

November 9, 2016 — Market Commentary



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Chief Investment Officer

As Clark Capital's Chief Investment Officer, Sean oversees all of the Firm's investment activities and heads the Firm's portfolio team. Sean joined the Firm in 1993 and is responsible for asset allocation and investment selection for Navigator Investment Solutions as well as directing ongoing market research and contributing to the development of proprietary products. Sean is a member of the Clark Capital Board of Directors, the Investment Committee and the Management Committee. He graduated from the University of Delaware, earning a B.S. and an M.A. in Economics. Sean is a Chartered Financial Analyst and a member of the CFA Institute (formerly AIMR) and the Financial Analysts of Philadelphia, Inc. Sean is considered an industry expert and is often asked to appear on CNBC and Bloomberg television to share his views on the market. In addition, Sean has been featured in a number of articles in nationally distributed business journals and newspapers.

TRUMP WINS, TRUMP WINS — UH-OH, WHAT NOW?

Wow. Our Brexit moment! We just witnessed a political revolution in the U.S. that hasn't been seen since Ronald Reagan in 1980. The populist movement that began on the other side of the pond has carried over to our shores. Mohamed El-Erian tweeted last night, "Politics of anger in play. Directly related to years of low and non-inclusive growth, with associated loss of trust in the 'establishment'." Our nation is so polarized politically. It has been our take that no matter who won the election, as long as there was a definite result on Election Day, half of the country would wake up the next morning disappointed.

This election cycle truly has been something very different from the norm. The conventional wisdom called for Hillary Clinton to take the White House, Democrats to take back the Senate, and Republicans to hold the House. That was very far from the actual outcome of Republicans taking the White House and holding onto both the Senate and the House, albeit with slimmer margins than before the election. The major polls have now incorrectly called the two most important elections in the world in 2016. Looks like the political polling industry has some soul-searching to do.

Now what do we believe this means for the markets and the economy? For the short term, it is safe to say that volatility will surge and the markets will plunge. If this truly is similar to Brexit, then we feel the decline in the markets will be a short-term event with the markets rebounding quickly. It only took a few short days for the markets to recover from the initial Brexit shock. Investor sentiment suggests that may be the case again as sentiment already resides in overly pessimistic territory. According to Ned Davis Research's (NDR) Daily Trading Sentiment Composite, investor sentiment has really soured leading up to the election (see chart on next page). In particular this is due to the recent volatility, the market stalling, the FBI investigation, the surge in healthcare premiums, and divisiveness around this election.

If history is an indicator, the forthcoming combination of President and Congress may not be the best outcome for the markets. For example, only 22.5% of the time since 1900 was the government run by a Republican President and a Republican-controlled Congress. During those times, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has advanced at only a 7.03% average annual pace. In comparison to a Democratic President and split Congress — which was the odds on favorite scenario — the Dow has historically advanced at a 10.37% average annual rate.

From a policy standpoint what does this mean for the economy? Trump's economic plan is considered to be pro-growth, focusing primarily on tax policy, trade, and de-regulation. Let's revisit the election commentary we published a few weeks ago regarding Trump's policies.

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The Fed

Under a Trump administration, the Fed would likely take a more hawkish tone and could be a little destabilizing with the Fed audit crowd gaining support.

Trade

Trump has been in opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), but when push comes to shove, he will not want to get into a trade war with China and it is very unlikely that Chinese tariffs are meaningfully altered.

Taxes

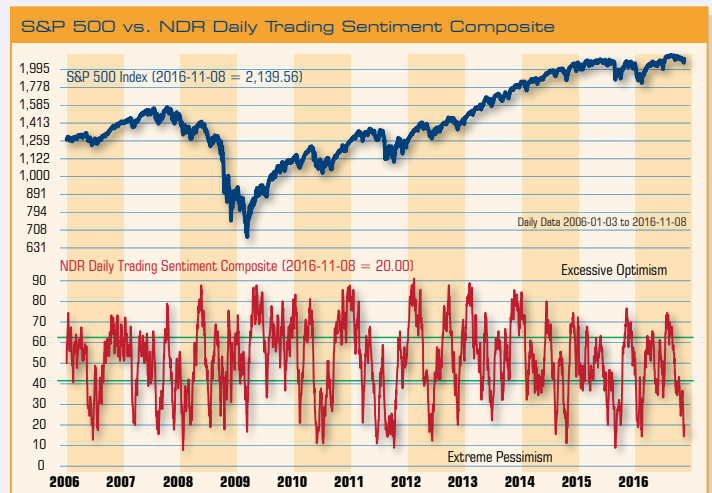
It is the difference between one candidate promoting lower marginal tax rates to drive revenues through economic growth and the other candidate driving revenues through more taxation. As an example, Trump would use an easier, less punitive tax code to help stimulate economic growth. Trump has proposed fewer tax brackets and lower rates for most individuals, lower capital gains and dividend taxes, and lowering the corporate tax rate from 35% to 15%.

Regulation

Regulation can have a real impact on economic growth and it can happen much quicker through executive action than going through the normal legislative processes. Trump has called for deregulation to get the Federal government out of the free market and said that government regulations should be pared back to ensure that their benefits outweigh their costs and they don't eliminate U.S. jobs. Trump said he wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act and called regulation a "stealth tax."

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Source: Ned Davis Research

S&P 500 Index Performance		
Full History: 1994-12-30 to 2016-11-08		
NDR Daily Sentiment Composite is	% Gain/Annum	% of Time
Above 62.5	-10.72	27.62
41.5 - 62.5	5.86	44.94
Below 41.5	31.93	27.44
Buy/Hold = 7.29% Gain/Annum		

S&P 500 Index Performance		
Chart View: 2006-01-03 to 2016-11-08		
NDR Daily Sentiment Composite is	% Gain/Annum	% of Time
Above 62.5	-10.55	28.50
41.5 - 62.5	-0.61	42.23
Below 41.5	32.54	29.28
Buy/Hold = 4.93% Gain/Annum		