Investor Newsletter brought to you by My Portfolio Guide, LLC : Issue # 48 Spring 2026

the Guide

My Portfolio Guide
- Personal Wealth Management -

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

HOW TO PLAY AI SAFELY

Whether we like AI or not, it's here to stay and the demand for growth in this area is off the charts. What's a safer way to invest in this massive growth opportunity?

MARKET RECAP

How did the stock market do last quarter? Take a look at how different benchmarks and indexes did versus your own portfolio. What's on the horizon?

EDUCATION CORNER

Humans have short memories and they're also often selective. Refresh your memory bank with the what's and why's of the market over the past 15 years.

NEWS & NOTES CALENDAR

We're excited to welcome Aislinn Moore to My Portfolio Guide as our new Client Service Liaison. Learn more about her background, personality, and commitment to supporting clients and building lasting relationships.

Datacenter Debrief

In late March, My Portfolio Guide hosted clients and guests at Old Ranch Country Club for an educational dinner focused on one of the fastest-growing areas in today's economy: artificial intelligence infrastructure and data center real estate.

The event centered around a question many investors are asking today:

Where do you put your money in an environment where stocks can feel expensive and volatile, bonds are "safe" but offer limited real returns after inflation, and many areas of real estate continue facing pressure from elevated rates, insurance costs, and shifting demand trends?

One area gaining significant attention is the infrastructure powering AI, cloud computing, streaming, digital payments, and the rapidly expanding digital economy. Every ChatGPT prompt, online purchase, streamed video, and connected device relies on massive amounts of data processing and storage…all requiring data centers and mission-critical infrastructure behind the scenes.

During the presentation, we explored how growing AI adoption, limited supply, rising power constraints, and increasing demand for computing capacity are creating what some view as a long-term secular growth trend within digital infrastructure real estate.

We also highlighted an alternative investment opportunity focused on acquiring income-producing data centers and technology-related infrastructure assets across the United States. The investment is designed to target stable monthly income distributions of approximately 6.5% paid monthly, alongside the potential for longer-term capital appreciation through a projected "waterfall" or liquidity event over an estimated 3–5 year time horizon.

The evening generated thoughtful discussion surrounding diversification, alternative income sources, inflation hedging, and the evolving landscape of investing in a technology-driven economy.

As always, investments involving private real estate and alternative assets carry risks, including illiquidity and potential loss of principal, and may not be appropriate for all investors.

If you'd like to learn more, and are an accredited investor (earn $200k+ annually or have a liquid net worth of $1 million or more, excluding your home), reach out to us. You can email Aislinn Moore directly at admin@myportfolioguide.com.

	2026 YTD	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
20 / 80	-1.32%	5.71%	3.11%	6.17%	-15.51%	2.26%	6.29%	8.88%
40 / 60	-2.14%	8.38%	8.33%	10.83%	-16.51%	8.32%	8.13%	11.13%
50 / 50	-2.55%	9.71%	10.94%	13.16%	-17.01%	11.35%	9.02%	12.25%
60 / 40	-2.95%	11.05%	13.55%	15.50%	-17.51%	14.38%	9.90%	13.38%
70 / 30	-3.36%	12.38%	16.16%	17.83%	-18.01%	17.41%	10.76%	14.50%
80 / 20	-3.37%	13.72%	18.77%	20.17%	-18.50%	20.45%	11.60%	15.62%
S&P 500	-4.59%	16.38%	23.99%	24.83%	-19.50%	26.51%	15.26%	17.90%
Mid Cap	2.26%	5.89%	12.60%	15.82%	-14.93%	22.36%	11.39%	12.70%
Small Cap	3.12%	4.10%	7.03%	14.28%	-17.55%	23.89%	9.65%	12.50%
MSCI EAFE	-2.24%	17.65%	1.62%	14.81%	-24.41%	7.12%	15.88%	6.90%
Emerging	0.21%	21.99%	9.69%	6.27%	-20.85%	-3.15%	9.88%	4.30%
Bonds	-0.50%	3.04%	-2.12%	1.50%	-14.52%	-3.79%	4.59%	6.80%

MARKET RECAP

How did the "Market" do ???

