

Timely tips and fiscal facts from Coleman Financial Group that help you *Build Confidence in Your Financial Future*.

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Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010



In early September, the U.S. Senate passed their version of a small business tax bill - The Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010. President Obama signed the bill into law on September 27th.

The Bill's overall purpose is to encourage small business growth and job creation by cutting taxes and making more loans available to entrepreneurs.

Twelve billion in tax benefits are on the table now. There are numerous incentives in the bill including:

Bonus Depreciation - 50% first year property bonus depreciation retroactive to Jan 1, 2010

Code Sec 179 Expensing - includes an expansion of qualifying property and increased maximum expense deduction of up to \$500,000 in 2010 and 2011

Carryback for General Business Credits - carryback period extended to five years for eligible small businesses

Cell Phones - will no longer require strict substantiation requirements and limits on depreciation deductions.

Start Up Expense Deductions - increased to \$10,000 for 2010

FICA Taxes on Self Employment income - allows for



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deduction of health insurance cost from FICA taxes for 2010.

Rollovers to Roths - authorizes 401(k) 403(b) and 457 plans to allow participants to rollover pre tax account balances into a Roth IRA (the rollover would be taxable.)

Please [click here](#) to read more about the Bill.

Ladies - Your Retirement Planning is Important Too



Are women getting shortchanged in their retirement planning?

A recent Wall Street Journal article suggests that women face additional hurdles when it comes to getting help with their retirement planning.

According to the article:

Women routinely feel underserved by the financial services industry and conflicting styles of communication may have a lot to do with that (70% to 80% of Advisers are men.) Experts generally agree that women prefer advisers who address their needs holistically, educating them about their choices and explaining how they can reach long-term goals.

Analysts say the industry sometimes shoehorns women into retirement-savings formulas meant for men. But two important variables, income and life expectancy, are very different for women -- generally, they earn less and live longer. And, as women get older, conservative investments make sense. But advisers often fail to offer them two products that could be useful: annuities, which convert a lump sum into income, and long-term-care insurance.

Financial planners say it's common for married women to assume that their spouse's savings will do the heavy lifting. But in practice, women are more likely than men to spend part of their retirement alone, making it even more important for them to have their own plan.

Ladies, don't let this happen to you. Comprehensive and customized retirement planning is crucial to your long term financial security.

Prioritize your retirement planning now:

Save more, Invest for growth and Protect your assets - greater savings rates and investment growth are needed to counter the impact of longevity and inflation on our portfolios. And, insure your assets (household income, property) to reduce exposure to catastrophic financial losses.

Actively participate in your financial life - more than 90% of women will be solely responsible for their financial affairs at some point in their lives. (Note - in the U.S. the divorce rate still hovers near 50% and the average age of widowhood is 56.)

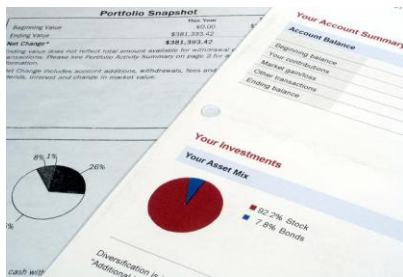
Your input is valuable and can make a difference to your outcome so stay close to the financial decision-making process. (Studies show that women make better investors in the long run too!)

Seek out objective, holistic advice - create a team of advisors (financial/investment, insurance, attorneys, accountants) to help you comprehensively manage and integrate your retirement and financial planning strategies.

Coleman Financial Group can help you plan for a financially secure [retirement lifestyle](#).

Give Taren a call to get started.

Bond Market Bubbling?



There's been a focus of late on whether we're headed toward a bond bubble.

The main reason behind this thinking is that in response to the '08 stock market meltdown, shell-shocked investors sought the refuge of fixed income - to the tune of about half a trillion dollars over the past 18 months.

And therefore, if you and millions of other investors poured your money into fixed income, future higher inflation and interest rates could burst the bubble and erode that bond income and savings.

While we can't predict the future of interest rates or inflation (bond values move inversely with interest rates) bonds continue to serve two main purposes:

One, to help us reduce our overall portfolio volatility (as compared to our stock holdings.)

And two, to generate a stream of income - which many retirees, pension funds and other conservative investors rely on for their retirement and business needs.

Skip the bond bubble worry factor. Focus on an appropriate investment asset allocation for your time horizon and income needs.

Generally speaking, as we move closer to and then into retirement, the percentage of bond holdings as an asset class should increase. While asset allocation does not eliminate losses, in the long run it can temper the market extremes that impact your portfolio.

When it comes to purchasing bonds, focus on building a bond ladder. When you ladder your bond holdings, you buy bonds of varying maturities so that as interest rates move over time, you can minimize your income risk and keep a consistent cash flow.

And, if creating a bond ladder is not something you're comfortable doing on your own, consider using bond mutual funds which can provide added diversification and liquidity.



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