Beyond the elections: What's ahead for the economy, policy and the markets?

Ron Insana
Moderator Award-winning financial journalist and contributor to CNBC and MSNBC

Ron Insana is a contributor to CNBC and MSNBC, where he discusses the most pressing economic and market issues of the day. He also delivers The Market Street Report to radio stations around the country. He has written for Money magazine and USA Today and has hosted two nationally syndicated radio programs.

In addition to his work as a business journalist, from 2006 to 2008 Ron was the CEO of Invesco Capital Partners, which, at its peak, managed the $12.5 billion Insana Capital Partners “Legends Fund.”

For nearly three decades, Ron has been a highly respected business journalist and money manager. He began his career at the Financial News Network in 1984 and joined CNBC when FNN and CNBC merged in 1991.

Ron is well known for his high-profile interviews, which included Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, billionaire investors Warren Buffett, George Soros and Julian Robertson; captains of industry like Jack Welch and the late Steve Jobs; and top economists, analysts and global heads of state from former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Jordan’s current Queen Rania.

Ron was named one of the “Top 100 Business News Journalists of the 20th Century” and was nominated for a news and documentary Emmy for his role in CNBC’s coverage of 9/11.

Mary Ann Bartels
Head of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Portfolio Strategy

Mary Ann Bartels is managing director and head of the Merrill Lynch Investment Management Portfolio Strategy for the Chief Investment Office within the Global Wealth & Investment Management (GWIM) division of Bank of America Corporation. She is responsible for contributing to the thought leadership for investment guidance and portfolio strategies for financial advisors and clients. Additionally, she is leading the marketing and commentary for Merrill Lynch’s Chief Investment Office content platform, product launches and publications.

Mary Ann brings more than 25 years of investment experience to this role. Previously, she was head of the U.S. Technical & Market Analysis Department at Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research.

During her 19-year tenure at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Mary Ann’s name has become synonymous with high-quality portfolio strategy research, earning her the respect of our clients and her peers in the industry.

Mary Ann is highly regarded for developing proprietary models for equity biases trading for her sector, industry and stock selection, and for her extensive work on hedge funds. She rejoined Merrill Lynch in 1999, working with the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) team. She led the Global Equity Strategy team.

She became head of Global Equity Strategy for Merrill Lynch’s Chief Investment Office in 2006. During this time, she was appointed to the Merrill Lynch Investment Management Portfolio Strategy team.

Mary Ann was appointed to the Institutional Investor All-America Research Team from 2006 through 2011. She appears on CNBC, Bloomberg and Fox Business, and she is often quoted in various publications, including The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times and Bloomberg.

Mary Ann earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees in Economics from Fordham University. She serves on several advisory boards, including that of her alma mater.

Ethan Harris
Head of Global Economics
Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research

Ethan Harris is a managing director and head of Global Economics for Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research.

In this role, he coordinates the global economics forecast and publication and manages the developed markets economics team.

Ethan’s regular research publications include U.S. Economic Weekly, Global Economic Weekly, Etechnomics, U.S. Economic Watch, Morning Market Tidbits and Top Tier.

Previously, Ethan was the chief U.S. economist at Lehman Brothers. He also worked as an economist at Barclays Capital and spent nine years at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where he was assistant to the president and head of the Domestic Research Division. He is the author of the 2008 book Ron Benveniste’s Fed: The Federal Reserve after Greenspan.

Ethan earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Clark University and a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University, where he was a university fellow.

Christopher M. Huyz
Chief Investment Officer
Bank of America Global Wealth & Investment Management

Chris is managing director and chief investment officer for the Global Wealth & Investment Management division of Bank of America, which includes Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management. In this role, Chris is responsible for determining the investment view of the Global Wealth & Investment Management business, developing and managing the asset allocation strategy solutions, due diligence, investment policies and guidance, and supporting the clients’ focused investment approach. Within U.S. Trust, he is also responsible for the development and execution of investment solutions for the wealth management, specialty asset management, institutional investment, wealth planning and trading. Previously, he served as the chief investment strategist for U.S. Trust.

Before joining U.S. Trust, Chris was chief investment officer and head of product strategy for the Latin American Market region of the Citigroup Private Bank. He chaired the Global Investment Themes Committee and was a voting member of the Investment Strategy Committee for the Citigroup Private Bank. He was an active member of the Investment Policy Committee, the Product Strategy Committee and the senior leadership team. Prior to his role at Citigroup, Chris was the director of Merrill Lynch’s Investment Policy Group and head of the Investment Committee for International Private Clients. He also held investment positions, including director of the Global Portfolio Strategy Group for Private Wealth Advisory and senior international equities strategy; chief investment officer; chief investment officer. He received a B.A. degree in business from Marietta University and earned an MBA in finance from New York University’s Stern School of Business. He also serves on the Finance Advisory Council for Villanova’s School of Business.

Andy Friedman
Political affairs expert, financial analyst and Founder of The Washington Update

Andy Friedman is the principal of The Washington Update and an expert on political affairs. He is known for predicting the outcomes of Washington deliberations and providing investors with insights to consider in light of the changing political landscape.

Andy was a senior partner with the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, DC, where he practiced for almost 30 years, serving as head of the tax and corporate groups. He also served as tax counsel to Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League.

Andy appears on CNBC, which refers to him as “Wall Street’s Tax Expert” and calls him “one of Washington’s savviest political observers.” He also has appeared on the Larry Kudlow Show, the Fox Business Channel and Putnam’s radio show. He has been profiled in The Washington Post and Research Magazine, and is quoted extensively in publications ranging from The Wall Street Journal to USA Today.

Andy is included in Best Lawyers in America and Chambers’ America’s Leading Lawyers for Business. He received a bachelor’s degree in valicitation from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and a law degree from the Harvard Law School.

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