

# GROWTH & INCOME PORTFOLIO (TAX-EXEMPT)

FIRST QUARTER 2019

# **PORTFOLIO OBJECTIVE**

The Growth & Income Tax-Exempt portfolio combines objectives of growth and income exempt from federal taxation, with more emphasis on growth. The profile of this portfolio is similar to a portfolio with a blend of stocks and bonds.

### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

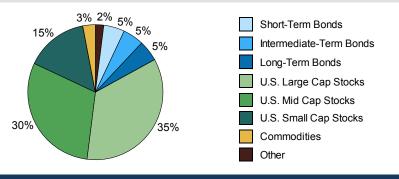
Asset allocation is a portfolio management process where various asset classes are combined in one portfolio. Properly implemented, asset allocation is a time-tested approach that addresses risk through diversification. The Confluence approach to asset allocation is different than traditional asset allocation approaches which rely on long-term historical averages for strategic capital market assumptions. Confluence recognizes that risk levels and return potential rise and fall over market and economic cycles. Therefore, we apply a dynamic process in which the Confluence team estimates the performance of 12 different asset classes in terms of risk, return and yield looking forward 3 years. This cyclical approach is not market *timing*. Rather, the intention is to remain within an acceptable risk profile, while changing the asset class mix to optimize return potential. We may adjust allocations in much shorter time frames, depending upon changing views of the marketplace and economy. Alternately, we may abstain from making significant allocation adjustments if we believe the existing posture remains optimal. The process may involve somewhat higher turnover than a more static strategic program, but usually involves less trading relative to tactical approaches.

The asset allocation portfolios utilize exchange-traded funds (ETFs). We may use ETFs that allow us to focus on or avoid particular industry sectors, bond maturities, commodities or countries.

## **PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW**

- Combines objectives of growth and income, with more emphasis on growth
- The growth allocation may include equity asset classes ranging from small cap to large cap, with both domestic and international equities
- ♦ Commodities may be utilized for total return and diversification benefits
- Municipal bond ETFs will normally form the foundation to pursue income objectives
- ◆ Profile is similar to that of a portfolio with a blend of stocks and bonds
- Suitable for investors with a moderate risk tolerance

# ASSET ALLOCATION<sup>1</sup>



CHARACTERISTICS <sup>1</sup>	
Weighted SEC Yield	1.6%
Number of Securities	22-26
Annual Turnover	50-90%

5 LARGEST HOLDINGS <sup>1</sup>	
iShares S&P Mid-Cap 400 Growth - IJK	15.0%
iShares S&P Mid-Cap 400 Value - IJJ	15.0%
iShares S&P 500 Growth - IVW	14.0%
iShares S&P 500 Value - IVE	14.0%
iShares S&P Small Cap 600 Value - IJS	8.0%

¹This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards. Information presented reflects wrap account composites with "Plus" strategies & taxable income (if applicable). Asset allocations shown represent the individual EIFs used in the model portifolios as of 1/15/19 and do not represent the precise allocation of assets in an actual client account. Asset allocation in client accounts may vary based on individual client considerations and market fluctuations. The allocation of assets in the model portfolio may be changed from time to time due to market conditions and economic factors. The investments held by the portfolio are not guaranteed and do carry a risk of loss of principal. Each asset class has specific risks associated with it and no specific asset class can prevent a loss of capital in market downturns. The listing of "5 Largest Holdings" is not a complete list of all EITs in the portfolio or which Confluence may be currently recommending, Furthermore, application of the investment strategy as of a later date will likely result in changes to the listing. Contact Confluence for a complete list of holdings. Yield data source: Morningstar. Model portfolio 30-day SEC yield as of 1/15/19.

