



FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS

"One of life's most painful moments comes when we must admit that we didn't do our homework, that we are not prepared." ~ Merlin Olsen

Issue #269
April 10, 2026

Time to Head for the Hills?

The other day I was going through some of the tabs I've had open on my web browser (many for some time) when I came across [this article](#) from last October about how the U.S. Treasury is working on a \$1 commemorative coin to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Although the law that authorizes the coin's minting requires it to use "designs emblematic of the U.S. semiquincentennial," it will feature an image of President Trump--on both sides!

Also problematic: an 1866 [law](#) that states that American currency and coins may only have portraits of dead people. If a President is depicted, he [must have been dead for at least two years](#).

[This video](#) dated 3/19/26 provides an update. It appears that the Mint will issue two coins to celebrate the semiquincentennial: a larger gold coin (perhaps three inches in diameter) and a base metal \$1 coin, both with Trump on them.

Additionally, starting in June, [Trump's signature will appear on all new U.S. paper currency](#), the first time that's happened in 165 years.

I've long said that when they start putting living politicians on currency, it's time to head

for the hills, because the end of the currency and republic is nigh. It doesn't matter who it is, though I had always thought it would probably be a Democrat. I guess this is in the vein of "only Nixon could go to China."



When I heard about the new [Trump accounts](#) (which will be invested in U.S. stocks), the contrarian in me immediately thought that it was a sign of a top in the U.S. stock market. It may be a good idea for the long term, but when something like this is introduced, it's near the end of a long bull market when nearly everyone wants to invest. It's very possible that these accounts will initially suffer large capital losses, which would make it easy for Congressional Democrats to nationalize them (as well as IRAs and 401(k)s) into [Guaranteed Retirement Accounts](#).

Look, I understand that Trump has a YUGE ego and made much of his fortune by licensing his name to be used on everything from buildings to bibles. And there's no doubt that Trump has been the most transformative president of my lifetime. But this just smacks of Peak Trump.

If he doesn't (1) find an offramp from the war in Iran that at least reopens the Strait of Hormuz with no tolls and ensures that the regime can't develop a nuclear weapon, (2) implement policies that improve affordability and (3) hit the campaign trail hard, either House Democrats will impeach him nine months from now or Dems will try to get him tried in the Hague for war crimes (which, unlike the Senate, would not require a 2/3 vote). And if Dems gain power, one of the first things they'll do is remove Trump's name and image from all of the above.

Finally, Trump's name or image on currency and coins may well prove to be a double irony. If he doesn't do something to seriously reduce federal spending and the national debt (he just requested about \$1.5 trillion for defense spending in the 2027 budget, a 40–42% increase, the largest proposed military budget in modern U.S. history), interest rates will rise and the value of the dollar will fall. Instead of prestige, being associated with a collapsing currency would be an embarrassment, permanently damaging his brand.

[Follow Me on X](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

I would love to hear from you! If you have any comments, suggestions, insight/wisdom, or you'd like to share a great article, please leave a comment.

Disclaimer

The content of this newsletter is intended to be and should be used for informational/ educational purposes only. You should not assume that it is accurate or that following my recommendations will produce a positive result for you. You should either do your own research and analysis, or hire a qualified professional who is aware of the facts and circumstances of your individual situation.

Financial Preparedness LLC is not a registered investment advisor. I am not an attorney, accountant, doctor, nutritionist or psychologist. I am not YOUR financial planner or investment advisor, and you are not my client.

Investments carry risk, are not guaranteed, and do fluctuate in value, and you can lose your entire investment. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. You should not invest in something you don't understand, or put all of your eggs in one basket.

Before starting a new diet or exercise regimen, you should consult with a doctor, nutritionist, dietician, or personal trainer.