JANUARY 2021

10 THINGS TO DO EVERY YEAR TO ENSURE FINANCIAL SUCCESS

1. **Update Your Personal Financial Statement.** Take stock of where you are every year. Make a list of your current assets and liabilities to calculate (or estimate) your net worth.

2. **Review Your Financial Plan.** Is last year's plan still appropriate? Advancing age, life events, or changing external circumstances may occasion a change in strategy.

3. **Review Your Retirement Plan.** Are your retirement plan contributions keeping you on track? Is it time to up them—perhaps even open a new IRA or 401k?

4. **Review Asset Allocations.** Have your asset allocations changed? If your stocks have gained value, for example, your portfolio may start the year stock-heavy. You might want to sell some stocks and reallocate those funds to bonds.

5. **Review Liabilities.** Check your debts and other liabilities and see if you have an avenue to retire any of them.

6. **Account For Inflation.** Remember, your money is worth less every year on account of inflation. Check what the dollar did last year and make sure to factor that into your assessment of your portfolio performance.

7. **Review Your Credit Reports.** Check all three credit reports—Experian, Equifax, TransUnion—every year to check for erroneous entries that might limit your creditworthiness.

8. **Review Monthly Automatic Payments.** You may still be making monthly payments on services or subscriptions you haven't used in years. Take the time to track down useless expenses and end them.

9. **Review Your Life Insurance Policies.** See if your term and whole life coverage still meets your needs or if more coverage is needed.

10. **Review Your Will or Trust.** It's never fun, but check in with your legacy planning every year to make sure it still reflects your values and wishes.