



# Asset Allocation | Growth & Income (Tax-Exempt)

## Objective

Fourth Quarter 2024

Combines objectives of growth and income exempt from federal taxation, with more emphasis on growth.

## Investment Philosophy

Asset allocation is a time-tested approach that addresses risk through diversification, while positioning portfolios to achieve growth, income, and other client-specific objectives. Confluence employs an *adaptive* approach to asset allocation that evaluates the investing landscape against the backdrop of the pending business cycle, as we recognize that risk levels and return potential rise and fall over market and economic cycles.

Through a disciplined, consensus-driven process, the Confluence team estimates the performance of 12 different asset classes in terms of risk, return, and yield looking forward three years. The intention is to remain within an acceptable risk profile, while changing the asset class mix to optimize return potential. Allocations are adjusted depending upon the investment committee's changing views of the marketplace and economy, utilizing over/underweights to focus on particular industry sectors, maturities, commodities, or countries. Confluence's Asset Allocation portfolios offer a broad spectrum of risk profiles and are implemented using exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

## 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
- Appropriate for investors with a moderate risk tolerance
- Strategy assets: \$93.1 million<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Strategy assets=\$32.7 million assets under management (AUM) + \$60.4 million assets under advisement (AUA); as of 6/30/24.

### Overall Morningstar Rating™



Among 358 separate accounts in the Moderately Aggressive Allocation category. This separate account was rated 4 stars/358 separate accounts (3 years), 4 stars/316 separate accounts (5 years), 4 stars/214 separate accounts (10 years) based on risk-adjusted returns. As of 6/30/24. Confluence provides compensation to Morningstar, Inc. for use of their analytics and permission to publish these ratings.<sup>7</sup>

## Current Holdings<sup>2</sup>

(As of 10/22/2024 rebalance)

See GIPS Report on pages 2-3

### Characteristics

Weighted SEC Yield	1.8%
Volatility Ceiling	14.0%
Number of Securities	20
Annual Turnover (3-Yr Rolling as of 12/31/23)	83%

### 5 Largest Holdings

Invesco S&P Midcap Quality ETF - XMHQ	14.0%
SPDR® S&P 400 Mid Cap Growth ETF - MDYG	11.5%
VanEck Vectors AMT-Free Long Muni ETF - MLN	8.0%
SPDR® Gold MiniShares ETF - GLDM	7.0%
SPDR® Nuveen S&P High Yield Muni Bond ETF - HYMB	7.0%

