



A Message From Mary Sterk

Happy New Year! We hope you have finished 2024 with joy, peace, and prosperity! Here are a few notes on the economy and markets:

- The DOW hit new highs in early December and finished the year with double digit returns! *
- Interest rates took another drop in December. While the trend of reductions is forecasted to slow, every rate drop signals strength in the economy.
- The bond market continued to be rocky and volatile through the end of the year, with the overall bond market finishing in the negative. * We are hoping to see this tide turn and the bond market stabilize for our more conservative investors.
- With the election behind us, and change coming soon in congressional control, focus will shift rapidly to law changes that will “sunset” in the next few years - more explained below.

Tax Cuts & Jobs Act – most of this current legislation sunsets on 12/31/25. What that means is the tax rules will go back to pre-2017 changes unless Congress steps in to change things. If nothing changes, we will see more than \$4 trillion in tax increase take effect in 2026 – including tax hikes on 62% of US households. This law also contained provisions regarding estate taxes. Right now, a person can pass down \$13.99 M to their family without federal estate taxes. This will reduce to under \$5M if the law does revert. Until we know what Congress does with the law, we feel there is no pro-active action to take. However, once decisions are made and new laws are in place, we will communicate any strategy or changes that we feel might be valuable.

As we close the doors on 2024, we reflect on having celebrated our 20th anniversary and look forward to serving you for decades to come. We thank you for your continued business, and for the trust and faith you put in us as your financial advisory team. Our entire team wishes you a Happy New year and hope that in 2025 we can continue to help you Plan, Protect and Grow!

As always, please reach out at any time with questions.

*Sources – *Osaic MarketView*

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