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Election Results vs. Market Returns

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The Markets Hate Uncertainty

Market participants tend to be very skittish and like to panic. Oftentimes, the worst of outcomes are already priced in. This is why any type of resolution or clarity can clear up the skies and allow the sun to shine. Below are three key events of the past two weeks and their impact on uncertainty:

1. **Mid-Term Elections: Uncertainty Clearing.** Specific election results are not as important of a consideration for the markets. But the market does like the removal of uncertainty about the results. Expectations were for a split government, meaning no major federal legislation could be enacted unless it got significant bipartisan support. This could have been supportive of a market rally going into yearend. Unfortunately, initial results are unclear about the control of Congress, so there may still be uncertainty looming.
2. **Jobs: Uncertainty Clearing.** Nonfarm payrolls rose by 261K, above expectations, showing continued job growth and a strong economy. Wage inflation, on the other hand, has fallen to 4.7%. Moderating wage growth may be an important indicator of inflation starting to come down.
3. **Rates: Uncertainty Persists.** The Federal Reserve (Fed) hiked the federal funds rate by another 0.75% to a range of 3.75% to 4.00%. The Fed's messaging remained focused on controlling inflation and the potential for continued rate increases into 2023. Risk of overtightening the economy remains.

BONUS! Inflation: Uncertainty Clearing. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, rose by 7.7% over the last year, the lowest increase since January and below expectations. This could be a sign that inflation is peaking and increases the chances of the Fed being less aggressive with rate hikes, which would all be beneficial for the markets.

If Everything in Your Portfolio is Working, You're Not Diversified!

When it comes to investing, there are things we can control and things we can't. We can't control what the stock market will do, nor can we predict it. But we can control how diversified our investment portfolios are.

Take a look at the "Asset Class Returns" Callan chart on page 2, also known as a quilt chart. It shows the performance of various broad asset classes each year, dating back to 2007. It also includes an Asset Allocation portfolio (white boxes) as a combination of all the asset classes. Here are some key things that stand out:

1. **All asset classes experience volatility in returns.** Notice REITs over the past several years. Top performer in 2019, worst in 2020, top again in 2021 and worst again in 2022 YTD. Being invested in any one asset class would create wild swings in portfolio returns.

2. **But asset classes don't exhibit the same cyclicality.** Each asset class has a certain period in which it does well and another in which it does poorly. For example, in the last four years, whenever REITs have done poorly, Fixed Income has performed relatively well, and vice versa.
3. **Staying balanced and diversified helps to smooth out returns.** Being allocated to a variety of asset classes lowers the overall portfolio volatility and offers a smoother ride. Looking at the aggregated data in the right two columns, we see that being allocated to a diversified portfolio results in above average returns while maintaining a relatively low level of volatility.