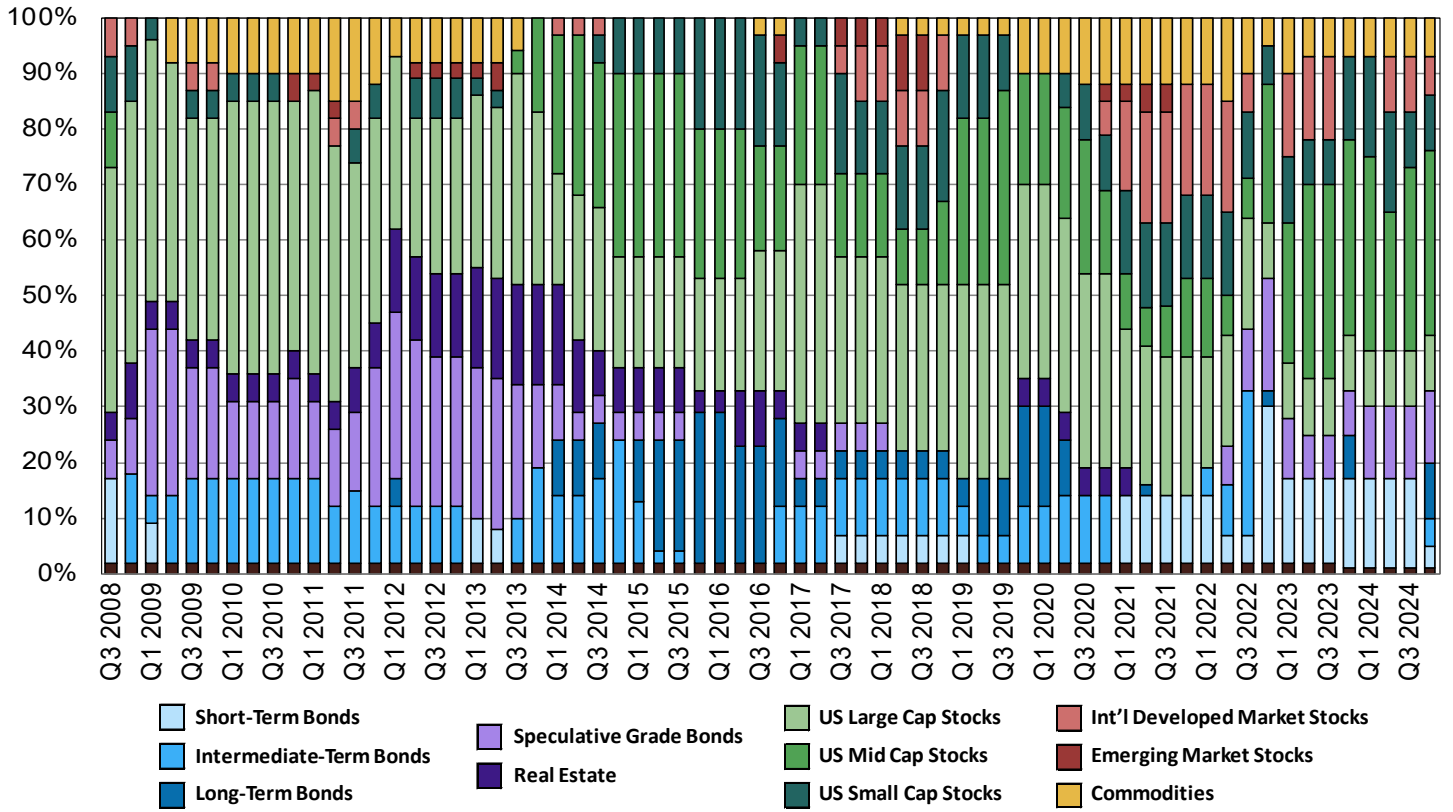
## Asset Allocation



### Recent Portfolio Changes<sup>3</sup>

We reduced short-term municipal bond exposure in the Growth & Income Tax-Exempt strategy this quarter in favor of introducing a position in longer-duration municipal bonds, which is designed to act as a stabilizer amid policy uncertainty and market volatility. High-yield municipal bonds remain for income diversification. Domestic equities continue to represent the bulk of the equity exposure, where we maintain the overweights to Energy, Aerospace & Defense, Cybersecurity, and uranium producers along with the quality factors in small and mid-caps. The international developed equity allocation was trimmed slightly, yet still holds a skew to Japan. The commodity exposure resides solely in gold for its use as an effective hedge against ongoing geopolitical tensions.

# Historical Model Allocation



## Performance Composite Returns<sup>4</sup> (For periods ending September 30, 2024)

	Since Inception**	15-Year*	10-Year*	5-Year*	3-Year*	1-Year	YTD	QTD
<b>Growth &amp; Income (Tax-Exempt Pure Gross-Of-Fees<sup>5</sup>)</b>	8.0%	9.3%	9.2%	11.0%	6.4%	21.2%	11.1%	5.8%
<i>Max Net-Of-Fees<sup>6</sup></i>	4.8%	6.1%	6.0%	7.7%	3.2%	17.6%	8.6%	5.0%
<b>Benchmark (70stock/30muni)</b>	9.7%	11.0%	10.2%	11.7%	8.4%	28.1%	15.9%	4.9%

