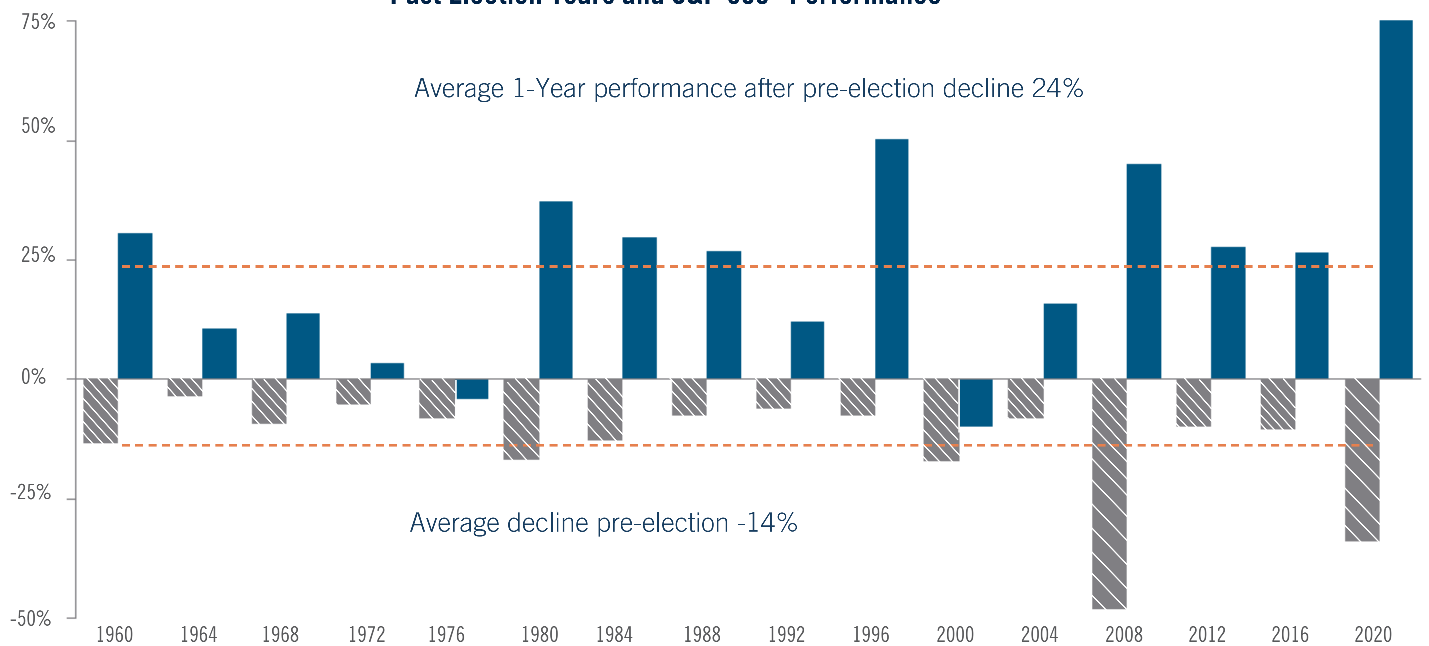
Investment Spotlight

A LOOK AT ELECTION YEAR PERFORMANCE

Election years usually bring about heightened volatility due to the uncertainty that elections generate in the markets. While the idea of making investment decisions based on anticipated election winners or moving money to avoid turbulence before an election may seem appealing, it is crucial to resist making decisions rooted in emotion. Historically, after the votes have been counted and the way forward becomes clear, markets have often shown a tendency to rise. During these uncertain periods, an annuity strategy could offer investors the ability to stay the course by providing a certain level of protection against potential losses (floors or buffers) while also providing opportunities to capitalize on market growth.

The chart below demonstrates the historical market performance in the run-up to and following previous election periods. The fact remains that predicting market movements is equally challenging around election times as it is at any other time. Investors who opt to wait on the sidelines until the election uncertainty has subsided may risk missing out on potential market rebounds, which could happen at a pace faster than investors can re-enter the market.

Past Election Years and S&P 500® Performance[1]



Did you know?

Over the past 10 years, investing only when a specific party was in office would have reduced returns by over 70% compared to remaining invested the entire time.[2]

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Past performance does not guarantee future results; actual results may vary.

[1] Franklin Templeton ClearBridge, The Anatomy of a Recession Q1 2024. The chart looks at intra-year drawdowns during election years and the subsequent 12-month market rebound.
[2] BlackRock Student of the Markets Election Year Special Q1 2024.

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