

THE PRINCIPLE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026



Dear Friends,

Fall is officially here, bringing cooler weather, colorful leaves, and another busy election season. With the midterms approaching, we should expect a steady stream of campaign ads, headlines, and text messages in the weeks ahead!

Markets continue to move forward despite persistent uncertainty. September brought its share of seasonal volatility, while elevated Treasury yields, Fed policy, geopolitical tensions, and U.S.-China trade remain in the spotlight. These developments deserve attention, but we believe the longer-term backdrop remains constructive. The key is to look beyond the noise, focus on the fundamentals, and keep your long-term goals in view.

In this issue, we explore wealth planning for the modern family, key considerations when navigating Medicare, perspectives on the midterm elections, and potential opportunities for Roth conversions.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and all that this beautiful fall season has to offer.

Robert S. Paolucci, CFP®
Founder & CEO

Roth Conversions: Is Now the Right Time?

By Theresa V. Donatelli, Senior Wealth Advisor



Roth conversions have become an increasingly popular topic in retirement planning. But determining whether a conversion makes sense involves more than simply looking at your current tax bracket.

A thoughtful Roth conversion strategy can potentially benefit not only you, but your spouse and your heirs. Converting assets from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA generally means paying taxes today in exchange for the potential for future tax-free growth and tax-free qualified withdrawals, while reducing future required minimum distributions from the converted assets.

For a surviving spouse, a combination of taxable and tax-free accounts can provide greater flexibility when managing retirement income. For heirs, inherited Roth assets may offer meaningful tax advantages compared with traditional tax-deferred retirement accounts.



Of course, the decision requires careful consideration. Your current and anticipated future tax brackets, Medicare premiums, taxation of Social Security benefits, available cash to pay the conversion taxes, and estate planning goals can all influence the outcome.

Timing and strategy matter, too. Converting smaller amounts over several years may be more effective than completing one large conversion. And when market values decline, converting investments at lower valuations may allow you to move more shares into a Roth IRA for the same taxable amount, potentially enhancing the long-term benefit if those investments subsequently recover and grow.

For many families, the question is no longer simply, "Should I convert?" but rather, "How much should I convert, and when?"

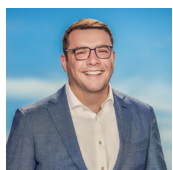
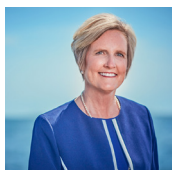
The answer should align with your broader retirement, tax, and legacy planning goals. If you haven't reviewed this strategy recently, a conversation now may help identify opportunities before year-end.

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Navigating Medicare

By Megan Maruzo, Senior Wealth Advisor
& Josh Ouellette, Wealth Advisor



Planning for healthcare costs in retirement is a must and is the second largest expense for most retirees. According to Fidelity's 2026 Retiree Health Care Cost Estimate, an average 65-year-old couple retiring today can expect to spend approximately \$371,000 on healthcare expenses throughout retirement, including Medicare premiums, prescription medications, and out-of-pocket medical costs.¹ Notably, this

estimate does not include long-term care expenses. Understanding it is critical and the system doesn't make it easy!

This year, Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15 through December 7. For those already receiving Medicare benefits, this is an opportunity to review current coverages, ensure continued access to preferred doctors and medications, and make any necessary changes to current plans.

Medicare Options: Which Is Right For You?

For most retirees, this means deciding between Original Medicare (A & B) or Medicare Advantage (C). While both provide coverage, there are important differences that you need to know.

The Different Parts Of Medicare

PART A: HOSPITAL INSURANCE

Covers inpatient hospital stays, skilled nursing facility care, hospice care, and certain home health care.

PART B: MEDICAL INSURANCE

Covers doctor visits, outpatient care, medical equipment, lab tests, and preventive services.

PART C: MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Offered by private insurance companies approved by Medicare as an alternative to Original Medicare (Parts A & B). It bundles Part A, Part B, and usually Part D into a single plan, and often includes extra benefits like dental, vision, and hearing.

PART D: PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Offered by private insurers to help cover the cost of prescription medications. It is available as a stand-alone plan or bundled into a Medicare Advantage plan.

ORIGINAL MEDICARE:

Combines Part A and Part B directly through the federal government.

MEDIGAP: MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE

Private supplemental policies that help pay for out-of-pocket costs (like deductibles and coinsurance) left over by Original Medicare.