Short-Term Bonds

Long-Term Bonds

Real Estate

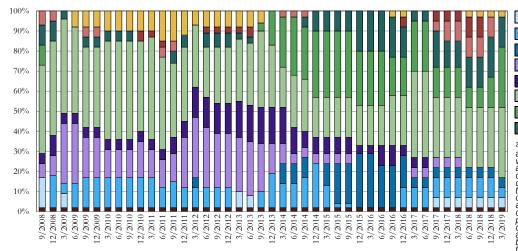
Intermediate-Term Bonds

Speculative Grade Bonds

U.S. Large Cap Stocks

U.S. Mid Cap Stocks
U.S. Small Cap Stocks

# HISTORICAL MODEL ALLOCATIONS<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup>These allocations reflect the model asset allocations over time. The allocations do not represent actual trading as actual investment results vary from model results due to inherent limitations in sector, industry and asset class. ETF securities that do not perfectly replicate a selected asset class. Asset allocation in client accounts may vary based on individual client considerations and market fluctuations. The allocation of assets in the model portiolios may be changed from time to time due to market conditions and economic factors. The investments held by the portiolios are not guaranteed and do carry a risk of loss of principal. Each asset class has specific risks associated with it and no specific asset class can prevent a loss of capital in market downtums. ETFs trade like a stock but charge internal management fees; there will be brokerage commissions associated with buying and selling ETFs unless trading occurs in a feebased account. This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards.

Foreign Developed Country Stocks

Commodities

**Emerging Market Stocks** 

# ABOUT CONFLUENCE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC

Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent Registered Investment Advisor located in St. Louis, Missouri that was founded in 2007. Confluence provides professional portfolio management and advisory services to institutional and individual clients. The firm's investment philosophy is based upon independent, fundamental research that integrates evaluation of market cycles, macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis with the firm's value-driven, fundamental company-specific approach. Confluence's portfolio management philosophy begins by assessing risk and follows through by positioning clients to achieve their income and growth objectives. The Confluence team has more than 500 years of combined financial experience and 300 years of portfolio management experience.

## FIRST QUARTER 2019 GROWTH & INCOME TAX-EXEMPT MARKET OBSERVATIONS

- Our expectations are that the U.S. economy will continue to grow, albeit at a more modest pace of 2.7%
- While we anticipate the current economic expansion will become the longest on record this March, the risk of a downturn rises toward the end of our three-year forecast period
- We expect the Fed to suspend its recent string of rate increases and even pause its efforts to shrink its balance sheet
- Though unemployment remains low, the employment/population ratio indicates continued slack in the labor force, thereby blunting the full impact of wage growth on inflation
- We retain the high relative weightings to equities given economic health and expectations for continued GDP growth. However, our style guidance has shifted to 50/50 growth/value
- We eliminate exposures to equities outside the U.S. due to our expectations for a slowdown in global growth and difficulties in particular domiciles, notably continental Europe and the U.K.

We eliminate the prior 10% positioning in non-U.S. equities as a result of our cautionary stance in Europe for the myriad issues they face in 2019. This position has been reallocated to U.S. large cap and mid-cap equities, which account for 35% and 30%, respectively, of the exposure in the Growth & Income Tax-Exempt portfolio. Additionally, a portion of the U.S. small cap equity exposure has been reallocated to U.S. mid-caps due to more attractive valuations and lower expected volatility for mid-caps. Within the large cap allocation, we replaced the overweight to the Financials sector with Healthcare as a result of a more favorable growth outlook for this sector, while maintaining overweights to the Energy and Materials sectors due to attractive valuations. Within the bond sleeve of the portfolio, an overweight to the intermediate municipal bond segment is brought to even-weight, while retaining the laddered maturity structure. We maintain a small weighting to gold as a hedge against geopolitical risk and the opportunity it affords against a potentially weaker U.S. dollar.

### **Confluence Asset Allocation Committee**

Mark Keller, CFA
William O'Grady
Gregory Ellston

Mark Keller, CFA
David Miyazaki, CFA
Patty Dahl
Kaisa Stucke, CFA

#### The Confluence Mission

Our mission is to provide our clients with superior investment solutions and exceptional client service with the highest standards of ethics and integrity. Our team of investment professionals is committed to delivering innovative products and sound, practical advice to enable investors to achieve their investment objectives.

## PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE RETURNS (For Periods Ending December 31, 2018)

	Pure Gross- of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (70stock/ 30muni)	Inflation
QTD	(11.4%)	(12.1%)	(9.1%)	0.4%
YTD	(7.6%)	(10.3%)	(2.5%)	2.0%
1-Year	(7.6%)	(10.3%)	(2.5%)	2.0%
3-Year*	5.6%	2.4%	7.3%	1.8%
5-Year*	5.9%	2.8%	7.3%	1.7%
10-Year*	8.9%	5.7%	10.9%	1.7%
Since Inception**	5.7%	2.6%	7.9%	1.6%

<sup>\*</sup>Average annualized returns \*\*Inception is 9/1/2008

Confluence claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).