Never rely on the media to tell you "how the market did". The answer is different for everyone because investors should be allocated specific to *their* goals and risk tolerance.

The above chart shows several (6) basic portfolio allocations with their corresponding performance over different time periods.

60 / 40, for example, represents 60% in the S&P 500 and 40% in the U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. Other major indexes are also posted (S&P 500, Mid, Small etc)

As we move further into the second quarter of 2026, the market landscape continues to be shaped by geopolitical tensions, elevated energy prices, and shifting expectations surrounding interest rates. After beginning the year with a sharp reversal from last year's strong bull market, investors have been reminded that periods of volatility are a normal part of investing. While headlines remain unsettling, the overall pullback during the first quarter was relatively orderly considering the magnitude of the global uncertainties. It could (and should have) been a lot worse!

The S&P 500 finished the first quarter down -4.6%, marking one of the weakest starts to a year since 2022. The Nasdaq Composite declined -5.98% as investors pulled back from some of the market's higher-valuation technology and AI-related growth stocks. Conflict in the Middle East contributed to a significant rise in energy prices, reigniting inflation concerns and reducing expectations for Federal Reserve rate cuts. As a result, energy, defense, and agriculture-related companies outperformed during the quarter, while sectors such as technology, consumer discretionary, and financials experienced greater weakness. Increased scrutiny surrounding massive AI-related capital expenditures also contributed to a broader pullback in software and momentum-driven stocks.

Looking ahead, valuations across several areas of the market appear more attractive after the quarter's reset. Small and Mid-cap equities may be positioned to benefit if economic conditions stabilize, while select international and emerging markets continue to trade at more reasonable valuations relative to many U.S. equities. At the same time, following strong moves in portions of both the domestic and overseas markets, we are beginning to selectively "tap the brakes" in areas where investor enthusiasm and valuations may have us over our skis a bit.

Gold experienced some volatility during the quarter but continues to serve as an important hedge against market uncertainty and geopolitical risk. Its resilience reinforces the importance of maintaining diversified portfolios during periods of elevated uncertainty. While volatility may persist in the near term, we remain cautiously constructive overall. The first quarter reinforced a familiar theme: markets are rarely rewarded for chasing what has already worked, particularly after strong prior-year gains. Our positioning, most notably our meaningful allocation to commodities and a sustained overweight to Small and Mid-cap equities relative to large-cap benchmarks…has continued to provide valuable diversification and has helped differentiate outcomes versus broader market indices during this period of leadership rotation.

As we move forward, we remain focused on areas where valuation and cycle dynamics are more supportive, while being willing to reduce exposure where optimism and pricing appear to be running ahead of fundamentals.

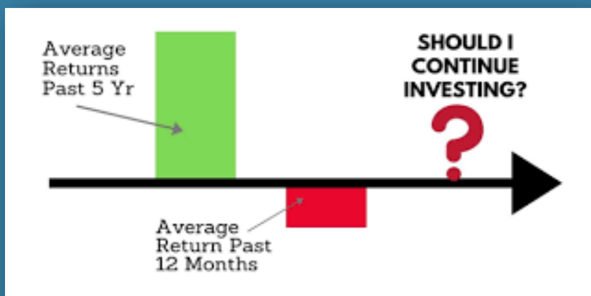
In the meantime… **"Stay disciplined to stay positive" -MPG**

EDUCATION CORNER

Recency Bias…as Always!

"The biggest mistake investors make is to believe that what happened in the recent past is likely to persist."

-Ray Dalio



Humans Have Short Memories

One of the phrases we repeat most often is simple:

"Humans have short memories."