Topic	Original Medicare (Parts A & B)	Medicare Advantage (Part C)
Doctor & Hospital Choice	Use any provider that takes Medicare in the U.S. Referrals usually not required.	May require using providers in the plan's network and referrals for specialists.
Out-Of-Pocket Costs	Part B has a 20% coinsurance of the Medicare approved amount after you meet your deductible (2027 = \$292). Part B has a monthly premium (2027 = \$209.50) which can increase based on a 2 year lookback at your tax return Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). No out-of-pocket limit unless you have supplemental coverage (i.e. Medigap).	Out-of-pocket costs vary by type of services. Part B premium is paid as well as any plan premium, which most times includes Part D. Yearly limit on what you pay for Medicare services.
Coverage	Original Medicare covers medically necessary services and supplies. Does not cover routine exams, eye exams, hearing, and most dental services. Part D Medicare Drug Coverage is purchased as a separate plan.	Same medically necessary services coverage and may include some vision, hearing, and dental services. Most plans include Part D.
Prior Authorization	In most cases, approval is not required for Original Medicare to cover services or supplies.	Prior authorization may be required for certain services or supplies.
Drug Coverage	A separate Part D plan can be added.	Most plans include Part D.
Outside the U.S.	Typically does not cover care outside the U.S.; some Medigap policies may provide limited emergency coverage.	Generally, does not cover care outside the U.S.; some plans may offer limited emergency/urgent coverage.

Understanding Medicare Costs

Once you understand your coverage options, it is equally important to understand what Medicare may cost. Premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket limits can change from year-to-year, making an annual review of your coverage an important part of retirement planning.

As we head into 2027, there are many changes that you should be aware of. The most consequential is the 14.3% increase in out-of-pocket maximum costs for Part D coverage. The new max jumps to \$2,400 in calendar year 2027!

Finally, Medicare costs are not the same for everyone. In addition to the standard premiums and deductibles, for example, 99% of Medicare beneficiaries do not pay for Medicare A coverage. They do however pay for parts B & D. The premiums for Part B & D vary, and are calculated based on your income from the prior 2 years. For example, the standard premium in 2027 for Part B is \$209.50. However, those with higher incomes may pay more. This is known as IRMAA, which stands for Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, and is illustrated below.

IRMAA Breakdown

Single Filer MAGI	Married Filing Jointly MAGI	Part B Monthly Premium	Part D Monthly Surcharge
\$109,000 or less	\$218,000 or less	\$202.90	\$0
\$109,001-\$137,000	\$218,001-\$274,000	\$284.10	+\$14.50
\$137,001-\$171,000	\$274,001-\$342,000	\$405.80	+\$37.50
\$171,001-\$205,000	\$342,001-\$410,000	\$527.50	+\$60.40
\$205,001-\$500,000	\$410,001-\$750,000	\$649.20	+\$83.30
Above \$500,000	Above \$750,000	\$689.90	+\$91.00

Putting It All Together

Medicare can feel complicated, so understanding the basics can go a long way toward making confident decisions about your healthcare in retirement. Your coverage needs, prescription drugs, preferred doctors, income and overall financial situation can all change over time, which is why Medicare shouldn't be viewed as a "set it and forget it" decision.

A little planning today can help avoid unexpected costs and ensure your Medicare coverage continues to fit into your broader retirement plan.

If you have questions about how Medicare costs or IRMAA fit into your financial plan, we're always here to help you navigate the numbers and plan ahead.



Midterm Elections: Perspective on Political Change and Market Volatility

By Kyle J. Farrell, Director | Investment Research



Midterm elections regularly reshape Washington. Political uncertainty and changes in congressional control are normal features of the midterm election cycle.

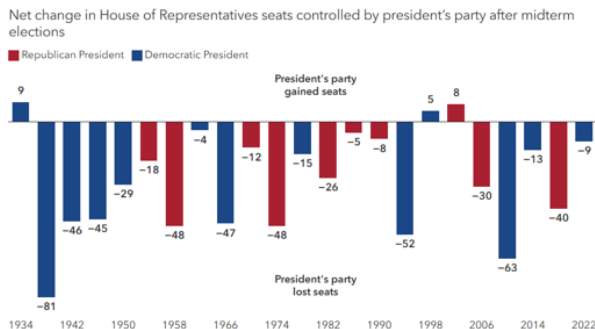
Shifting expectations for congressional control can contribute to volatility. Historically, equities have often performed well after midterms, regardless of which party prevails.

