



REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISOR SINCE 1982

NEWSLETTER

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“I Just Called To Say ...”

By Trace Dixon

Nowadays, we cannot be too careful concerning bad actors, and, no, I'm not talking about avoiding movies with that one actor or actress who ruins every show they're in! I'm talking about Identity Theft, or in many cases in our field attempted Identity Theft. As Dwight Schrute says in the Office: “Identity Theft is not a joke! Millions of families suffer every year!”

When we encounter Identity Theft it often is a crime-in-process. A bad actor has gained control of your email account or phone and is messaging us in an attempt to give themselves access to your account information or in some cases, the money in your account. Bad actors come in all different shapes and sizes, sometimes they are based halfway around the world and barely speak English, sometimes they are people we know and thought we could trust.

It can be hard to keep personal information out of the hands of bad actors no matter how many good online security practices you follow. That is why we want to take a moment to reiterate what we do here

at Southern Capital to ensure only you can access information concerning your account, and only you have the ability to order money in or out of your account.

We take account security very seriously. That is why anytime you text or email questions to us about your account, we intentionally call to verbally confirm it is really you contacting us. Before any information, money, or reinvesting is done to your account, we must speak to you personally either over the phone or in person to verbally confirm that it is you making the request and not an imposter working to gain access to your personal assets.

This is a practice we have employed for many years now to great success; however, in the age of AI, we are having to take additional steps to ensure your identity. Personal information is always at the forefront of checking if it is you, as oftentimes bad actors are trying to gain access to that very information when they are attempting to contact us. We often chat with you about information we've dis-

cussed in past conversations. This serves two roles: it lets us know what's going on in your life, and it helps us know how best to advise you. Additionally, it tests how much a bad actor knows about you thus putting the pressure on them to stumble and slip up.

Remember this whenever you need to get in touch with us concerning your account. In order to access any account information, order out any money, or adjust your current allocation, we need to speak with you over the phone or in person as well as take the time to confirm that it is you making this request. While in some cases this process can feel more cumbersome and slow, our priority is your safety and the safety of your assets you've entrusted to us to manage. In a rapidly changing world, our priority remains the same: to strive to give all of our clients the freedom and peace of mind to pursue their passions to retirement and beyond. In this case, that involves giving you the peace of mind knowing you can count on us to keep your information and investments secure and safe.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Schwab 1099 Issue Dates

Welcome to Tax Season

Schwab mails 1099 forms in three waves based on the types of investments involved. This allows them to provide information to you as quickly as possible.

First wave – mailed by Early February*

Second wave – to be mailed in mid-February*

Third wave - to be mailed Late February*

*Dates subject to change

Upcoming Market Holidays

Our offices will be closed this year on the following dates:

Washington's Birthday:	Mon - Feb 17
Good Friday:	Fri - Apr 18
Memorial Day:	Mon - May 26
Juneteenth:	Thurs - Jun 19
Independence Day Eve:	Thurs - July 3 at Noon
Independence Day:	Fri - July 4
Labor Day:	Mon - Sept 1
Thanksgiving Day:	Thurs - Nov 27
Black Friday (Half Day):	Fri - Nov 28 at Noon
Christmas Eve (Half Day):	Wed - Dec 24 at Noon
Christmas Day:	Thurs - Dec 25

Other Financial Dates

Government Dates

Monday, March 31st: Last Day to sign up for Medicare Parts A and B for coverage beginning in July.

Tuesday, April 15th: Last day to file individual Tax Returns for 2024. If you have not filed by this day be sure to file an extension using an IRS Form 4868, however please know there may be penalties if you have any taxes due. Please consult your tax professional for all specific tax related questions.

Tuesday, April 15th: Last day to make 2024 IRA contributions.

June 30th: Final date to file a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Form for the 2025-2026 School year.

October 15th: Tax Deadline for all who filed an extension with the IRS.

November 1st: Opening Day of the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment for 2026 coverage.

December: Retiree's 73 and older, as well as inheritors or beneficiary IRA's need to have taken their 2025 RMD or have spoken with us about how you plan to take it. Remember, for security reasons we have to speak with you verbally in order to send this money out!

Financial Facts

- 2025 IRA and Roth Contribution limits are staying the same as last year: \$7,000 with a \$1,000 catch up contribution for individuals 50 or older.
- 401(k) and other work-based retirement plans contribution limits have gone up from last year's limits by \$500 to \$23,500. The IRS has also changed how catch up contributions work for these types of plans.
- Starting this year, from age 50-59, you can contribute an extra \$7,500, to your 401(k). Between the ages of 60-63, however, that catch-up contribution limit goes up to \$11,250, then back down to \$7,500 after age 64+. If you fall within that 4-year age window, you are eligible for an increase in how much additional money you can put away today in your 401(k) to fuel your retirement.

**Please remember to notify us if you have had any material changes
in your financial circumstances.**

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