

The Mark/Berger Group



Wealth
Management

The Perfect Storm.

All four major asset classes will likely finish lower in 2018—the first time in a **quarter century**. Interest rates, both short-term and long-term, are up roughly 75 basis points. Stock market volatility is at a ten-year high. **Is your portfolio well-positioned?**

Stocks, bonds, commodities and real estate are simultaneously trending downward, leaving many investors seeking advice and shelter—but every cloud has a silver lining.

As we enter 2019, clearly there remain question marks around trade, which could lend itself to further market volatility. Our view is that economic growth will slow slightly, but a recession is not on the horizon as our key economic indicators continue to flash green. The Federal Reserve is likely to raise rates 25 basis points when they meet in mid-December, but in the New Year we think slower growth and continued low inflation will allow the Federal Reserve to pause after one or two more rate hikes. This should result in interest rates remaining well contained.

Opportunity amidst volatility?

At The Mark/Berger Group, we see opportunity on the short end of the yield curve as well as on the long end, making a barbell strategy a preferred approach. Higher rates offer attractive opportunities for cash management, such as short-term CDs and U.S. Treasuries, and there is additional opportunity in long-term high credit quality municipal bonds. Both of these strategies can provide additional income and stability.

High credit quality preferreds and dividend-paying equities provide an advantageous hedge against inflation with risk-adjusted upside potential. We believe the key to success in 2019 will be a well-balanced, diversified portfolio designed to minimize volatility and safely preserve capital.

We're here to help.

The Mark/Berger Group has over 25 years of experience and a proven track record navigating turbulent market conditions. We strongly urge investors to take a hard look at portfolio holdings in Q1, 2019 to ensure they are well-positioned to defend against the further instability expected.

Let us help position your portfolio for success in 2019.

Call The Mark/Berger Group at (212) 703-6033 to schedule an appointment.

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