



The Exit Math Cheat Sheet

How sellers keep what they make. The structure, the guardrails, and the catches.

CASH The tax stack: ~37.1% in California

20% federal LTCG + 3.8% NIIT + 13.3% state. \$67M becomes ~\$42M.

STOCK Section 368: an exchange, not a sale

Stock-for-stock at closing = \$0 tax due that day. Any cash alongside ('boot') is taxed.

BORROW Loans are not income

Post lock-up, banks lend 50 to 70% against the position.

COLLAR Floor + ceiling, set carefully

Floor 20 to 30% below price, or Section 1259 calls it a sale.

STEP-UP Basis resets at death

Deferred gain disappears. Heirs sell nearly tax-free.

TEAM Every advisor talks to every other advisor

Tax attorney, derivatives desk, estate attorney, coordinated before close.



E.G. The carry is real: \$35 to \$45M borrowed costs \$1.75 to \$2.25M a year in interest.

It's not what you make. It's what you keep.

How the structure works. Not advice.

He negotiated \$1M off and took \$66M in stock.

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