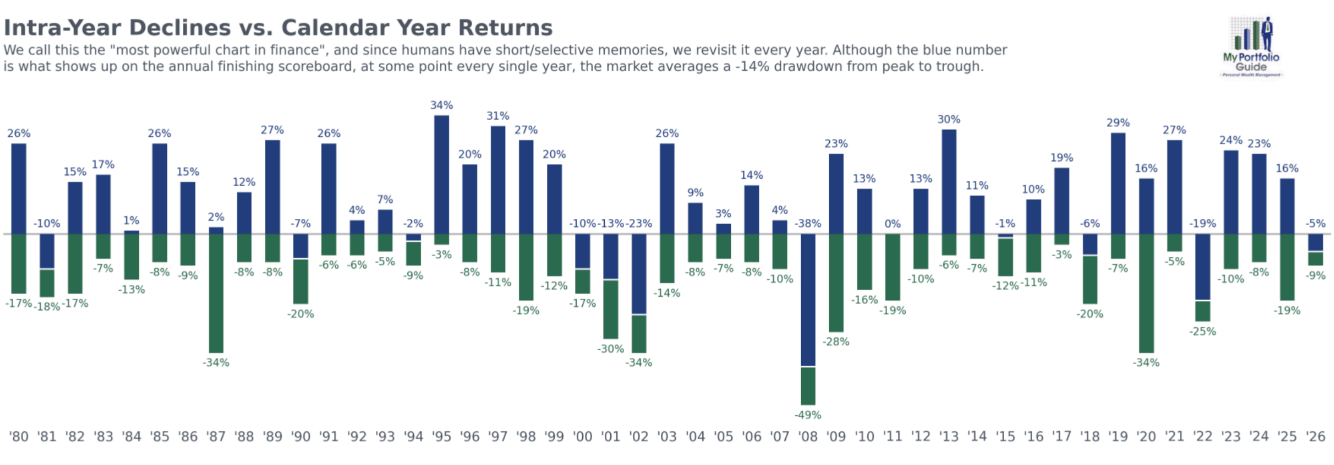
In investing, that tendency can be costly.

Every market decline feels different while it's happening. Headlines convince investors that "this time is different." Fear rises. Confidence falls. Investors begin to believe the recent past will continue indefinitely.

But history tells a very different story. We've shown the chart below to clients and readers many many times before. We call it the "Most Powerful Chart in Investing" and it shows that the S&P 500 experiences an average intra-year decline of roughly **-14%** **every single year**, even in years that ultimately finish positive. Volatility is not the exception…it is the price of admission.

That matters because investors often remember the pain of temporary declines while forgetting what happened afterward. When we show this to some clients during up markets they nod their head politely ("I know I know") but during turbulent times the brain shuts off and tells us "this time it's different". It's NOT.

For those of us with short memories, we decided to put recent history into perspective, so here's a brief look back at the last 15 years in the S&P 500…the returns, the headlines, the fears, and



the drawdowns investors experienced along the way.

And here's the remarkable part:

Despite recessions, pandemics, inflation spikes, wars, banking crises, political uncertainty, and multiple bear markets, the market has NEVER had a negative 15-year rolling return period in modern history. Not after the dot-com crash. Not after the Global Financial Crisis. Not even during the Great Depression.

That doesn't mean markets move in straight lines. They absolutely do not.
It means patience has historically been rewarded.

2011 | U.S. Debt Downgrade & European Debt Crisis

S&P 500 Return: +0%
Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately -19%
The year was dominated by fears surrounding European sovereign debt, a downgrade of U.S. debt by Standard & Poor's, and concerns of a double-dip recession. Volatility surged and investor sentiment turned sharply negative during the summer.
Yet despite nearly entering bear market territory, the S&P 500 still finished the year positive.

2012 | Recovery Continues

S&P 500 Return: +13%
Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately -10%
The U.S. economy continued healing from the financial crisis. The Federal Reserve remained highly accommodative, while concerns over the "fiscal cliff" created volatility late in the year.
Investors who stayed disciplined were rewarded with strong gains.

2013 | The Fed "Taper Tantrum"

S&P 500 Return: +30%
Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately -6%
Despite fears that the Federal Reserve would reduce stimulus measures, stocks surged higher. Corporate earnings improved, confidence returned, and investors who had remained cautious after 2008 largely missed a powerful rally.
This became one of the strongest years of the decade.

2014 | Geopolitical Fears Return

S&P 500 Return: +11%
Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately -7%
Concerns included slowing global growth, conflict involving Russia and Ukraine, and worries over falling oil prices.
Markets experienced volatility during the year, but fundamentals remained resilient and the market finished with another double-digit gain.

