



COLLEGE SAVINGS
PLANS NETWORK

A Network of the National Association of State Treasurers

How State 529 Plans Have Navigated Fixed Income Markets

November 3, 2022
4:00 pm ET | 1:00pm PT



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE TREASURERS

Questions...



**Please post your questions
in the “Questions” pane of
the dashboard**

We will be collecting questions and asking them of
the panel at the end of the presentation.

Welcome from the CSPN Chair



Rachel Biar
Assistant State Treasurer for the Nebraska 529 College Savings Program

Today's Team



Soohyang Lee, CFA
Vice President
AKF Consulting Group



Scott Owens, CFA, CIMA
Managing Director
Graystone Consulting



Theodore Loew, CFA
Vice President
Graystone Consulting



David Lawhorn
Program Director
*Kentucky Higher Education
Assistance Authority*



Sarah Hillegass, CPA
Director of Public Market Investments
Office of the Illinois State Treasurer



Michael Swink, CFA, CPA
Investment Director
Virginia529



Audience Poll #1

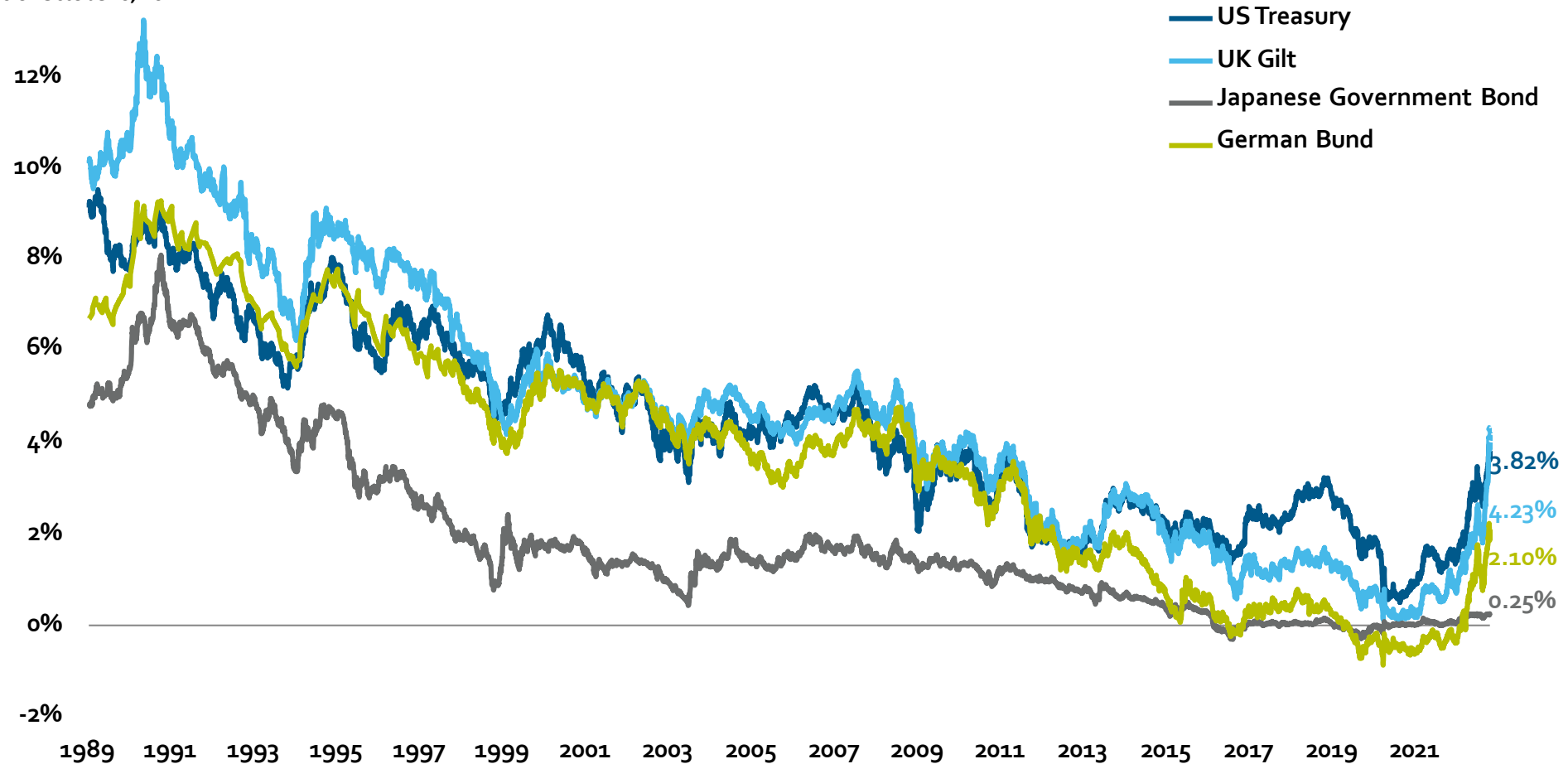
**How many times from 1928 to 2021
(94 years) have both Stocks (S&P
500) and Bonds (US T-Bills) both
been negative?**



Market Overview

Sovereign Bond Yields (1988-2022)

10-Year Sovereign Bond Yields
Daily Data as of October 6, 2022

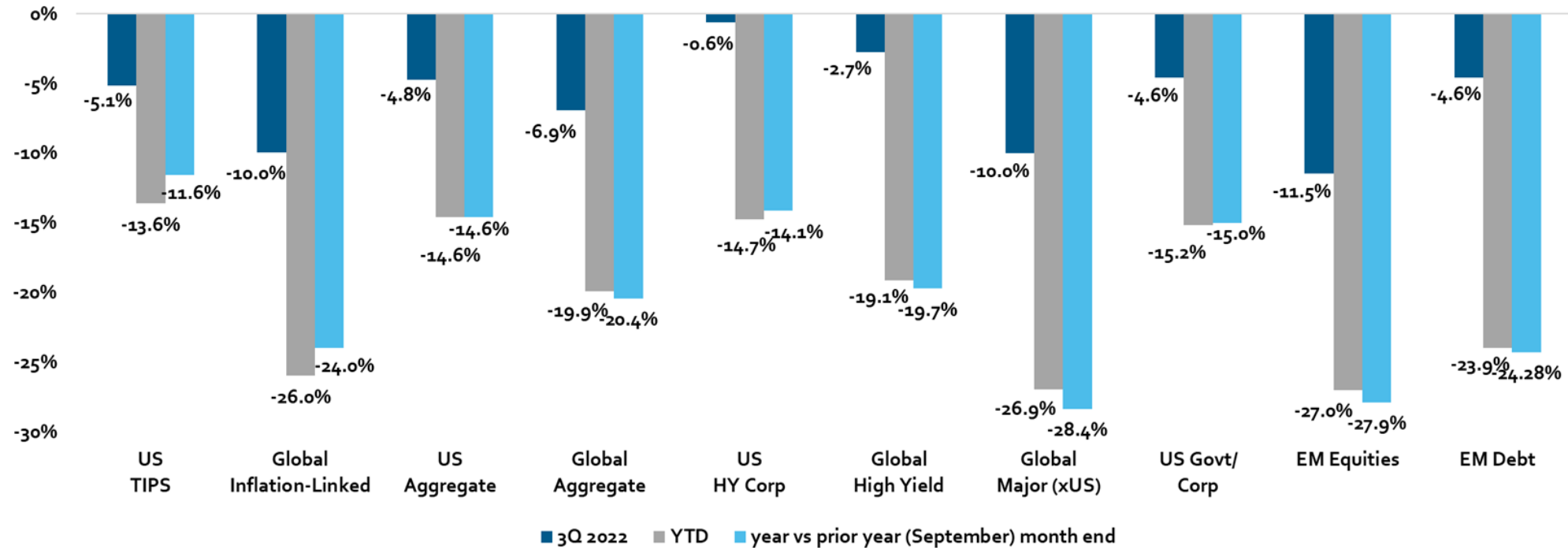


Source: FactSet, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIO

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Fixed Income Performance (Total Return %)

