

Thank God It's New Years!

December 31, 2009



With 2009 in the books, now is the time to make plans and resolutions for 2010. To help ring in the New Year, we bring you these valuable ideas from the financial planning department.

HAPPY...

Now may be the time for a Roth IRA conversion. Starting in 2010, the income limits have been eliminated, allowing everyone to convert some or all of their IRA to a Roth IRA. A Roth IRA provides TAX-FREE growth and has no required minimum distribution. For a 2010 conversion, you can choose to pay the taxes in 2011 and 2012. Let's discuss this strategy.

Estate tax laws are changing in 2010 – it just isn't clear how. The House passed the bill eliminating the current "Sunset Provision" and it is now up to the Senate to act. Stay tuned in 2010 to see how this plays out. In the meantime, be sure your Trust, Wills, Powers of Attorney and beneficiaries reflect your current wishes.

What about taxes for 2010? Today's lower dividend and capital gains tax rates are due to sunset at the end of 2010. Tax planning will be especially important as we watch for the coming changes, whatever they may be. Saving to your IRA and 401k is always a good strategy.

Your loved ones deserve a little planning. If you have not done so lately, review your life, disability and long term care insurance needs. Discuss your policies with an experienced broker who represents multiple carriers. Make sure you have the coverage you need, with a solid company. Let your loved ones know about your plans and where the documents are hidden.

Everyone should be on the alert for identity theft, especially during the holiday season. This is a great time to check your credit history with the official free site www.annualcreditreport.com. Be sure not to sign up for any extra, unneeded, services should they be offered to you in the process.

A little money may be out there that you have forgotten about. Check for Unclaimed Property in any state where you have lived. For California, go to www.claimit.ca.gov or call 800-992-4647. Other states have similar, official resources.

Revel in the joy of a new year and all the opportunities it offers to bring joy to your life and the lives of others!!!

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