

# Estate Planning Strategy



# Estate Planning Strategies

Does my current estate plan reflect my desired intentions during and after my lifetime?

Does my estate plan reflect my current wealth level and consider recent tax law changes that may affect the way I protect and transfer assets?

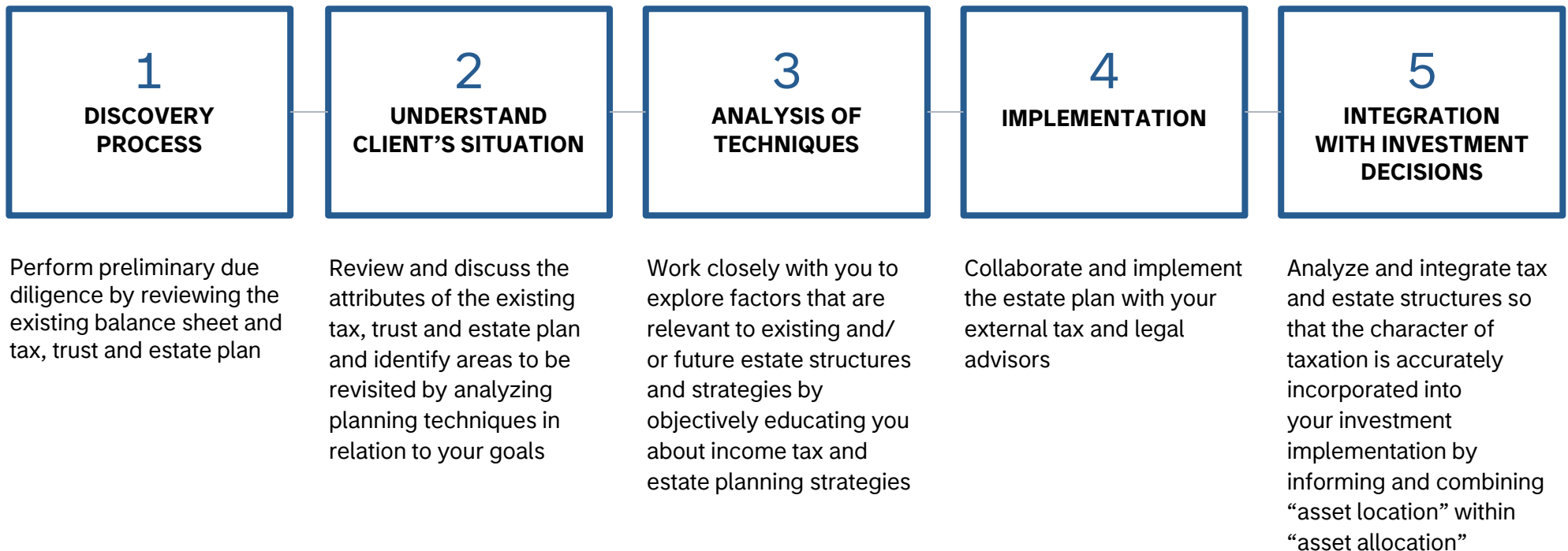
Are the dispositive provisions to allocate funds to my family and philanthropy consistent with my intentions? Have I quantified and prepared for the potential impact of current and future taxes?

Does the timing of my tax, trust & estate planning implementation happen intentionally or arbitrarily and are my actions more reactive and rushed rather than prescribed?

Do my investments complement and enhance my tax, trust and estate strategy?

# Estate Planning Strategies

Tax, Trust & Estate (TTE) strategy has the potential to be incredibly powerful if executed effectively. For a successful TTE plan, it is critical to coordinate TTE implementation in combination with a TTE strategy.

