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2017 – A YEAR TO REMEMBER

The Dow Jones Average set new highs and ended 2017 with a record high ~ up 24.3%. Also, the S&P 500 set new highs ~ up 18.7%.

2018 – WHAT DOES THE NEW YEAR HOLD?

First, let's look at the current Government actions put into effect in 2017.

1. Roll back by Executive Action additional regulations that continue to stymie the economy.
2. Passage of Income Tax Reform Act.
3. Unemployment reached the lowest level in decades.
4. Inflation held in check.
5. Consumer confidence increased to highest level not seen in years.
6. Dow Jones Average reaches 25,000 plus in January, 2018. Fastest 1,000 point rise in history!

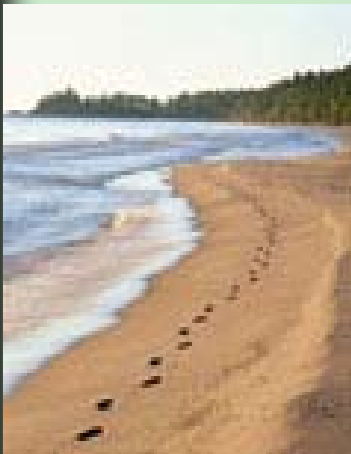
Second, what is needed to continue the possibility of continued positive returns in 2018.

1. Positive impact from Tax Reform Act.
2. Infrastructure action and funding passed by Congress.
3. Enactment of a comprehensive Immigration Law by Congress.
4. Continued International Policy coordination to maintain peace in the future.
5. GDP growth of 3% to 4%.
6. Greater investment by small and large businesses.
7. Maintain or lower unemployment levels.
8. Continue consumer confidence at its highest level since 2000.

Remember this quote by Dr. David Kelley, Chief Global Strategist for J.P. Morgan Asset Management. "The best way to make money in the long term is not losing it in the short term."

Pathway Financial Services, Inc.'s strategy is to invest our client's portfolios in long term assets based on their risk tolerance, current and future goals, and review their investments quarterly. The Pathway of successful investing has many twists and turns but, your welfare short and long term is our primary objective. WE WILL GET THERE TOGETHER and we are available to meet and counsel with you, our valued clients, at any time.

Charles Cheryl Matt



Infographic: Financial Tips for Young Adults:

6 Steps for Young Adults to Build a Financial Foundation



1 Create a budget

Subtract your monthly living expenses (e.g., rent, food, utilities) and loan payments (e.g., student and/or auto loans) from your monthly income to see how much you'll have left over each month to save or invest.



2 Build an emergency fund

Stash away a small amount from each paycheck until you have a few thousand dollars built up that you can access in the event of a financial emergency.

3 Pay your bills on time

Automate payments with online bill pay. If you run into financial difficulty, be proactive and contact your lender before you miss a payment.



4 Use credit wisely

Avoid racking up unnecessary credit card debt and pay off your bill in full each month. If you can't, don't use your credit card.



5 Contribute to a Roth IRA and/or workplace 401(k)

Time is your friend. Start saving for retirement now, and your older self will thank you. Consider starting with 3% of your pay and increase from there.



6 Live within your means

Forget about what others are doing and set your own financial rules and goals. Live your best life by striving to live within (or below) your means.



1. Budget
2. Stash away funds
3. Pay your bills - ON TIME
4. Credit wisely
5. Contribute - Contribute - Contribute
6. Set your own financial rules

What financial resolutions should I consider making as I look ahead to 2018?



A new year is here, bringing with it a fresh start for you and your finances. What will you do this year to help improve your financial situation?

Evaluate your savings goals.

The beginning of the year is a great time to examine your overall financial plan. Maybe you want to buy a new vehicle this year or save money toward a Caribbean cruise next year. Perhaps you want to focus less on material items and more on long-term goals, such as your retirement savings. Regardless of what you are setting money aside for, make sure you come up with a realistic savings plan that will help you achieve your goals and avoid the risk of significant loss.

Pay down debt. Whether you owe money on your credit cards or have student loan payments to make, the start of a new year is a good time to develop a strategy to reduce your overall level of debt. Reducing your debt can help create opportunities to contribute toward other goals throughout the year. But unless you can definitely afford it,

don't plan to pay off all your debts in one fell swoop. Set a smaller goal that you'll be more likely to achieve over the course of the year.

Automate as much as you can. Your plan to pay down debt can be accomplished more easily if you automate your bill paying, saving, and investing. Most banks, credit card issuers, retirement plan providers, and investment companies offer services that make payments automatic — allowing you to worry less about payment dates. The best part is that it might only take a few taps on your smartphone to make these processes automatic.

Think about organizing your financial documents. If your overall financial situation is already in good shape for the new year, consider taking time now to clear out and organize your financial records. Do you have important documents, such as your tax returns or passport, in a safe place? Are you holding on to records that you no longer need? Organizing your financial records now can save you time and frustration later if you need to locate a particular document.

How can I protect myself from digital deception?



Imagine that you receive an email with an urgent message asking you to verify your banking information by clicking on a link. Or maybe you get an enticing text message claiming that you've won a free vacation to the

destination of your choice — all you have to do is click on the link you were sent. In both scenarios, clicking on the link causes you to play right into the hands of a cybercriminal seeking your sensitive information. Just like that, you're at risk for identity theft because you were tricked by a social engineering scam.

Social engineering attacks are a form of digital deception in which cybercriminals psychologically manipulate victims into divulging sensitive information. Cybercriminals "engineer" believable scenarios designed to evoke an emotional response (curiosity, fear, empathy, or excitement) from their targets. As a result, people often react without thinking first due to curiosity or concern over the message that was sent. Since social engineering attacks appear in many forms and appeal to a variety of emotions, they can be especially difficult to identify. Take steps to protect yourself from a

social engineering scam. If you receive a message conveying a sense of urgency, slow down and read it carefully before reacting. Don't click on suspicious or unfamiliar links in emails, text messages, and instant messaging services. Hover your cursor over a link before clicking on it to see if it will bring you to a real URL. Don't forget to check the spelling of URLs — any mistakes indicate a scam website. Also be sure to look for the secure lock symbol and the letters https: in the address bar of your Internet browser. These are signs that you're navigating to a legitimate website.

Never download email attachments unless you can verify that the sender is legitimate. Similarly, don't send money to charities or organizations that request help unless you can follow up directly with the charitable group. Be wary of unsolicited messages. If you get an email or a text that asks you for financial information or passwords, do not reply — delete it. Remember that social engineering scams can also be used over the phone. Use healthy skepticism when you receive calls that demand money or request sensitive information. Always be vigilant and think before acting.

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"Our mission is to help our clients realize their financial goals with compassion and integrity as they travel their pathway of life."

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