Control Shifts Are Normal

All 435 House seats are contested every two years. Midterms frequently serve as a referendum on the President, current direction of policy, and economy.

From 1934 through 2022, the president's party lost House seats in 20 of 23 midterms, averaging a net decline of approximately 27 seats across all 23 elections.

The incumbent has lost seats in all but three midterm elections



Source: Capital Group, UCSB: The American Presidency Project. As of January 15, 2026

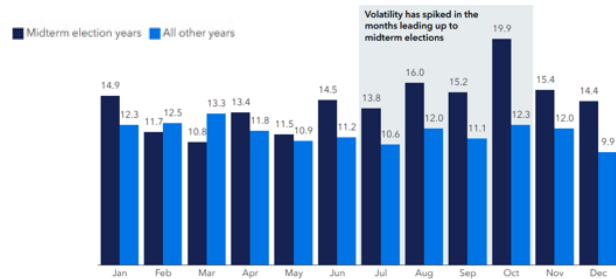
Changes in House control are a recurring possibility, particularly when congressional majorities are narrow.

Why Markets Can Get Choppy

Shifting polls and economic developments can change expectations for taxes, spending, regulation, and trade. The campaign cycle also wears on investors, as politicians air negative advertisements to win your vote. The accompanying chart shows that midterm years have historically experienced higher volatility in the months leading up to Election Day.

Once results are known, some policy uncertainty recedes, and investors refocus on long-term economic and corporate fundamentals.

Midterm election years have come with higher volatility



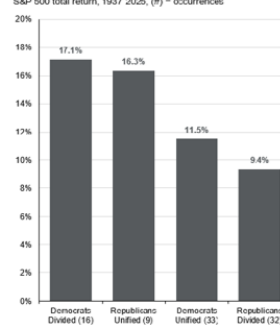
Sources: Capital Group, RIMES, S&P Global. Volatility is calculated using the standard deviation of daily returns for each individual month. The median volatility for each month is then displayed in the chart on an annualized basis. Standard deviation is a measure of how returns over time have varied from the average. A lower number signifies lower volatility. As of December 31, 2025.

Fidelity reports that, since 1938, the S&P 500 posted positive price returns in the 12 months following midterms 95% of the time, with an average gain of approximately 14%.

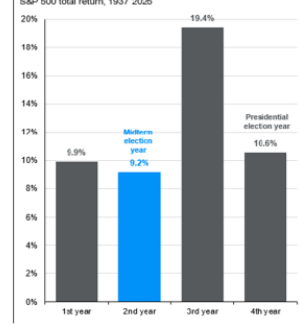
Divided Government and the Market

Midterms can lead to divided government, with opposing parties controlling the White House and at least one chamber of Congress. This can make sweeping legislation harder to enact, potentially limiting abrupt policy changes.

Annual stock market returns by political party control



Stock market returns by year in presidential term



Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management, Guide to the Markets, S&P Global, FactSet, as of 09/30/2026

Divided government doesn't get rid of uncertainty; however, it does give the markets more clarity. Investors know what to expect going forward - divided government stalls legislation and raises the probability that the status quo remains in place for another two years. In all types of government regimes, the markets look beyond party in charge and one election, shown in the left-side chart above.

Because election certainty brings long-term fundamentals back into focus, the third year of the presidential cycle tends to be the strongest year of the four-year cycle, historically, as shown in the above right-side chart.

Investment Takeaway

While election season can muddy the big picture, we remain focused on the fundamentals. From earnings to dividends, inflation to interest rates, the current backdrop remains supportive.

Wealth Planning Considerations for the Modern Family

By Cynthia J. Griffith, Director | Fiduciary Services



Families today are shaped by new and changing circumstances.

People are living longer, which means they may have more than one deep, meaningful, and committed relationship.

If a marriage ends in divorce, many couples end up re-married, often to people with children of their own.

More families than ever have multi-generational financial commitments (such as child-care, education and long-term care).

When some, or all these factors are considered, more traditional methods of wealth transfer may not adequately address a modern family's needs.