2015 | China Slowdown & Energy Collapse

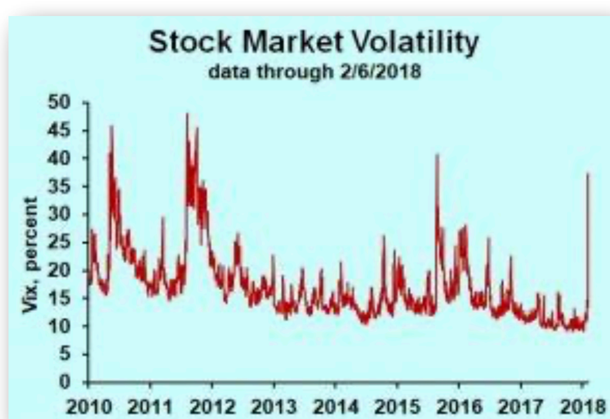
S&P 500 Return: -1%
Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately -12%
China's currency devaluation and collapsing oil prices created fears of a global slowdown. Investors worried that the long bull market was finally ending.
Instead, the market endured a correction but ultimately remained positive.

2016 | Brexit & U.S. Election Volatility

S&P 500 Return: +10%
Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately -11%
The Brexit vote shocked global markets, and uncertainty surrounding the U.S. presidential election created sharp swings.
Markets initially sold off on both events before quickly recovering.

2017 | Calm Markets & Strong Growth

S&P 500 Return: +19%
Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately -3%
Economic growth accelerated, corporate earnings improved, and volatility remained unusually low. Ironically, years like this can sometimes create the most dangerous investor behavior…complacency.



2018 | Trade Wars & Federal Reserve Tightening

S&P 500 Return: **-6%**

Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately **-20%**

Markets struggled with rising interest rates, escalating U.S.-China trade tensions, and fears that the Federal Reserve would tighten policy too aggressively. By Christmas Eve, investors were deeply pessimistic. The following year, markets rebounded sharply.

2019 | Recovery & Federal Reserve Pivot

S&P 500 Return: **+29%**

Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately **-7%**

The Federal Reserve reversed course and began cutting rates. Trade tensions eased somewhat, recession fears faded, and stocks staged a major recovery from the prior year's decline. This was another reminder that markets often recover long before headlines improve.

2020 | The Pandemic Crash

S&P 500 Return: **+16%**

Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately **-34%**

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered one of the fastest bear markets in history. Economies shut down. Unemployment surged. Fear was everywhere.

Many investors believed the financial system itself was at risk.

Yet after massive policy responses from the Federal Reserve and Congress, markets recovered with stunning speed and finished the year strongly positive.

Few investors would have predicted that outcome in March of 2020.

2021 | Reopening Boom

S&P 500 Return: **+27%**

Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately **-5%**

Vaccines, economic reopening, fiscal stimulus, and strong corporate earnings fueled another major year for stocks.

At the same time, inflation pressures were quietly building beneath the surface.

2022 | Inflation & The Bear Market

S&P 500 Return: **-19%**

Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately **-25%**

Inflation surged to levels not seen in decades. The Federal Reserve aggressively raised interest rates, bonds experienced historic declines, and both stocks and fixed income struggled simultaneously.

Investor sentiment reached extreme pessimism.

Once again, many believed "this time is different."

2023 | AI Enthusiasm & Market Recovery

S&P 500 Return: **+24%**

Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately **-10%**

Despite widespread recession predictions entering the year, the economy remained resilient. Excitement surrounding artificial intelligence and improving inflation data helped fuel a strong rebound.

Investors who exited markets in 2022 often missed the recovery.

2024 | Broadening Market Leadership

S&P 500 Return: **+25.0%**

Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately **-10%**

Markets continued advancing as inflation moderated and earnings remained solid. Leadership broadened beyond just a handful of mega-cap technology stocks.

Even after multiple years of gains, many investors still remained skeptical due to memories of the prior bear market.

2025 | Volatility Returns Again

S&P 500 Return: **+16%**

Intra-Year Drawdown: Approximately **-19%**

Even after years of strong performance, markets continued experiencing pullbacks tied to interest rate expectations, valuation concerns, geopolitical uncertainty, and economic slowdown fears.

