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Weekly Market Update | December 5th, 2025

Maloney Team

As the year winds down and the holiday season approaches, it's the perfect time to pause and make sure your financial plans are aligned for success. Before diving into celebrations, here are three key areas to focus on: year-end tax strategies, estate planning, and setting meaningful goals for next year. These strategies can help you build on the gains you've seen this year and set the stage for an even stronger 2026.

Smart Year-End Tax Moves to Save You Money

Many people wait until spring to think about taxes, but some of the most impactful moves need to happen before December 31. Acting now can help reduce your tax bill and strengthen your financial position for the year ahead.

Here are three key steps to consider:

- Maximize Retirement Contributions
  For 2025, the 401(k) contribution limit is $23,500, plus a catch-up of $7,500 if you're 50 or older (up to $11,250 for ages 60–63). For IRAs, the limit is $7,000, plus $1,000 catch-up.
  If you can, make the most of these opportunities to boost your savings and lower taxable income.

- Take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)
  If you're 73 or older, you must take RMDs from pre-tax retirement accounts like 401(k)s, IRAs, and similar plans. The only exception: if you're still working, you don't need to from your current workplace plan.

- Use Remaining Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Funds
  FSA dollars typically expire at year-end. Use them for qualified medical expenses, which include doctor appointments, prescriptions, dental and vision care, and more. And don't forget to make your elections for next year.

Want more year-end tax tips?

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Is Your Estate Plan Still Working for You?

The chance to slow down and appreciate the time we get to spend with friends and family is a unique opportunity this time of year. It is also a great reminder to consider whether you have the proper planning in place. Take a moment to ensure your estate plan reflects your wishes and protects your loved ones. If it's been more than five years since your last review, now is the time.

Consider these steps:

- Make Sure the Basics are In Place
  At the very least make sure you have the necessary documents in place to make sure your estate doesn't become a burden for your beneficiaries. A **Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Directive**, and proper **Beneficiary Designations** are essential pieces to an effective estate plan. A **Trust** could also prove to be a useful tool for avoiding costly probate and effectively distributing your assets.

- **Review Key People**
  Now is a great time to review the people you elected to key roles in your estate plan. Beyond selecting beneficiaries of your assets. It is good to consider whether the individuals who will serve as executors, trustees, powers of attorney, or health care proxy are still the best suited for the job. If people named in your documents have relocated or may no longer seem up to the task, it could be time to make an update.

- **Considering Gifting Sooner Rather Than Later**
  In the spirit of gifting during the holiday season don't forget to take advantage of the annual gift exclusion of $19,000 per person. For example, contributing to a 529 college plan for children or grandchildren can both help ease the education burden for family members and reduce the size of your taxable estate. dollars typically expire at year-end. Use them for qualified medical expenses, which include doctor appointments, prescriptions, dental and vision care, and more. And don't forget to make your elections for next year. A well-structured estate plan ensures your legacy is secure and your loved ones are cared for.

- **Set Financial Goals That Stick in 2026**
  As you think about resolutions for the new year, don't forget your financial

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health. Whether it’s creating a budget, reducing costs for insurance policies, or planning that dream vacation, now is the perfect time to set priorities. Picking a goal is the first step, but making it happen takes support. That’s where an **accountability partner** can make all the difference. Consider letting us be that partner for your financial goals in 2026.We’ll help you create a personalized plan and guide you every step of the way.

These strategies can help you build on the gains you’ve seen this year and set the stage for an even stronger 2026. If you’d like to discuss any of these ideas, or start planning for next year, reach out to us today.

This information is not intended as a recommendation. The opinions are subject to change at any time and no forecasts can be guaranteed. Investment decisions should always be made based on an investor's specific circumstances. Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

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