

Investor Education Links

[AARP](#)

[Alliance for Investor Education \(AIE\)](#)

The Alliance for Investor Education is dedicated to facilitating greater understanding of investing, investments and the financial markets among current and prospective investors of all ages. We pursue initiatives for education and join with others to motivate Americans to obtain objective information and increase their knowledge and understanding of investing.

[American Association of Individual Investors](#)

AAII is a nonprofit organization that aims individual investors with the education and tools they need to build wealth. From stock investing to financial planning and retirement funding, AAI covers all your needs.

[Better Investing](#)

Since 1951, BetterInvesting has helped over 5 million people become better, more informed investors. We help our members build wealth through educational webinars, web-based stock tools, in-person learning events, publications, an active online community and software.

Our mission is to provide a program of sound investments information, education, and support that helps create successful lifetime investors. By becoming confident, knowledgeable investors, our members are empowered to build better financial futures for themselves and their families.

[Broker Check](#)

BrokerCheck is a free tool to help investors research the professional backgrounds of current and former FINRA-registered brokerage firms and brokers, as well as investment adviser firms and representatives. BrokerCheck information is drawn from filings by regulators, firms and investment professionals. It includes current licensing status and history, employment history and, if any, reported regulatory, customer dispute, criminal and other matters. It should be the first resource investors turn to when choosing whether to do business or continue to do business with a particular firm or individual.

[Center For Audit Quality For Investors](#)

[Financial Industry Regulatory Authority \(FINRA\)](#)

FINRA is the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

FINRA is dedicated to investor protection and market integrity through effective and efficient regulation of the securities industry. FINRA is not part of the government. We're an independent, not-for-profit organization authorized by Congress to protect America's investors by making sure the securities industry operates fairly and honestly. We do this by: writing and enforcing rules governing the activities of more than 4,140 securities firms with approximately 633,155 brokers; examining firms for compliance with those rules; fostering market transparency; and educating investors.

Our independent regulation plays a critical role in America's financial system—by enforcing high ethical standards, bringing the necessary resources and expertise to regulation and enhancing investor safeguards and market integrity—all at no cost to taxpayers.

Every investor in America relies on one thing: fair financial markets. That's why FINRA works every day to ensure that: every investor receives the basic protections they deserve; anyone who sells a securities product has been tested, qualified and licensed; every securities product advertisement used is truthful, and not misleading; any securities product sold to an investor is suitable for that investor's needs; and investors receive complete disclosure about the investment product before purchase.

[Investor .gov](#)

Brought to you by The SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Investor .gov is your online resource to help you invest wisely and avoid fraud. The SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy is dedicated to serving the needs of individual investors.

[Investor Protection Trust](#)

The Investor Protection Trust (IPT) is a nonprofit organization trust devoted to investor education. The primary mission of IPT is to provide consumers with independent, objective information required to make informed investment decisions. Funding for the IPT comes from the Investor Education Fund (IEF), a fund established with contributions from the analyst conflicts-of-interest settlements. The IEF is designated for investor education programs designed to provide consumers with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions and to increase their personal financial literacy.

[Jump\\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy](#)

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy® is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization based in Washington, DC. It is a coalition—an organization of organizations that share an interest in advancing financial literacy among students in pre-kindergarten through college. Today, Jump\$tart is a partnership of about 150 national organizations and entities from the corporate, non-profit, academic, government and other sectors. Many of these coalition partners are “household names.” Generally, these partner organizations conduct and/or support financial education or offer financial education tools and materials for youth and others. View our [Partner List](#).

[Kiplinger](#)

Kiplinger (pronounced KIP-ling-er) is a Washington, D.C.-based publisher of business forecasts and personal finance advice, available in print, online, audio, video and software products.

Our best-known publications are *The Kiplinger Letter*, a weekly business and economic forecasting periodical for people in management, and the monthly *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine. The total paid circulation of our periodicals exceeds 850,000, and our Web site, Kiplinger.com, receives 2.2 million unique visitors and 20 mm pages per month.

MyMoney.gov

This website is a product of the Congressionally chartered Federal Financial Literacy and Education Commission, which is made up of more than 20 Federal entities that are coordinating and collaborating to strengthen financial capability and increase access to financial services for all Americans. The Commission was established by the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act, Title V of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-159).

