

## OVERVIEW

Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40 is an efficient way for long-term investors to combine **equity** and **fixed income** exposure in a single account, with a target allocation of 60% equity and 40% fixed income. The equity allocation invests in high-quality, large capitalization companies that collectively generate an above-average stream of dividend income, while the fixed income portion utilizes fixed income Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) diversified across maturities and sectors. Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40 is designed for clients seeking dividend income and capital appreciation from equities, along with the stability and lower volatility traditionally available from bonds.

- ◆ **Select Equity Income (60%):** The equity allocation utilizes Confluence's Select Equity Income strategy, which invests in seasoned businesses that generally have market capitalizations above \$10 billion and provide a high level of dividend income or have the ability to grow their dividend stream over time. Security selection, position sizes, industry/sector exposures, and buy limits are applied through Confluence's disciplined value equity portfolio management process. Stocks are selected through independent research, evaluating the fundamentals of individual companies, and purchased when trading at discounts to our estimate of intrinsic value.
- ◆ **Fixed Income (40%):** The fixed income allocation utilizes Confluence's Fixed Income strategy, which invests in fixed income ETFs with domestically oriented, investment-grade benchmarks and is constructed similarly to a traditional, laddered bond portfolio. Portfolio duration, sector allocations, and laddered maturity exposures are actively managed through Confluence's fixed income portfolio management process, driven by consensus views of the investment committee.
- ◆ **Rebalancing:** Allocations are regularly monitored for general market drift. As drift occurs, portfolios are rebalanced closer to target.

## PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS<sup>1</sup>

### OVERALL PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

Avg. Portfolio Yield	3.7%		
Equity Dividend Yield	3.2%	# of Equity Positions	23-25
Fixed Income SEC Yield	4.6%	# of Fixed Income Positions	12-15

### EQUITY INVESTMENTS

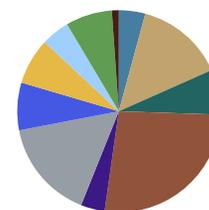
#### MARKET CAP

Largest Market Cap (\$B)	344.9
Median Market Cap (\$B)	79.0
Smallest Market Cap (\$B)	13.9

#### 5 LARGEST HOLDINGS

	WEIGHT
Fidelity National Financial Inc.	3.0%
Snap-on Inc.	3.0%
Digital Realty Trust Inc.	2.9%
Progressive Corp.	2.8%
Brookfield Asset Management	2.8%

#### SECTOR ALLOCATION



Consumer Discretionary	4%
Consumer Staples	14%
Energy	7%
Financials	27%
Health Care	4%
Industrials	16%
Information Technology	8%
Materials	7%
Real Estate	5%
Utilities	7%
Cash	1%

### FIXED INCOME INVESTMENTS

#### CHARACTERISTICS

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Duration	4.4
Maturity	5.3
ETF Expense Ratio	0.07%

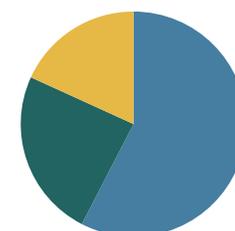
#### RATING CATEGORIES

	WEIGHT
AAA	30.2%
AA	53.5%
A	7.5%
BBB	8.8%
BB or Below	0.0%

#### 5 LARGEST HOLDINGS

	WEIGHT
SPDR <sup>®</sup> Portfolio Mortgage Backed Bond ETF - SPMB	8.6%
iShares iBonds Dec 2027 Term Treasury ETF - IBTH	5.6%
iShares iBonds Dec 2026 Term Treasury ETF - IBTG	3.5%
iShares iBonds Dec 2026 Term Corporate ETF - IBDR	2.8%
iShares iBonds Dec 2024 Term Treasury ETF - IBTE	1.9%

#### SECTOR ALLOCATION



Treasury	57%
MBS	24%
Corporate	18%

See GIPS Report on pages 3-4.

## EQUITY INVESTMENT PROCESS

### SECURITY SELECTION: GREAT COMPANIES AT BARGAIN PRICES

Our disciplined investment process is research-driven, seeking to uncover “great companies” trading at bargain prices. We define great companies as those with the following attributes:

#### Durable Competitive Advantages

- ◆ Meaningful pricing power
- ◆ High barriers to entry
- ◆ Superior return on capital over extended periods of time

#### Free Cash Flow

- ◆ Substantial amount available to benefit shareholders
- ◆ Should far exceed the capital expenditures needed to maintain and grow the business

#### Capable Management

- ◆ Demonstrated ability to effectively allocate capital
- ◆ Alignment of management’s interest with investors through large personal investments in company stock

### BUY DISCIPLINE: INVEST BASED ON PRICE AND PATIENCE

We believe focusing on high-quality companies and purchasing only when they’re being offered at prices below our estimate of intrinsic value is an effective means for limiting downside risk while maximizing total return potential over an investment cycle.

