



# Monthly Newsletter

Our insights on the markets, economy, and financial planning

**Iran Conflict**

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## Iran Conflict

On February 28<sup>th</sup> Israel and the United States began a series of strikes against Iran targeting the country leadership and security forces. This week we have seen wild volatility in the equity markets and oil prices. At times like these it is important to stay calm and think about the overall effect this has on your financial plan. Our thoughts that while the next few weeks we will see increased volatility in the market but the long term effect of the conflict will not be material in US or Europe markets. We should see an increase in oil prices which will lead to higher

inflation numbers. But all these effects should be temporary and we are still bullish on the market for 2026. In 2025 international outperformed US stocks and while we believe that the international markets are still a great place to invest we do prefer some countries over others. Throughout history geopolitical incidents have led to opportunities in investing and we do not see this time being any different. Times like this highlight the importance to have a disciplined emotional process when investing.

# Tax Time

April 15<sup>th</sup> is looming. Our favorite time of the year to collect forms from all our accounts and search for receipts we wanted to give you some ideas of way to save some extra dollars.

## 1. IRA Contributions

- You have until April 15<sup>th</sup> to make a contribution to your IRAs and get a tax deduction for 2025 (if you qualify).
- You can also make a back door Roth contribution if your income is over the IRS Roth contribution limit
- If you own a business or have any 1099 income you can also set up a SEP IRA, Simple IRA or contribute to a solo 401k

## 2. Charitable Deductions

- Even if you are taking the standard deduction, you can deduct \$1000 or \$2000 of charitable deductions if you file single or married.

## 3. Carry forward losses

- If you realized any capital gain losses this year or in previous years be sure to check that the deduction is showing up on your return
- You can deduct up to \$3000 in losses each year

## 4. Misc Deductions

- HSA Contributions- be sure to deduct the HSA contributions you made in 2025 (you can still make contributions until you file)
- 529 Plan Contributions - You will probably have to log onto your 529 plan site to get the totals for the contributions. This will reduce your state tax.
- Student loan Interest - if you qualify you can deduct the payment

## 5. Did you make a rollover in 2025?

- Be sure to check your 1099-R and ensure that box 7 is coded G for rollover and not as a distribution

## 6. If you did make a non-spousal gift of over \$19,000 or \$38,000 for married couples you will need to file a form 709

# Trump Account

If you have a child that was born between January 1, 2025, and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2028 the US treasury will provide a \$1000 seed deposit for each child. You do not need to make any contributions to the account, and it will be invested in the stock market. If you want to contribute to the account you can put in \$5000/year. So take advantage of the free money if you qualify.

The account is basically treated as a Traditional IRA for your child. The account will grow tax deferred until a withdrawal is made and then the withdrawal is taxed as ordinary income. You can use the money in the account to pay for college, buy a new house or start a business without penalty. Otherwise when your child turn 59 ½ they can withdraw the funds tax free.

# March Madness



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Every March, millions of people fill out a bracket convinced they've cracked the code. And yet...the odds of a perfect bracket for college basketball playoffs are about 1 in 9.2 quintillion. But this time will be different, right?

One of the best times of the year for a sports fan as many begin to analyze our favorite teams heading into the tournament. Inevitably, focus at the office shifts to the latest ESPN bracketology reports.

## **Star Players vs. Team Depth**

One theme that reigns true each year is that no one individual can be the catalyst to championship. The team with the best chemistry, complimentary playing styles, and most fundamentally sound outlasts the team with one superstar.

Similar, portfolios that rely too heavily on one company or sector can be vulnerable. A balanced lineup tends to hold up better over a full market cycle.

### **PPF official predicted winners of March Madness:**

Charlie: Arizona Wildcats

David: Michigan Wolverines

(Charlie won the Super Bowl prediction BTW)

Best of luck in your brackets this year!