

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Dividends: Reinvest Or Not?



By Cory Taylor

the stocks or funds?
 There's no one correct answer for everyone. So, let's look at some reasons for both choices — reinvesting or cashing out.
 Reinvesting dividends offers at least two related benefits. First, reinvested dividends make up part of a stock's total return, along with price appreciation. And second, when you reinvest dividends, you are buying more shares of the investment — and share ownership is a key to building wealth.
 Keep in mind that dividends can be increased, decreased or eliminated without notice.
 It's also easy to reinvest dividends. Through a

dividend reinvestment plan, or DRIP, your dividends are automatically used to buy more shares of a company. And these new shares will generate more dividends that can be reinvested. Consequently, it's fair to say that dividend reinvesting is an economical way to grow your portfolio. However, a DRIP does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss, so you'll need to consider your willingness to keep investing when share prices are declining.
 If you're mainly investing for longterm growth, you may well want to reinvest your dividends. But under what circumstances wouldn't you want to reinvest them?
 For starters, of course,

you may simply need the dividends to help support your cash flow. This may be especially true in your retirement years. But there may be other reasons to cash out dividends, rather than reinvesting them.
 You might already own a considerable number of shares in a stock or mutual fund and you don't want to buy more of the same. By not reinvesting these dividends, you can use the money to help broaden your investment mix.
 You also might want to consider taking the cash, rather than reinvesting, if the company that pays the dividends appears to be struggling or has an uncertain future. Again, you

could then use the money to fill gaps in your portfolio.
 Regardless of whether you reinvest your dividends, you'll pay taxes on them if your investments are held in a taxable account. Ordinary dividends are taxed at your ordinary income tax rates, while qualified dividends are taxed at the capital gains rate, which is 0%, 18%, or 20%, depending on your income. (A dividend is considered qualified if you've held the stock for a certain length of time.)
 If your dividend-paying investments are held in a traditional IRA or a 401(k), you won't have to pay taxes on the dividends until you begin taking withdrawals from these accounts,

typically at retirement.
 And if you have a Roth IRA or Roth 401(k), you may not pay taxes on the dividends at all, provided you've had the account at least five years and you don't take withdrawals until you're at least 59½.
 In any case, you may find that dividends, whether reinvested or taken in cash, can play a role in your overall financial strategy. So, follow your dividend payments carefully — and make the most of them.
This article was written by Edward Jones for use by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Cory Taylor, who can be reached by calling (850) 223-0999.

DOGE requests include hours worked by department

DOGE
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task force, the requests for information have been forwarded to all department heads and the county's five constitutional officers in an effort to collect the information by the May 2 deadline.
 Due to the sheer volume of information requested by DOGE, as well as the level of detail, it is expected to take a significant amount of time for the county to collect.

The requested information includes:
 1. Budget and spending reports at a line-item level of detail for each department;
 2. Position descriptions and salaries (or salary ranges) for each employee (names and other personally-identifiable information can be withheld);
 3. All contracts with

total costs, deliverables, spending amounts and whether the contract was awarded competitively or non-competitively;
 4. All grants made to each recipient, and sub-recipients where applicable, with descriptions and purposes;
 5. Service delivery metrics and performance for all departments;
 6. Hours worked by department, and projects and tasks completed.

The commission voted unanimously on Aug. 7 to approve a resolution inviting Gov. Ron DeSantis' DOGE task force to work with the county on the financial review in light of a projected multi-million dollar tax revenue loss due to the closure of Georgia-Pacific's Foley Cellulose mill and the damages inflicted to hundreds of homes and businesses by Hurricane Helene last fall.

"The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners supports efforts identifying unnecessary spending, creating efficiencies and saving taxpayer dollars," Taylor County's resolution stated. "The board supports identifying and working to eliminate unnecessary programs, misaligned grants and redundant contracts within the county, including those which may be inconsistent with regulations of the state."
 "The board desires to work in good faith with the EOG DOGE Team to facilitate their mission and to conduct a comprehensive review of the County's budget and operations. Through this partnership, the Board will grant the EOG DOGE Team access to the necessary records and any physical premises and data which may assist the County in identifying

efficiencies. The Board will recommend administrative or policy reforms to promote efficiency and maximize productivity within local government."
 In a letter to the county dated April 11, Eric Soskin with EOG DOGE stated, "The Executive Office of the Governor appreciates your statement of support for the Florida DOGE effort established by Executive Order 25-44. We have been encouraged by the widespread outpouring of support, not only from the people of Florida, but from public officials and governmental entities at all levels.
 "The goal of the Florida DOGE is to help deliver to Florida's citizens the good government to which all Americans should be entitled, by promoting efficiency, effectiveness and financial responsibility, while reducing unnecessary

and inappropriate spending. Our success will promote confidence in our government and Florida's continued prosperity.
 "As you know from our March 18, 2025 letter, the EOG DOGE team has begun its efforts by reviewing publicly-available information, as well as the responses to that letter regarding instances of financial emergency or distress. In your responses, or in calls, letters and resolutions of support, many of you have asked how your jurisdiction can help achieve our goals or requested that we assist you in identifying local efficiency opportunities," Soskin said.
 "One important way that you can help is to assist us in better understanding the programs, budgets and spending in your entity by providing us with additional information to

supplement that which is publicly available. We have identified several types of information that you should be able to readily retrieve and provide to us as a starting point as we work together.
 "You are encouraged to provide your responses to all the requests below as soon as possible, and it will have the most usefulness to us if we receive it by Friday, May 2," Soskin said.
 According to Soskin, EOG DOGE has set up "a private, secure and convenient system" through which to upload the requested information.
 "If there are categories of information for which you cannot provide a response, please send us an email identifying that information and describing the reason why it is unavailable," Soskin said. "We will try to work with you to identify alternatives."

