Guide To Wealth Management

There are many financial issues that impact our lives. Many people never formally address important concerns with their advisors because the conversations may be difficult to bring up, they don’t know if their advisor can help them with the issue, or they are simply overlooked.

And not every advisor or advisory firm can offer comprehensive wealth management like Northwest. We want to be sure we are having conversations with you about all the things in your life that will impact your wealth and more importantly, the quality of your life. After considering all the conversations we have had with thousands of clients over many years, we assembled this list of subjects you may need help with someday. This is what we do.
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• Rollovers and Conversions

Starting a Family/Buying a Home
• Mortgage Analysis
• Checking, Savings, and Loan Accounts

Saving for College
• Tax-Advantaged Education Plans and College Savings Strategies

Starting a Business
• Business Insurance
• Offering Employee Benefits
• Raising Capital
• The Business Plan
• Maximizing Deductions for Start-Up Costs

Planning an Estate
• Leaving a Legacy
• Asset Protection
• Charitable Giving
• Tax Strategies
• Planning for Incapacity

Long-Term Care Planning
• Long-Term Care Needs Analysis
• Types of Long Term Care
• Coordination with Government Benefits and Medicaid

Planning for Business Succession
• Family and Non-Family Business Succession Planning
• Buy-Sell Arrangements
• Short-Term Contingency Planning
• Determining the Value of Your Business

Nearing Retirement/Retirement
• Transition and Retirement Planning
• Retirement Income Analysis
• Loss of Spouse
• Organization of Finances After Losing a Loved One
• Settling an Estate
• Financial Windfall
• So You’ve Won the Lottery!
• Getting Divorced
• Planning Concerns of Divorcing Couples
• Caring for an Aging Parent
• Key Estate Planning Documents You Need
• Planning for Incapacity
• Housing Options for Older Individuals
Personal Finance

Legislative Highlights
• Health-Reform

Building a Cash Reserve
• Establishing Goals/Determining Amount Needed

Budgeting
• Cash Flow Analysis
• Spending Plan

Debt Management
• Establishing Credit, Business and Personal
• Partnership Financing
• Borrowing Options
• Pay Down Debt or Invest

Credit Cards
• Debt Consolidation

Identity Theft
• Protect Yourself against Identity Theft
• Recovering from Identity Theft

Home Ownership
• Buying a Home / Mortgage Basics
• Special Considerations for Building a Home
• Special Considerations for Second/Vacation Homes
• Refinancing and Home Equity Loans
• Selling a Home

Employee Benefits
• Making the Most of Your Group Benefits
• Health Savings Accounts
401(k) and Pension Benefits
Retirement Planning

Individuals and Families

Determining Retirement Income Needs
• Planning for Retirement Checklist

Saving for Retirement
• How Much Should I Contribute?
• IRA or Roth IRA

Rollovers and Conversions
• Roth Conversion Strategies
• What Should I do with My 401(k)?

In-Depth Retirement Scenario Planning
• Monte Carlo Analysis
• Multiple Scenarios Tested for Probabilities of Success

Transitioning into Retirement
• Turning Your Savings into Your Paycheck
• Your First Day of Retirement Looks Like...

Retirement Income
• Strategies, Advanced Considerations, and Vehicles

Federal and State Employee Retirement Programs

457 Plans, 403(b), TSA, IPERS, State Pensions

Pension Analysis
• Multiple Scenario Income Analysis
• Corporate and Government Pensions

Social Security Optimization
• Maximize Benefits for Individuals, Couples, Survivors and Ex-Spouses

Medicare Planning

Businesses

Business Retirement Plan Analysis
• Thorough Cost and Investment Analysis

**Business Succession Strategy**
• Family Business Succession
• Family Limited Partnership or Limited Liability Company

**Strategies for Reducing Tax Liability**

**Buy-Sell Arrangements**
• Establishment and Funding

**Employer Retirement Plans**
• 401(K) and Profit Sharing
• SIMPLE and SEP IRA’s
• Cash Balance Plans
• Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