As of September 30, 2022

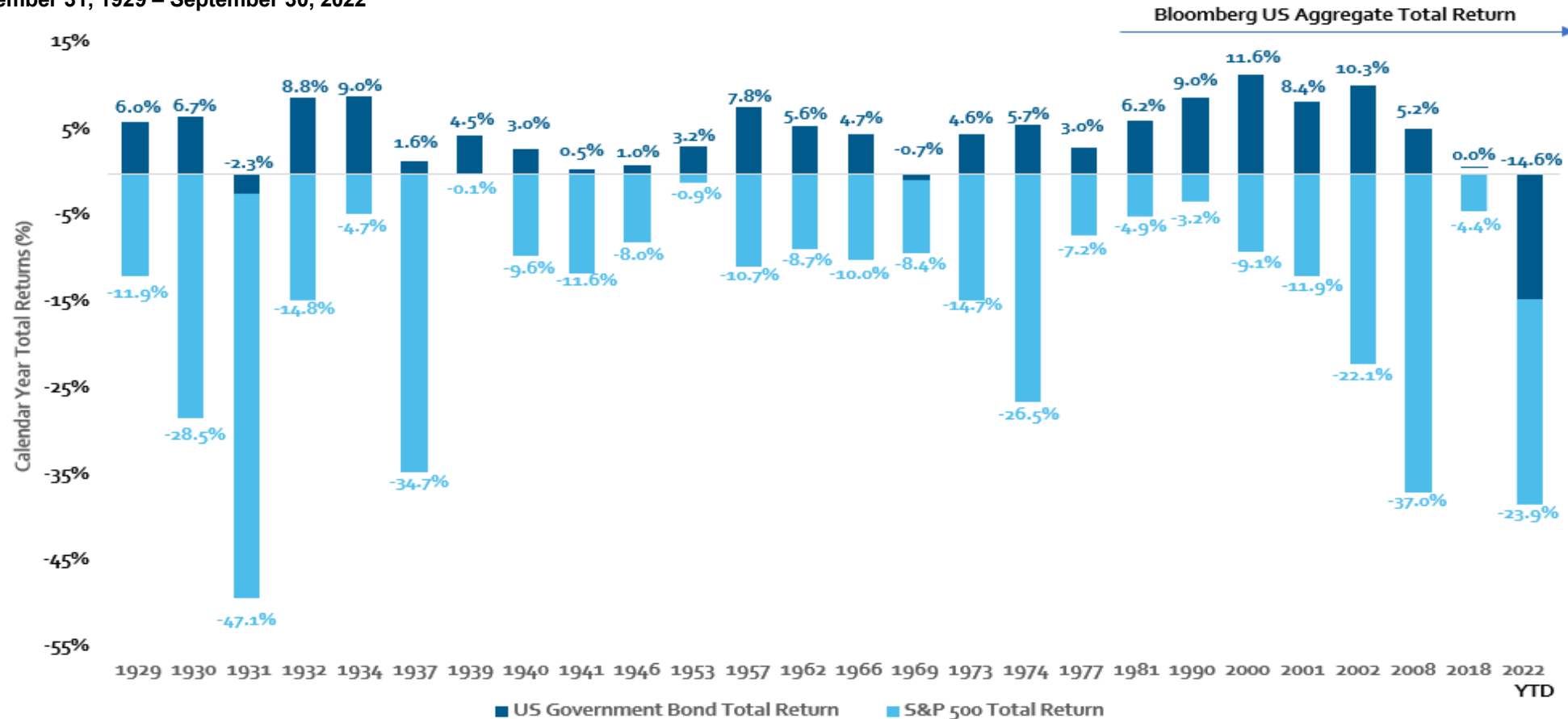


Source: FactSet. (1) Represented by Bloomberg US Treasury Inflation Protected Notes (TIPS), Bloomberg Global Inflation-Linked, Bloomberg US Aggregate, Bloomberg Global Aggregate, Bloomberg US High Yield – Corporate, Bloomberg Global High Yield, Bloomberg Global Majors (x US), Bloomberg US Government/Corporate, Bloomberg Emerging Market Local Currency Broad, JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Composite. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Estimates of future performance are based on assumptions that may not be realized. This material is not a solicitation of any offer to buy or sell any security or other financial instrument or to participate in any trading strategy. Please refer to important information, disclosures and qualifications at the end of this material. This slide sourced from Market Performance section.

When Stocks Were Down What Did Bonds Return

Bond Returns in Years Stocks Were Down

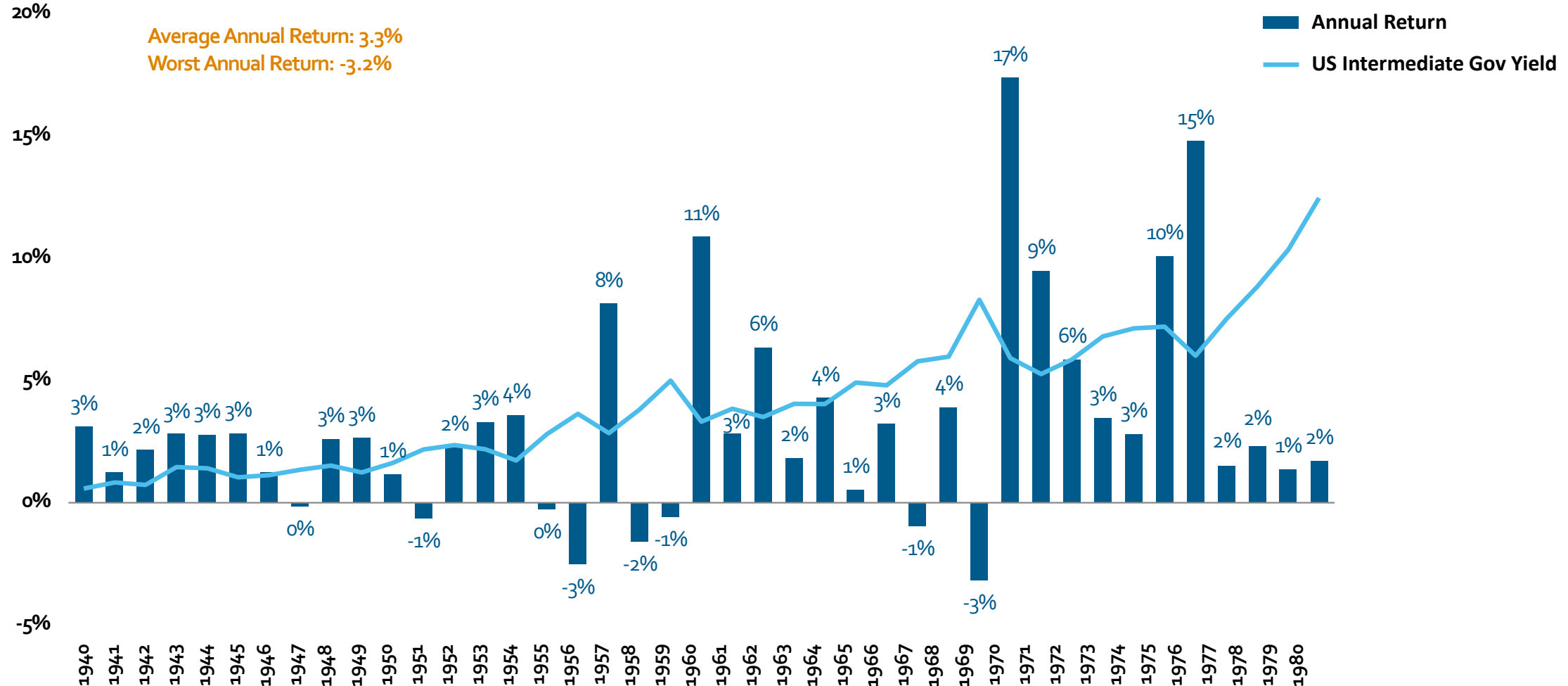
December 31, 1929 – September 30, 2022



Source: Bloomberg, Morningstar and Morgan Stanley Wealth Management US Intermediate Government Bond Total Return during periods shown between 1929 and 1973 provided by Morningstar. US Government Bond Total Return from 1977 to present is the Bloomberg US Aggregate Total Return LBUSTRUU Index provided by Bloomberg. All rights reserved. Used with permission. This information contained herein: (i) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (ii) may not be copied or distributed; and (iii) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Aside from the S&P 500, all indices shown above are Ibbotson indices. For more information about the risks to hypothetical performance please refer to the Risk Considerations section at the end of this material.

