

A VICTORY CAPITAL® INVESTMENT FRANCHISE

# Strategy Objective

The Multi-Asset strategy primarily seeks capital appreciation across a range of economic environments through active allocations to and within equity, fixed income, and real asset exposures. This multiasset class strategy combines high-conviction active management with the diversification of low-cost, passive exchange-traded products.

Inception Date: January 2018 Top-down approach since 1996

Focus: Global multi-asset

**Investments:** Long-only, equity, fixed-income, and real asset ETFs and ETPs from leading U.S. providers

Risk Mitigation: Manage downside protection through fixed-income allocation, real asset allocation, regional equity allocation, and U.S. sector avoidance

#### **INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE**



Source: IDC, WestEnd Advisors. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. The blended benchmark for the Multi-Asset strategy is 60% MSCI ACWI (Net) Index and 40% US Aggregate

WestEnd Advisors claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®)

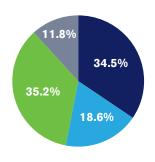
### **RISK AND RETURN SUMMARY\***

	Trailing 3 Years Multi-Asset		<b>Si</b> Multi-	nce Incept Asset	ion	
	Gross	Net	Benchmark	Gross	Net	Benchmark
Return	8.58%	5.38%	5.00%	7.03%	3.87%	4.79%
Standard Deviation	12.27%	12.21%	11.70%	13.77%	13.70%	12.55%
Alpha	3.49%	0.32%	n/a	1.99%	-1.15%	n/a
Beta	1.02	1.02	1.00	1.08	1.08	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	0.57	0.31	0.29	0.39	0.16	0.25
R-Squared	95.2%	95.2%	n/a	97.1%	97.1%	n/a
Tracking Error	2.69%	2.67%	n/a	2.57%	2.53%	n/a
Upside Capture	119.9%	103.0%	100.0%	117.9%	100.6%	100.0%
Downside Capture	88.7%	99.9%	100.0%	99.7%	109.8%	100.0%

Source: IDC, WestEnd Advisors

## **CURRENT ALLOCATION**

- U.S. Large-Cap Equity
- International Equity
- Fixed Income
- Real Assets



#### PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

Number of Holdings	8 to 22 Typically
Equity Exposure	35% to 80%
U.S. Large-Cap	14% to 56%
U.S. Small/Mid-Cap	0% to 12%
International Equity	5% to 48%
Fixed Income Exposure	14% to 50%
Real Asset Exposure	0% to 30%
Target Cash Position	2% to 5%
Annual Turnover Range	16% to 66%**

### MODEL PORTFOLIO WEIGHTS†

Equities		
U.S. Large-Cap Equity	34.5%	
Health Care	9.5%	
Information Technology	8.6%	
Consumer Staples	5.2%	
Communication Services	4.3%	
Consumer Discretionary	3.4%	
Utilities	3.4%	
Europe	5.4%	
Asia & Other Int'l	13.2%	
Fixed Income		
Inv. Grade Corp. Bonds	10.3%	

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Treasury Bonds	20.8%
Floating-Rate Treasury	4.1%

### **Real Assets**

Energy MLPs/Infrastructure Equity	4.5%
Gold	7.3%

All data as of 6/30/2023 unless otherwise noted.

- \* Supplemental information based on the Multi-Asset Composite. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee. See Footnotes and Disclosures on page 4 for additional information.
- \*\*Based on 5 years ended 12/31/22.
- <sup>†</sup> Weights reflect underlying holdings of ETF and ETP positions at target model weights excluding cash.



Q2 2023

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#### PORTFOLIO POSITIONING as of 6/30/2023

- Given our outlook for late-cycle economic conditions with weak economic growth and increased risk of recession, we are underweighting or avoiding the most economically sensitive assets, such as equities, real estate, and broad commodities.
- We do see opportunity for diversification and appreciation from exposure to gold in the current inflationary environment as well as from select infrastructure exposure.
- Within equities, we are avoiding early-phase cyclical U.S. sectors and, instead, are emphasizing
  sectors that we expect will see less earnings deceleration and margin compression as
  economic growth slows, and we maintain overweights to late-phase, defensive U.S. sector
  exposures including Health Care, Consumer Staples, and Utilities.
- We remain underweight to international equities, as a whole, including underweights of Europe
  and emerging markets, but we maintain an overweight of developed Asia, where we see the
  greatest potential for economic resilience abroad.
- Within fixed income allocations, we are emphasizing intermediate and longer-term securities
  that should benefit from declining interest rates, and we have increased our overweight of
  Treasury exposure, which we believe could benefit amid a flight to perceived safe assets.

