

Beyond the Index Card – Implementing the Advice of the Financial Experts

This week's AII **Weekly Digest** highlights these “must-read” AII articles:

The Individual Investor's Guide to Personal Tax Planning 2018



AII's annual tax and financial planning guide is designed to help you assess your current tax situation given the new tax law and plan for any changes that may improve your tax liability both this year and next.

Beyond the Index Card: Implementing the Advice of the Financial Experts

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Harold Pollack is the Helen Ross Professor at the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and co-author with Helaine Olen of “The Index Card: Why Personal Finance Doesn't Have to Be Complicated.” This article discusses his 4×6 index card, which lists all of the best free financial advice the average person would need.

Well-Built 529 Plans Can Be a Great Option for College Savings



A 529 savings plan, also called a qualified tuition program, allows you to build up savings to pay for qualified higher education at eligible institutions using tax-free dollars. They are funded with aftertax dollars, which then grow tax-free. Withdrawals for qualified education expenses are also tax-free. On top of that, some states offer tax deductions or credits for contributions.

Financial Planning: The Substance Beneath the Froth



Systematic personal financial planning involves considering one's financial situation from a lifetime perspective. An ideal plan involves developing a hierarchy of goals. Basic objectives are then secured before less urgent ones are addressed.

Our **Member Question** for this week is:

What is the leading cause of financial stress in your life?

[Vote Now »](#)

Vote to answer this week's Special Question: What steps do you take to reduce your financial stress?

Last Week's Results:

How many brokerage accounts do you have?

Two or three : 49% - Votes: 1208



One : 29% - Votes: 718



Four or five : 13% - Votes: 320



More than five : 6% - Votes: 158



I do not have a brokerage account : 2% - Votes: 60



Poll results are as of 9 a.m. (Central) on Monday. 2,515 respondents.

[AAII Survey: How Many Brokerage Accounts Do You Have and Why?](#)



If you want to buy and sell individual stocks and other investments, you pretty much need to have at least one brokerage account. However, one question many investors ask is whether they need or should have more than one brokerage account. We asked our readers how many brokerage accounts they have and why they have multiple accounts.

[Financial Planning Resources](#)



The Financial Planning section of AAIL.com focuses on the all-important element of personal finance. When most people think of financial planning, they automatically focus on retirement planning. While this is an important aspect of financial planning, it is not the only component. The “Financial Planning with AAIL” area includes two useful guides: Lifetime Investment Strategy and AAIL’s Tax Guide. These guides (benefits of AAIL membership) help you master the guidelines for long-term successful portfolio management as well as help you assess your current tax situation and plan for any changes. There is also a collection of must-read articles devoted to the topic of financial planning to assist you in achieving your financial goals.

The AAIL Weekly Digest is one of the many **benefits** of AAIL membership. To learn more, consider a **30-day Trial AAIL Membership** to start becoming an effective manager of

your own assets.