The Growth and Income Tax-Exempt - Plus Composite was created on September 1, 2008. Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent registered investment adviser. 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.

income.

<sup>1</sup> Pure gross returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS ® standards.

<sup>2</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: 0.40% on the first \$500,000; 0.35% on the next \$500,000; and 0.30% over \$1,000,000. There are no incentive fees. Clients pay an all-inclusive fee based on a percentage of assets under management. The collection of fees produces a compounding effect on the total rate of return net of fees. Bundled fee accounts make up 100% 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.

A complete list of composite descriptions and/or fully compliant GIPS® presentations are available upon request. Additional information regarding policies for calculating and reporting performance are available upon request. The annual composite dispersion is an equal weighted standard deviation calculated for accounts in the composite for the entire year. The Growth and Income Tax-Exempt - Plus Composite contains fully discretionary Growth and Income Tax-Exempt - Plus wrap accounts. The Growth & Income Tax-Exempt strategy is implemented using ETFs and the investment objective is the pursuit of nominal returns (yield and growth) in excess of inflation, subject to the limitations of the risk constraint for the Growth & Income Tax-Exempt strategy. The growth allocation may include equity asset classes ranging from small cap to large cap, with both domestic and international equities. Commodities may be utilized for total return as well as diversification benefits. Fixed-income and real estate allocations will normally form the foundation to pursue income objectives. This portfolio may be appropriate for investors with a moderate risk tolerance.

	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (70stock/ 30muni)	Inflation	Difference (Gross- Bchmk)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	Benchmark 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
2018	(7.6%)	(10.3%)	(2.5%)	2.0%	(5.0%)	44	\$6,392	\$5,486,737	8.6%	7.5%	0.1%
2017	15.5%	12.0%	16.7%	1.8%	(1.2%)	50	\$7,999	\$5,944,479	7.2%	6.8%	0.1%
2016	10.3%	7.0%	8.5%	1.5%	1.7%	45	\$6,439	\$4,413,659	7.8%	7.3%	0.1%
2015	0.9%	(2.1%)	2.2%	1.4%	(1.4%)	68	\$18,325	\$3,175,419	7.4%	7.4%	0.2%
2014	12.4%	9.1%	12.6%	1.8%	(0.2%)	66	\$17,945	\$2,589,024	6.9%	6.5%	0.1%
2013	11.5%	8.2%	20.8%	2.0%	(9.3%)	93	\$24,622	\$1,955,915	9.7%	8.3%	0.2%
2012	11.0%	7.7%	13.5%	2.0%	(2.4%)	86	\$22,080	\$1,272,265	11.9%	10.3%	0.1%
2011	1.2%	(1.8%)	5.1%	1.9%	(3.9%)	78	\$19,329	\$937,487	15.6%	13.0%	0.1%
2010	11.7%	8.4%	11.5%	1.6%	0.2%	87	\$19,644	\$751,909	N/A	N/A	0.1%
2009	25.7%	21.9%	23.4%	1.1%	2.3%	62	\$13,297	\$533,832	N/A	N/A	0.3%
2008**	(24.3%)	(25.1%)	(22.2%)	(0.0%)	(2.1%)	9	\$1,847	\$291,644	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*\*Results shown for the year 2008 represent partial period performance from September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. N/A- Composite Dispersion: Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios in the composite for the entire year. N/A- 3yr Std Dev: Composite does not have 3 years of monthly performance history.

## Portfolio Benchmark

The benchmark is calculated monthly and consists of a blend of 70% S&P 500 and 30% ML Municipal Bond Index (Source: Bloomberg). The benchmark was changed retroactively on 7/1/13 to be more simplified. The custom benchmark prior to 7/1/13 was calculated monthly and consisted of: ML Municipal 38%, S&P 500 30%, S&P 400 15%, Russell 2000 10%, MSCI EAFE (gross) 5%, and ML T-Bill 2%. Inflation is provided as additional information and is represented by the US 5 year TIP breakeven spread (Bloomberg: USGGBE05 Index), which had 3yr standard deviation as follows: 0.1% 2011, 0.1% 2012, 0.1% 2013, 0.1% 2014, 0.1% 2015, 0.1% 2016, 0.1% 2017, 0.1% 2018.