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A PERSONAL NOTE FROM KIRSTEN

Dear Clients and Other Friends,

As I write this, things are starting to change for the better (finally!). More and more of our clients have gotten their COVID-19 vaccinations. People are starting to make travel plans, and even local attractions are starting to open for business. I just bought tickets to a September event at the Greek Theater. I'll keep my fingers crossed on that and my Sierra Club trip in July—no final decision yet on that.

I hope you also are able to revisit some fun places and events this spring and summer, but always remember to stay safe!

Kirsten Howe

Kirsten Howe, Attorney at Law

**PLEASE RECYCLE, REDUCE AND REUSE BY SHARING THIS
NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

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UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGES EFFECTIVE ON APRIL 1, 2021 DUE TO PROPOSITION 19

PROPOSITION 19 IS AN AMENDMENT TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE CONSTITUTION WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE NOVEMBER, 2020 ELECTION AND MAKES SEVERAL CHANGES TO PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS AND TRANSFERS.

Currently under Propositions 60 and 90, eligible homeowners who are 55 or older, have severe disabilities or are victims of natural disasters and hazardous waste contamination, can transfer their property tax assessments to a different home of the same or lesser value, allowing them to move without paying higher property taxes. Effective April 1, 2021, Proposition 19 allows them to transfer that property tax basis to a more expensive home, reducing the higher property taxes due to the purchase of a more expensive property.

Under the current law, this change depends on the county in which the homeowner resides and the county to which they are planning to move. Proposition 19 eliminated the county-by-county

variances and allows those eligible homeowners to transfer their property tax basis to anywhere within California.

Prior to Proposition 19, a property tax assessment could only be transferred once, but as of April 1, 2021, property tax assessments will be allowed to be transferred up to three times for persons over 55 or with severe disabilities. For

PROPOSITION 19

ALLOWS PROPERTY TAX TRANSFER TO ANY COUNTY FOR THOSE:

-OVER 55

-DISABLED

-NATURAL DISASTER VICTIMS



persons eligible to transfer their tax assessments because they are victims of a natural disaster or hazardous waste contamination would still only be allowed to transfer their tax assessment once.

“THINGS TURN OUT THE BEST FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE BEST OF THE WAY THINGS TURN OUT.”

~JOHN WOODEN



SHORTAGE OF CAREGIVERS

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE ROUGHLY 10.5 MILLION UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IS ABOUT 3.2% OF THE POPULATION.¹

This is a decline in numbers, from the 2007 peak of 12.2 million. The number of immigrant workers has also declined during this time period, by roughly 625,000 workers. What are the effects of this decline in the workforce? A possible shortage of caregivers for our aging and disabled populations.



About one in four care workers are immigrants. When taking into account care workers hired via an agency and care workers hired directly by consumers the immigrant workforce totals roughly 1 million.² The states with the

highest number of immigrant caregivers are New York, California, New Jersey, Hawaii, and Florida. If there is a decrease in immigration, then it would be reasonable to conclude that the caregiver workforce would decline as well, leading to a shortage of caregivers.

Immigration policy is a highly contested topic among Americans. Most would agree that changes need to be made to the system – but what changes? Should our policies be more conservative or liberal? Should seniors and those with disabilities be more scrutinized or given more leniency? If we decrease the number of immigrants, what effect will that have on our society? These are tough questions that have been lingering for decades. And the answer seems to change with each new administration in the White House. Under the Trump administration, immigration policies were constrained. And it seems like the more restrictive approach to immigration policy is working. There has been a decrease in the number of immigrants into the United States since its peak in 2007. Where is immigration policy headed in the Biden administration? For now, that is unsure. But it will be interesting to observe over the next four years.

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/12/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

² <https://phinational.org/resource/immigrants-and-the-direct-care-workforce/>

ABSOLUTE TRUST TALK - NOW LIVE ON FACEBOOK

If you need something new to listen to or watch while you are at home, our podcast show “Absolute Trust Talk” has gone LIVE on Facebook. Every other Thursday at 11:30am you can tune in to watch me and my featured guest on my Facebook page for a LIVE, 20-30 minute interview on current and helpful topics. Below are just a few of my recent shows:

- *Financial Planning for Women in Transition*
- *What You Need to Know About the Latest COVID scams*
- *Financial Planning for Young Families*
- *Reverse Mortgages as a Financial Tool*

You can find these shows and more on our website AbsoluteTrustCounsel.com under the Podcast tab. Not

only will you have access to our LIVE shows, our 30+ podcast interviews are all there, too. If you have any topics you would like to learn about, please let us know. We are more than happy to accommodate your interests.



THE POSITIVE SIDE OF COVID - IS THAT POSSIBLE?

Instead of dwelling on the negative aspects of Covid, let's think of it as a blessing in disguise. Have you discovered any new activities while on lockdown? Any new passions? Picked up some new skills?

Our associate attorney, Madison Gunn, has taken on the hobby of crocheting blankets. Her attention to detail is what makes these beautiful, colorful blankets so lovely. Since the beginning of Covid, she has already made fifteen



blankets and four scarves, and has been giving them as gifts. Her next finished blankets will be for her neighbor's baby shower and a send-off

gift for her niece that's going away to college. The silver lining of learning this new craft is that it has developed into a long-term goal of donating lap blankets to senior care facilities.

Our marketing coordinator, Ivy Altman, has been using this time to clear out her home of 34 years and learn how to sell on eBay via podcasts and YouTube videos. Her hopes are that when she and her husband decide to downsize it won't be such a big task. And just in case she doesn't have the opportunity to do it herself, it won't be daunting or overwhelming for her family members. She really enjoys it and has even started helping some friends declutter their home.

Bonus....some extra cash!



Do you have anything new you've started that you'd like to share with us? Please email

info@absolutetrustcounsel.com and let us know. The possibilities are endless!

QUICK TIPS

IT'S SAFE TO EXERCISE WITH YOUR FACE MASK.

Researchers tested performance, endurance and oxygen levels of exercisers, first mask-free and then wearing triple-layer cloth masks. Performance was similar, and there was no evidence that wearing a mask compromises oxygen uptake or causes "rebreathing" of carbon dioxide.

UNSWEETENED DRIED FRUIT IS A GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO FRESH FRUIT.

It is portable, shelf-stable and often less expensive than fresh fruit. Try eating it as a snack instead of junk foods. Just be careful to reduce the portion size—a serving of dried fruit seems much smaller because the water has been removed.

USE MINDFULNESS TO BATTLE STRESS.

Eat mindfully. Use your special occasion dinnerware more often. Take time with each bite to enjoy the flavors, textures and smells. Become deeply involved in music. Choose a song that you find meaningful, and while listening, focus entirely on the music, pulling your thoughts back to the song



if they wander. Let your body respond, close your eyes, move with the music or just by experiencing stillness.

THE EASIEST WAY TO STAY INFORMED

Social media can be very helpful to stay informed and educated on recent changes and events happening in our industry. If you haven't already, please "like" or "follow" us on our social media Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn by typing Absolute Trust Counsel and Kirsten Howe in the search box and click on "Like" or "Follow." It's that easy. You will have quick access to our blogs, announcements, events and much more.