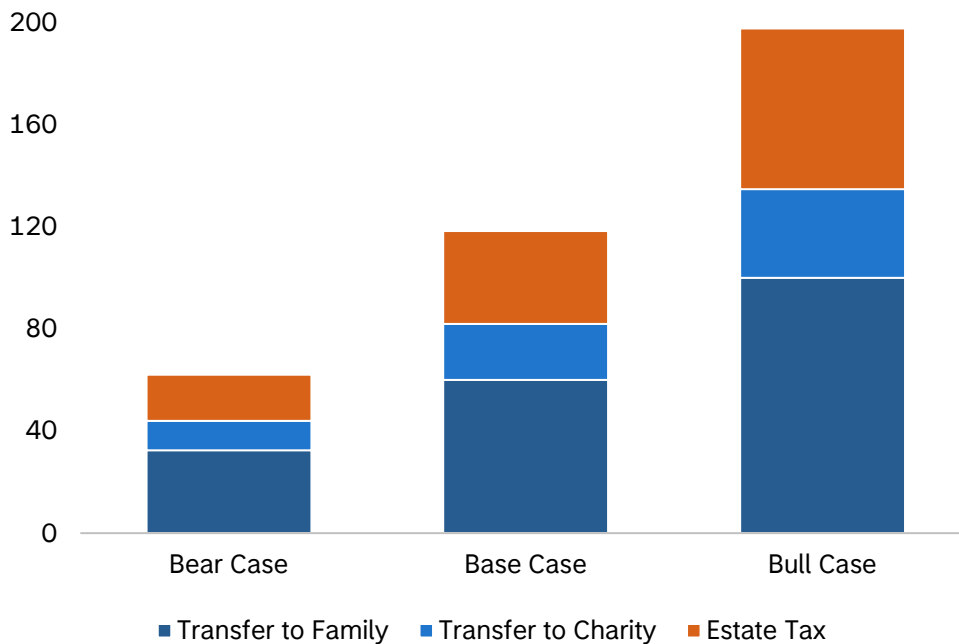


# Estate Planning Strategies

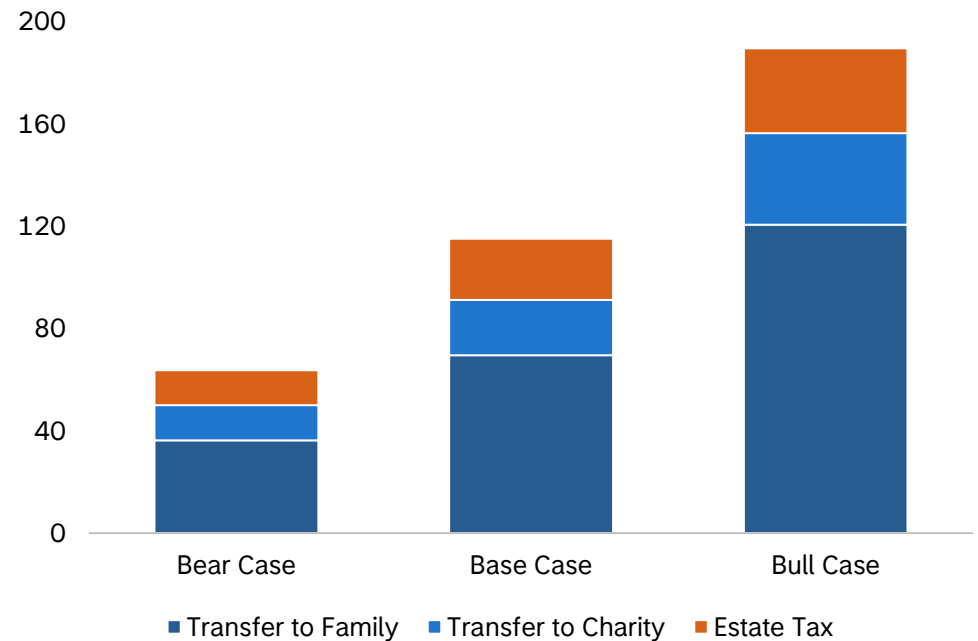
We develop, share and enhance analytical tools, models and applications to help address your needs. The goal is to provide you with quantitative analyses of complex situations and scenarios, tailored to your unique needs to help quantify the degree and direction of affirmatively making a decision and/or taking action, contrasted to indecision or maintaining the existing plan, if any.