A Simple Beneficiary Designation May Not Do the Job

The most common story is still that “mom or dad got remarried and left everything to the new spouse.” This scenario can unfold because of misunderstandings regarding the rights of primary and contingent beneficiaries. When children are “contingent” beneficiaries, they stand behind the primary beneficiary, such as a new spouse or life partner. They only inherit if the primary beneficiary has predeceased the account owner. If the primary beneficiary is living, they have full control going forward. If the primary beneficiary fails to include non-biological children in his or her plans, (intentionally, or inadvertently, because inherited funds are simply “rolled over” into a preexisting account), the children of the original account owner previously listed as “contingent” beneficiaries, get nothing.

Joint Ownership Becomes More Complicated in a Second Marriage

Combining assets such as a home, or bank accounts, is a common default arrangement for married or committed life partners. But making things “ours” has more complicated financial consequences in a second marriage, particularly when someone has remarried after a death. Assets likely have been accumulated because of the combined efforts of the original couple. Adding a new partner or spouse to a deed can mean that the labor and savings of the deceased spouse has been re-directed to benefit a whole new family, again potentially leaving the children of the prior relationship feeling short-changed.

Planning for More Than One Generation Is Becoming More Common

The sharing of care-giving responsibilities has also made wealth transfer planning more complicated. More grandparents have a day-to-day role in childcare responsibilities. If this “free” resource were to disappear, could it be replaced?

Similar planning snafus can ensue when a grandparent moves in to an alternative dwelling unit (“ADU”) or a refurbished room or extension on a child's property. If a grandparent's funds are used for the remodel of property the grandparent does not own, those funds may be completely unprotected if the child needs to relocate, or is faced with divorce.



Seek Help and Plan

Each of these scenarios can be addressed with careful planning. More specifically, trust-based estate planning can accommodate the needs of more than one generation, more readily than “do it yourself” methods of estate planning. A trust can provide income for a new spouse or partner, while still providing much needed financial support for children of a prior marriage, or even children of both relationships. A trust can similarly be used to keep inherited assets separate from “marital property” that could be subject to division in a divorce. But every successful wealth transfer strategy depends on clear communication and transparency. Separation of assets and thoughtful planning does not signal a lack of commitment. It is simply an acknowledgement that money and family can be complicated. Modern families have modern complications.

Firm News & Announcements

Welcome to Our Newest Team Members!



Welcome Shane Considine!

We are excited to welcome Shane Considine to the Principle Wealth team as an Investment Analyst. With a bachelor's degree in finance and a minor in accounting, Shane brings a strong foundation in financial analysis and investment research. He is currently pursuing his MBA at Quinnipiac University, further expanding his knowledge of finance and business. Outside of the office, he enjoys golfing with friends and family and coaching a 14U youth hockey team in Wallingford.



Welcome Donny Frost!

We are thrilled to welcome Donny Frost to the Principle Wealth team as a Client Service Associate. Donny brings a strong background in relationship management and communication. His experience in fast-paced, client-facing environments has helped him develop a thoughtful, personable approach to building and maintaining relationships. Donny attended Providence College, where he served as class treasurer for four years and made history as the only men's swimming walk-on in the program's recent history, later becoming a team captain. Outside of the office, he enjoys spending time with friends and family, working out, watching football, playing board games, and trivia. Donny lives in Middletown with his family and enjoys exploring new restaurants and discovering new places along the Connecticut shoreline.

Community Outreach



17th Annual Beachcomber Night

On August 13, Principle Wealth was proud to sponsor and participate in the 17th Annual Beachcomber Night in downtown Madison. This year was especially exciting as it marked our first opportunity to welcome the community from our new home on Wall Street! Our team enjoyed connecting with familiar faces while introducing ourselves to new ones. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate alongside local businesses and neighbors. We are grateful to be part of such a vibrant community and thank everyone who stopped by to say hello! To learn more about the Annual Beachcomber Night, visit the Chamber at madisonct.com.



Swing FORE Summer Camp Golf Tournament

On September 21, members of the Principle Wealth team participated in the Swing FORE Summer Camp Golf Tournament in support of the Newport County YMCA. The event brought together golfers and community supporters to raise vital funds for youth programming and summer camp opportunities. These programs provide children with meaningful experiences that encourage personal growth, build confidence, and create lasting memories. We are proud to support the Newport County YMCA and its commitment to making enriching programs and activities accessible to local youth and families. To learn more about this organization, visit newportymca.org.

Congratulations!



