



MOULTON WEALTH MANAGEMENT INC. ***MOULTON HOT MINUTES***

SPECIALIZING IN RETIREMENT AND TAX PLANNING

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July 2025

Changing Gears: Why Your Retirement Plan Shouldn't Look Like Your First Job Strategy

Life doesn't stand still, and neither should your financial plan. Just as your life transitions from one phase to another—student, employee, parent, retiree—your strategy for managing money should evolve too.

Think of how many people downsize after retirement. They leave the house where they raised kids—not because they didn't love it, but because it no longer serves their needs. Maintenance is a hassle, and climbing stairs every day may no longer be ideal. That shift in thinking applies just as much to your financial plan.


Key Insight:

Just as you adjust your lifestyle in retirement, your money strategy should adjust too. What served you in your 30s might not be suited for your 60s and beyond.

Accumulation vs. Distribution: Two Very Different Worlds

During your working years, you're in the ****accumulation phase****. You earn money, save consistently, and invest for the long term. You can handle a few market dips because you're still contributing—and you have time to recover.


But retirement kicks off the ****distribution phase**** — a completely different mindset. Now, you're relying on your investments to fund your lifestyle. There's no paycheck to fall back on. You're drawing down, not building up.


 The stakes are higher now. A downturn early in retirement can do lasting damage, if you're forced to sell investments at unexpectedly large losses to cover expenses. This is known as **"sequence of returns risk"** — and it's one of the biggest threats facing retirees.


The Danger of Not Changing Course

We met a couple who had been with the same financial advisor for over three decades. The advisor told them to stick with the same plan, despite market volatility, and their new retirement needs.

That advice was built on outdated assumptions:

-  **"The market always comes back."** True—but how long will it take? Retirees can't afford to wait through a long recovery. The market may come back, but the years lost never do.

-  **"The market averages 10% a year."** That figure includes good years masking bad years and is therefore misleading in the real world.

-  **"Missing the best days hurts your return."** It's also true that avoiding the worst days matters just as much—especially when you're withdrawing income.

-X **"Don't sell and lock in losses."** Yet, in retirement, you may need to sell to meet daily expenses — losses or not.

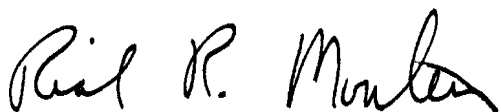
-🔒 **"Avoid taxes whenever possible."** While minimizing taxes is wise, avoiding risk is often more important when every dollar counts.

🛡️ **The Invest and Protect Strategy: A New Playbook for Retirees**

Traditional investment strategies assume time is on your side. In retirement, the focus shifts to preservation, income, and measured growth. That's where our ****Invest and Protect Strategy**** comes in. It's based on eight principles structured to better align with retirees' stage of life:

1. 🕒 **Your money should last as long as you do.** Longevity is increasing—you may need your portfolio to stretch 30+ years.
2. 📈 **Gains are important – but protection of principal is even more important.** Have a defensive plan in place before trouble hits.
3. 🛑 **The goal is unlimited upside, with tolerable downside.** Losses hurt more in retirement than gains help.
4. 🏠 **Better to have protection and not need it.** Insurance for your money is just as important as insurance for your house.

Yours truly,



Rial R. Moulton, CFP®, CPA / PFS, RFC
Certified Financial Planner™ professional

5. 📊 **Invest and Protect sometimes comes with opportunity cost.** In certain market conditions, you may not make as much.
6. 🎯 **Only take the risk you need.** You don't have to "beat the market" — you just have to meet your personal goals.
7. 📄 **Taxes on growth are a good problem.** It means you've made money — and you're better off than losing principal.
8. 🗺️ **Work with a retirement-focused advisor.** Generalists may not understand the nuances of retirement planning.

😞 **Ask Yourself:**

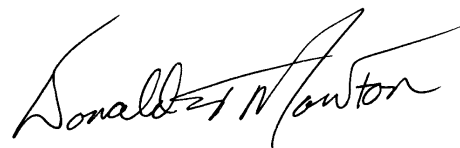
Where are you in the game? If you're in or near retirement, your playbook should change. Staying aggressive might feel familiar, but it may not be wise.

Retirement isn't the end of the financial journey—it's the start of a new chapter. With the right strategy, your savings can support the lifestyle you worked so hard to build — for as long as you and your spouse need it.

If you are retired or close to retirement...

What is your plan?

Attend one of our free seminars or call the office to hear about your options.



Donald J. Moulton, CFP®, RFC
Certified Financial Planner™ professional

P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please ask them to send an email with their information and permission to be added.

The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted index of 30 actively traded blue-chip stocks. The NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged, market-weighted index of all over-the-counter common stocks traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System. Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods. Opinions expressed are subject to change without notice and are not intended as investment advice or to predict future performance. Some or all of this letter may have been written with A.I. Investments in securities do not offer a fixed rate of return. Principal, yield and/or share price will fluctuate with changes in market conditions and, when sold or redeemed, you may receive more or less than originally invested. No system or financial planning strategy can guarantee future results. Consult your financial professional before making any investment decision. You cannot invest directly in an index

*Do you still invest the way you did when
you still had decades of work ahead?*

Should you?

Weekly Radio Show
Saturday Morning:

8:00 AM KXLY 920 AM
Spokane and Area

9:30 AM KFLD 870 AM
Tri-Cities and Area

Moultonwealth.com

SPOKANE

Hampton Inn—Valley
Breakfast
16148 E. Indiana St —Spokane
July 23rd @ 9:30 AM

TRI-CITIES

Hampton Inn
Breakfast
486 Bradley Blvd—Richland
July 30th @ 11:00 AM

- ◇ How employing and consistently following a defensive system could help you to a better retirement.
- ◇ The “Widow’s Tax” could be a major drain on the survivor’s spendable income!
- ◇ What happens when an economic downturn makes it difficult for companies to pay back their massive debt?
- ◇ Why Buy and Hold Investing was right for the 80’s and 90’s yet very wrong for today.
- ◇ Will inflation eat up your assets?
- ◇ How to potentially decrease taxes on your hard earned Social Security Income
- ◇ To Roth or not to Roth?

And so much more!

COMPLIMENTARY SEMINAR

For those 50 years old and older

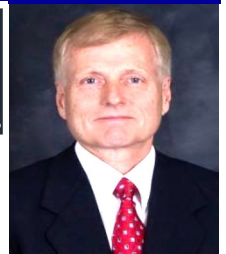


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Call to reserve a spot: 509-922-3110

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Lifestyle Changes.

***ACT YOUR
AGE!***

Spokane

**July 23rd
@
9:30 AM**

Details Inside

*No Cost
Seminars for
Retirees and
those close to
Retirement*

Richland

**July 30th
@
11:00 AM**

Details Inside