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Bond Performance as Yields Climb Higher 1940-1980



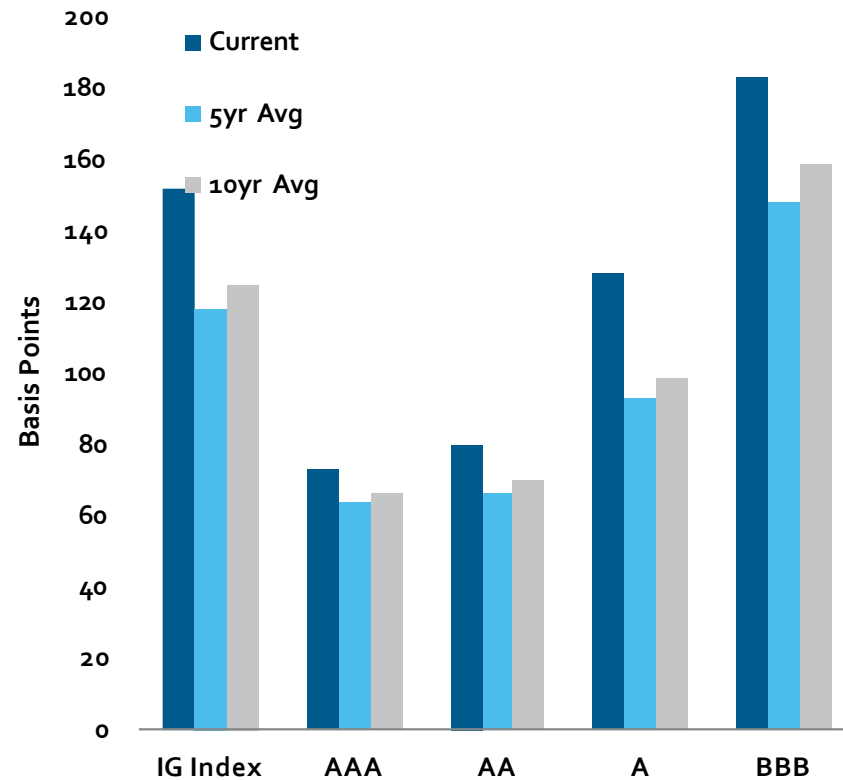
Source: Calculated by Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIC using data provided by Morningstar. (c) 2019 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. This information contained herein: (i) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (ii) may not be copied or distributed; and (iii) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Aside from the S&P 500, all indices shown above are Ibbotson indices. For more information about the risks to hypothetical performance please refer to the Risk Considerations section at the end of this material. Bond returns are based on FMR "Synthetic Agg"= 67% Intermediate Govt Bonds, 33% LT Corp.

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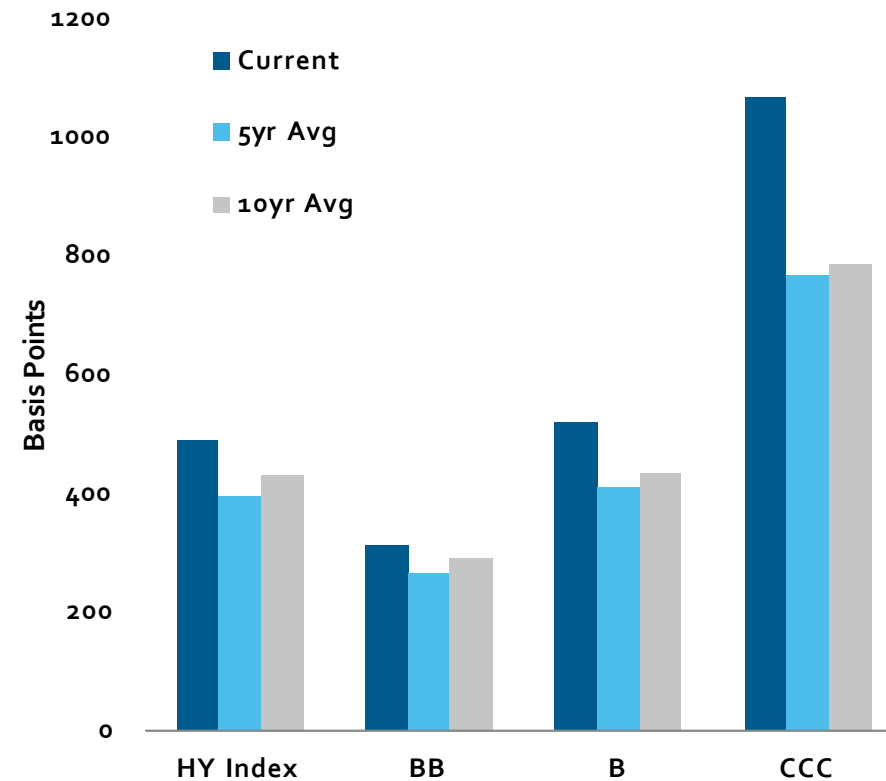