And yet the pattern remained the same:

Temporary declines. Permanent headlines.

Eventual recovery.

The greatest risk for long-term investors has often not been volatility itself… it has been abandoning the plan during volatility.

News & Notes:

Meet Aislinn Moore!

We're very excited to introduce our newest team member and Client Service Liaison, so what better way than a personal note from Aislinn Moore herself!

Hello! In the case I haven't had the opportunity to introduce myself via email, in person, at Old Ranch, or the office, I wanted to introduce myself to you all! My name is Aislinn Moore, I am super excited to be joining Matt at My Portfolio Guide as a Client Service Liaison. Whether you are wanting to update your account, open a new account, move money, or require any general support, I am here to assist you. As I begin my time with the firm, I'm truly looking forward to connecting with you all and building strong relationships in the months ahead.

A bit about me, I was raised in Elk Grove, CA before relocating to Long Beach to attend California State University, Long Beach. There, I earned my bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2023 and completed my master's in Marketing Analytics in 2025. I'm enthusiastic about applying my education and skills to better support both our clients and our team.

I grew up playing soccer for many years and continue to enjoy following the sport whenever I can. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time outdoors, doing arts and crafts, shopping, and exploring local spots.

Fun fact: as a child had a pet chicken named Spaghetti and a goat named Chuck Norris, which probably explains my appreciation for a little personality in everyday life! I genuinely value building meaningful connections and look forward to getting to know you.

I'm here to make your experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible. Whether it's answering questions, guiding you through processes, or just sharing a local recommendation, please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to working with you and helping you achieve your goals. -*Aislinn Moore*

"Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care."
-Theodore Roosevelt

CALENDAR:

June 2026

6/15/26 - 6/16/26

Alternatives Academy

The Embarcadero

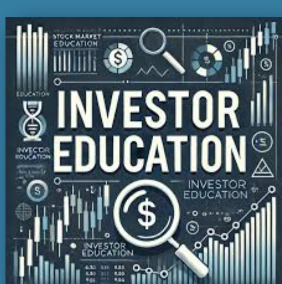
San Francisco, CA

6/25/26 at 3pm PST

Emerging Investor Series

Session #1

Zoom - Nationwide



RSVP (562) 799-5595

This June we will be traveling to San Francisco to attend BlackRock's Alternatives Academy, an educational conference focused on the evolving role of alternative investments in today's rapidly changing market environment.

The event will feature discussions surrounding artificial intelligence, private credit, infrastructure, private equity, real estate, and the growing need for portfolio diversification beyond traditional stocks and bonds. With elevated interest rates, persistent inflation concerns, and shifting economic conditions continuing to challenge investors, alternative investments are becoming an increasingly important part of portfolio construction and risk management conversations.

At My Portfolio Guide, we strongly believe in continually "sharpening the saw" through ongoing education, research, and collaboration with industry leaders. Conferences like this provide valuable insight into emerging trends, evolving market risks, and new investment opportunities that may help us better serve clients in an increasingly complex financial landscape.

Jason Clardy, Financial Advisor at My Portfolio Guide, will be leading our new ***Emerging Investor Education Series*** beginning June 25, 2026 at 3:00 PM PST via Zoom and available nationwide.
This three-part educational series is designed for early-career professionals, new investors, and next-generation family members looking to build confidence and clarity around personal finance and investing.

Session 1, ***Financial Foundation***, focuses on the building blocks of long-term financial success before diving into investment strategies. Participants will explore the "Three Jobs of Money"... spending, saving, and investing, and how each plays a role in building financial stability and long-term growth.

Topics will include financial habits, goal setting, emergency savings, intentional spending, and understanding how investing fits into a broader financial plan.
No prior financial knowledge is required. The session is designed to be approachable, practical, and discussion-oriented with time for questions and reflection.
To RSVP or learn more, please contact our office and we can send you a calendar invite and Zoom link.

As always, if you're interested in connecting on anything else, please contact us directly on our office line at (562)799-5595

My Portfolio Guide