- ◆ Primary focus is price paid for a stock (discount to intrinsic value)
- ◆ Each portfolio company is evaluated to determine the full value of the business / intrinsic value of the security
- ◆ The entry point is generally set at a 25%-50% discount to our internal estimate of intrinsic value
- ◆ Entry points are continually re-assessed
- ◆ Risk is defined as *the probability of a permanent loss of capital* as opposed to tracking error of a benchmark

New accounts may not be fully invested at inception if companies are trading above current entry points.

## FIXED INCOME INVESTMENT PROCESS

### HIGH-QUALITY INVESTMENTS & COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

We invest in high-quality, fixed income ETFs following investment-grade benchmarks with domestic orientation, diversified across maturities and corporate, Treasury, and MBS sectors.

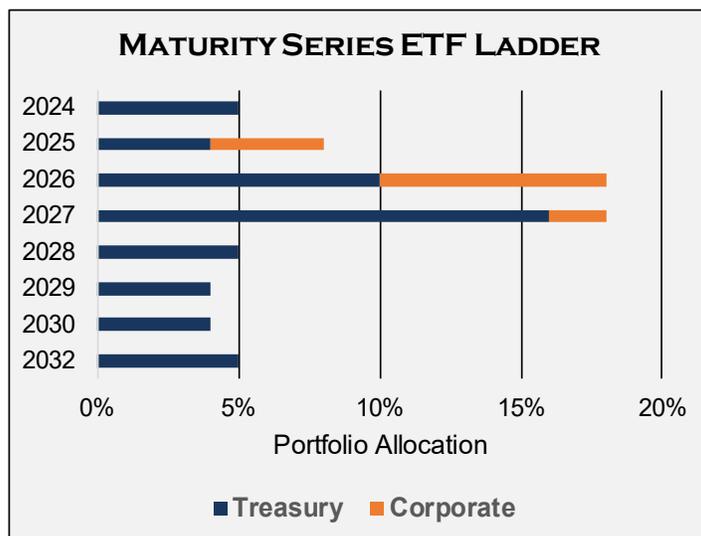
- ◆ Similar characteristics to traditional bond ladder by combining use of maturity-date ETFs with traditional fixed income ETFs
- ◆ Portfolio duration and maturity may be adjusted to be longer, shorter, or in line with the benchmark
- ◆ Sector allocations incorporate the investment committee’s viewpoints on Fed policy, shape of the yield curve, relative yields, credit spreads, default rates, and other market factors
- ◆ Larger allocations may be directed to certain ETFs to alter the amount of credit or interest rate risk in the portfolio
- ◆ Continuously monitored and rebalanced at least annually

### DIVERSIFIED BOND LADDER STRUCTURE

#### Portfolio Construction Utilizes a Range of Maturity-Date ETFs

- ◆ ETFs hold large pools of bonds that mature near to, but always before, a specified end date; with the passage of time, the average maturity naturally shortens, thereby replicating some characteristics of an individual bond
- ◆ Maturity-series ETFs have more credit risk diversification, while oftentimes also providing liquidity improvement, relative to an individual bond
- ◆ We use ladder “rungs” from end dates ranging between 2024 and 2032, with more emphasis in the middle of the range
- ◆ We believe this ladder approach positions investors to participate in a wider range of yields, while also providing a mechanism to help address the risk of rising interest rates

The bond ladder is complemented by traditional fixed income ETFs with “static” maturity profiles, allowing for more precise exposures to maturities and sectors of the bond market.



## PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE RETURNS<sup>2</sup> (FOR PERIODS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023)

	Since Inception**	1-Year	YTD	QTD
<b>Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40</b> <i>Pure Gross-of-Fees<sup>3</sup></i>	13.3%	7.3%	7.3%	7.5%
<i>Max Net-of-Fees<sup>4</sup></i>	10.0%	4.1%	4.1%	6.7%
<b>Benchmark (60% R1000V / 40% BofA-DM)</b>	14.2%	9.1%	9.1%	8.4%
<b>Benchmark (60% S&amp;P 500 / 40% BofA-DM)</b>	18.7%	17.6%	17.6%	9.7%

