Capital Preservation: The Stable Value Advantage

The Need
Retirement plan participants need a secure repository to help preserve wealth accumulation and a reliable source of consistent returns. Retirement plan sponsors need to offer prudent investment alternatives to plan participants as part of compliance with ERISA 404(c).

The Choices
The objective of both stable value funds and money market funds is capital preservation. Stable value funds generally offer more competitive yields, limited volatility and have historically outperformed money market funds. Additionally, many stable value funds can potentially provide protection of both principal and accumulated interest.

Money Market Funds
Limitations
Since money market funds are allowed to invest only in certain low risk, short duration/high liquidity instruments, the returns they generate are typically lower than stable value funds. Money market funds may be unable to provide a guarantee that retirement plan participants will receive their entire principal and accumulated earnings when they withdraw their investments. In addition, money market funds may impose redemption fees and limits on withdrawals during times of extreme market stress.

Anchor Account
Principal Preservation and Predictable Returns
The New York Life Anchor Account (Anchor Account) is a pooled separate account stable value solution that primarily invests in a portfolio of high-quality fixed income securities. The Anchor Account provides plan participants a guarantee\(^2\) of principal and accrued interest for benefit responsive\(^3\) withdrawals, when the withdrawals are not triggered by plan sponsor driven activity. As an advisor, you understand the importance of the fiduciary role that plan sponsors accept when they choose to offer investments under a retirement plan.

The Anchor Account has consistently delivered competitive returns along with a guarantee of principal and accumulated interest.
Anchor Account & Money Market Return Comparisons

In comparison to money market funds, stable value funds have historically experienced lower volatility and are generally better equipped to withstand challenging market cycles. The chart below shows that the Anchor Account has experienced lower volatility than the Average Lipper Money Market Fund (Lipper Index). In this illustration, beginning in 2012, the Lipper Index returns lingered at or just above 0.00%, began to rise in 2016 and ultimately peaked at 2.28% in 2019. Subsequently, the Lipper Index, on average, steadily declined, and for the 2021 calendar year, the Lipper Index return settled at 0.01%. In contrast, during the same time period, the Anchor Account consistently delivered higher and smoother returns.

A Closer Look at Returns & Risk

By examining both the average returns and the risk adjusted returns of the Anchor Account against the Lipper Index from 1995 - 2021, the Anchor Account demonstrated significantly higher returns in both illustrations.

While the Anchor Account carries relatively low risk, primary inherent risks include interest rate risk, credit/default risk, liquidity risk and group annuity contract risk. All returns are net of fees. January 1, 1995, is the inception date of the Anchor Account. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Average return is the average of the net performance returns for the calendar year. Risk adjusted return is the average return divided by standard deviation.
A Closer Look at Growth

The illustration below depicts a hypothetical $10 million single, lump sum contribution allocated to both the Anchor Account and the Lipper Index and tracked for 10 years. The results show a material difference in growth. Over 10 years, the Anchor Account grew by 22.4% to $12.2 million versus the Lipper Index which grew by only 6.9% to $10.7 million.

For illustrative purposes only and not intended to represent the performance of any specific account. There are certain limitations inherent in hypothetical portfolios and hypothetical results, particularly that they are based on assumptions and do not reflect trading in actual client plans and do not reflect the impact that material economic and market factors may have had on the management of actual client plans. This does not imply any future performance. All returns are net of fees. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Historically, the Anchor Account has significantly outperformed money market funds, and has delivered consistent and steady returns through a variety of economic cycles.

1. As of December 31, 2021.
2. New York Life Insurance Company provides the guarantee of principal and accumulated interest, based on its claims-paying ability. This option is not guaranteed by the FDIC or the federal government.
3. The term benefit responsive is used to describe investments that guarantee contract value regardless of whether the fair value of the contract's underlying assets is more or less than contract value.
4. The Average Lipper Money Market Fund is an equally weighted performance average adjusted for capital gains distributions and income dividends of all of the money market funds in the Lipper Universe. Lipper Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Thomson Reuters, is an independent monitor of mutual fund performance. Lipper averages are not class specific. Lipper returns are unaudited. Results are based on average total returns of similar funds with all dividend and capital gain distributions reinvested. It is not possible to invest in an index.

Money market funds are not guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. They generally seek to preserve the value of an investment at $1.00 per share, but it is possible to lose money by investing in a money market fund.

The Anchor Account is a group annuity contract and not a mutual fund or a collective trust and is issued by New York Life Insurance Company, New York NY.

The information contained herein is general in nature and is provided solely for educational and informational purposes. New York Life does not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. You should obtain advice specific to your circumstances from your own legal, accounting and tax advisors.
Ready to discuss stable value options in more detail? Contact your New York Life representative or visit us at stablevalueinvestments.com

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