US Investment Grade and High Yield Spreads by Rating

Investment Grade Option Adjusted Spreads¹ by Rating
As of October 6, 2022



High Yield Spreads by Rating (Spread to Worst)
As of October 6, 2022

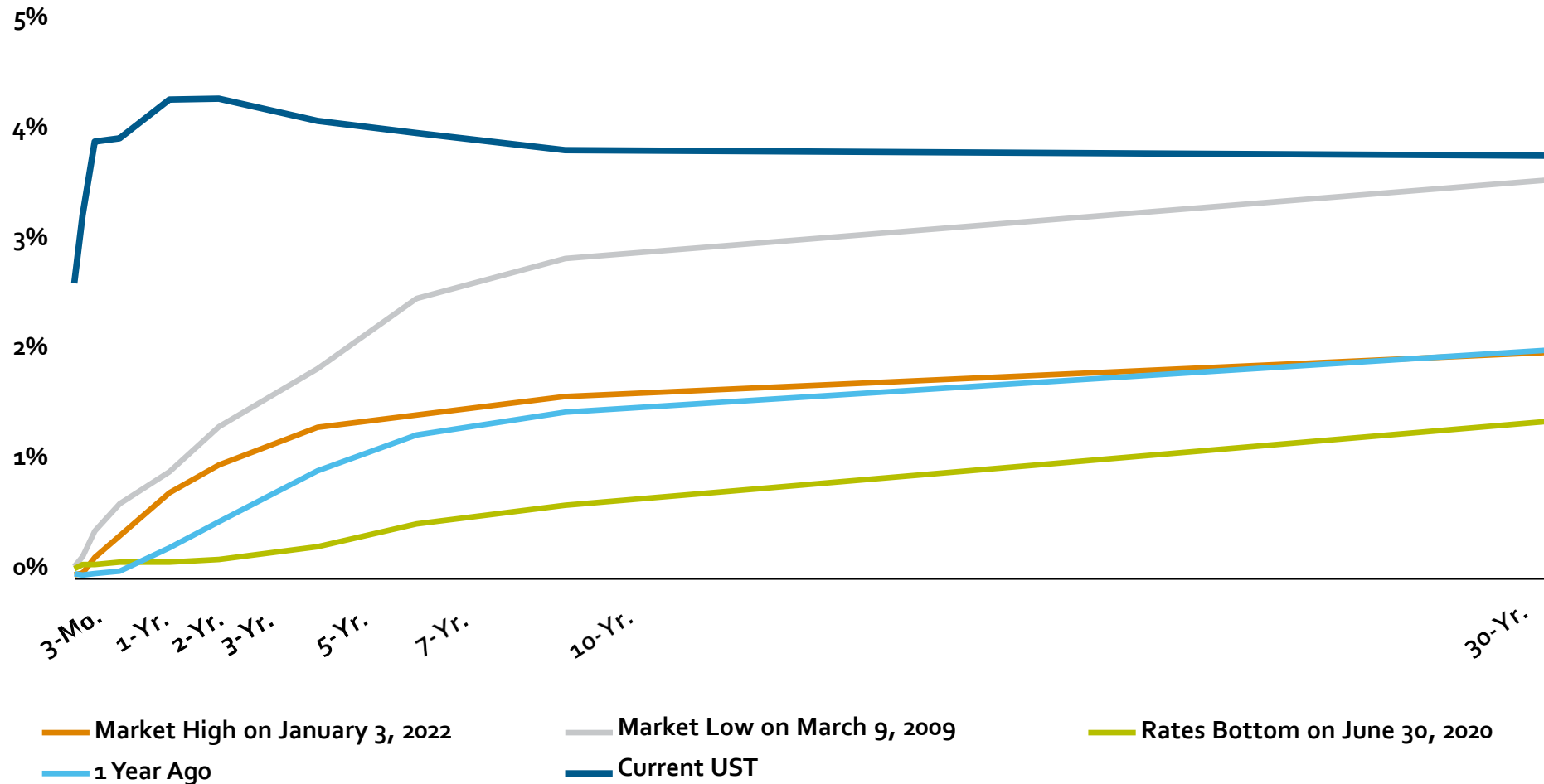


Source: The Yield Book® Software and Services. © 2022 FTSE Index LLC All rights reserved., Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIC. (1) Option Adjusted Spread (OAS) is a measurement of the spread of a fixed income security rate and the risk-free rate of return, which is adjusted to take into account an embedded option. Investment Grade and High Yield are Citi indices. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Estimates of future performance are based on assumptions that may not be realized. This material is not a solicitation of any offer to buy or sell any security or other financial instrument or to participate in any trading strategy. Please refer to important information, disclosures and qualifications at the end of this material.

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US Treasury Yield Curve

US Treasury Yield Curve
As of September 30, 2022

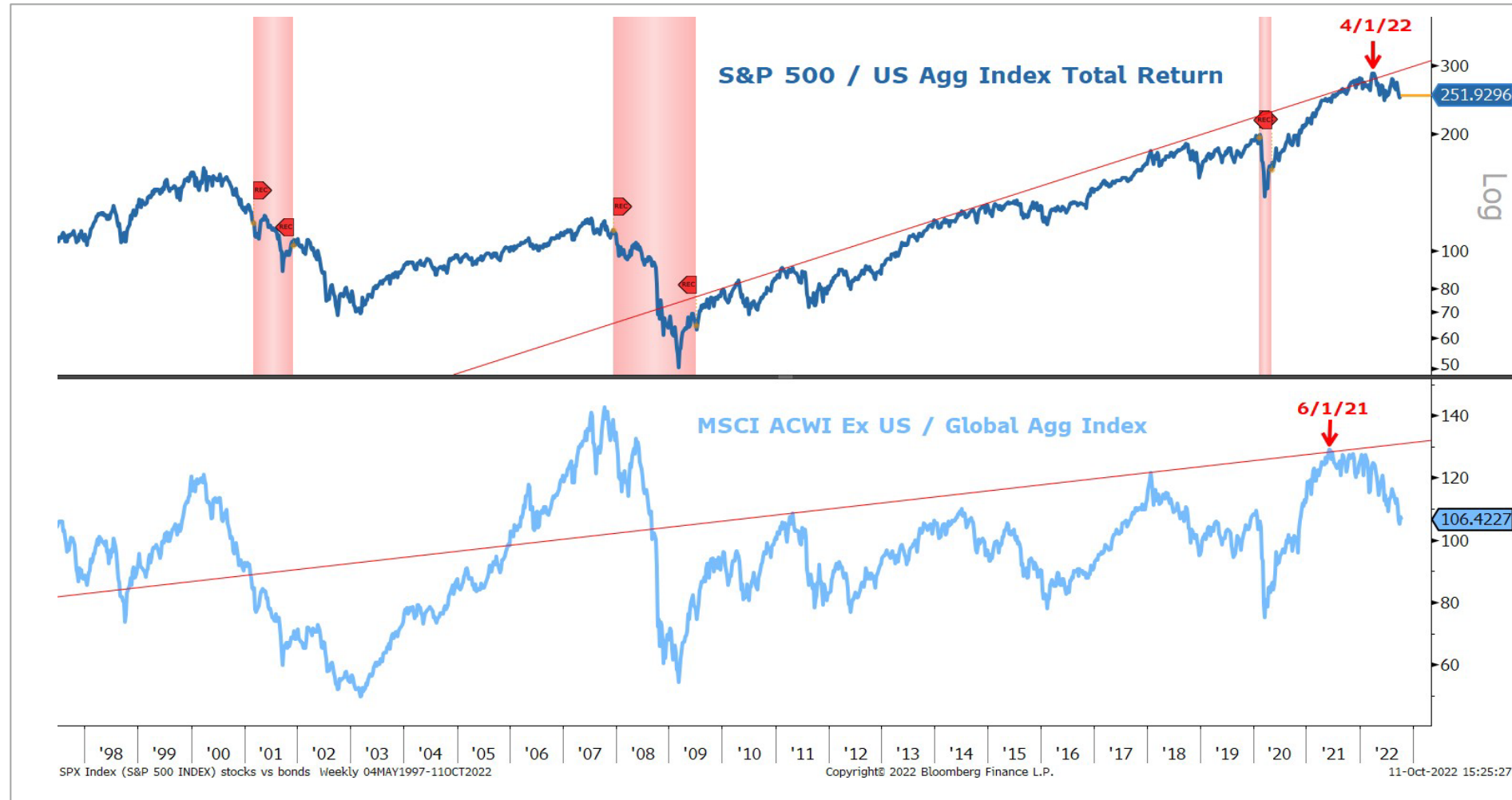


Source: Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIO

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Bonds Should Outperform Stocks into the Next Recession



Source: Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley & Co. Research as of October 11, 2022

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE TREASURERS

Audience Poll #2

**Has your plan made changes to its
fixed income allocation in the past
24 months?**

State 529 Plan Responses

Kentucky

Background

Kentucky's approach to providing education savers alternative to fixed income / equities during a down market cycle

- **History - KY's 529 program has offered conservative/ guarantee investment option approach since 2005. The 529 program has had both FDIC and insurance type funding agreements over the years**
- **In 2021, KY Saves team worked with Ascensus and Graystone to review different offerings for Board consideration**
- **FDIC vs. Funding Agreement approach**



FDIC Product

KY Saves leadership reviewed **Pro's** and **Con's** of the two different approaches

- **FDIC offering.... Pro's**
 1. Flexibility of rate changes (Going UP)
 2. Ease of exit of investment offering (Board)
 3. Security of FDIC insurance
- **FDIC offering.... Con's**
 1. Rate changes anytime (Going DOWN)
 2. Significant lower rate-of-return vs. funding agreement
 3. No rate “floor” (market rate)



Funding Agreement

- **Funding Agreement offering.... Pro's**
 1. Rate resets every six-months (Going UP)
 2. Higher rate of return with five-year agreement (250+ BPS vs. FDIC offering as of 10/1/2022)
 3. 1.00% investment rate “Floor”
 4. Credit rating of Insurance company (A+ / AA+)
- **Funding Agreement offering.... Con's**
 1. Rate resets every six-months (Going DOWN)
 2. Exit unwinding schedule (5 years at Board level)
 3. No FDIC guarantee

Kentucky 529 went with..... 5-Year funding agreement with a rate of 4.65% APY (Opened on October 10, 2022)



Illinois



Historical Fixed Income Structure

Age-Based Portfolios across Bright Start and Bright Directions

- 9 Age-Brackets per risk tolerance
 - Aggressive, Moderate, Conservative
- Fixed income allocation:
 - Increases by 10% as beneficiary enters subsequent age-bracket towards college enrollment
 - Becomes more conservative as beneficiary ages
 - Transition from Plus, HY, and Global strategies to Short-Term & Inflation-Protection strategies





Fixed Income Approach

- Active vs. Passive
- Analysis on efficiency of asset classes
- Considerations of fees and interest rate changes



Fixed Income Changes

- Increased exposure to higher yielding assets: income opportunities
 - Emerging market debt
 - High yield
 - Bank loans
- Taking control over long-term asset allocation
 - Flexibility with manager selection

Virginia



Fixed Income Options/Themes - Invest529 Program

- **Stand Alone Portfolio Options**

- FDIC-Insured Portfolio – mix of demand deposit omnibus account as well as certificate of deposits
- Stable Value Portfolio – crediting rate generated by wrapped high quality bond portfolio
- TIPS Portfolio – inflation indexed treasury bond option
- Total Bond Market Portfolio – tracks Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Index

- **Target Enrollment Funds**

- Glidepath containing EMD, High Yield, Core Fixed Income and Stable Value with emphasis on principal protection as matriculation approaches



Fixed Income Themes - Defined Benefit Program

- Re-aggregation of Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate
- Migration to Multi-Asset Credit Managers
- Private Debt





Q & A With the panel

**Please post your questions in the
“Questions” pane of the dashboard.**



Thank you!