[New York Stock Exchange \(NYSE\)](http://NewYorkStockExchange.com)

[North American Securities Administrators Association \(NASAA\)](http://NASAA.org)

Organized in 1919, the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) is the oldest international organization devoted to investor protection. NASAA is a voluntary association whose membership consists of 67 state, provincial, and territorial securities administrators in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, and Mexico.

In the United States, NASAA is the voice of state securities agencies responsible for efficient capital formation and grass-roots investor protection. Their fundamental mission is protecting consumers who purchase securities or investment advice, and their jurisdiction extends to a wide variety of issuers and intermediaries who offer and sell securities to the public.

NASAA members license firms and their agents, investigate violations of state and provincial law, file enforcement actions when appropriate, and educate the public about investment fraud.

Through the association, NASAA members also participate in multi-state enforcement actions and information sharing. NASAA also coordinates and implements training and education seminars annually for state/district/provincial and territorial securities agency staff.

SaveAndInvest.org

SaveAndInvest.org, a project of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, is a free, unbiased resource dedicated to your financial health. Through easy-to-use tools and resources, SaveAndInvest.org helps you make informed financial decisions—and arms you with the information you need to protect yourself from investment fraud.

Using fine money levied by FINRA against firms for misleading sales practices targeting military personnel, the FINRA Foundation first launched SaveAndInvest.org in 2006 as part of our Military Financial Readiness Project. In 2008, we expanded the site to include information about fraud prevention for all investors.

FINRA and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation offers educational publications and other materials free of charge. [Download PDFs or order printed copies](#) of our materials today—and expand your knowledge to become a smarter investor.

[U.S. Postal Inspectors Fraud Hotline](#).....800-FRAUD-IS or 1-877-876-2455

[U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission](#)

The mission of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

As more and more first-time investors turn to the markets to help secure their futures, pay for homes, and send children to college, our investor protection mission is more compelling than ever.

As our nation's securities exchanges mature into global for-profit competitors, there is even greater need for sound market regulation.

And the common interest of all Americans in a growing economy that produces jobs, improves our standard of living, and protects the value of our savings means that all of the SEC's actions must be taken with an eye toward promoting the capital formation that is necessary to sustain economic growth.

The laws and rules that govern the securities industry in the United States derive from a simple and straightforward concept: all investors, whether large institutions or private individuals, should have access to certain basic facts about an investment prior to buying it, and so long as they hold it. To achieve this, the SEC requires public companies to disclose meaningful financial and other information to the public. This provides a common pool of knowledge for all investors to use to judge for themselves whether to buy, sell, or hold a particular security. Only through the steady flow of timely, comprehensive, and accurate information can people make sound investment decisions

The SEC oversees the key participants in the securities world, including securities exchanges, securities brokers and dealers, investment advisors, and mutual funds. Here the SEC is concerned primarily with promoting the disclosure of important market-related information, maintaining fair dealing, and protecting against fraud.

Crucial to the SEC's effectiveness in each of these areas is its enforcement authority. Each year the SEC brings hundreds of civil enforcement actions against individuals and companies for violation of the securities laws. Typical infractions include insider trading, accounting fraud, and providing false or misleading information about securities and the companies that issue them.

[Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement \(WISER\)](#)

The Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) is dedicated to the education and advocacy that will improve the long-term financial quality of life for women. As the only organization to focus exclusively on the unique financial challenges that women face, WISER supports women's opportunities to secure adequate retirement income through research, workshops and partnerships.

WISER is a nonprofit organization that works to help women, educators and policymakers understand the important issues surrounding women's retirement income. WISER creates a variety of consumer publications including fact sheets, booklets and a quarterly newsletter that explain in easy-to-understand

language the complex issues surrounding Social Security, divorce, pay equity, pensions, savings and investments, banking, home-ownership, long-term care and disability insurance. As part of our national education campaign, *Your Future Paycheck®: What Women Need To Know*, WISER has been able to reach thousands of women through workshops held across the nation. WISER has also been the driving force behind a series of state and local events aimed at leveling the playing field for women on long-term financial security.