

## From the Desk of Chris Eckert – February 2025

### Portfolio Corner

This month we highlight our **Select Series of Model Portfolios** (formerly my custom Vanguard Model Portfolios). The **Select 10 Portfolio** seeks to outperform its primary benchmark, the S&P 500, by investing in U.S. and international equity mutual funds and ETFs from 3 well known money managers:

- **Capital Group**, home of **American Funds**, has their own time-honored investment philosophy, combining deep research, a long-term investment horizon and their hallmark multi-manager portfolio system.
- **Fidelity** is well-known for its extensive lineup of actively managed mutual funds and star portfolio managers, supported by one of the largest research teams in the industry.
- **Vanguard**, while mostly known for its low-cost index and mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs), also offers a variety of low-cost, actively managed mutual funds.

The **Select 10 Portfolio** will usually hold 10 securities and generally be equally weighted. For more conservative investors, the **Select 15 Portfolio** is also available with allocations of 80/20, 65/35 and 50/50, equity to fixed income investments.

Please find attached the latest monthly update that includes a description of the models along with the portfolio construction guidelines, the current portfolio and the universe of securities or inventory. Due to the tactical nature of the portfolios, they are **ideally suited for tax deferred or non-taxable accounts such as IRAs, pensions, foundations, and endowments.**

Please [click here](#) to access the full suite of our custom model portfolios.

### Policy, Politics & Portfolios – Trump Economic Policy 2.0

Wells Fargo Investment Institute views policy changes from Washington as only one set of factors in its overall outlook, likely creating marketing volatility that provides investment opportunities in 2025. [Click here](#) to get their latest insights.

### Asset Allocation Spotlight – The Case for International Diversification

U.S. equity outperformance over the last 15 years has brought into question the effectiveness of diversifying internationally. Despite this historical outperformance by U.S. equities, can international assets play an important role in portfolio diversification, especially in the event of U.S.- based volatility or downside events? [Click here](#) to learn more.

### State of the Markets Monthly Roundtable

Please join Darrell Cronk, Chief Investment Officer for Wealth and Investment Management, as he hosts a roundtable discussion with senior strategists as they cover their latest outlook for the economic recovery, timely equity and fixed income guidance for this stage of the economic cycle, and practical ideas for balancing risk and reward in portfolios.

Replay information:  
Dial-in: 980-900-1046  
Passcode: 82538

Replay will be available through March 13, 2025

## Insights from the Home Team (WFA)

- Special Report - Four steps of successful investing. [See how](#)
- Chart of the Week – An era of growth in alternative investments. [Read report](#)
- Weekly Market Commentary – Fixed Income Opportunities. [Click here](#)

## Insights from our External Partners

- Sizing up small and mid-cap stocks in a concentrated U.S. market. (Capital Group) [Read now](#)
- Get ready for a broader US equity market. (Franklin Templeton) [Read now](#)
- Is U.S. outperformance a thing of the past? (T. Rowe Price) [Read now](#)
- DeepSeek: What you need to know. (T. Rowe Price) [Read now](#)

## About Chris Eckert

For over 40 years, I have been helping our clients to prepare for and navigate through life's most important transitions. Whether it's marriage or divorce, changing jobs or retirement, selling a business, or losing a loved one, these moments can present investors with formidable challenges or tremendous opportunities. Yes, life can be unpredictable, but it does not have to be unplanned. If you have questions or concerns about whether you are on the right path, then let's have a conversation. [Click here](#) to get started.

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As always, please let me know if you have questions, thoughts, or comments.

All the best  
Chris

Christopher Eckert, CFP<sup>®</sup>, CRPS<sup>™</sup>, CSRIC<sup>®™</sup>  
Managing Director – Investments  
Senior PIM Portfolio Manager  
Wells Fargo Advisors | 450 Post Road East | Westport CT 06880  
Tel 203-221-5107 | Text 475-255-7077 | Fax 203-221-1625  
[Christopher.eckert@wfa.com](mailto:Christopher.eckert@wfa.com)  
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