FDOT, Florida Commerce both provided funding for project

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and a \$304,500 Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) grant from the Florida Department of Commerce. No local funding match will be required.
 According to County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton, the bid committee will consist of herself, Airport Manager

Ward Ketring, County Grants Writer Melody Cox and John Collins with AVCON, the county's airport consultant.
 The bid committee is expected to provide a recommendation at a future commission meeting.
 In January 2024, Cox told the commission she had recently learned that issues with the fuel system would likely result in the

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) not renewing the county's annual license to sell Avgas at the local airport.
 According to Cox, the Perry-Foley Airport sold 47,343 gallons of Avgas in 2023, totaling \$245,349 in revenues.
 Cox praised the quick response from FDOT once issues were discovered,

stating that within 48 hours of learning of the issue, the agency identified \$625,000 in funding that had been left over following projects at other airports around the state.
 The Avgas project is expected to include the construction of new concrete infrastructure and the installation of a 15,000-gallon Avgas tank and fuel system at Perry-

Foley Airport.
 According to the county's RIF grant application, "The existing fuel system has aged and has internal leaks and needs replacement as soon as possible. The county has been informed the existing system will more than likely not pass the next DEP inspection, due to regulatory standards, thus losing their license to sell Avgas fuel. This

would be devastating, as being able to provide and sell aviation fuel is critical to keep the airport fully operational.
 "The airport is instrumental and essential for economic, as well as tourism, development. A great deal of FAA and FDOT funding has been invested in the airport, which has facilitated substantial growth in the past 10 years."

LEGALS

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Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida.
 Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 12th day of May 2025 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
 Dated this 28th day of March 2025
 Signature: Gary Knowles
 Clerk of Circuit Court
 Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Anthony Llanes, LLL, the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate Number 1003
 Year of Issuance 2018
 Description of Property:
 Parcel Number: R07120-151
 Described as: LEG 0000.29 ACRES - CEDAR ISLAND SANDPIPER UNIT - LOT 51 - SUBJ TO ESMT IN OR 511-619 - OR 472-987 SECTION 01 TOWNSHIP 08 RANGE 07
 Name in which assessed: Bonnie Jo Whittingham
 Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 12th day of May 2025 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
 Dated this 28th day of March 2025
 Signature: Gary Knowles
 Clerk of Circuit Court
 Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Anthony Llanes, LLL, the holder

of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate Number 1016
 Year of Issuance 2018
 Description of Property:
 Parcel Number: R07294-200
 Described as: LEG 0002.50 ACRES - COM NE COR OF NE ¼ OF NE ¼ FOR - POB RUN S 383.10 FT TO N RW CO RD - S34DW ALG R/W 169.75 FT W 333.52 FT - N 141.44 FT E 285.49 FT N 382.53 FT - E 144.77 FT TO POB TOGETHER WITH - ESMT & LESS 3/8 INT IN OGM RGTS - OR 220-919 SECTION 06 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 08
 Name in which assessed: Ronnie G & Edna Hill
 Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 12th day of May 2025 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
 Dated this 28th day of March 2025
 Signature: Gary Knowles
 Clerk of Circuit Court
 Taylor County, Florida

IN THE THIRD CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 25-100CC
 IN RE: 2005 TOYOTA SIENNA CE VIN#: 5TDZ2A23C35S298098
 PAUL A. SELLERS II, PETITIONER
 MAYNOR OSBEELY MALDONADO, RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF ACTION

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT AN ACTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF OWNERSHIP OF PERSONAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS A 2005

TOYOTA SIENNA CE, VIN NUMBER IS 5TDZ2A23C35S298098, HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST YOU AND YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SERVE A COPY OF YOUR WRITTEN OBJECTIONS, IF ANY, TO PAUL A. SELLERS II WHOSE ADDRESS IS 6041 BEACH RD PERRY, FL 32348, ON OR BEFORE MAY 5, 2025 AND FILE THE ORIGINAL WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT AT: 108 N. Jefferson St, PERRY FL 32348, BEFORE SERVICE ON PETITIONER OR IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION.
 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS COURT ON the 31st DAY OF MARCH, 2025.
 Gary Knowles
 Clerk of Circuit Court
 By: Kathryn Lago
 Deputy Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2025-029-CP,

IN RE: ESTATE OF ISADORE FRANCIS ROMMES, A/K/A ISADORE ROMMES, JR., Deceased. The administration of the estate of Isadore Francis Rommes, a/k/a Isadore Rommes, Jr., deceased, File Number 2025-029-CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 108 N. Jefferson St., Perry, Florida 32347. The Name and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims

or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is April 23, 2025. Personal Representative Angela Rommes Wilson c/o Sally Roberts, PO Box 2026, Perry, FL 32348, Attorney for Personal Representative: Sally Roberts Florida Bar No. 102816, PO Box 2026, Perry, FL 32348, Telephone: 850-584-3812.

THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION Case No. 2025 - 31 - CP

In Re: Estate of: ALICE GRAHAM BRADY, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of ALICE GRAHAM BRADY, deceased, whose date of death was March 9, 2025; File Number 2025-31-CP is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the

Personal Representative's Attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice has been served, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE TIME OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss.732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s.732.2211, Florida Statutes. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is 04/23/2025.

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 ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.A.
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 411 North Washington Street
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 Telephone: (850) 584-3300
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