#### Q2 2023 ATTRIBUTION\*

Underweight	Fixed Income Asset Class Emerging Asia in Equities U.S. Energy in Equities
Negative Contributors	
Overweight	Real Assets U.S. Utilities in Equities U.S. Consumer Staples in Equities
Underweight	Equity Asset Class
Source: Bloomberg WestEnd Advisors	

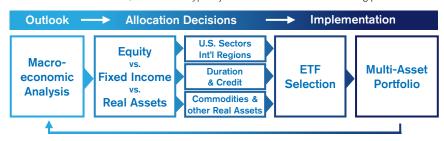
**HISTORICAL RETURNS\*** 

	Multi-Asset Composite		
	Gross	Net	Benchmark
2023 YTD	8.67%	7.07%	9.11%
2022	-13.35%	-15.95%	-16.02%
2021	15.99%	12.60%	10.20%
2020	15.73%	12.34%	13.49%
2019	19.88%	16.39%	19.41%
2018	-4.15%	-7.00%	-5.52%

Source: IDC, WestEnd Advisors

### **MULTI-ASSET INVESTMENT PROCESS**

We begin the investment process by aggregating more than 200 domestic and international economic measures into a proprietary database. Then we evaluate the data to identify areas of economic strength and weakness in the global equity, U.S. fixed-income, and various real asset/commodities markets, and invest in typically 8 to 22 ETFs/ETPs from leading providers.



#### **CURRENT HOLDINGS\***

#### **U.S.** Equities

•	
Communication Services Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLC
Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLY
Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLP
Health Care Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLV
Technology Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLK
Utilities Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLU

#### **International Equities**

iShares Core MSCI Europe ETF	IEUR
Vanguard FTSE All-World Ex-US Index Fund ETF Shares	VEU
Vanguard FTSE Pacific Index Fund ETF Shares	VPL

#### **Fixed Income**

iShares 3-7 Year Treasury Bond ETF	IEI
iShares 7-10 Year Treasury Bond ETF	IEF
iShares 20+ Year Treasury Bond ETF	TLT
iShares Treasury Floating Rate Bond ETF	TFLO
Vanguard Interm. Term Corp. Bond ETF	VCIT
Vanguard Long-Term Corporate Bond ETF	VCLT

#### **Real Assets**

Global X MLP & Energy Infrastructure ETF	MLPX
SPDR Gold MiniShares	GLDM

#### INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

Fritz Porter, CFA	CIO, Portfolio Manager 24 years of experience 15 years at WestEnd Advisors
Ned Durden	CIS, Portfolio Manager 26 years of experience 17 years at WestEnd Advisors
Ty Peebles, CFA, CPA	Portfolio Manager 13 years of experience 9 years at WestEnd Advisors
Jacob Buchanan, CFA	Portfolio Manager 7 years of experience 5 years at WestEnd Advisors

All data as of 6/30/2023 unless otherwise noted.

<sup>\*</sup> Supplemental information based on Multi-Asset Composite.

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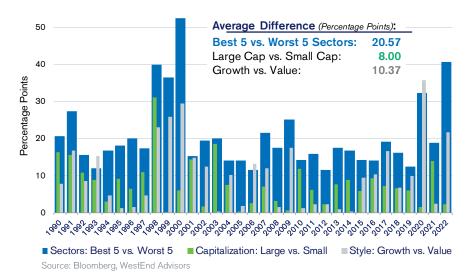
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#### THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTOR ALLOCATION

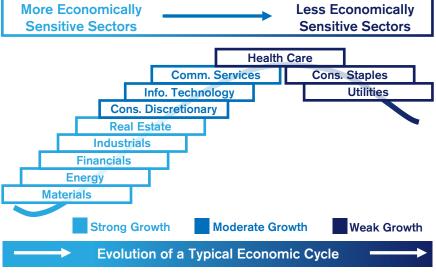
The path of economic growth is a key driver of U.S. equity sector performance. The investment team analyzes recurring cyclical trends and identifies the characteristics particular to the current economic cycle. Portfolios are typically invested in four to six large-cap U.S. sectors at any one time based on our macroeconomic outlook, but may be invested in more or fewer sectors as conditions warrant.

### RANGE OF RETURNS BY SECTOR, CAPITALIZATION, AND STYLE\*



Owning the right sectors at the right time and avoiding those not in their ideal economic environment offers significantly more opportunity for outperformance, in our view, than allocating to the right equity style or market capitalization range.

WestEnd actively positions client portfolios in more economically-sensitive sectors when it expects strong growth, and transitions to less economically-sensitive sectors as growth expectations wane.



For illustrative purposes only.

<sup>\*</sup> Sector performance is represented by sectors of the S&P 500® Index. "Large Cap" is represented by the S&P 500® Index. "Small Cap" is represented by the Russell 2000® Index. "Growth" is represented by the Russell 1000® Growth Index. "Value" is represented by the Russell 1000® Value Index. Data for 2016 excludes Real Estate as a stand-alone sector, which was included in Financials until September 16, 2016. Data for 2018 replaces the Telecommunication Services Sector with the new Communication Services Sector after September 21, 2018, using geometrically-linked total returns to produce a single full-year return, and treats the linked returns as a single sector, due to changes in GICS sector classifications and index rebalancing that occurred as of market close on September 21, 2018.