ROBERT S. PAOLUCCI, CFP®
Founder & CEO

We are excited to share that for the third consecutive year, Robert S. Paolucci, CFP®, Founder & CEO of Principle Wealth, has been named to the Barron's Top 100 Independent Advisors list. Being recognized again in 2026 is a meaningful milestone and one that reflects Bob's longstanding commitment to our clients, as well as the hard work and dedication of the entire Principle Wealth team. We're proud to celebrate this recognition and, most importantly, grateful to our clients for the continued trust you place in us.



AWARDED
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ALISSA A. AMARA, CDMP
President & Chief Operating Officer

We are thrilled to announce the well-deserved promotion of Alissa Amara, CDMP, to President & Chief Operating Officer of Principle Wealth! Alissa has been instrumental in our firm's growth and success, demonstrating exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and a steadfast commitment to our clients and team. Her vision, expertise, and ability to lead with integrity have helped shape Principle Wealth into the firm it is today. This promotion is a testament to her tremendous impact and continued leadership. Congratulations, Alissa! We are incredibly grateful for all that you do and excited for what lies ahead!



ANDREW J. CIALEK, CFP®, ChFC®, CEPA®
Senior Wealth Advisor

We're proud to share that Andrew Cialek, CFP®, ChFC®, CEPA® has been named to the 2026 Forbes Best-in-State Next-Gen Wealth Advisors list, for the second year in a row! This recognition is a testament to Andrew's dedication, client-first approach, and exceptional commitment to delivering outstanding results. His professionalism, expertise, and genuine care for clients set a high standard for our entire team. Congratulations, Andrew! Your hard work and leadership inspire us all.



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2025 & 2026



RYAN FAMIGLIETTI, CFP®, CPWA®, MBA
Relationship Manager

We are proud to share that Ryan Famiglietti, CFP®, MBA, has earned the prestigious Certified Private Wealth Advisor® (CPWA®) designation. This advanced credential signifies specialized expertise in managing sophisticated wealth, minimizing tax liabilities, and structuring legacy planning for affluent families. This accomplishment marks another step forward in Ryan's dedication to providing elite financial guidance. Congratulations, Ryan!

A Look Back at Past Insights



October Market Update "Coming Into Focus"

In October, we bring the market picture into focus, looking beyond the headlines to see what the underlying data is really telling us. We cover stock market performance, earnings growth, interest rates, economic strength, and historical market trends. Plus, we discuss what these developments could mean for investors as we head into the final months of 2026.



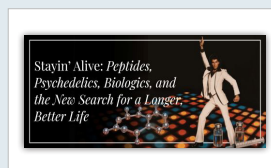
September Monthly Movements The Only Winning Move: Cybersecurity, AI, and the Future of Defense

As AI accelerates the speed and sophistication of cyber threats, the lines between cybersecurity, technology, and traditional defense are rapidly disappearing. In an increasingly digital battlefield, which technologies will become the most critical, and where could the next investment opportunities emerge?



September Market Update "Spin Cycle"

In September, we look past the spin cycle of swirling headlines and narratives to focus on what the data is really telling us. We cover market performance, interest rates and inflation, consumer strength, and the upcoming midterm elections. Plus, we discuss what it could all mean for markets heading into year-end.



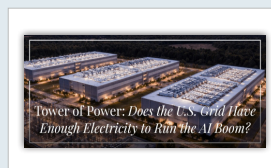
August Monthly Movements Stayin' Alive: Peptides, Psychedelics, Biologics, and the New Search for a Longer, Better Life

From peptides and biologics to telehealth and psychedelics, medicine is evolving beyond simply extending lifespan. This month, we explore the innovations reshaping healthcare and the growing pursuit of not just living longer, but living better.



August Market Update "A Sideways Summer"

A sideways summer doesn't mean there's nothing happening beneath the surface. From earnings and valuations to interest rates, inflation, AI spending, and rising market leverage, we break down the forces shaping today's market. As summer winds down, we look at where opportunities, and potential risks, may be emerging.



July Monthly Movements Tower of Power: Does the U.S. Grid Have Enough Electricity to Run the AI Boom?

AI may be driving the next technological revolution, but can the U.S. power grid keep up? We examine the growing energy demands behind the AI boom and the massive infrastructure buildup needed to power what comes next.



July Market Update "Half-Year Highs"

Markets are hitting "Half-Year Highs," with strong returns, expanding participation, and plenty to unpack beneath the surface. We look at what's driving the momentum, the growing influence of AI, inflation and the Fed, and why some speculative corners of the market deserve caution.