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- Please contact the CSPN Member Engagement Committee via Chris Hunter:
Chris@statetreasurers.org



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Our view is that Adverse Active Alpha is a good starting point and should be used in conjunction with other information. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management's qualitative and quantitative investment

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The proprietary **Value Score** methodology considers an active investment strategies' value proposition relative to its costs. From a historical quantitative study of several quantitative markers, Value Score measures perceived forward-looking benefit and computes (1) "fair value" expense ratios for most traditional investment managers across 40 categories and (2) managers' perceived "excess value" by comparing the fair value expense ratios to actual expense ratios. Managers are then ranked within each category by their excess value to assign a Value Score. Our analysis suggests that greater levels of excess value have historically corresponded to attractive subsequent performance.

For more information on the ranking models, please see Adverse Active AlphaSM 2.0: Scoring Active Managers According to Potential Alpha and Value Score: Scoring Fee Efficiency by Comparing Managers' "Fair Value" and Actual Expense Ratios. The whitepapers are available from your Financial Advisor or Private Wealth Advisor. ADVERSE ACTIVE ALPHA is a registered service mark of Morgan Stanley and/or its affiliates. U.S. Pat. No. 8,756,098 applies to the Adverse Active Alpha system and/or methodology.

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- Investors may forfeit their stock voting rights
- Investment may be illiquid for several years
- Investments may be leveraged or contain derivatives
- Significant early redemption fees may apply
- Changes to the U.S. tax code, which could be retroactive (potentially disallowing the favorable tax treatment of exchange funds)
- Investment risk and potential loss of principal

KEY ASSET CLASS CONSIDERATIONS AND OTHER RISKS

Investing in the markets entails the risk of market volatility. The value of all types of investments, including stocks, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), closed-end funds, and unit investment trusts, may increase or decrease over varying time periods. To the extent the investments depicted herein represent **international securities**, you should be aware that there may be additional risks associated with international investing, including foreign economic, political, monetary and/or legal factors, changing currency exchange rates, foreign taxes, and differences in financial and accounting standards. These risks may be magnified in **emerging markets and frontier markets**. Some funds also invest in foreign securities, which may involve currency risk. There is no assurance that the fund will achieve its investment objective. **Small- and mid-capitalization companies** may lack the financial resources, product diversification and competitive strengths of larger companies. In addition, the securities of small- and mid-capitalization companies may not trade as readily as, and be subject to higher volatility than, those of larger, more established companies. The value of **fixed income securities** will fluctuate and, upon a sale, may be worth more or less than their original cost or maturity value. Bonds are subject to interest rate risk, call risk, reinvestment risk, liquidity risk, and credit risk of the issuer. **High yield bonds** are subject to additional risks such as increased risk of default and greater volatility because of the lower credit quality of the issues. In the case of **municipal bonds**, income is generally exempt from federal income taxes. Some income may be subject to state and local taxes and to the federal alternative minimum tax. Capital gains, if any, are subject to tax. **Treasury Inflation Protection Securities' (TIPS)** coupon payments and underlying principal are automatically increased to compensate for inflation by tracking the consumer price index (CPI). While the real rate of return is guaranteed, TIPS tend to offer a low return. Because the return of TIPS is linked to inflation, TIPS may significantly underperform versus conventional U.S.

Treasuries in times of low inflation. There is no guarantee that investors will receive par if TIPS are sold prior to maturity. The returns on a portfolio consisting primarily of **environmental, social, and governance-aware investments ("ESG")** may be lower or higher than a portfolio that is more diversified or where decisions are based solely on investment considerations. Because ESG criteria exclude some investments, investors may not be able to take advantage of the same opportunities or market trends as investors that do not use such criteria. The companies identified and investment examples are for illustrative purposes only and should not be deemed a recommendation to purchase, hold or sell any securities or investment products. They are intended to demonstrate the approaches taken by managers who focus on ESG criteria in their investment strategy. There can be no guarantee that a client's account will be managed as described herein. **Options** and margin trading involve substantial risk and are not appropriate for all investors. Besides the general investment risk of holding securities that may decline in value and the possible loss of principal invested, **closed-end funds** may have additional risks related to declining market prices relative to net asset values (NAVs), active manager underperformance and potential leverage. Closed-end funds, unlike open-end funds, are not continuously offered. There is a one-time public offering and once issued, shares of closed-end funds are sold in the open market through a stock exchange. Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount from their NAV which may increase investors' risk of loss. The risk of loss due to this discount may be greater for investors expecting to sell their shares in a relatively short period after completion of the public offering. This characteristic is a risk separate and distinct from the risk that a closed-end fund's net asset value may decrease as a result of investment activities. NAV is total assets less total liabilities divided by the number of shares outstanding. At the time an investor purchases or sells shares of a closed-end fund, shares may have a market price that is above or below NAV. Portfolios that invest a large percentage of assets in only one industry **sector** (or in only a few sectors) are more vulnerable to price fluctuation than those that diversify among a broad range of sectors.

Structured Investments are complex and not appropriate for all investors. An investment in Structures Investments involve risks. These risks can include but are not limited to: (1) Fluctuations in the price, level or yield of underlying instruments, interest rates, currency values and credit quality, (2) Substantial or total loss of principal, (3) Limits on participation in appreciation of underlying instrument, (4) Limited liquidity, (5) Issuer credit risk and (6) Conflicts of Interest. There is no assurance that a strategy of using structured product for wealth preservation, yield enhancement, and/or interest rate risk hedging will meet its objectives.

Alternative investments may be either traditional alternative investment vehicles, such as hedge funds, fund of hedge funds, private equity, private real estate and managed futures or, non-traditional products such as mutual funds and exchange-traded funds that also seek alternative-like exposure but have significant differences from traditional alternative investments. Alternative investments often are speculative and include a high degree of risk. Investors could lose all or a substantial amount of their investment. Alternative investments are appropriate only for eligible, long-term investors who are willing to forgo liquidity and put capital at risk for an indefinite period of time. They may be highly illiquid and can engage in leverage and other speculative practices that may increase the volatility and risk of loss. Alternative Investments typically have higher fees than traditional investments. Investors should carefully review and consider potential risks before investing. Certain of these risks may include but are not limited to: Loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, short-selling, or other speculative practices; Lack of liquidity in that there may be no secondary market for a fund; Volatility of returns; Restrictions on transferring interests in a fund; Potential lack of diversification and resulting higher risk due to concentration of trading authority when a single advisor is utilized; Absence of information regarding valuations and pricing; Complex tax structures and delays in tax reporting; Less regulation and higher fees than mutual funds; and Risks associated with the operations, personnel, and processes of the manager. Further, opinions regarding Alternative Investments expressed herein may differ from the opinions expressed by Morgan Stanley Wealth Management and/or other businesses/affiliates of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

Certain information contained herein may constitute forward-looking statements. Due to various risks and uncertainties, actual events, results or the performance of a fund may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated in such forward-looking statements. Clients should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund before investing.

Alternative investments involve complex tax structures, tax inefficient investing, and delays in distributing important tax information. Individual funds have specific risks related to their investment programs that will vary from fund to fund. Clients should consult their own tax and legal advisors as Morgan Stanley Wealth Management does not provide tax or legal advice.

Interests in alternative investment products are offered pursuant to the terms of the applicable offering memorandum, are distributed by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC and certain of its affiliates, and (1) are not FDIC-insured, (2) are not deposits or other obligations of Morgan Stanley or any of its affiliates, (3) are not guaranteed by Morgan Stanley and its affiliates, and (4) involve investment risks, including possible loss of principal. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC is a registered broker-dealer, not a bank.

A majority of Alternative Investment managers reviewed and selected by GIMA pay or cause to be paid an ongoing fee for distribution from their management fees to Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in connection with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management clients that purchase an interest in an Alternative Investment and in some instances pay these fees on the investments held by advisory clients. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management rebates such fees that are received and attributable to an Investment held by an advisory client and retains the fees paid in connection with investments held by brokerage clients. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management has a conflict of interest in offering alternative investments because Morgan Stanley Wealth Management or our affiliates, in most instances, earn more money in your account from your investments in alternative investments than from other investment options.