Calendar Year	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>3</sup>	Max Net-of-Fees <sup>4</sup>	Benchmark (60% R1000V/ 40% BofA-DM)	Benchmark (60% SP500/ 40% BofA-DM)	Difference (Gross-60% R1000/40% BofA-DM)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	60% R1000V/ 40% BofA-DM 3yr Std Dev	60% SP500/ 40% BofA-DM 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
2022**	8.9%	8.1%	8.2%	5.4%	0.7%	1	\$217	\$6,931,635	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	7.3%	4.1%	9.1%	17.6%	(1.8%)	1	\$233	\$7,200,019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*\*Inception is 10/1/2022

See performance disclosures on last page

### Portfolio Benchmarks:

Custom blended benchmarks, calculated monthly: **60% Russell 1000 Value / 40% BofA-DM** and **60% S&P 500 / 40% BofA-DM** (Source: Bloomberg)

**Russell 1000® Value Index** — Capitalization-weighted index designed to measure performance of those Russell 1000® Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values;

**S&P 500 Index** — Capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries;

**BofA-DM** — ICE BofA U.S. Corporate, Government & Mortgage Index (Domestic Master)

## INVESTMENT TEAMS

### Confluence Value Equities Investment Committee

Mark Keller, CFA	Tom Dugan, CFA	John Wobbe	Dustin Hausladen	Brett Mawhiney, CFA
Daniel Winter, CFA	Tore Stole	Joe Hanzlik	Blair Brumley, CFA	Ben Kim, CFA

### Confluence Fixed Income Strategy Committee

Mark Keller, CFA	David Miyazaki, CFA	Patrick Fearon-Hernandez, CFA
Gregory Ellston	William O'Grady	Kaisa Stucke, CFA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR SALES TEAM: (314) 530-6729 or sales@confluenceim.com

See [Territory Map](#) on the Confluence website for sales coverage.

## DISCLOSURES

**<sup>1</sup>Portfolio Holdings**—All investments carry a certain degree of risk, including possible loss of principal. It is important to review your investment objectives, risk tolerance & liquidity needs before choosing an investment style or manager. Each asset class is subject to market risk & may decline in value due to adverse company, industry or general economic conditions. There can be no assurance that any investment objective will be achieved. Avg. portfolio yield: blended yield consists of 60% of the equity portfolio yield plus 40% of fixed income portfolio yield as of the date shown. Equity portfolio yield: Select Equity Income composite level weighted average yield, calculated based on annualized current dividends; source: FactSet. Fixed income portfolio yield: 30-day SEC yield of the Fixed Income Taxable model portfolio holdings as of the date shown; source Morningstar. Sector weightings/holdings of individual client portfolios in the strategy may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Duration and maturity figures shown are based on holdings in the Fixed Income Taxable composite as of the date shown. ETF expense ratio is in addition to Confluence management fees. Rating categories reflect S&P ratings; source: Morningstar.

**<sup>2</sup>Performance Composite Returns**—Confluence Investment Management LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Confluence Investment Management LLC has been independently verified for the periods August 1, 2008, through December 31, 2022. The verification report is available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards.

Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report.

GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

The Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40 strategy and Composite were inceptioned on October 1, 2022. Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent registered investment adviser. Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross and net of all fees and include the reinvestment of all income.

<sup>3</sup>Pure gross returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards.

<sup>4</sup>Net-of-fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual bundled fee of 3.00% applied quarterly. This fee includes brokerage commissions, portfolio management, consulting services and custodial services. The Confluence fee schedule for this composite is as follows: 0.52% on the first \$500,000; 0.47% on the next \$500,000; and 0.42% over \$1,000,000. There are no incentive fees. The collection of fees produces a compounding effect on the total rate of return net of fees. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. Bundled fee accounts make up 0% of the composite for all periods. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. Wrap fee schedules are provided by independent wrap sponsors and are available upon request from the respective wrap sponsor.

Historical performance is based on the Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40-Direct Composite which was initially created on October 1, 2022. The Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40-Direct Composite includes accounts that pursue the Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40 strategy, but do not have bundled fees. Gross returns from the Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40-Direct Composite include transaction costs and net-of-fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual bundled fee of 3.00% applied quarterly.

A complete list of composite descriptions is available upon request. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. The annual composite dispersion is an equal-weighted standard deviation, using gross-of-fee returns, calculated for the accounts in the composite for the entire year. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite gross returns over the preceding 36-month period. The Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40 Composite contains fully discretionary Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40 wrap accounts. Balanced Select Equity Income 60/40 combines equity and fixed income allocations in a single account. The equity portion invests in large capitalization companies that collectively generate an above-average stream of dividend income, while also providing capital appreciation potential. The fixed income portion is invested in taxable fixed income Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), diversified across maturities and sectors.

\*\*Results shown for the year 2022 represent partial period performance from October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

N/A-Composite Dispersion: Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios in the composite for the entire year.