



Year-end investments actions list

We are approaching the end of the year and the holidays are here. There is still time to make some wise financial decisions and relieve some tax burden and get started on your investments before the new year. But you don't have much time!

Here are a few hints to take quick action!

401(k) Contributions

You have until December 31 to maximize your retirement contributions for 2017. If you are under 50, you can contribute up to \$18,000 per the IRS but going up in 2018 to \$18,500. Over 50? The IRS allows up to \$24,000 if you fall into this group. Do your calculations to determine how much you can contribute. However, some HR departments have rules and deadlines that you will need to confer with them. Keep this goal in mind for 2018 and plan ahead and avoid last minute rush. Maximizing the 401(k) adds to your retirement and possibly reducing current taxable income.

Keep taxes lower for 2017

If you are an investor, hold off on new investments until January if possible, especially on mutual funds. By doing so, you can avoid some capital gains taxes. Financial advisers may recommend selling your mutual funds and purchase index funds instead. However any capital gains should be reviewed for tax burden possibility. The selling of the mutual funds should be before the ex-dividend date.

Review the portfolio

An annual evaluation of your investment portfolio should be conducted and possibly before December. Reviewing the portfolio with an expert financial adviser could bring tax savings each year. Evaluate the capital gains and losses for the year. Could it be possible to get some losses to reduce the tax burden from the capital gains? Sell off those losing funds to offset the gains of the year. Another tactic is also ensuring that the portfolio is balanced per your goals between stocks and bonds. Ensure that the weighted balance between the investments is best for you. An additional tactic is diversification of the portfolio among its assets. Evaluate the categories between the stocks and bonds so that it contains different industries and company sizes. By completing the diversification, risks on your investments can be reduced. It would be advised to contact a professional financial adviser to assist in the portfolio review.

Plan for the new year ... 2018

Strategize! Diversify! Invest! Why wait for the new year to begin your goals of strategizing your investments. While 2017 as been financially exciting, 2018 could be different. Foreign stocks and companies that perform well during periods of uncertainty are recommended. Financial advisers recommended investing in international funds in order to diversify from a solely domestic portfolio that is uncertain. Advisers also recommend you invest in bonds even if the returns are lower but less risky during times of uncertainty. Check out the website for additional strategizing and investing: <http://www.omniwealth.eu/>.

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