Asset Class Returns

																2007 - 2021	
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	YTD	Ann.	Vol.
EM Equity 39.8%	Fixed Income 5.2%	EM Equity 79.0%	REITs 27.9%	REITs 8.3%	REITs 19.7%	Small Cap 38.8%	REITs 28.0%	REITs 2.8%	Small Cap 21.3%	EM Equity 37.8%	Cash 1.8%	Large Cap 31.5%	Small Cap 20.0%	REITs 41.3%	Comdty. 13.6%	Large Cap 10.6%	REITs 23.2%
Comdty. 16.2%	Cash 1.8%	High Yield 59.4%	Small Cap 26.9%	Fixed Income 7.8%	High Yield 19.6%	Large Cap 32.4%	Large Cap 13.7%	Large Cap 1.4%	High Yield 14.3%	DM Equity 25.6%	Fixed Income 0.0%	REITs 28.7%	EM Equity 18.7%	Large Cap 28.7%	Cash 0.6%	Small Cap 8.7%	EM Equity 22.9%
DM Equity 11.6%	Asset Alloc. 25.4%	DM Equity 32.5%	EM Equity 19.2%	High Yield 3.1%	EM Equity 18.6%	DM Equity 23.3%	Fixed Income 6.0%	Fixed Income 0.5%	Large Cap 12.0%	Large Cap 21.8%	REITs -4.0%	Small Cap 25.5%	Large Cap 18.4%	Comdty. 27.1%	Fixed Income -14.6%	REITs 7.5%	Small Cap 22.5%
Asset Alloc. 7.1%	High Yield -26.9%	REITs 28.0%	Comdty. 16.8%	Large Cap 2.1%	DM Equity 17.9%	Asset Alloc. 14.9%	Asset Alloc. 5.2%	Cash 0.0%	Comdty. 11.8%	Small Cap 14.6%	High Yield -4.1%	DM Equity 22.7%	Asset Alloc. 10.6%	Small Cap 14.8%	Asset Alloc. -19.1%	High Yield 6.6%	Comdty. 19.1%
Fixed Income 7.0%	Small Cap -33.8%	Small Cap 27.2%	Large Cap 15.1%	Cash 0.1%	Small Cap 16.3%	High Yield 7.3%	Small Cap 4.9%	DM Equity -0.4%	EM Equity 11.6%	Asset Alloc. 14.6%	Large Cap -4.4%	Asset Alloc. 19.5%	DM Equity 8.3%	Asset Alloc. 13.5%	High Yield -19.1%	Asset Alloc. 6.1%	DM Equity 18.9%
Large Cap 5.5%	Comdty. -35.6%	Large Cap 23.5%	High Yield 14.8%	Asset Alloc. -0.7%	Large Cap 16.0%	REITs 2.9%	Cash 0.0%	Asset Alloc. -2.0%	REITs 8.6%	High Yield 10.4%	Asset Alloc. -5.8%	EM Equity 18.9%	Fixed Income 7.5%	DM Equity 11.8%	Large Cap -23.9%	EM Equity 4.8%	Large Cap 16.9%
Cash 4.8%	Large Cap -37.0%	Asset Alloc. 25.0%	Asset Alloc. 13.3%	Small Cap -4.2%	Asset Alloc. 12.2%	Cash 0.0%	High Yield 0.0%	High Yield -2.7%	Asset Alloc. 8.3%	REITs 8.7%	Small Cap -11.0%	High Yield 12.6%	High Yield 7.0%	High Yield 1.0%	Small Cap -25.1%	DM Equity 4.1%	High Yield 12.2%
High Yield 3.2%	REITs -37.7%	Comdty. 18.9%	DM Equity 8.2%	DM Equity -11.7%	Fixed Income 4.2%	Fixed Income -2.0%	EM Equity -1.8%	Small Cap -4.4%	Fixed Income 2.6%	Fixed Income 3.5%	Comdty. -11.2%	Fixed Income 8.7%	Cash 0.5%	Cash 0.0%	DM Equity -26.8%	Fixed Income 4.1%	Asset Alloc. 11.7%
Small Cap -1.6%	DM Equity -43.1%	Fixed Income 5.9%	Fixed Income 6.5%	Comdty. -13.3%	Cash 0.1%	EM Equity -2.3%	DM Equity -4.5%	EM Equity -14.6%	DM Equity 1.5%	Comdty. 1.7%	DM Equity -13.4%	Comdty. 7.7%	Comdty. -3.1%	Fixed Income -1.5%	EM Equity -26.9%	Cash 0.8%	Fixed Income 3.3%
REITs -15.7%	EM Equity -53.2%	Cash 0.1%	Cash 0.1%	EM Equity -18.2%	Comdty. -1.1%	Comdty. -9.5%	Comdty. -17.0%	Comdty. -24.7%	Cash 0.3%	Cash 0.8%	EM Equity -14.2%	Cash 2.2%	REITs -5.1%	EM Equity -2.2%	REITs -27.9%	Comdty. -2.6%	Cash 0.7%

Source: Bloomberg, FactSet, MSCI, NAREIT, Russell, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Large cap: S&P 500, Small cap: Russell 2000, EM Equity: MSCI EME, DM Equity: MSCI EAFE, Comdty: Bloomberg Commodity Index, High Yield: Bloomberg Global HY Index, Fixed Income: Bloomberg US Aggregate, REITs: NAREIT Equity REIT Index, Cash: Bloomberg 1-3m Treasury. The "Asset Allocation" portfolio assumes the following weights: 25% in the S&P 500, 10% in the Russell 2000, 15% in the MSCI EAFE, 5% in the MSCI EME, 25% in the Bloomberg US Aggregate, 5% in the Bloomberg 1-3m Treasury, 5% in the Bloomberg Global High Yield Index, 5% in the Bloomberg Commodity Index and 5% in the NAREIT Equity REIT Index. Balanced portfolio assumes annual rebalancing. Annualized (Ann.) return and volatility (Vol.) represents period from 12/31/2006 to 12/31/2021. Please see disclosure page at end for index definitions. All data represents total return for stated period. The "Asset Allocation" portfolio is for illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of September 30, 2022.

As always, Dynamic recommends staying balanced, diversified and invested. Despite short-term market pullbacks, it's more important than ever to focus on the long-term, improving the chances for investors to reach their goals.

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