

Great Expectations

Tulare County Deferred Compensation Plan Newsletter



Market Volatility - Time for a Portfolio Review?

It's only natural to be concerned with the economy today and how it affects your personal financial circumstances. Though retirement may be a far-away thought for many of us, the truth is that the volatility of the stock market today may challenge the decisions you've made on funding your retirement.

When markets are uncertain, it can be tempting to move all of your assets into less risky investments, or safer investments. Economic strains may even lead you to delay investing altogether.



Each asset class—cash equivalents, bonds and stocks—should play an important role in your investment strategy because each one has a different potential for gaining and losing value. A “risky” investment is simply an investment that is more volatile—one that can see large variances in returns, both positive and negative, from year to year. Because of this greater potential for risk, the investment has a greater potential for higher—and lower—returns.

Furthermore, this may be a good time to take an important step. Now, more than ever, may be the best time to truly evaluate your

investor type, review your portfolio and reset your investment strategy. One of the statements in the Investor Type Survey states: “If one of my investments dropped 20% in value over six months due to stock market fluctuations, I would hold on to that investment, expecting it to recover its value.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

We have seen a downturn in the financial markets, so we can accurately respond to that scenario. For the complete survey and instructions on how to set a retirement planning strategy, please visit your Plan's Web site.

History shows that investors who stick to a consistent, diversified¹ investment strategy for the long term (which is exactly what retirement planning is all about) tend to come out ahead. Despite short-term market crises, financial markets have historically recovered.

Use these uncertain times wisely: Find the bright side and evaluate your investment strategy.

¹Diversification of an investment portfolio does not assure a profit and does not protect against loss in declining markets.

Do you have questions about the stock market and how it affects you and your future?

Attend an upcoming educational seminar on “Making Sense of Market Volatility: Retirement Planning Strategies for the Everyday Investor.”

Dates, times and locations are available on page 2.

October 2008

Educational Seminars offered on “Making Sense of Market Volatility: Retirement Planning Strategies for the Everyday Investor”

Plan to attend one of the upcoming educational seminars on “Making Sense of Market Volatility: Retirement Planning Strategies for the Everyday Investor.”

If you are wondering what all the talk about the stock market really means and how it affects you, this seminar is meant to help answer some of those questions.

Some of the topics to be covered are: thinking/ planning for long term goals, managing risk, asset allocation, and dollar cost averaging.

Please join us to explore these topics and what they mean to you and your retirement accounts and plans.

The seminars will be held throughout the County at the following locations and dates:

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Government Plaza North Main Conference Rm.
5957 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Child Support Services Office, West Wing
8040 W. Doe Avenue, Visalia

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Conference Rm.
2800 Burrell, Visalia

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Professional Development Center (formerly WID)
4031 W. Noble Avenue, Visalia

Monday, November 3, 2008

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Government Plaza South, A & B Conference Rm.
1055 W. Henderson, Porterville

Monday, November 3, 2008

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Hillman Health Care Center, Tulare Specialty
Conference Rm.
1062 South K Street, Tulare

How do I make changes to my contribution amount?

Currently, when an employee wants to make a change to their contribution amount, they must complete a Salary Deferral Form, and then return the completed form to the County of Tulare’s Auditor/Controller.

We are pleased to announce, effective November 22, 2008, forms will no longer be required or accepted through the Auditor/ Controller’s office. Following the November 22 date, all changes to your contribution amount will be done directly with Great West Retirement Services.

You can make your changes on the Great West Retirement Services website at www.gwrs.com or through Customer Service by calling (800) 701-8255.

Making contribution amount changes directly through Great West Retirement Services will streamline the process, making it easier and more efficient for the employee, the County, and Great West.

Contact Information:

TC Deferred Compensation Plan
www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/auditor/defercomp/default.asp

If you are interested in finding out more about the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for Tulare County, please contact:

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This newsletter is a product of the Tulare County Deferred Compensation Subcommittee.