## HYPOTHETICAL ILLUSTRATION – INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATIONS AND RESULTS WILL VARY

**CURRENT ESTATE, (\$MM)**



**SAMPLE ESTATE, (\$MM)**



Important: The illustration demonstrates the impact from TTE planning on how much money goes to family/taxes/charity. Planning changes the composition of the graph (which are good/base/bad case scenarios)

# Retirement Planning

A core component of any wealth management framework is retirement planning. Making it increasingly important are longer life expectancies, rising health care costs, uncertainty tied to Social Security and continued changes in corporate retirement plans.

## TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR RETIREMENT GOALS, WE CAN:



**Help you clarify what retirement means to you** –whether it means relocating, traveling, starting a business, going back to school, spending more time with your family or fulfilling another life goal.



**Analyze and quantify your retirement needs**, factoring in your current and projected income and assets, as well as estimated inflation rates and the impact of your spending in retirement.



**Uncover potential shortfalls** in your retirement plan and show you ways to address them.



**Create an action plan** to help you achieve the retirement lifestyle you imagine.



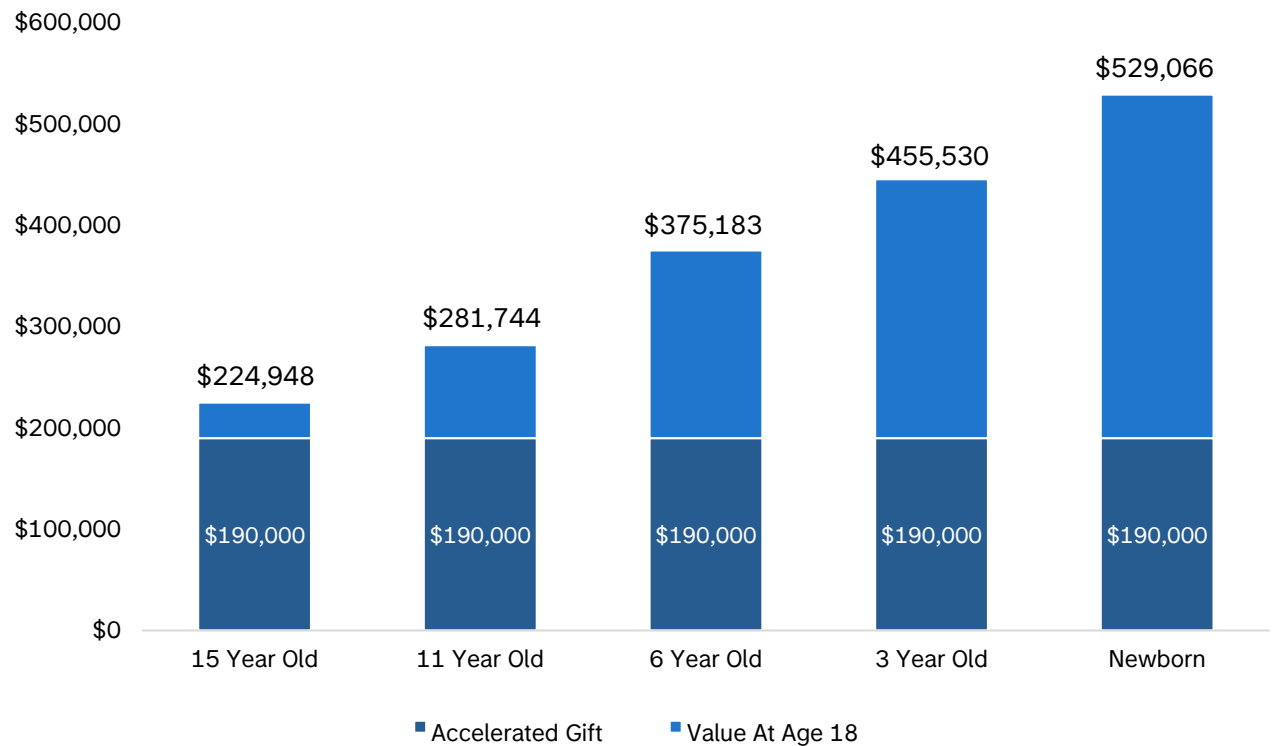
**Periodically track your progress** and adjust as your goals, financial situation and markets change.

