

1. To access the Eustace Advisors Client Portal, go to:  
<https://www.eustaceadvisors.com/client-resources>, and use the password provided separately.
2. Articles that have been posted recently include: "How To Check Your Credit Scores and Reports" and "Optimizing the Effect of Itemized Deductions".
3. Upcoming articles will include an update to the Advisor Insights post regarding high-yield savings options and a new article on Emergency Funds.

Please let me know if you have suggestions for Research Article and Advisor Insight topics.

### 2024 SERVICE CALENDAR TOPICS

- APR: Budget and Income Statement Review.  
Insurance Education Topic.
- MAY: Estate Planning Education Topic.
- JUN: Insurance and Estate Planning Review.

### KEY UPCOMING DATES

- APR 15: 2023 Tax Returns are due.
- APR 15: 1st 2024 Estimated Tax payment is due.