It should be noted that the majority of hedge fund indexes are comprised of hedge fund manager returns. This is in contrast to traditional indexes, which are comprised of individual securities in the various market segments they represent and offer complete transparency as to membership and construction methodology. As such, some believe that hedge fund index returns have certain biases that are not present in traditional indexes. Some of these biases inflate index performance, while others may skew performance negatively. However, many studies indicate that overall hedge fund index performance has been biased to the upside. Some studies suggest performance has been inflated by up to 260 basis points or more annually depending on the types of biases included and the time period studied. Although there are numerous potential biases that could affect hedge fund returns, we identify some of the more common ones throughout this paper.

Self-selection bias results when certain manager returns are not included in the index returns and may result in performance being skewed up or down. Because hedge funds are private placements, hedge fund managers are able to decide which fund returns they want to report and are able to opt out of reporting to the various databases. Certain hedge fund managers may choose only to report returns for funds with strong returns and opt out of reporting returns for weak performers. Other hedge funds that close may decide to stop reporting in order to retain secrecy, which may cause a downward bias in returns.

Survivorship bias results when certain constituents are removed from an index. This often results from the closure of funds due to poor performance, “blow ups,” or other such events. As such, this bias typically results in performance being skewed higher. As noted, hedge fund index performance biases can result in positive or negative skew. However, it would appear that the skew is more often positive. While it is difficult to quantify the effects precisely, investors should be aware that idiosyncratic factors may be giving hedge fund index returns an artificial “lift” or upwards bias.

Hedge Funds of Funds and many funds of funds are private investment vehicles restricted to certain qualified private and institutional investors. They are often speculative and include a high degree of risk. Investors can lose all or a substantial amount of their investment. They may be highly illiquid, can engage in leverage and other speculative practices that may increase volatility and the risk of loss, and may be subject to large investment minimums and initial lockups. They involve complex tax structures, tax-inefficient investing and delays in distributing important tax information. Categorically, hedge funds and funds of funds have higher fees and expenses than traditional investments, and such fees and expenses can lower the returns achieved by investors. Funds of funds have an additional layer of fees over and above hedge fund fees that will offset returns. An investment in an **exchange-traded fund** involves risks similar to those of investing in a broadly based portfolio of equity securities traded on an exchange in the relevant securities market, such as market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic and political developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in stock and bond prices. An investment in a **target date portfolio** is subject to the risks attendant to the underlying funds in which it invests, in these portfolios the funds are the Consulting Group Capital Market funds. A target date portfolio is geared to investors who will retire and/or require income at an approximate year. The portfolio is managed to meet the investor’s goals by the pre-established year or “target date.” A target date portfolio will transition its invested assets from a more aggressive portfolio to a more conservative portfolio as the target date draws closer. An investment in the target date portfolio is not guaranteed at any time, including, before or after the target date is reached. **Managed futures** investments are speculative, involve a high degree of risk, use significant leverage, are generally illiquid, have substantial charges, subject investors to conflicts of interest, and are appropriate only for the risk capital portion of an investor’s portfolio. Managed futures investments do not replace equities or bonds but rather may act as a complement in a well diversified portfolio. Managed Futures are complex and not appropriate for all investors.

Virtual Currency Products (Cryptocurrencies)

Buying, selling, and transacting in Bitcoin, Ethereum or other digital assets (“Digital Assets”), and related funds and products, is highly speculative and may result in a loss of the entire investment. Risks and considerations include but are not limited to:

- Digital Assets have only been in existence for a short period of time and historical trading prices for Digital Assets have been highly volatile. **The price of Digital Assets could decline rapidly, and investors could lose their entire investment.**

- Certain Digital Asset funds and products, allow investors to invest on a more frequent basis than investors may withdraw from the fund or product, and interests in such funds or products are generally not freely transferrable. This means that, particularly given the volatility of Digital Assets, an investor will have to bear any losses with respect to its investment for an extended period of time and will not be able to react to changes in the price of the Digital Asset once invested (for example, by seeking to withdraw) as quickly as when making the decision to invest. Such Digital Asset funds and products, are intended only for persons who are able to bear the economic risk of investment and who do not need liquidity with respect to their investments.

- Given the volatility in the price of Digital Assets, the net asset value of a fund or product that invests in such assets at the time an investor’s subscription for interests in the fund or product is accepted may be significantly below or above the net asset value of the product or fund at the time the investor submitted subscription materials.

-Certain Digital Assets are not intended to function as currencies but are intended to have other use cases. These other Digital Assets may be subject to some or all of the risks and considerations set forth herein, as well as additional risks applicable to such Digital Assets. Buyers, sellers and users of such Digital Assets should thoroughly familiarize themselves with such risks and considerations before transacting in such Digital Assets.

-The value of Digital Assets may be negatively impacted by future legal and regulatory developments, including but not limited to increased regulation of such Digital Assets. Any such developments may make such Digital Assets less valuable, impose additional burdens and expenses on a fund or product investing in such assets or impact the ability of such a fund or product to continue to operate, which may materially decrease the value of an investment therein.

-Due to the new and evolving nature of digital currencies and the absence of comprehensive guidance, many significant aspects of the tax treatment of Digital Assets are uncertain. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning the tax consequences to them of the purchase, ownership and disposition of Digital Assets, directly or indirectly through a fund or product, under U.S. federal income tax law, as well as the tax law of any relevant state, local or other jurisdiction.

-Over the past several years, certain Digital Asset exchanges have experienced failures or interruptions in service due to fraud, security breaches, operational problems or business failure. Such events in the future could impact any fund's or product's ability to transact in Digital Assets if the fund or product relies on an impacted exchange and may also materially decrease the price of Digital Assets, thereby impacting the value of your investment, regardless of whether the fund or product relies on such an impacted exchange.

-Although any Digital Asset product and its service providers have in place significant safeguards against loss, theft, destruction and inaccessibility, there is nonetheless a risk that some or all of a product's Digital Asset could be permanently lost, stolen, destroyed or inaccessible by virtue of, among other things, the loss or theft of the "private keys" necessary to access a product's Digital Asset.

-Investors in funds or products investing or transacting in Digital Assets may not benefit to the same extent (or at all) from "airdrops" with respect to, or "forks" in, a Digital Asset's blockchain, compared to investors who hold Digital Assets directly instead of through a fund or product. Additionally, a "fork" in the Digital Asset blockchain could materially decrease the price of such Digital Asset.

-Digital Assets are not legal tender, and are not backed by any government, corporation or other identified body, other than with respect to certain digital currencies that certain governments are or may be developing now or in the future. No law requires companies or individuals to accept digital currency as a form of payment (except, potentially, with respect to digital currencies developed by certain governments where such acceptance may be mandated). Instead, other than as described in the preceding sentences, Digital Asset products' use is limited to businesses and individuals that are willing to accept them. If no one were to accept digital currencies, virtual currency products would very likely become worthless.

-Platforms that buy and sell Digital Assets can be hacked, and some have failed. In addition, like the platforms themselves, digital wallets can be hacked, and are subject to theft and fraud. As a result, like other investors have, you can lose some or all of your holdings of Digital Assets.

-Unlike US banks and credit unions that provide certain guarantees of safety to depositors, there are no such safeguards provided to Digital Assets held in digital wallets by their providers or by regulators.

-Due to the anonymity Digital Assets offer, they have known use in illegal activity, including drug dealing, money laundering, human trafficking, sanction evasion and other forms of illegal commerce. Abuses could impact legitimate consumers and speculators; for instance, law enforcement agencies could shut down or restrict the use of platforms and exchanges, limiting or shutting off entirely the ability to use or trade Digital Asset products.

-Digital Assets may not have an established track record of credibility and trust. Further, any performance data relating to Digital Asset products may not be verifiable as pricing models are not uniform.

-Investors should be aware of the potentially increased risks of transacting in Digital Assets relating to the risks and considerations, including fraud, theft, and lack of legitimacy, and other aspects and qualities of Digital Assets, before transacting in such assets.