# 529 Plans as Smart Estate Planning

With high contribution limits, the ability to fund an account by leveraging five-year gift tax averaging, and the option to apply a portion of one’s current \$13.99 million Unified Lifetime Gift Tax Exemption, 529 plans offer the account owner an opportunity to gift significant amounts out of their taxable estate while retaining control of the assets.

## CASE STUDY: REMOVE ASSETS FROM TAXABLE ESTATE WITH ACCELERATED GIFTING AND RETENTION OF CONTROL

- A married couple wants to fund the education of their five grandchildren
- By leveraging five-year gift tax averaging,<sup>1</sup> they may be able to **make up to five years of contributions in one gift**; they transfer \$190,000 into a 529 account for each of the 5 grandchildren
- For gift-tax purposes, the assets are considered completed gifts; **they incur no gift taxes**, and the contributions do not count toward their Lifetime Gift Tax Exemption
- The grandparents successfully **remove over \$1.8MM from their taxable estate**, representing \$950,000 of their original funding plus all investment gains over time, while retaining control of the assets and any withdrawals, as the account owners



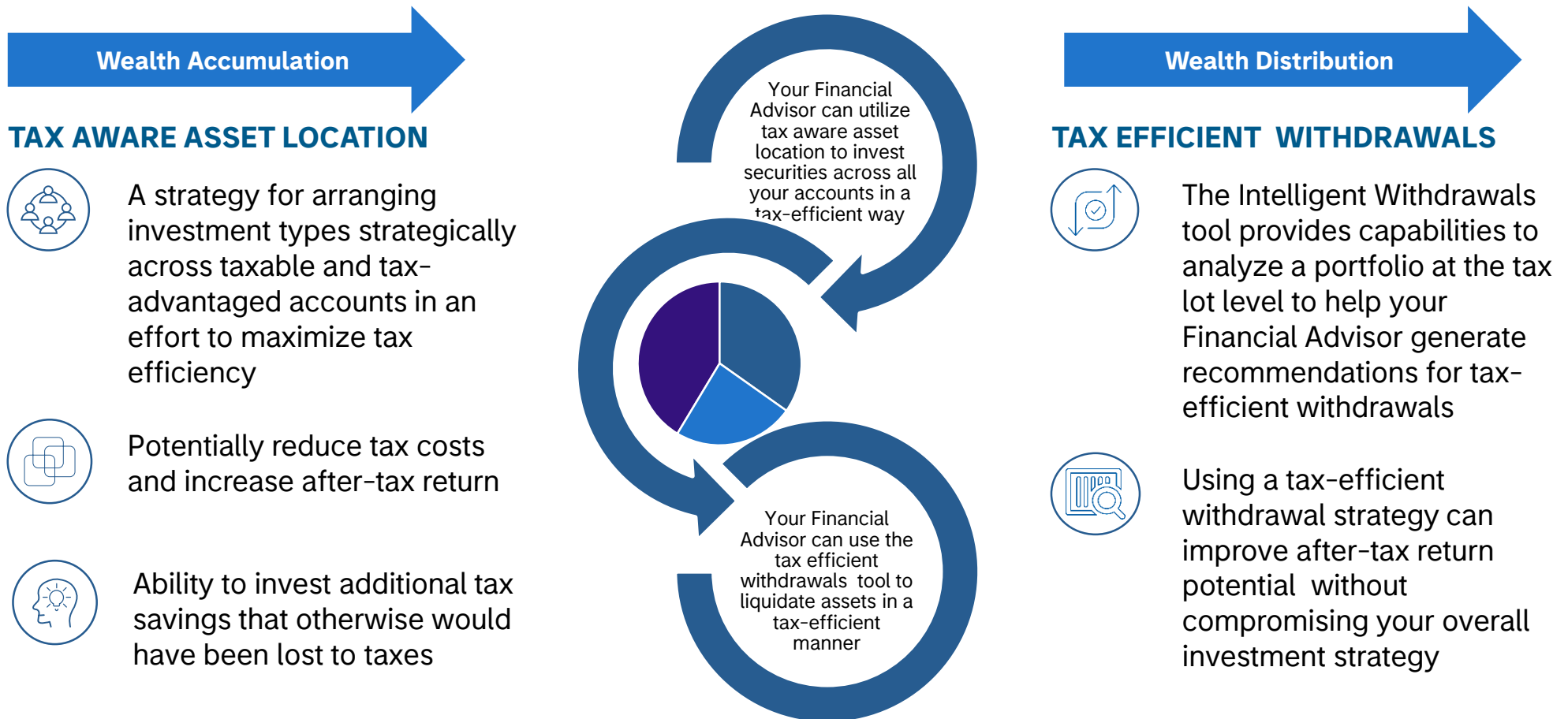
Source: Morgan Stanley Wealth Management Global Investment Committee as of January 2025