Calendar Year	Pure Gross-Of-Fees <sup>5</sup>	Max Net-Of-Fees <sup>6</sup>	Benchmark (70stock/30muni)	Difference (Gross-Benchmark)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	Benchmark 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
2008**	(24.3%)	(25.1%)	(21.9%)	(2.1%)	9	\$1,847	\$291,644	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	25.7%	21.9%	22.9%	2.3%	62	\$13,297	\$533,832	N/A	N/A	0.3%
2010	11.7%	8.4%	11.6%	0.2%	87	\$19,644	\$751,909	N/A	N/A	0.1%
2011	1.2%	(1.8%)	4.9%	(3.9%)	78	\$19,329	\$937,487	15.6%	13.0%	0.1%
2012	11.0%	7.7%	13.3%	(2.4%)	86	\$22,080	\$1,272,265	11.9%	10.3%	0.1%
2013	11.5%	8.2%	20.9%	(9.3%)	93	\$24,622	\$1,955,915	9.7%	8.3%	0.2%
2014	12.4%	9.1%	12.4%	(0.2%)	66	\$17,945	\$2,589,024	6.9%	6.5%	0.1%
2015	0.9%	(2.1%)	2.2%	(1.4%)	68	\$18,325	\$3,175,419	7.4%	7.4%	0.2%
2016	10.3%	7.0%	8.5%	1.7%	45	\$6,439	\$4,413,659	7.8%	7.3%	0.1%
2017	15.5%	12.0%	16.7%	(1.2%)	50	\$7,999	\$5,944,479	7.2%	6.8%	0.1%
2018	(7.6%)	(10.3%)	(2.5%)	(5.0%)	44	\$6,392	\$5,486,737	8.6%	7.5%	0.1%
2019	20.7%	17.1%	24.1%	(3.5%)	49	\$9,345	\$7,044,708	9.9%	8.3%	0.1%
2020	19.9%	16.3%	14.9%	4.9%	44	\$8,895	\$6,889,798	14.8%	13.2%	0.2%
2021	17.0%	13.5%	20.0%	(3.2%)	64	\$17,284	\$7,761,687	13.6%	12.3%	0.2%
2022	(9.1%)	(11.8%)	(15.1%)	6.1%	86	\$20,196	\$6,931,635	14.5%	15.6%	0.2%
2023	13.2%	9.9%	20.0%	(6.8%)	97	\$28,092	\$7,200,019	11.9%	13.7%	0.1%

\*Average annualized returns

\*\*Inception is 9/1/2008

See performance disclosures on last page.

## Confluence Asset Allocation Committee

Mark Keller, CFA

Bill O'Grady

Patty Dahl

Sean Long

Patrick Fearon-  
Hernandez, CFA

Greg Ellston

Dave Miyazaki, CFA

Kaisa Stucke, CFA

Thomas Wash

### For more information, contact a member of our Sales Team:

(314) 530-6729 or [sales@confluenceim.com](mailto:sales@confluenceim.com)

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

## Disclosures

<sup>2</sup> **Current Portfolio**—Information presented reflects wrap account composites with taxable income (if applicable). Asset allocations shown represent the individual ETFs used in the model portfolios as of 10/22/24 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 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. Individual client portfolios may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Yield data source: Morningstar. 30-day SEC yield of the model portfolio as of 10/22/24. Annual turnover 3-year rolling calculated from sample accounts for periods ending 12/31/2023.

<sup>3</sup> **Recent Portfolio Changes**—The investment or strategy discussed may not be suitable for all investors. Investors must make their own decisions based on their specific investment objectives and financial circumstances.

**Benchmark:** 70% stock / 30% muni - custom benchmark is calculated monthly and consists of a blend of 70% S&P 500 and 30% Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index. (Source: Bloomberg)

<sup>4</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, 2023. 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 Growth and Income Tax-Exempt-Plus strategy was inceptioned on September 1, 2008, and the Growth and Income Tax-Exempt-Plus Composite was created on September 1, 2008. 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>5</sup> Pure gross returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards.

<sup>6</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. Subsequent to July 1, 2019, bundled fee accounts make up 100% of the composite. 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 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 Growth & Income Tax-Exempt-Plus Composite contains fully discretionary Growth & 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 and 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.

The benchmark was changed retroactively on 1/1/24 due to wider market adoption and transparency of the underlying constituents. The custom benchmark prior to 1/1/24 was calculated monthly and consisted of: S&P 500 70% and 30% ML Municipal Bond Index. Inflation was removed prior to 1/1/24 and had been provided as additional information and was represented by the US 5-year TIP breakeven spread.

\*\*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.

<sup>7</sup> **Overall Morningstar Rating™**—Information provided is for educational/illustrative purposes only and should not be construed as individualized advice, recommendation, or endorsement of any investment strategy. Information is not intended to forecast or predict future performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Ratings are objective, based entirely on a mathematical evaluation of past performance, and based on gross-of-fees performance (before deduction of advisory fees). Net performance information is available on the Confluence website. Ratings should not be considered a buy or sell recommendation. Confluence provides compensation to Morningstar, Inc. for use of their analytics systems/database as well as for permission to publish these ratings.

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The Morningstar Rating™, or "star rating," is calculated for separate accounts with at least a three-year history. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. As of 6/30/2024.