-The exchange rate of virtual currency products versus the USD historically has been very volatile and the exchange rate could drastically decline. For example, the exchange rate of certain Digital

Assets versus the USD has in the past dropped more than 50% in a single day. Other Digital Assets may be affected by such volatility as well.

-Digital Asset exchanges have limited operating and performance histories and are not regulated with the same controls or customer protections available to more traditional exchanges transacting equity, debt, and other assets and securities. There is no assurance that a person/exchange who currently accepts a Digital Asset as payment will continue to do so in the future.

-The regulatory framework of Digital Assets is evolving, and in some cases is uncertain, and Digital Assets themselves may not be governed and protected by applicable securities regulators and securities laws, including, but not limited to, Securities Investor Protection Corporation coverage, or other regulatory regimes.

-Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC or its affiliates (collectively, "Morgan Stanley") may currently, or in the future, offer or invest in Digital Asset products, services or platforms. The proprietary interests of Morgan Stanley may conflict with your interests.

-The foregoing list of considerations and risks are not and do not purport to be a complete enumeration or explanation of the risks involved in an investment in any product or fund investing or trading in Digital Assets.

Asset allocation and diversification do not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining financial markets. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Actual results may vary.

Rebalancing does not protect against a loss in declining financial markets. There may be a potential tax implication with a rebalancing strategy. Investors should consult with their tax advisor before implementing such a strategy.

Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot directly invest in them. They are not subject to expenses or fees and are often comprised of securities and other investment instruments the liquidity of which is not restricted. A particular investment product may consist of securities significantly different than those in any index referred to herein. Composite index results are shown for illustrative purposes only, generally do not represent the performance of a specific investment, may not, for a variety of reasons, be an appropriate comparison or benchmark for a particular investment and may not necessarily reflect the actual investment strategy or objective of a particular investment. Consequently, comparing an investment to a particular index may be of limited use.

To obtain **Tax-Management Services**, a client must complete the Tax-Management Form, and deliver the signed form to Morgan Stanley. For more information on Tax-Management Services,

including its features and limitations, please ask your Financial Advisor for the Tax Management Form. Review the form carefully with your tax advisor. Tax-Management Services: (a) apply only to equity investments in separate account sleeves of client accounts; (b) are not available for all accounts or clients; and (c) may adversely impact account performance. Tax-management services do not constitute tax advice or a complete tax-sensitive investment management program. There is no guarantee that tax-management services will produce the desired tax results.

When Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, its affiliates and Morgan Stanley Financial Advisors and Private Wealth Advisors (collectively, "Morgan Stanley") provide "investment advice" regarding a retirement or welfare benefit plan account, an individual retirement account or a Coverdell education savings account ("Retirement Account"), Morgan Stanley is a "fiduciary" as those terms are defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), and/or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), as applicable. When Morgan Stanley provides investment education, takes orders on an unsolicited basis or otherwise does not provide "investment advice", Morgan Stanley will not be considered a "fiduciary" under ERISA and/or the Code. For more information regarding Morgan Stanley's role with respect to a Retirement Account, please visit www.morganstanley.com/disclosures/dol. Tax laws are complex and subject to change. Morgan Stanley does not provide tax or legal advice. Individuals are encouraged to consult their tax and legal advisors (a) before establishing a Retirement Account, and (b) regarding any potential tax, ERISA and related consequences of any investments or other transactions made with respect to a Retirement Account. Individuals should consult their tax advisor for matters involving taxation and tax planning and their attorney for matters involving trust and estate planning, charitable giving, philanthropic planning and other legal matters.

Lifestyle Advisory Services: Products and services are provided by third party service providers, not Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC ("Morgan Stanley"). Morgan Stanley may not receive a referral fee or have any input concerning such products or services. There may be additional service providers for comparative purposes. Please perform a thorough due diligence and make your own independent decision.

This material is not a financial plan and does not create an investment advisory relationship between you and your Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor. We are not your fiduciary either under the

Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and any information in this report is not intended to be considered investment advice or a recommendation for either ERISA or Internal Revenue Code purposes and that (unless otherwise provided in a written agreement and/or as described at www.morganstanley.com/disclosures/dol) you remain solely responsible for your assets and all investment decisions with respect to your assets. Nevertheless, if Morgan Stanley or your Financial Advisor provides “investment advice,” as that term is defined under Section 3(21) of ERISA, to you with respect to certain retirement, welfare benefit, or education savings account assets for a fee or other compensation, Morgan Stanley and/or your Financial Advisor will be providing such advice in its capacity as a fiduciary under ERISA and/or the Code. Morgan Stanley will only prepare a financial plan at your specific request using Morgan Stanley approved financial planning software.

A LifeView Financial Goal Analysis (“Financial Goal Analysis”) or LifeView Financial Plan (“Financial Plan”) is based on the methodology, estimates, and assumptions, as described in your report, as well as personal data provided by you. It should be considered a working document that can assist you with your objectives. Morgan Stanley makes no guarantees as to future results or that an individual’s investment objectives will be achieved. The responsibility for implementing, monitoring and adjusting your Financial Goal Analysis or Financial Plan rests with you. After your Financial Advisor delivers your report to you, if you so desire, your Financial Advisor can help you implement any part that you choose; however, you are not obligated to work with your Financial Advisor or Morgan Stanley.

Important information about your relationship with your Financial Advisor and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC when using LifeView Goal Analysis or LifeView Advisor. When your Financial Advisor prepares and delivers a Financial Goal Analysis (i.e., when using LifeView Goal Analysis), they will be acting in a brokerage capacity. When your Financial Advisor prepares a Financial Plan (i.e., when using LifeView Advisor), they will be acting in an investment advisory capacity with respect to the delivery of your Financial Plan. This Investment Advisory relationship will begin with the delivery of the Financial Plan and ends thirty days later, during which time your Financial Advisor can review the Financial Plan with you. To understand the differences between brokerage and advisory relationships, you should consult your Financial Advisor, or review our “Understanding Your Brokerage and Investment Advisory Relationships,” brochure available at <https://www.morganstanley.com/wealth-relationshipwithms/pdfs/understandingyourrelationship.pdf>

We may act in the capacity of a broker or that of an advisor. As your broker, we are not your fiduciary and our interests may not always be identical to yours. Please consult with your Financial Advisor or Private Wealth Advisor to discuss our obligations to disclose to you any conflicts we may from time to time have and our duty to act in your best interest. We may be paid both by you and by others who compensate us based on what you buy. Our compensation, including that of your Financial Advisor or Private Wealth Advisor, may vary by product and over time.

Investment and services offered through Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, Member SIPC.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE (GIC) ASSET ALLOCATION MODELS: The Asset Allocation Models are created by Morgan Stanley Wealth Management’s GIC.

HYPOTHETICAL MODEL PERFORMANCE (GROSS): Hypothetical model performance results do not reflect the investment or performance of an actual portfolio following a GIC Strategy, but simply reflect actual historical performance of selected indices on a real-time basis over the specified period of time representing the GIC’s strategic and tactical allocations as of the date of this report. The past performance shown here is simulated performance based on benchmark indices, not investment results from an actual portfolio or actual trading. There can be large differences between hypothetical and actual performance results achieved by a particular asset allocation or trading strategy. Hypothetical performance results do not represent actual trading and are generally designed with the benefit of hindsight. Actual performance results of accounts vary due to, for example, market factors (such as liquidity) and client-specific factors (such as investment vehicle selection, timing of contributions and withdrawals, restrictions and rebalancing schedules). Clients would not necessarily have obtained the performance results shown here if they had invested in accordance with any GIC Asset Allocation Model for the periods indicated. Despite the limitations of hypothetical performance, these hypothetical performance results allow clients and Financial Advisors to obtain a sense of the risk/return trade-off of different asset allocation constructs. The hypothetical performance results in this report are calculated using the returns of benchmark indices for the asset classes, and not the returns of securities, fund or other investment products. Models may contain allocations to Hedge Funds, Private Equity and Private Real Estate. The benchmark indices for these asset classes are not issued on a daily basis. When calculating model performance on a day for which no benchmark index data is issued, we have assumed straight line growth between the index levels issued before and after that date.