**Employer Retirement Plan Fiduciary Protection**
• Potential Liability Reduction for Business Owners

**Special Planning Options for Executives and Owners**
• Golden Handcuffs, Executive Bonus, Split Dollar, Nonqualified Deferred Compensation
Solutions For Business Owners

Legislative Highlights
• Health-Care Reform Changes Affecting Employers (Obama Care)
• Small Business Jobs Act of 2010

Starting or Buying a Business
• Buying and Existing Business or Franchise
• Raising Capital for Your Business
• Business Retirement Plans

Choosing an Entity
• C Corporation
• S Corporation
• General Partnership
• Limited Partnership
• Limited Liability Company (LLC)
• Sole Proprietorship (SP)
• Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP)
• Professional Corporation (PC)

Running your Business and Getting the Most out of it
• Working with an Advisory Team
• Compensation
• Offering Employee Benefits
• Business Cash Management
• Raising Capital for Your Business

Business Insurance
• Life Insurance: Business Applications
• Business Insurance: Split Dollar Life
• Disability Income Insurance
• How Key Employee Life Insurance Works
• Buy-Sell Agreements

Tax Planning for Business Owners
• Tax Consequences of Business Formation
• Tax Consequences if Business Generates Income or Loss
Solutions For Business Owners

Retaining Key Employees
• Incentive Packages
• Fringe Benefits
• Golden Handcuffs/Parachutes
• Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plans

Employer Retirement Plans
• 401(k) Plans
• Simple IRAs
• Sep IRAs
• Single Owner 401(k)
• Profit Sharing and Cash Balance Plans

Business Succession Planning
• Selling your Business to Family or Non-Family
• Keeping your Business in the Family
• Buy-Sell Funding Strategies
• Equalizing Estate Distributions to Your Children
Investment Planning

Setting Investment Goals
• Cash Reserves
• Balancing Volatility and Expected Returns

Fiduciary Investment Advisor
• No Commission Incentives
• Fee-Only Consultants

Establishing Individual and Family Investment Policy Statements

Understanding the Risk of Your Portfolio

Analysis of Investment Costs and Risk Characteristics

Designing and Managing an Investment Portfolio
• Asset Allocation
• Global Diversification
• Rebalancing

Market Based Investments and Evaluation
• Cash, Bonds, Stocks
• Mutual Funds
• Real Estate
• Alternative Asset Classes

Insurance-Based Investments and Evaluation
• Variable, Fixed, and Indexed Annuities and Life Insurance

Investment Tax Planning
• Tax Loss Harvesting
• Tax-Efficient Investment Vehicles
• Appropriate Asset Location

Investment Planning Throughout Retirement
• Are You Staying on Track?

Our Investment Policy Committee
Investment Tax Planning

Benefits of Tax-Advantaged Savings Vehicles
• IRA’s, Roth IRA’s, Business Retirement Plans
• Tax-Deferred and Tax-Free Investments
• Sale of Investments and Investment Property

Active Tax-Loss Harvesting

Utilizing Capital Losses Effectively

Tax-Free Exchanges of Investments, Property, and Land

Sheltering Earned Income from Taxes

Establish and Fund Foundations and Endowments
• Obtaining Tax Credits in Addition to Federal Tax Deductions for Contributions
• Building a Family Legacy That Will Last Forever

Taxable vs Tax-Free Bonds

Asset Location for Tax Efficiency
• Take Full Advantage of IRA’s and Taxable Accounts with Different Investment Vehicles

Tax Planning for Specific Types of Investments
• Stocks and ETF’s
• Mutual Funds
• Bonds
• Annuities
• Cash and Cash Alternatives

Special Concerns
• Wash Sale Rule
• Qualifying Small Business Stock Rule
• Anti-Conversion Rule
• Short Sales
• Tax Shelters