June Monthly Movements America's Exceptionalism, 250 Years and Counting

As America marks 250 years, what has fueled its extraordinary economic resilience, and what will it take to sustain that edge? This month, we look at the forces behind American exceptionalism, the challenges ahead, and the opportunities shaping the nation's next chapter.



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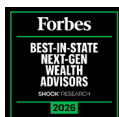
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Barron's Top 100 Independent Advisors - 2026. Source: Barron's "Top 100 Independent Advisors," September, 2026. Barron's "Top 100 Independent Advisors" bases its ratings on qualitative criteria provided by a 100+ question survey and verified through regulatory data, which provide a ranking framework. Advisors must pass a prequalification process that aims to determine experience and sophistication before verification of data with regulatory databases before an internal rankings formula is applied. This formula consists of 3 major categories with multiple subcategories within each. Also considered is a wide range of qualitative factors, including but not limited to experience, advanced degrees and industry designations, the size, shape and diversity of their teams, compliance records, and charitable and philanthropic work. Because individual client portfolio performance varies and is typically unaudited, this rating focuses on customer satisfaction and quality of advice. The rating may not be representative of any one client's experience because it reflects a sample of all of the experiences of the Financial Advisor's clients. The rating is not indicative of the Financial Advisor's past or future performance. Neither Principle Wealth Partners nor its Financial Advisors pay a fee to Barron's in exchange for the rating, however Principle Wealth Partners does pay to use the award ribbon for marketing materials. Principle Wealth Partners is not affiliated with Barron's or Dow Jones & Company, L.P. All of the information provided has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee its accuracy or completeness, and does not constitute a recommendation. Barron's is a registered trademark of Dow Jones & Company, L.P. All rights reserved.

Barron's Top 1500 - 2026. Source: Barron's "Top 1,500 Financial Advisors," March, 2026. Barron's "Top 1,500 Financial Advisors" bases its ratings on qualitative criteria provided by survey of more than 100 questions and verified through regulatory data, which provide a ranking framework. Additional criteria reviewed include experience, acceptable compliance records, formal succession plans, high client retention, advanced degrees and industry designations, the size and shape of their teams, and philanthropic work. Because individual client portfolio performance varies and is typically unaudited, this rating focuses on customer satisfaction and quality of advice. The rating may not be representative of any one client's experience because it reflects a sample of all of the experiences of the Financial Advisor's clients. The rating is not indicative of the Financial Advisor's past or future performance. Neither Principle Wealth Partners nor its Financial Advisors pay a fee to Barron's in exchange for the rating, however Principle Wealth Partners does pay to use the award ribbon for marketing materials. Principle Wealth Partners is not affiliated with Barron's or Dow Jones & Company, L.P. All of the information provided has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee its accuracy or completeness, and does not constitute a recommendation. Barron's is a registered trademark of Dow Jones & Company, L.P. All rights reserved.

Forbes Best in State Wealth Advisors - 2026. SHOOK® Research, LLC - April 2026 - Data as of 6/30/25. The 2026 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors rankings was developed in coordination with SHOOK research. This award is based on an algorithm of qualitative criterion for advisors who have a minimum of seven years of experience. This algorithm is qualitatively based, through due diligence reviews and quantitative data, factoring revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience, and the encompassment of standards of preferred best practices. Portfolio performance is not considered as a part of the criteria. Over 45,000 advisors were nominated and more than 23,000 were invited to complete a survey. The Advisor does not pay Forbes or Shook in exchange for either the nomination or recognition. However, the Advisor does pay a fee for any marketing materials used that include the award's ribbon. Principle Wealth Partners is not affiliated with Forbes or Shook Research, LLC. This ranking is not indicative of advisor's future performance, is not an endorsement, and may not be representative of individual clients' experience. The foregoing information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that it is accurate or complete, it is not a statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision, and it does not constitute a recommendation.

