

FINANCIAL ADVISORY GROUP

INSIGHTS

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DID YOU KNOW?

Federal income tax rates have changed dramatically over time. When the modern federal income tax began in 1913, the top rate was just 7%. It eventually reached 94% in 1944.

Today the top rate is 37%.

(Source: FinTaxes)

The IRS processed 271.4 million tax returns and other forms in fiscal year 2025 and issued approximately \$638.8 billion in refunds.

(Source: IRS)

TOTAL RETURNS %

INDEX	Q3 2026	YTD	1-YR
S&P 500	2.30%	12.73%	15.71%
MSCI World ex US	0.89%	10.16%	15.89%
Dow Jones	-2.34%	7.19%	11.28%
BBG BARC Agg Bond	-3.51%	-2.91%	-1.84%

*as of 09.30.2026

Year-end Tax Planning: Preparing Today For Tomorrow

By: **Amanda Klem**, Account Administrator

As the year draws to a close, it is an ideal time to review your financial picture and consider opportunities that may help strengthen your overall tax strategy. Thoughtful year-end planning can help you prepare for tax season while keeping your long-term financial goals in focus.

MAXIMIZING RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Retirement contributions can play an important role in both your current and future financial plan. Reviewing contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans, IRAs, and other eligible accounts before year-end may help identify opportunities to increase retirement savings while potentially providing tax advantages.

MAKING THE MOST OF CHARITABLE GIVING

For those who are charitably inclined, year-end giving provides an opportunity to support the organizations and causes that matter most while considering potential tax benefits.

Beginning in 2026, taxpayers who take the standard deduction may deduct up to \$1,000 of qualifying cash charitable contributions for single filers and up to \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly. This creates a potential federal tax benefit for charitable giving even for individuals who do not itemize deductions. The deduction generally applies to qualifying cash contributions to eligible public charities.

REVIEWING YOUR INVESTMENTS

Year-end is a good time to evaluate your investment portfolio and determine whether adjustments are appropriate. Reviewing realized gains and losses, considering tax-loss harvesting opportunities, and rebalancing your investments can help keep your portfolio aligned with both your financial goals and tax strategy.

PLANNING FOR REQUIRED DISTRIBUTIONS

If you are required to take distributions from certain retirement accounts, reviewing those requirements before year-end is important. Taking the appropriate distributions

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on time can help avoid unnecessary tax consequences and provide an opportunity to consider how those distributions fit into your broader retirement income plan.

LOOKING AHEAD

Effective tax planning is about more than preparing a tax return. It involves looking at your entire financial picture and considering how the decisions you make today may affect your finances in the years ahead. Changes in income, investments, retirement, charitable goals, or family circumstances can all be reasons to revisit your strategy.

At **Springs Valley Bank & Trust**, our team is committed to helping you navigate your financial future with confidence. By working alongside you and your tax professional, we can help identify planning opportunities, evaluate financial strategies, and keep your long-term goals at the center of the conversation.

*numbers as of September 30, 2026

1,557 Accounts

\$1.067 Billion in Assets

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Maximizing your Retirement, Minimizing your Taxes



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