FEES REDUCE THE PERFORMANCE OF ACTUAL ACCOUNTS: None of the fees or other expenses (e.g. commissions, mark-ups, mark-downs, fees) associated with actual trading or accounts are reflected in the GIC Asset Allocation Models. The GIC Asset Allocation Models and any model performance included in this presentation are intended as educational materials. Were a client to use these models in connection with investing, any investment decisions made would be subject to transaction and other costs which, when compounded over a period of years, would decrease returns. Information regarding Morgan Stanley’s standard advisory fees is available in the Form ADV Part 2, which is available at www.morganstanley.com/adv. The following hypothetical illustrates the compound effect fees have on investment returns: For example, if a portfolio’s annual rate of return is 15% for 5 years and the account pays 50 basis points in fees per annum, the gross cumulative five-year return would be 101.1% and the five-year return net of fees would be 96.8%. Fees and/or expenses would apply to clients who invest in investments in an account based on these asset

allocations, and would reduce clients' returns. The impact of fees and/or expenses can be material.

Variable annuities are long-term investments designed for retirement purposes and may be subject to market fluctuations, investment risk, and possible loss of principal. All guarantees, including optional benefits, are based on the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company and do not apply to the underlying investment options. Optional riders may not be able to be purchased in combination and are available at an additional cost. Some optional riders must be elected at time of purchase. Optional riders may be subject to specific limitations, restrictions, holding periods, costs, and expenses as specified by the insurance company in the annuity contract. If you are investing in a **variable annuity** through a tax-advantaged retirement plan such as an IRA, you will get no additional tax advantage from the variable annuity. Under these circumstances, you should only consider buying a variable annuity because of its other features, such as lifetime income payments and death benefits protection. Taxable distributions (and certain deemed distributions) are subject to ordinary income tax and, if taken prior to age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Early withdrawals will reduce the death benefit and cash surrender value.

Equity securities may fluctuate in response to news on companies, industries, market conditions and general economic environment. **Ultrashort-term fixed income** asset class is comprised of fixed income securities with high quality, very short maturities. They are therefore subject to the risks associated with debt securities such as credit and interest rate risk.

Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) are limited partnerships or limited liability companies that are taxed as partnerships and whose interests (limited partnership units or limited liability company units) are traded on securities exchanges like shares of common stock. Currently, most MLPs operate in the energy, natural resources or real estate sectors. Investments in MLP interests are subject to the risks generally applicable to companies in the energy and natural resources sectors, including commodity pricing risk, supply and demand risk, depletion risk and exploration risk. Individual MLPs are publicly traded partnerships that have unique risks related to their structure. These include, but are not limited to, their reliance on the capital markets to fund growth, adverse ruling on the current tax treatment of distributions (typically mostly tax deferred), and commodity volume risk. The potential tax benefits from investing in MLPs depend on their being treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes and, if the MLP is deemed to be a corporation, then its income would be subject to federal taxation at the entity level, reducing the amount of cash available for distribution to the fund which could result in a reduction of the fund's value. MLPs carry interest rate risk and may underperform in a rising interest rate environment. MLP funds accrue deferred income taxes for future tax liabilities associated with the portion of MLP distributions considered to be a tax-deferred return of capital and for any net operating gains as well as capital appreciation of its investments; this deferred tax liability is reflected in the daily NAV, and, as a result, the MLP fund's after-tax performance could differ significantly from the underlying assets even if the pre-tax performance is closely tracked.

Investing in commodities entails significant risks. Commodity prices may be affected by a variety of factors at any time, including but not limited to, (i) changes in supply and demand relationships, (ii) governmental programs and policies, (iii) national and international political and economic events, war and terrorist events, (iv) changes in interest and exchange rates, (v) trading activities in commodities and related contracts, (vi) pestilence, technological change and weather, and (vii) the price volatility of a commodity. In addition, the commodities markets are subject to temporary distortions or other disruptions due to various factors, including lack of liquidity, participation of speculators and government intervention. **Physical precious metals** are non-regulated products. Precious metals are speculative investments, which may experience short-term and long term price volatility. The value of precious metals investments may fluctuate and may appreciate or decline, depending on market conditions. Unlike bonds and stocks, precious metals do not make interest or dividend payments. Therefore, precious metals may not be appropriate for investors who require current income. Precious metals are commodities that should be safely stored, which may impose additional costs on the investor.

REITs investing risks are similar to those associated with direct investments in real estate: property value fluctuations, lack of liquidity, limited diversification and sensitivity to economic factors such as interest rate changes and market recessions. Risks of **private real estate** include: illiquidity; a long-term investment horizon with a limited or nonexistent secondary market; lack of transparency; volatility (risk of loss); and leverage. Principal is returned on a monthly basis over the life of a **mortgage-backed security**. Principal prepayment can significantly affect the monthly income stream and the maturity of any type of MBS, including standard MBS, CMOs and Lottery Bonds. **Asset-backed securities** generally decrease in value as a result of interest rate increases, but may benefit less than other fixed-income securities from declining interest rates, principally because of prepayments.

Yields are subject to change with economic conditions. Yield is only one factor that should be considered when making an investment decision. **Credit ratings** are subject to change. **Duration**, the most commonly used measure of bond risk, quantifies the effect of changes in interest rates on the price of a bond or bond portfolio. The longer the duration, the more sensitive the bond or portfolio would be to changes in interest rates. The majority of \$25 and \$1000 par **preferred securities** are "callable" meaning that the issuer may retire the securities at specific prices and dates prior to maturity. Interest/dividend payments on certain preferred issues may be deferred by the issuer for periods of up to 5 to 10 years, depending on the particular issue. The investor would still have income tax liability even though payments would not have been received. Price quoted is per \$25 or \$1,000 share, unless otherwise specified. Current yield is calculated by multiplying the coupon by par value divided by the market price. The initial interest rate on a **floating-rate security** may be lower than that of a fixed-rate security of the same maturity because investors expect to receive additional income due to future increases in the floating security's underlying reference rate. The reference rate could be an index or an interest rate. However, there can be no assurance that the reference rate will increase. Some floating-rate securities may be subject to call risk. The market value of **convertible bonds** and the underlying common stock(s) will fluctuate and after purchase may be worth more

or less than original cost. If sold prior to maturity, investors may receive more or less than their original purchase price or maturity value, depending on market conditions. Callable bonds may be redeemed by the issuer prior to maturity. Additional call features may exist that could affect yield. Some \$25 or \$1000 **par preferred securities** are QDI (Qualified Dividend Income) eligible. Information on QDI eligibility is obtained from third party sources. The dividend income on QDI eligible preferreds qualifies for a reduced tax rate. Many traditional 'dividend paying' perpetual preferred securities (traditional preferreds with no maturity date) are QDI eligible. In order to qualify for the preferential tax treatment all qualifying preferred securities must be held by investors for a minimum period – 91 days during a 180 day window period, beginning 90 days before the ex-dividend date. Companies paying **dividends** can reduce or cut payouts at any time.

Nondiversification: For a portfolio that holds a concentrated or limited number of securities, a decline in the value of these investments would cause the portfolio's overall value to decline to a greater degree than a less concentrated portfolio. The **indices selected by Morgan Stanley Wealth Management** to measure performance are representative of broad asset classes. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management retains the right to change representative indices at any time. Because of their narrow focus, **sector investments** tend to be more volatile than investments that diversify across many sectors and companies.

Growth investing does not guarantee a profit or eliminate risk. The stocks of these companies can have relatively high valuations. Because of these high valuations, an investment in a growth stock can be more risky than an investment in a company with more modest growth expectations. **Value investing** does not guarantee a profit or eliminate risk. Not all companies whose stocks are considered to be value stocks are able to turn their business around or successfully employ corrective strategies which would result in stock prices that do not rise as initially expected . Any type of **continuous or periodic investment plan** does not assure a profit and does not protect against loss in declining markets. Since such a plan involves continuous investment in securities regardless of fluctuating price levels of such securities, the investor should consider his financial ability to continue his purchases through periods of low price levels. This material is disseminated in the United States of America by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management is not acting as a municipal advisor to any municipal entity or obligated person within the meaning of Section 15B of the Securities Exchange Act (the "Municipal Advisor Rule") and the opinions or views contained herein are not intended to be , and do not constitute, advice within the meaning of the Municipal Advisor Rule. This material, or any portion thereof, may not be reprinted, sold or redistributed without the written consent of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC.

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