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WEALTH MANAGEMENT • TAX PLANNING • INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Directions Newsletter



Directions: Summer 2025 Edition

We hope you had a wonderful 4th of July celebration! While summer is usually a time spent slowing down for vacation, barbecues, or family time, the Federal government used June to push a tax policy package through Congress. More on that below.

We hope to see you at our upcoming Night at the Movies & Mid-Year Market Update event next week.

Please be aware that our office hours each Friday will move to our summer schedule with closure at 3pm to the end of August. Other days remain the same.

What's New at Our Practice

One Big Beautiful Bill Act Passes - Our analysis coming soon

The massive tax bill passed the House and Senate last week and was signed into law by the President on July 4. Our team is currently working on a deep analysis on the impact of the bill to our planning approach.

Be on the lookout for educational opportunities in the coming months for a deep dive into the OBBA and how it may affect you.

Client Night at the Movies Nearly Filled - July 17

Our flagship summer client event is next week and has very limited space still available! If you would like to join us for our Client Night at the Movies and Mid-Year Market Update (and you haven't already signed up), please let us know. We have a few seats still available.

The event begins at 6:30 with an economic update from Mike Sosnowski of BlackRock, followed by a screening of Superman.



Team Spotlight: Suzanne Chaix

Now a key member of our client service team, Suzanne joined our practice in early 2024. With a strong background in customer service and operations, Suzanne brings valuable professional experience from work at local advisory practices and financial services firms. She holds a Series 6 FINRA license and plays a key role on our service team, handling client requests with efficiency and care. She is currently in the process of completing her Financial Paraplanner designation (FPQP) to add even more depth to her professional knowledge and enhance our client experience.

Known for her warm personality, infectious laugh, and exceptional communication skills, Suzanne is detail-oriented and deeply committed to client well-being. Suzanne plays a key role in the onboarding process for new clients.

A Bay Area native, Suzanne enjoys time with her two teenagers and her dog and cat. Outside of work, she's often poolside—either swimming laps or cheering on her varsity swimmer daughter. She loves to travel and never passes up a karaoke mic.



SEASONS
OF
PLANNING



Seasons of Planning

It's Time for Estate Planning

Most people know they need an estate plan, yet only 53% of survey respondents have one. If we know estate documents are necessary, what prevents us from working on them?

It's too complicated:

Many people believe estate planning is complex, tedious and time-consuming, but it doesn't have to be.

I don't own anything of value:

Estates are more than what's in your bank account. It includes everything you own, including your property, investments and valuables. An estate plan ensures what you cherish goes to the people you care about.

It's too depressing to think about:

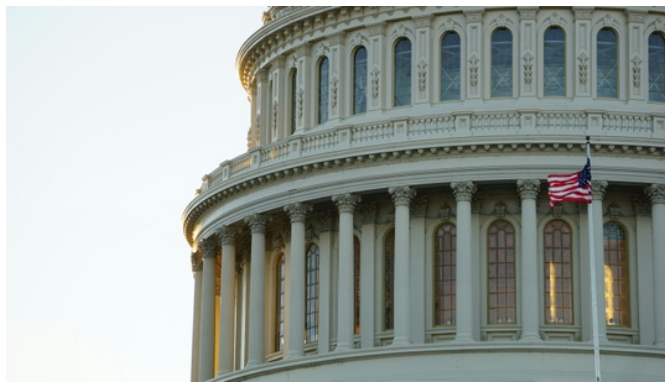
Estate planning forces people to talk about hard things: death and money. However, those who have set up an estate plan describe the process as "helpful" and "a relief" and say they wish they had done it sooner.

I don't want to burden my loved ones:

Many people believe discussing end-of-life issues with their loved ones is too upsetting. But talking about important life events can be empowering and helps everyone feel included in the process.

If you don't have estate documents in place, let us help guide you through the process. **Look for our Office Hours webinar series to return later in the quarter focussing on various estate planning issues.**

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The State of Estate Planning Report, commissioned 2022



Featured Note from Jason:

5 Key Aspects of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

While we work on our full analysis of the new tax bill enacted last week, we thought we would dig in at a high level on five of the most interesting aspects of the bill.

Congress recently passed the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)*—a sweeping piece of tax legislation that could influence everything from your paycheck to your retirement strategy. Here are five key highlights we think you should know:

1. Lower Tax Rates, Locked In

The individual tax cuts first introduced in 2017 were set to expire soon. OBBBA makes them permanent, keeping rates lower across the board. It also preserves the larger standard deduction—and increases it slightly in 2025 (by \$750 for individuals and \$1,500 for couples). That means more take-home income for many households.

2. More Benefits for Retirees

If you're age 65 or older, there's a new temporary \$6,000 bonus deduction (on top of the standard and existing senior deductions). It's designed to ease the tax burden on middle-income retirees—particularly those who continue to file taxes on Social Security benefits. This could create new planning opportunities in how we structure your retirement income. Be aware, there are some nuances around this regarding phase-outs.

3. Incentives for Business Owners

Own a small business or side hustle? You can now permanently deduct up to 20% of your qualified business income—a major win for sole proprietors, partnerships, and S corporations. Plus, a new minimum deduction helps smaller business owners access some relief even with lower income levels.

Many business types are excluded from the QBI deduction, including doctors, lawyers, accountants, and others.

4. Investment Expensing Restored

OBBBA revives 100% immediate expensing for capital investments—including equipment and, for the first time, new factory construction. This is great news for business owners and investors interested in sectors poised for domestic growth.

5. Support for Tipped and Hourly Workers

While OBBBA stops short of fully eliminating taxes on tipped income and overtime, it creates two new deductions:

- Up to \$25,000 in tip income
- Up to \$12,500 in overtime pay

This may offer meaningful savings to those in service industries—and may influence how we plan around supplemental income streams. There are also phase-outs around these deductions.

The OBBBA offers both immediate and long-term tax planning opportunities. Whether you're working, retired, or running a business, it's a good time to review your tax strategy to ensure you're making the most of the new rules.

If you'd like to discuss how the OBBBA might impact your personal financial plan, we're here to help.

All the best,

Jason

KEY PLANNING DEADLINES: Summer 2025

	FINANCIAL DATES & DEADLINES	SPECIAL OBSERVANCES	
JULY FOCUS: Caregiving	July 4. Independence Day (markets closed) July 31. Form 5500 due	Sandwich Generation Month July 20. National Ice Cream Day July 30. Medicare's Birthday	Caring for someone? We can help
AUGUST FOCUS: College Planning	None. Enjoy your summer!	Back to School Month American Artists Appreciation Month August 3. World Friendship Day August 15. Relaxation Day August 25. US Open Tennis begins	Prepared for a big tuition?
SEPTEMBER FOCUS: Health Care Planning	September 1. Labor Day (markets closed) September 16. 3Q 2025 estimated taxes due September 16. 2024 extended partnership, S-corp returns due September 30. Last day to determine beneficiaries after an IRA owner's death	Healthy Aging Month September 7. US Open Tennis ends September 11. Patriot Day September 17. Constitution/Citizenship Day (observed)	Need help with health care?
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS OR ANYTHING ELSE, PLEASE CALL US! (925) 370-3750			

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