Assumptions: This illustration assumes \$190,000 initial contribution and annualized portfolio return of GIC Model 3, with an annual growth rate of 5.79% in first 7 years and 5.90% from year 8 onwards. This is a hypothetical illustration; actual results may vary.

1. Some plans may have age, residency or other restrictions and may charge a fee for beneficiary changes, and beneficiary changes may result in an immediate tax liability if the new beneficiary is not a member of the previous beneficiary’s family.
2. Contributions to a 529 plan are generally excluded from a donor’s gross estate calculation, unless you name yourself as beneficiary.

# Tax Efficient Goals Planning

Strategies that can help improve tax efficiency throughout your goal plan; both during the wealth accumulation phase through Tax Aware Asset Location and during wealth distribution through Tax Efficient Withdrawals



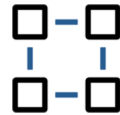
Note: Returns are based on asset class projections and are gross of applicable fees and expenses that would lower the assumed returns if implemented in an actual portfolio. Additional factors also apply, including but not limited to, the individual investor's applicable marginal tax rates, affluence, and investment approach, among others.

# Preserving Assets for Future Generations & Causes Important to You

## A WELL-CRAFTED ESTATE PLAN HELPS YOU TO:



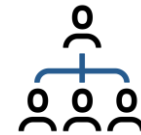
**Minimize estate taxes**  
and reduce or eliminate  
probate costs



**Arrange the distribution**  
of your assets after  
your death



Carry out your  
**philanthropic wishes**



**Make the settlement**  
of your estate less difficult  
and costly for your  
loved ones

## WE ARE ABLE TO:

Analyze the current value of your estate and its potential value at death to help you get a better sense of how your estate might be distributed – to taxes, charities and your beneficiaries – under your current estate plan. Working with your tax and legal advisors we can help you understand how modifications may provide a potentially better outcome. Depending on your specific needs, we can discuss the potential impact of different strategies, including:

- Adjusting the ownership of your assets in order to leverage the maximum applicable exclusion
- Removing assets from your estate through an annual gifting program, without sacrificing your other goals
- Illustrating the impact of different types of trusts

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Risks Associated With Investing

Investing in the markets entails the risk of market volatility. The value of all types of investments, including stocks, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), closed-end funds, and unit investment trusts, may increase or decrease over varying time periods. **Please carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of investment fund(s) before investing. The fund prospectus contains this and other information about the fund(s). To obtain a prospectus, contact your financial advisor. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.** There is no assurance that investment funds will achieve their investment objectives. Besides the general investment risk of holding securities that may decline in value and the possible loss of principal invested, closed-end funds may have additional risks related to declining market prices relative to net asset values (NAVs), active manager underperformance and potential leverage. To the extent the investments depicted herein represent international securities, you should be aware that there may be additional risks associated with international investing, including foreign economic, political, monetary and/or legal factors, changing currency exchange rates, foreign taxes, and differences in financial and accounting standards. These risks may be magnified in emerging markets and frontier markets. Some funds also invest in foreign securities, which may involve currency risk. **Equity securities** may fluctuate in response to news on companies, industries, market conditions and general economic environment. Companies paying dividends can reduce or cut payouts at any time. Small- and mid-capitalization companies may lack the financial resources, product diversification and competitive strengths of larger companies. In addition, the securities of small- and mid-capitalization companies may not trade as readily as, and be subject to higher volatility than, those of larger, more established companies. **Growth investing** does not guarantee a profit or eliminate risk. Growth stocks can trade at relatively high valuations which may increase risk compared with an investment in a company with more modest growth expectations. **Value investing** does not guarantee a profit or eliminate risk. Not all companies deemed value stocks are able to turn around their business or successfully execute corrective strategies, and their stock prices may not rise as initially expected.

