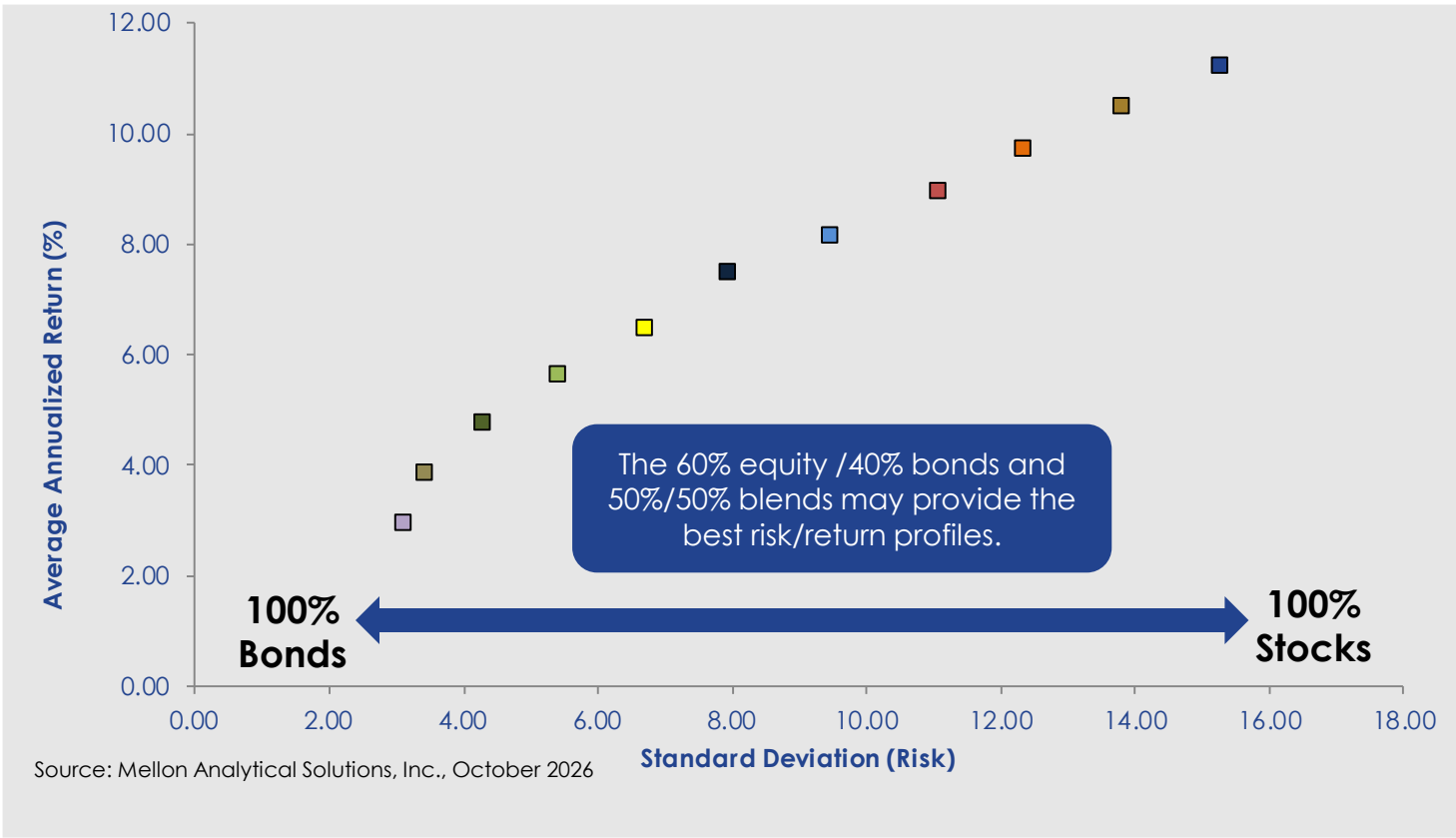
SMART INVESTING SERIES

A BALANCED APPROACH

Stocks have historically outperformed bonds while having greater risk. The low volatility that bonds have historically generated naturally comes with lower returns. The chart below shows various combinations of the S&P 500® Index, a benchmark commonly used to represent large-cap U.S. stocks with a proxy for bonds, the Barclays Capital Intermediate U.S. Govt./Credit Index. Moving from left to right, the allocation in stocks increases 10%, while the allocation in bonds decreases 10%. While different combinations may appeal to different investors, the 60% equity /40% bonds and 50%/50% blends may provide the best risk/return profiles.

Historical Combinations of Stocks and Bonds (10-1-2006 to 9-30-2026)



Source: Mellon Analytical Solutions, Inc., October 2026

Past performance does not guarantee future results. You cannot invest directly in an index. The performance data does not represent fund performance and should not be considered representative of fund performance. Diversification does not prevent against loss. The allocations presented above should not be considered recommendations. When building your investment portfolio, you should consider seeking assistance from an investment professional. Standard deviation measures the volatility of an investment's return.

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