Forbes Best in State Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors - 2026. SHOOK® Research, LLC - August 2026 - America's Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors 2026 Best-In-State ranking was developed by SHOOK Research and is based on in-person, virtual and telephone due diligence meetings and a ranking algorithm that includes: a minimum of 4 years experience in the industry (at least 1 year at current firm), acceptable compliance records, assets under management, best practices, and a recommendation from their firm. Over 49,000 nominations were received, with over 28,000 advisors submitting an online survey to be included within the Forbes Best In State Next-Gen ranks. Neither SHOOK nor Forbes receive compensation in exchange for its placement or rankings and recognition. However, the Advisor does pay a fee for the usage of the award's ribbon in various allowed media and advertisements. Principle Wealth Partners is not affiliated with Forbes or Shook Research, LLC. This ranking is not indicative of advisor's future performance, is not an endorsement, and may not be representative of individual clients' experience. The foregoing information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that it is accurate or complete, it is not a statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision, and it does not constitute a recommendation. For more information, please see www.SHOOKResearch.com, SHOOK is a registered trademark of SHOOK Research, LLC.

Forbes 2025 Top RIA Firms - 2025. Source: SHOOK® Research, LLC - October 2025 - Data as of 12/31/24. America's Top Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) Firms ranking was developed by SHOOK Research and is based on in-person, virtual and telephone due diligence meetings and a ranking algorithm of qualitative criteria including: a measure of best practices, client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, and quantitative criteria such as revenue trends and assets under management. Investment performance is not a criterion because client objectives and risk tolerance vary, and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. Neither SHOOK nor Forbes receive compensation in exchange for its Registered Investment Advisor Firm placements or rankings, which are determined independently (see methodology above or at Forbes.com). Participation in this directory is limited to ranked firms; once placed on a ranking, firms may choose to pay fees to Forbes and Shook for premium listing features as indicated by highlighted names. Principle Wealth Partners has not paid SHOOK Research, LLC to be included on this list, however, Principle Wealth Partners has paid for the use of the award logo on various media. SHOOK's research and rankings provide opinions intended to help investors choose the right financial advisor or firm and are not indicative of future performance or representative of any one client's experience. Investors must carefully choose the right advisor or firm for their own situation and perform their own due diligence. Past performance is not an indication of future results. For more information, please see www.SHOOKResearch.com, SHOOK is a registered trademark of SHOOK Research, LLC. Principle Wealth Partners and SHOOK Research, LLC are not affiliated.

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FA Magazine America's Top RIAs - 2026. Source: FA Magazine, July 2026. FA Magazine's America's Top RIAs 2026 ranking is a ranking based on assets under management at year end of independent RIA firms that file their own ADV with the SEC. FAs RIA ranking orders firms from largest to smallest, based on AUM reported to us by firms that voluntarily complete and submit FAs survey by our deadline. FA Magazine does their best to verify AUM by reviewing publicly available ADV forms. To be eligible for the ranking, firms must be independent registered investment advisors and file their own ADV statement with the SEC and provide financial planning and related services to individual clients. Firms must have at least \$500 million in assets under management as of December 31, 2025, to be included in the print edition of Financial Advisor magazine's 2026 RIA ranking. No fee was paid by either Financial Advisor magazine or Principle Wealth Partners for inclusion on this list, however, a fee was paid for the use of the award logo in marketing materials. Principle Wealth Partners and Financial Advisor magazine are not affiliated.

Citywire - Fastest Growing RIAs - 2022. CityWire RIA, July 2022 Methodology: This report is based on the most recent Form ADV data reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission at the time of publication, as helpfully gathered by a data partner, Discovery Data. Only firms that manage more than \$100m were considered, and which aren't affiliated on a firm level with a broker-dealer or other institution (though a firm's employees may be dually registered). Since we wanted to make sure we were only considering financial planning-oriented RIAs and not money managers, we excluded firms that don't report having any financial planning clients. And, in the spirit of fostering apples-to-apples comparisons, we also generally excluded those where the bulk of assets were non-discretionary. We've also endeavored to remove RIAs whose assets under management aren't truly 'theirs', so we did our best to strike companies that are primarily back-end service providers, operating under brand names that are likely unknown to the retail clients being served. Then we looked at percentage growth in AUM and percentage growth in employees over the last three years, summed those numbers, and came up with our 'growth score.' If a firm grew AUM by \$100m over the past three years, it got a leg up in the rankings. From there it was simple to select the winner in each state, and then the runners-up if there were any. After doing all this, we reached out to some of the firms to learn more. The RIAs in this supplement did not ask to be here. There was no way to compensate to be considered or to be named. For that matter, they could not do anything to not be named. The mention of a RIA is not at all an endorsement of its services or its business.

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