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**Money Market Funds:** You could lose money in money market funds. Although government money market funds (defined as investing 99.5% of total assets in cash and/or securities backed by the U.S. government) and retail funds (defined as money market funds open to natural person investors only) seek to preserve value at \$1.00 per share, they cannot guarantee doing so. The price of other money market funds will fluctuate, and when you sell shares they may be worth more or less than originally paid. Money market funds may impose a fee upon sale or temporarily suspend sales if liquidity falls below required minimums. During suspensions, shares would not be available for purchases, withdrawals, check writing or ATM debits. A money market fund investment is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or other government agency. The Fund's sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the Fund and investors should not expect that the sponsor will provide financial support to the Fund at any time.

Investing in **Commodities:** Commodity prices may be affected by factors such as supply and demand, government policies, domestic or international political and economic events (including war or terrorism), changes in interest and exchange rates, trading activity in commodities and related contracts, pestilence, technological developments, weather, price volatility, and liquidity constraints. Physical precious metals are speculative, non-regulated products that may experience short- and long-term price volatility. Precious metals do not make interest or dividend payments and therefore may not be appropriate for investors who require current income. Precious metals must be stored, which may impose additional costs on investors.

**Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs):** Investments in MLPs are subject to the risks generally applicable to companies in the energy and natural resources sectors, including commodity price fluctuations, supply

and demand imbalances, resource depletion and exploration risk. MLPs also carry interest rate risk and may underperform in rising interest rate environments. In addition, MLP funds accrue deferred income taxes on net operating gains and capital appreciation; as a result their after-tax performance could differ significantly from that of its underlying assets.

**Exchange Funds** are private placement vehicles that enable holders of concentrated single-stock positions to exchange those stocks for a diversified portfolio. Investors may benefit from greater diversification.

**Alternative investments** are often speculative and include a high degree of risk. Investors can lose all or a substantial amount of their investment. They are appropriate only for eligible, long-term investors willing to forgo liquidity and put capital at risk for an indefinite period. They are often illiquid, may employ leverage, short-selling, or other speculative practices that increase volatility and risk of loss, and may require large minimum investments and initial lock-ups. Alternative investments may also involve complex tax structures, tax-inefficient investing, and delays in distributing important tax documents. Clients should consult their own tax and legal advisors, as Morgan Stanley Wealth Management does not provide tax or legal advice. They also typically carry higher fees and expenses than traditional investments, which can reduce overall returns.

**Sector investments**, due to their narrow focus, tend to be more volatile than broadly diversified investments. **Non-diversified portfolios:** Portfolios that hold a concentrated number of securities may experience greater overall declines when those securities lose value compared with more diversified portfolios. Portfolios that invest heavily in one or a few industry sectors are more vulnerable to price fluctuations than those diversified across a wider range of sectors.

**Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)** investments in a portfolio may experience performance that is lower or higher than a portfolio not employing such practices. Portfolios with ESG restrictions and strategies as well as ESG investments may not be able to take advantage of the same opportunities or market trends as portfolios where ESG criteria is not applied. There are inconsistent ESG definitions and criteria within the industry, as well as multiple ESG ratings providers that provide ESG ratings of the same subject companies and/or securities that vary among the providers. Certain issuers of investments may have inconsistent views concerning ESG criteria where the ESG claims made in offering documents or other literature may overstate ESG impact. ESG designations are as of the date of this material, and no assurance is provided that the underlying assets have maintained or will maintain any such designation or any stated ESG compliance. As a result, it is difficult to compare ESG investment products or to evaluate an ESG investment product in comparison to one that does not focus on ESG. Investors should also independently consider whether the ESG investment product meets their own ESG objectives or criteria. There is no assurance that an ESG investing strategy or techniques employed will be successful. Past performance is not a guarantee or a dependable measure of future results.

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CRC 4953093 (11/25)