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#### **FOOTNOTES AND DISCLOSURES**

WestEnd Advisors, LLC ("WestEnd"), an SEC-registered investment adviser, operates as an autonomous Victory Capital® Investment Franchise. WestEnd's active principals are responsible for managing the firm and its day-to-day operations. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. WestEnd manages equity securities for individual, institutional and wrap clients.

WestEnd Advisors' Multi-Asset Composite includes all discretionary accounts invested in the Multi-Asset model except for portfolios that participate in a wrap-fee program. The Multi-Asset Composite creation and inception date is December 31, 2017, and the investment strategy has been consistent since creation. WestEnd Advisors' Multi-Asset Composite is invested in large, mid, and small-cap U.S. equities, international equities, U.S. fixed-income, U.S. MLPs, and real assets such as commodities, through the use of exchangetraded products (ETPs), and/or high-grade money market instruments. The composite typically has greater exposure to equities, but allocations will vary based on the managers' outlook. Returns are achieved without the use of options, derivatives, or leverage of any kind. Results are calculated daily using the aggregate method, use trade date valuations, and include cash as well as the reinvestment of dividends, interest income, and other earnings, if applicable. Portfolio returns are weighted using beginning of period values plus weighted cash flows. Portfolios and composites are valued daily and are denominated in U.S. dollars only.

The performance shown is based on WestEnd Advisors' Multi-Asset Composite which includes all fully discretionary accounts invested in the Multi-Asset model except for Wrap-Fee (Wrap) and Unified Managed Account (UMA) accounts. While the accounts in the Multi-Asset Composite are invested according to the same model as Wrap and UMA accounts, performance may differ between the Multi-Asset Composite and Wrap and UMA accounts due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to: fees assessed by Wrap and UMA sponsors (e.g. wrap fees), Wrap and UMA sponsor- and client-imposed investment restrictions, and WestEnd Advisors' lack of trading discretion over UMA accounts.

Gross returns reflect the deduction of direct trading costs and the underlying expenses of investment vehicles held in the portfolio. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate which is intended to equal or exceed the combined maximum advisory program fees and maximum investment management fees charged to advisory platform clients. This combined fee will normally include all charges for trading costs, portfolio management fees, custody and other administrative fees. Composite net returns are calculated by subtracting 1/12th of the highest applicable annual fee rate (3.00%) from the monthly gross return. Due to compounding of returns, full year net returns will typically not equal the gross return less 3%. Actual fees may vary depending on the individual sponsor's fee. Investment management fees are negotiated directly with advisory program sponsors. Fees are negotiable where circumstances warrant. Additional information on fees is provided in WestEnd Advisors' SEC Form ADV Part 2.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable. The information contained herein is not intended to be an offer to provide investment advisory services. Such an offer may only be made if accompanied by WestEnd Advisors' SEC Form ADV Part 2.

The MSCI ACWI (Net) Index, Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index, and Multi-Asset benchmark are used for comparative purposes only. The MSCI ACWI (Net) Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The MSCI ACWI consists of 47 country

indexes comprising 23 developed and 24 emerging market country indexes. The total return of the MSCI ACWI (Net) Index is calculated using net dividends. Net total return reflects the reinvestment of dividends after the deduction of withholding taxes, using (for international indices) a tax rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. The Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS and CMBS (agency and nonagency). The Multi-Asset benchmark is composed of 60% of the MSCI ACWI (Net) Index and 40% of the Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index; is shown to reflect the investments in equity and fixed-income securities; and is rebalanced monthly. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of independent verifiers.

A complete list and description of all WestEnd Advisors' composites, as well as a presentation that complies with the requirements of Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®), may be obtained by phone (888-500-9025) or email (info@westendadvisors.com). Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports is available upon request. 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.

Attribution Analysis is relative to the Multi-Asset benchmark and was current as of the quarter specified in this presentation. A complete attribution report is available upon request.

Any portfolio characteristics, including position sizes and sector allocations among others, are generally averages and are for illustrative purposes only and do not reflect the investments of an actual portfolio unless otherwise noted. The investment guidelines of an actual portfolio may permit or restrict investments that are materially different in size, nature, and risk from those shown. The investment processes, research processes, or risk processes shown herein are for informational purposes to demonstrate an overview of the process. Such processes may differ by product, client mandate, or market conditions. Portfolios that are concentrated in a specific sector or industry may be subject to a higher degree of market risk than a portfolio whose investments are more diversified.

Holdings, Sector Weightings, and Portfolio Characteristics were current as of the date specified in this presentation. The listing of particular securities should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell these securities. While these securities were among WestEnd Advisors' Multi-Asset holdings at the time this material was assembled, holdings will change over time. There can be no assurance that the securities remain in the portfolio or that other securities have not been purchased. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities presently in the portfolio. Individual clients' portfolios may vary. Upon request, WestEnd Advisors will provide a list of all recommendations for the prior year.

As of June 30, 2023, WestEnd Advisors had \$4.1 million of assets in the Multi-Asset Composite. This information is included as supplemental information only.

July 2023