Capital Gains and Dividend Tax Relief
Institutional Investment Services

Legislative Highlights

Fiduciary Duty

• Acting as an Investment Steward

Our Investment Policy Committee

• Available to your Institution
• We serve as your Fiduciary Investment Team

Establishing the Investment Policy Statement

• Framework for the Allocation of Investments
• Monitoring Investment Performance
• Establishing Tolerances for Investment Drift
• Procedures to Maintain Portfolio Investment Policy

Acting as an Investment Steward

Rules of the Road for Nonprofit Board Members
Government Benefits

Legislative Highlights
• Healthcare Reform Changes Affecting Seniors

Social Security
• Myths and Facts about Social Security
• Claiming Strategies to Maximize Benefits

Medicare
• Parts A, B, C, D Explained
• Important Dates for Your Medicare

Medicaid
• Applying for Medicaid and Eligibility Requirements
• Planning Goals and Strategies

Government-Sponsored Disability Insurance Programs

Federal and State Employee Retirement Programs
Railroad Retirement System
Unemployment Compensation
Military Benefits
Estate Planning

Introduction to Estate Planning
• Steps to Estate Planning Process
• Developing an Estate Planning Roadmap for Your Family

Estate Evaluation Process
• In-Depth Review of Current Estate Planning
• Review of Trusts, Wills, Durable Powers of Attorney
• Periodic Review of Estate Plan

Estate Taxes
• Exclusion Amounts
• Portability

Asset Protection
• C Corps, LLCs, and LLPs Protect Personal Assets
• Irrevocable Trusts

Business Succession Planning
• Buy-Sell Arrangements
• Selling Your Business to Family and Non-Family

Assuring the Smooth Distribution of Your Estate
• Selecting an Executor, Nominating Guardian/Conservator
• Education on Wills, Trusts, Probate, etc

Forms of Property Ownership and Will Substitutes

Life Insurance: Estate Planning
• Life Insurance for Tax Planning
• Life Insurance as Wealth Replacement Tool
• Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust Planning

Lifetime (Non-Charitable and Charitable) Gifting
• Endowments and Foundations for Families or Individuals

Liquidity Planning
• Will Your Estate have Enough Liquidity to Pay Taxes and Other Expenses?

Planning for Incapacity
- Nursing Home Care, In-Home Care
- Community Resources for Elder Care

Estate Planning Issues for the Terminally Ill
Providing for Children of a Previous Marriage
Settling an Estate
Education Planning

Legislative Highlights
• Changes to Laws Surrounding Student Loans, College Savings Plans, etc

Funding Private Elementary/Secondary School

Estimating College Costs
• Private and Public School Cost Estimator

College Saving Options
• College Savings Calculator

Saving for College and Retirement
• Balancing Saving for Your Children's College and Your Retirement

Selecting and Applying to College

Financial Aid
• Positioning Income/Assets to Enhance Financial Aid Eligibility

Managing Expenses during the College Year
• Budgeting and Cash Flow Analysis

Education Tax Credits and Deductions
• Lifetime Learning Credit, Hope Credit, etc

Repaying Student Loans
• Personal Cash Flow Worksheet
Protection Planning

Legislative Highlights
• Changes to Tax Law
• Health Insurance Changes
• Investment Laws

Risk Management
• Preservation of Assets
• Liability Protection
• Legacy Protection
• Non-Investment Risk Assessment
• Surviving Spouse

Life Insurance

Fundamental Needs for Life Insurance
• Cost Analysis of Life Insurance
• Analysis of Type of Insurance

Special Planning Strategies and Considerations
• Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust (ILIT)
• Estate Planning
• Special Needs Beneficiaries
• Long Term Care
• Tax Planning with Life Insurance
• Cash Value Life Insurance
• Surrender of Policy

Claiming Strategies for Life Insurance and Survivor Benefits

Business Life Insurance Needs
• Funding Buy-Sell Agreements
• Life Insurance as Employee Benefit
• Split Dollar Life Insurance and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans
• Coverage on Key Employee

Annuities
• Fixed, Variable, Indexed
• Understanding your Policy
• Tax-Free Exchanges to Lower Cost Policies