

DECODING TAX REFORM

Advising the Advisor

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STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

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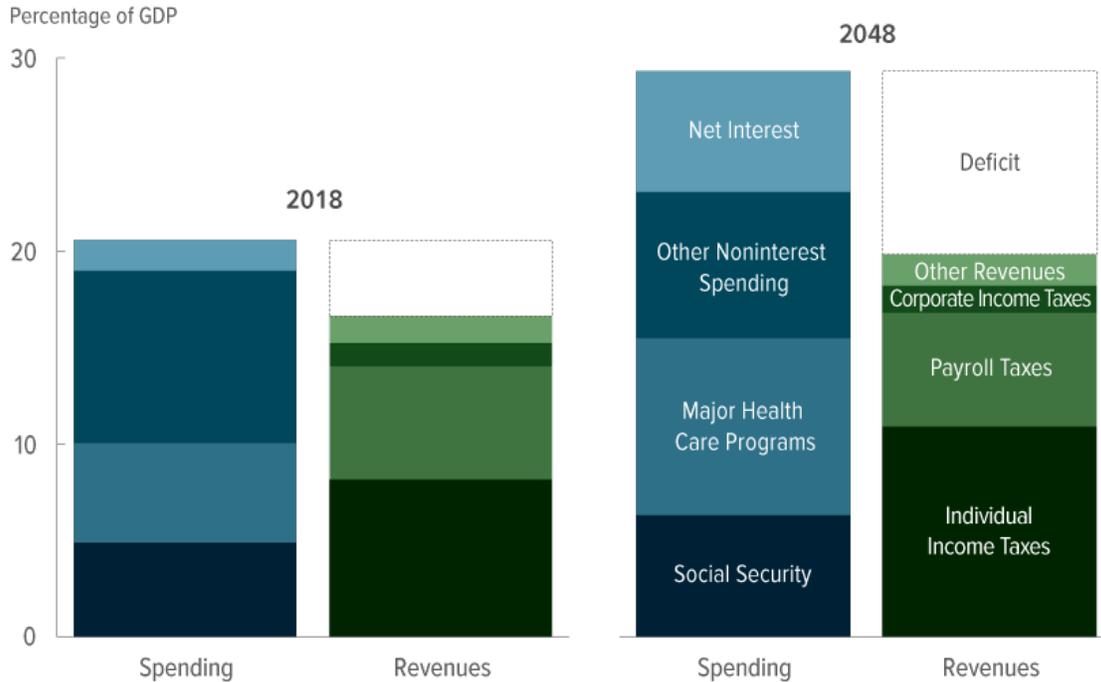
Improving Risk-Adjusted Portfolio Returns Using Life Insurance: A Framework for Life Insurance Professionals

Join us **Tuesday, July 10 at 2pm ET** as Chris Kaplan, Vice President of Specialty Markets & EPG Sales at AXA US, builds upon his Annual Meeting presentation. Chris will discuss using a quantitative framework to better position life insurance as an asset class, with practical applications for life insurance professionals. Chris will walk through how this quantitative framework is applicable in a direct client setting—helping clients understand the long-term value of life insurance as a non-correlated asset class, and its ability to lower the long-term risk of a multi-generational portfolio.

Register Here

Bottom Line, Up Front

The Federal Budget in CBO's Extended Baseline



The booming economy slowed slightly this week as a Commerce Department estimate put GDP growth at 2% for the first quarter. Both policymakers and business groups are concerned that President Trump's tariffs could bring wide-ranging negative effects. The [CBO's long-term budget outlook, released this week](#), projects the U.S. national debt will equal the size of the entire U.S. economy within a decade and reach 152% by 2048. Their projections are driven by the huge revenue demands for Social Security, Medicare and other mandatory federal spending, combined with insufficient revenue.

Charles Rettig, President Trump's nominee for IRS Commissioner, testified in front of the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday. Speaking about his priorities if confirmed during the confirmation hearing, he mentioned rebuilding the public's trust in the IRS, improving the IRS' customer service, and replacing outdated technology. He also said he would be "impartial and non-biased" when considering States' efforts to work around the new

\$10,000 cap on State and local tax deductions.

Politics

Results in this week's primaries are further evidence of the widening ideological divide in America. The lightning-bolt result was Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's defeat of ten-term incumbent Joe Crowley in New York's 14th Congressional District. Candidates endorsed by Trump also found success, as he helped Gov. Henry McMaster in South Carolina and Rep. Dan Donovan in New York, both of whom were fending off insurgent challenges. Republicans' desire to focus on tax cuts and the economy are finding it ineffective. As a senior research fellow at George Mason University put it, "it's hard to go out and talk about tax law changes when it's drowned out by trade, immigration, detainments, malfeasance, and potential abuses of power by officials." Democrats are having parallel trouble finding a unified message on the economy. Some progressive candidates have adopted the Bernie Sanders' playbook by campaigning on free college tuition, single-payer healthcare, and jobs guarantee programs, while Democrats in swing districts have put forward a more nuanced message centered around lack of real growth and a sharp rise in the cost of consumer goods.

- [The biggest night so far for progressives and other takeaways from Tuesday night's primaries \(CNN\)](#)
- [Tax-Cut Pitches Fall Flat as Voters Fixate on Immigration \(Think Advisor\)](#)
- [Democrats' Competing Midterm Messages on the Economy \(RealClear Politics\)](#)

Tax Cuts Follow Up

House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady talked this week about the next round of tax cuts envisioned by House Republicans. The House GOP's 2.0 product, Brady says could be undertaken as multiple bills, with a focus on making the individual provisions of TCJA permanent and retirement security. This effort comes as support for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has fallen lately. According to a POLITICO/Morning Consult poll, just 37% of registered voters said they supported the tax changes, down from 44% in April. Republican support also dropped 10% down to 70%. Republicans secured a long-promised result this week as they celebrated a postcard-sized copy of the new 1040 income tax form. While the size is as promised, it requires additional paperwork in order to take advantage of several popular deductions.

- [GOP chairman envisions tax reform 2.0 as a package of bills \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Poll: Support for GOP tax law erodes \(POLITICO\)](#)
- [New Tax Return Form Is Not Nearly as Simple as Donald Trump Claimed \(Newsweek\)](#)

Upcoming Events

- **Improving Risk-Adjusted portfolio Returns Using Life Insurance: A Framework for Life Insurance Professionals** | Feat. Chris Kaplan | Tuesday, July 10 at 2pm Eastern | [Register Here](#)



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